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$10 million gift sets record for scholarships

Just before Thanksgiving, UD received a $10 million gift from an anonymous donor — the largest gift dedicated to scholarships in the University’s 158-year history.

“Such a generous gift comes at a time when a college education is more important than ever,” said President Daniel J. Curran. “With current financial uncertainties, many students and their families are wondering how they will be able to afford to pursue their dreams. This gift will provide valuable support for many students.”

Deborah Read, vice president for University advancement, said 50 percent of the gift will support students pursuing degrees in the School of Education and Allied Professions; 25 percent will fund scholarships in the School of Business Administration, and the other 25 percent will go toward scholarships in the School of Engineering.

Each year, up to 20 percent of the gift may also be used to assist students whose education may be threatened by financial emergency, Read said.

The fund will be named the Class of 1965 Scholarship. Read said the donor, who lives out of state, hopes the gift will encourage graduates of that class and other years to make contributions dedicated to scholarships.

“By establishing this fund, the donor wants to ensure that students with the potential to succeed and who are driven don’t fall through the cracks,” said Todd Imwalle, director of development for UD’s business administration and engineering schools. “The donor wants this gift to reward students who are focused and determined and who have demonstrated potential and financial need. The donor wants to educate the next generation of teachers, engineers and business leaders.”

The first scholarships will be awarded for the 2009-10 school year. The fund will support partial as well as full scholarships.

Art auction raises $4,000 for African school

An art auction to raise funds for a Marianist mission school in the Mukuru slum of Nairobi, Kenya, raised nearly $4,000, reported student planner Alex Whitehead, a junior premedicine and English major in the John W. Berry Scholars program.

He and his classmates in a systems design course assembled artwork from students, faculty, staff, Marianists and the Dayton community for the auction, which was held Nov. 7. The highest bid was $250 on a watercolor by Brother Cletus Behlmann, S.M. (left).

Father Marty Solma, S.M., the school’s administrator, will use $600 to purchase mosquito nets to prevent malaria, Whitehead said. The remainder will go into a fund for high school scholarships.

“Supplying these children with a high school education can be enough to pull both them and their families out of the slum,” Whitehead said. “Most students would never get this opportunity. We hope that our contribution will help.”

English-language program meets quality benchmark

UD’s Intensive English Program was recently granted membership in the American Association of Intensive English Programs.

“Membership indicates that we are committed to upholding the high standards expected by AAIEP,” said Karin Avila-John, an IEP academic coordinator and a Spanish instructor.

The fall term brought record IEP enrollment; it topped 75 students. Avila-John said enrollment is likely to climb with the program’s AAIEP credential, as that’s a mark of quality that many students and sponsors seek.

The IEP, in UD’s Center for International Programs in Alumni Hall, develops students’ English skills in preparation for an undergradu-
The word democracy holds two meanings in that region of the world.

It either means instability and chaos, or it means Western hypocrisy.'

Analyst, diplomat discuss ‘calamity of challenges’

“He has to fix the world.”

Reza Aslan’s opening line drew a laugh from a standing-room-only Diversity Lecture Series crowd in the Kennedy Union ballroom on Nov. 11, but he quickly hit a serious note when talking about the challenges facing President-elect Barack Obama.

“We have two wars taking place, and both not going that well,” said Aslan, author of No god but God: The Origins, Evolution and Future of Islam and a scholar of religions. “In Afghanistan, it’s a war currently being lost. It’s as simple as that. We have a transnational movement of global jihadism and an Iran that is very quickly getting to the place where it can create nuclear weapons. The Israeli-Palestinian situation is the worst I can remember.”

Ellen Fleischmann, associate professor of history, moderated a lively and provocative discussion between Aslan and Marc Ginsberg, ambassador to Morocco during the Clinton administration and a three-decade diplomat. He’s the first person of Jewish heritage to serve as a U.S. ambassador to a Middle East nation.

“As (an American) Jew raised in the Arab world, (I believe that) Arabs are desperate for the same things we all want — jobs, opportunities for their children, the right to have the police and fire department come without a bribe, education,” said Ginsberg, who called for a return to diplomacy, resolution of the deadlocked Israeli-Palestinian conflict and an end to state sponsorship of terrorism. “We need to break the back of the foundation that gives oxygen to radicalism.”

Both said they believe Obama will re-engage on a diplomatic level with world leaders — even those Aslan called “evildoers.” Both advocate for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

“We learned one thing from the Bush administration. If you ignore this region, it gets worse,” said the Iranian-born Aslan, a fellow at the University of Southern California’s Center on Public Diplomacy and a Middle East analyst for CBS News. “We will go back to old (methods). You talk to your enemies, you encourage autocratic regimes to liberalize their societies.”

Aslan supports a policy of democratization, but he said he knows it will be a hard sell under a new administration.

“Just because it was poorly thought out, poorly executed and quickly abandoned by this administration doesn’t mean it wasn’t the right idea,” he said. “The word democracy holds two meanings in that region of the world. It either means instability and chaos, or it means Western hypocrisy. The most difficult challenge won’t be just getting support from the region, but (gaining) support from the Democrats. Just the idea of continuing something that Bush started gives them the heebie-jeebies.”

Obama inherits “an incredible calamity of challenges,” according to Ginsberg, but he also has an opportunity to improve America’s standing in a world that largely opposes the war in Iraq.

“This election means so much to so many people,” said Ginsberg, who recently returned from Israel and the Persian Gulf. “What’s riding on (Obama) is America’s respect in the world.”

—Teri Rizvi

UD donations fill 375 holiday baskets

When the Center for Social Concern put out a call for donations to assemble 250 Thanksgiving food baskets for area families in need, the UD community came through with enough to fill 375, plus additional cash for local relief agencies.

“More people than ever this year are in need of food, shelter and basic necessities,” said campus ministry graduate assistant Clare Strockbine. “Food banks and social service agencies are seeing double the amount of people this holiday season asking for donations and aid, and it is precisely in this time of immense need that the UD community has shown its true colors and responded with its own level of immense generosity: immense generosity, immense care and concern, immense manifestations of what it means to be Marianist.”

For more news, see http://campusreport.udayton.edu

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Campus Report 3
‘Moving forward, watching closely’

**UD on solid financial ground, president tells faculty**

As the volatile financial markets plagued economies worldwide in November, President Daniel J. Curran sought to assure the faculty that for the time being, he and his administration are confident in UD’s financial stability.

“Let me say this,” Curran said at a faculty meeting sponsored by the Academic Senate Nov. 14. “We are not currently in a cash crisis. We have not announced a hiring freeze. As (Thomas Burkhardt, vice president for finance and administration) will present, we are looking forward to salary increases. … We are moving forward, but we are watching closely, and I’m asking you to do the same thing with all of our budgets.”

The night before at a dinner for new employees, as Curran watched a video on UD’s heritage, he said he was reminded of the Marilian values that have helped keep UD secure through many an economic downturn in the University’s 158-year history: conservative planning and living within our resources. These practices are evident in Burkhardt’s financial leadership of the institution, Curran said.

While UD’s endowment dropped by 9 percent from June 2007 to June 2008 and another 19 percent from June 30 to Nov. 5, UD’s operating budget is not as severely impacted by these losses as other universities because endowment spending represents only about one-tenth of the operating budget, Curran said. Some institutions count on their endowments for up to one-third of their budgets.

Though the endowment’s contraction will require a short-term budget reduction of about $1.5 million, Curran said, “No one on campus should see a significant impact on faculty lines or financial aid. We feel that we’re in very good condition.”

Curran also was confident about UD’s ability to borrow money for future capital projects: “We’re in the same situation as a lot of other universities, so I think that will work out,” he said.

He acknowledged students’ financial concerns, adding that the new Office of Student Success is prepared to receive questions about finances and other conditions that may prevent students from continuing their education at UD — including losing loans.

“Our federal loan programs are guaranteed for four years for our students, so that’s not going to be the issue,” Curran said. “It’s students going out to acquire private loans we have to be concerned about.”

Curran asked faculty and staff to remain focused on the long term as the University weathered the downturn.

“This is a real challenge,” Curran said. “This has been a global financial crisis. If something dramatic occurs, and we have to make cuts — I do not see that — I just want to assure the faculty and staff that … we will not move forward without utilizing the collaborative model that we have established over the years.”

**IDCAST outreach project whets mathematical appetites**

“Wow, that’s math, isn’t it?”

“What is that?”

“That’s math.”

That’s how the conversation went Nov. 7 at the UD-led IDCAST facility, an academic, Air Force and industry collaborative center for advanced sensor technology development and commercialization. Normally buzzing with scientists searching for the next big breakthrough, this morning was filled with the questions of 19 Dayton Early College Academy students as they learned about how math and science are both cool and practical.

They worked with Russian inertia sensors adapted for remote-control Humvees, built bridges out of 2-foot steel I bars, and dropped ball bearings off coated surfaces to see how they’d bounce.

At a station of sensor-laden Lego robots, students observed how a model plane mounted on a pedestal would right itself each time it was tipped. They learned to read data from the sensors and understand that, ultimately, math was making the plane fly right.

Coordinated by IDCAST director Larrell Walters, the four science stations were staffed by scientists from UD, the UD Research Institute and the Air Force, as well as the former vice president of research at Miami University.

Planning for the day began when DECA administrators visited the Second Street facility to pick up equipment donated to UD by the Air Force. Walters told DECA Principal Judy Hennessy, “This is all part of UD; treat it as an extension of your facilities at College Park.”

Walters said he hoped to organize more such science days, finding creative ways to pique students’ interest so they go back to class and get others excited about math and science. The projects they have at IDCAST are also available for teachers to borrow and take back to the classroom.

“I’d love to get to the point where this is not news because we’re doing it regularly,” he said, “which means we’re being successful in developing the next generation of scientists and mathematicians.”

—Michelle Tedford
No roads run in or out of Barombi village in Cameroon, West Africa. You reach it by trekking an hour through the jungle on a narrow footpath or paddling more than a mile across the Barombi lake. The village is not connected to a power grid or sewage system. It had no clean water.

That changed this summer when six civil engineering students spent more than two months living and working in Barombi to install a pipe-borne, gravity-driven water system.

Four of the students — Justin Forzano, Elizabeth Kovalak, Hayley Ryckman and Mark Ewalt — first visited the village in the summer of 2007 on a whim. They’d been working on a construction project in nearby Kumba and gotten curious about village life. A Kumba friend took them to Barombi.

There, they met the chief, a slight man with deep lines in his face and responsibility for the entire village. He told them something that would change their lives.

“Our village is dying,” he said. “It is because we have no water.” Ryckman, the daughter of a doctor, cried.

The students didn’t say it right then, but they all felt a call they’d in some way awaited: They would somehow bring the village clean water.

Two other civil engineering students, Katie Burgei and Marissa Dolle, joined the team back in Dayton. Working with their adviser, assistant professor Denise Taylor, and the ETHOS program — Engineers in Technical, Humanitarian Opportunities of Service-learning — they made plans to return to Barombi with materials and a design.

The system has three basic parts: a dam and water collection chamber in a forest stream about a kilometer from the village; a pipeline to bring the water from the stream to the village; and cement biosand filters to clean the water.

The system was simple; getting it there was not. Tools and materials — cement bags, sand, gravel and 250 pipes — were delivered to the far edge of the Barombi lake; from there, they had to be transported by canoe across the lake. Once at the village, they had to be carried as far as the dam a kilometer into the forest.

History department chair Julius Amin, a Kumba native, had helped make arrangements for the project. Having students live in the village was a new venture for Amin, who has been bringing UD students to Kumba since the mid-1990s. But living in the village, it turned out, was essential to the project’s success. The students and the Barombi people formed relationships. They not only worked alongside one another to install the water system; they also cooked together, played cards and soccer, and shared palm wine.

By the time it was all over in July, the students had left a lot behind: a concrete dam and collection chamber in the forest; a pipeline; and three water taps. The people of Barombi had 10 biosand filters plus the materials and know-how for 20 more. There were soccer cleats and UD T-shirts, card games and inside jokes.

And clean water.

—Matthew Dewald
Tom Weckesser is just in his third year with UD, but he is in no way new to the University. Recently, Weckesser sat down with Campus Report graduate assistant Laura Edwards to discuss his ties to UD and his current and future goals.

Tell me about your history with UD. I graduated from UD with a degree in management information systems in 1990 and an MBA in 1995. My father is an assistant vice president for finance, and my uncle works as a comptroller for the University of Dayton Research Institute. My siblings all attended here, and I met my wife while working in the UD Bookstore as a freshman. Our family was drawn to UD’s values, and when this opportunity became available, I wanted to go for it.

What are your current goals at UD? I have three goals right now: One is to implement the Banner ERP system in a way that provides the faculty and staff at UD with a robust system, which will in turn enhance the experience of our students. Second is to provide user-friendly self-service tools to students, faculty and staff that save time for them and streamline processes for UD. The third goal is to make it possible for users to get pertinent data out of the system that will help them make operational and strategic decisions. As to personal goals, I am hoping to get my PMP (Project Management Professional) certification once Banner is implemented.

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Where do you see yourself in the future? Eventually I would like to obtain a teaching degree. When I “retire,” I’d love to spend a few years teaching high school math or science. At that level of education — those are just some really formative years, and you can be a good role model, a positive influence on the students.

—Laura Edwards

UD launching diversity dialogues

In October, after nine people from UD tried out a national model for racial and ethnic dialogue, the group recommended that it be attempted on a larger scale.

Now, UD’s office of institutional diversity and inclusion is seeking volunteers for a multi-session pilot dialogue program that will start in the spring term, said learning and organizational development manager Celine O’Neill, chair of the team that sponsored the dialogue.

The team aims to assemble four small groups of eight to 10 people each for the dialogues, said Jack Ling, executive director of institutional diversity and inclusion.

“Focus groups with UD’s Professional Black Association members last year revealed that we have a lack of communication on diversity competency,” Ling said. “Really, we don’t have a consistent understanding of what it means to be diverse and inclusive on campus.”

Diversity consultant Linda Burrs, author of The Fruits of Inclusion: A Smart Business Guide to Creating a Sustainable Diversity and Inclusion Program, conducted the focus groups and recommended dialogue as one strategy to improve communication. Joyce Carter, vice president of human resources, encouraged this approach and suggested the model used by the Dayton Dialogue on Race Relations.

The model first creates an environment in which participants can talk freely without judgment or confrontation. Then, participants consider what they can do at the interpersonal level to improve their relations with people of other races. After that, they expand that view to improving race relations in the larger community or workplace.

Its strength, O’Neill said, is in the commitment participants make to respect one another.

That’s essential, Ling said, “because these are often difficult conversations, not always celebratory.”

O’Neill said she’s eager to launch the dialogues on campus because of the positive effects they had on the pilot group: After the sessions, she said, group members seemed to better understand each other as well as themselves.

“We looked at what forms our experiences and attitudes about race and ethnicity — the neighborhood you grew up in, your family background, how your parents and grandparents influenced your attitudes and perceptions. ... It was a very eye-opening experience, and because of the commitment we had made to each other, it was a comfortable environment. There was a tremendous sense of trust in our community.”

Ling said that’s just the effect he wants to see.

“I love to witness it,” he said. “Once people experience each other in a different way and encounter each other for the first time as a whole person, their interactions with each other are never the same. That’s part of the Marianist charm. ... It’s pluralism, by definition.”

To volunteer for the multi-session dialogue groups, contact Celine O’Neill at 229-4895 or via e-mail.
This fall, an old Nativity set in a sacristy cabinet of the Immaculate Conception Chapel turned sacristan Kathy Sales, also a professional librarian, into a history detective.

With the help of Rachel DeHart and Sandy Braman in University archives, she turned up some clues that give convincing evidence that the crèche has been at UD almost as long as the 1869 chapel itself.

“The earliest picture I found is labeled ‘Christmas at the Chapel, 1895,'” Sales said. “When you use a magnifying glass, you can see outlines of the same figures. I don’t know when we actually received it, but 1895 is the first picture. ... There are absolutely no markings of any kind on this set.”

The 17-piece plaster crèche — including Sales’ favorite piece, a dog — is still in excellent shape for its age, said Sister M. Jean Frisk, S.S.M., director of art and special projects for the Marian Library/International Marian Research Institute. Some paint is chipping, and bits and pieces have been knocked off over the years. Restoration should be fairly simple, Sales said.

Though it’s well-preserved, the crèche is still relatively fragile and will not be on display this Christmas, Sales said, “but there is great interest in restoring the pieces and then displaying them in the chapel.”

The chapel renovation and expansion committee is discussing the matter, and Frisk is preparing it for safe storage until restoration begins. In the meantime, the chapel will continue to display the set made by Brother Don Smith, S.M., in the early 1970s, Sales said.

Alas, the angel that was shown suspended over the Holy Family in the old crèche’s 1895 photograph is missing, probably a casualty of gravity — not an uncommon fate for Nativity scene angels. But it’s much better than a fall from grace.

**Bisque set in use since ’70s**

Brother Don Smith, S.M., created the Nativity scene that has been used in the Immaculate Conception Chapel since the early 1970s.

“The pieces are made of clay,” Smith said. “I had the molds for the three main figures, Jesus, Mary and Joseph. I poured slip — liquid clay — into those molds, and when the clay had hardened somewhat, I released the figures from the molds, cleaned up the mold marks and fired them in my electric kiln.”

He purchased the other figures as “greenware,” clay pieces that have been allowed to dry and harden without firing.

“I cleaned those pieces of the mold marks and fired them in my kiln,” Smith said. “I did not put any glaze on the figures, allowing them to remain in their pure white coloring. That state is referred to as bisque.”

**130-piece Czech crèche has social, political overtones**

Wise men and shepherds are a familiar sight around Nativity scenes, but government spies? That’s what the chimney sweeps portray in a 130-piece Czechoslovakian crèche, the centerpiece of the Marian Library’s annual exhibition of Nativity scenes from around the world, said Father Johann Roten, S.M., director of the Marian Library/International Marian Research Institute.

“The government forbade people from having these scenes in their homes,” Roten said. “So because chimney sweeps could get into everyone’s homes to clean chimneys, the sweeps were recruited to look inside the homes for hidden scenes. Including the sweeps in the scene was really a political-religious statement about the government.”

The scene, made in the 1850s, depicts the Holy Family among 80 villagers and 50 structures.

The library has added holiday hours for the exhibit, which is free and open to the public. The gallery is open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays; through Dec. 21, it also will be open 1 to 6 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

Other crèches from the library are on display through Jan. 4 at the Dayton Art Institute, 456 Belmonte Park N., Dayton, and in the Gallery St. John at Mount Saint John, 4400 Shakertown Road, Beavercreek. Selections also are on display in museums in New Haven, Conn., and Akron, Ohio.
**Friday, Dec. 5**
Academic Senate meeting
3 p.m., Kennedy Union west ballroom

**Saturday, Dec. 6**
Dance with Delight:
A concert of early music
7:30 p.m., 104 Music and Theatre Building. Wind in the Woods, UD’s early music ensemble, and the Medieval Club perform music and dance from Shakespeare’s time; music features the recorder, viola da gamba, crumhorn and percussion. Students will teach two English country dances to audience volunteers. Admission is free. For more information, see http://www.windinthewoodsearlymusic.com.

**Sunday, Dec. 7**
Ebony Heritage Singers in concert
4 p.m., Kennedy Union ballroom; free and open to the public. Directed by Daria-Yvonne Graham of the office of multicultural affairs.

**Monday, Dec. 8**
Feast of the Immaculate Conception
University closed for the feast day that commemorates the conception of Mary, the mother of Jesus, without original sin. Mass is at noon in the Immaculate Conception Chapel.

**Tuesday, Dec. 9–Friday, Jan. 30**
Masks, Music and Musings: A Retrospective Exhibition
The work of Dayton artist Curtis Barnes Sr. will be on display in the ArtStreet, Roesch Library and Rike Center galleries. A reception with the artist is 5-7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8, at the Rike Center Gallery.

**Wednesday, Dec. 10**
Dayton Jazz Ensemble and University Jazz Band in concert
7 p.m., Kennedy Union ballroom

**Thursday, Dec. 11**
Christmas on Campus
UD’s 45th annual community outreach project and campuswide Christmas celebration; area youth gather early in the evening for Santa’s 6 p.m. arrival on the Humanities Plaza. Carols, cookies, gifts, crafts and games continue until 8:30 p.m. At 9 p.m. in the Frericks Center, the Christmas on Campus choir begins a musical prelude to Mass, which begins at 9:30 p.m. All are welcome.

**Saturday, Dec. 13–Friday, Dec. 19**
Exams

**Wednesday, Dec. 24–Friday, Dec. 26**
Christmas holiday
University closed

**Wednesday, Dec. 31–Thursday, Jan. 1**
New Year’s holiday
University closed

**Monday, Jan. 5**
Classes resume

**Friday, Jan. 9**
Opening reception for University Honors Program art exhibition
3-4:30 p.m., 125 Alumni Hall. Awards presentation begins at 3:30 p.m. Exhibition will be up through October 2009; gallery open during regular office hours.

**Saturday, Jan. 17**
Curtis Barnes: A Jazz Tribute
8-10 p.m., Sears Recital Hall; presented by the UD Arts Series. Tickets $14 general admission; $8 UD faculty, staff and alumni; $5 students; call 229-2545.

**Monday, Jan. 19**
Martin Luther King Jr. Day
University closed