BELTING IT OUT ON BROADWAY

JACQUI BOYLE
A&E Editor

Fifth-year Senior Jacki Schneider, a music education major, has always dreamed of singing on Broadway. This month she will get one step closer.

Schneider and other local performers will join five Broadway stars in the production of “Broadway Holiday” now through Dec. 20 at Victoria Theatre.

She will sing the solo parts in “Seasons of Love” and “White Christmas.”

“I expect it will be a humbling experience as well as an extremely exciting experience,” Schneider said. “I will sing my heart out.”

Schneider auditioned for the holiday show at Victoria Theatre on Nov. 17 and performed a two-minute selection in front of a camera.

Her boyfriend was supposed to accompany her on the piano, but he had an eye infection and was unable to see the music.

“I had to accompany myself,” Schneider said. “I needed to be the only person who played an instrument while singing.”

Schneider said she was surprised that she won.

“I was younger than some of the other finalists, and I was impressed with the competition,” she said. “I didn’t watch Fox45 when they announced the winners because I teach other finalists, and I was impressed with the competition.”

The UD student is no stranger to the stage.

She was also on season six of “American Idol” and was a candidate for the Cincinnati Choir for the NBC TV show “Clash of the Choirs.” She also performed in UD’s Opera Workshop’s production of “The Old Maid and the Thief.” In addition, she sings the national anthem at various UD sporting events.

“I have been singing my entire life,” she said.

Schneider said being a part of this production may be the closest she gets to fulfilling her dream of performing on Broadway.

Presented by the Victoria Theatre Association and Leftfield Productions, Inc., “Broadway Holiday” is a co-production and collaboration with composer and lyricist Neil Berg, according to the event’s press release.

For the production, Schneider will join Broadway stars including Norm Lewis (“The Little Mermaid”), Marc Kudisch (“9 to 5”), Rita Harvey (“The Thief”).

See Broadway p. 6

Study day elimination creates student, professor exam stress

SARA DORN
Chief News Writer

In order to meet certain criteria set by the Academic Policies Committee of the Academic Senate, the provost’s office did not include study days during exam week they generated the 2009-2010 academic calendar.

The calendars are developed on a year to year basis. According to what days of the week holidays fall on, the Provost’s Office develops a schedule accordingly, said UD’s Assistant Vice President and Registrar Thomas Westendorf.

This causes more exam week stress for some students.

“It was nice to have a break during exam week to relax and have time to get plenty of work done,” said sophomore Blake Tokheim. “I was able to accomplish a lot on Tuesday when we were off for Christmas on Campus, so that helped make up for the lack of study days next week.”

Students aren’t the only ones feeling the effects of no study days. For some professors the elimination of study days is detrimental.

“I was sorry to see the elimination of the weekday study days,” said geology professor Heidi McGrew. “Personally, I like having at least one weekday study day. I try to schedule review sessions on study days. As it is this year, I am holding review sessions the week before exams and early next week.”

The 2009 fall semester began on Aug. 26, when in 2008 classes began on Aug. 20. This extra time allowed the Provost’s Office to input study days into the 2008 exam week schedule.

“We are required by the Ohio Board of Regents to have a certain amount of class meetings per semester,” Westendorf said. “If we added a Friday study day, we would have to pick up a day somewhere else. The only other option we had was to eliminate the fall break in October. The decision was made to keep the fall break.”

Prior to 2005, a fall break was not integrated into the calendar at all. In 2003 there were not even any study days at all. In 2005 and 2006, classes began on the Monday of exam week while in 2007 and 2008 classes began on Wednesday.

“Students are already getting a short last week of the term since Immaculate Conception and Christmas on Campus were celebrated on Tuesday,” Westendorf said. “Having two or three week-days without classes during the last week of term would certainly not be ideal.”

Some students feel the elimination of exam week study days may affect their performance on finals.

“The study day, final day, study day, final day [schedule] is a lot more conducive to doing well on your tests,” said junior Greg Hoefert.

But that schedule is not only beneficial for studying, it is conducive to partying and going out the last week on campus. Many believe this is why study days were off for Christmas on Campus through Dec. 20.

See Study day on p. 5

weather

Bundle up to avoid Jack Frost’s bite as Christmas time’s temperatures get seasonally cold.

TODAY
29/18 Mostly sunny.

SATURDAY
35/28 Mostly sunny.

SUNDAY
41/30 Chance of showers.

‘TWAS THE NIGHT
UD twist on a classic Christmas tale
H1N1 IMMUNIZATION CLINIC

MAC GYM, ENTER BY RECPLEX WELCOME DESK

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11

1:30PM - 5:00PM

H1N1 flu vaccine clinic is open for all students: undergraduate, graduate and law. There’s no age limit.

THE H1N1 FLU VACCINE IS FREE

Must bring student ID
Wear clothing that allows the upper arm to be easily exposed.

Register in advance at https://h1n1vaccine.odh.ohio.gov/
Must print completed form and bring to Immunization Clinic as verification.

12.11.09 | 1:30pm-5:00pm | RecPlex

http://www.udayton.edu/flu
It’s about spreading Christmas cheer

MEAGAN MARION
Assistant News Editor

Along with nearly 1,000 other first and second graders, Brandon experienced the joy of the 46th annual Christmas on Campus, a celebration held on Dec. 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, for both University of Dayton students and the surrounding community.

Children are “adopted” by UD students, who treat them to a night of fun Christmas-related activities, which range from making ornaments and face painting to participating in a cardboard maze and taking pictures with Santa Claus.

For Brandon, his favorite events were making a gingerbread house and taking part in Ellie’s Carnival, where children can play games organized by various student organizations.

Taking place in the RecPlex, Ellie’s Carnival was renamed this year for the founder of Christmas on Campus, Ellie Kurtz, who passed away earlier this year, according to Jessica Hannon, a member of the COC public relations committee.

In addition to the renamed carnival, COC also started a half hour earlier this year, giving children more time to enjoy the festivities. Campus Ministry also ran the masses, which were held in the chapel instead of the Frericks Center.

Brandon walked around the carnival with his two adopters, juniors Allie Frost and Caitlin McGlynn. He played cornhole with members of the UD Rescue Squad and Skill Ball with the Marianist Leadership Scholars. He happily collected candy for his efforts and said his favorite games were the ones where he got to throw a football, because it is his favorite sport.

“Christmas on Campus is my favorite day of the year,” Frost said, while waiting in line for a game with Brandon. “I have so much fun doing it and you really get to know one kid.”

Both Frost and McGlynn have participated in the event every year by adopting a child. For a Christmas present, they gave Brandon an I Spy book, a football and Legos, all of which he seemed very excited about.

“I love being able to see the smiles on their faces every year,” McGlynn said.

Nearly a thousand children were adopted this year, an all-time high. All children were adopted on the first day adoptions began, which is a first, according to Julie Ramaccia, a member of the COC public relations committee. Many students participated in the event by adopting children, while others worked different activities.

“I’m in awe of the influence this event has on the larger Dayton community,” said Michelle Pрусек, who volunteered at Ellie’s Carnival with the Marianist Leadership Scholars. “It’s not about charity; it’s about spreading the Christmas cheer and seeing UD students get more involved.”

Christmas spirit filled the campus, with reindeer in a paddock outside KU and a Christmas tree in Humanities Plaza. But perhaps the most enjoyment was felt by those who saw the joy on the faces of those children who were adopted by UD students.

For kids like Brandon, they not only walked away from COC with bags full of candy and gifts from their adopters, but a whole new perspective on the day and the season.

“It’s my favorite holiday of the year,” he said.

Shuttles home canceled

MEAGAN MARION
Assistant News Editor

Charter buses to take students home for Christmas break, administered through SGA, have been canceled.

Roundtrip buses to Chicago, Cleveland and St. Louis were offered over Thanksgiving break failed to be retained for the upcoming break. Students affected by the bus cut include all those without a way home during breaks or those that do not want to travel alone.

“There has been a lack of overall interest in helping with this program,” said SGA President John Jewell. “Last minute notification from UD administration made it difficult to properly coordinate and carry out all of the necessary steps to put this plan into action.”

It was the job of administration to notify parents about the bus program, otherwise the program would fall apart, he said. While administration assured SGA that parents would be notified, many parents called SGA to complain that they received no such notification. The last minute notification from administration about the Christmas break bus services made it difficult to put together the program.

Students complained about the high prices, although if parents were notified well in advance the program may have been more successful.

Bus contracts were also an issue. A contract must be set and 30 percent of the funds need to be paid in advance, according to Jewell. The rest of the funds are to be paid 15 days before departure.

“For SGA to be able to front this amount of money, approximately $35,000 for three roundtrip buses, legislation would have to be presented to our Student Senate at least three weeks in advance,” Jewell said. “Having the funding for this program written into legislation does not guarantee that the money will be provided.”

SGA plans to advertise early next semester for students to get home during breaks, although they need to sign up 50 students per bus so as to not lose money that is required up front. For more information contact SGA at sga@udayton.edu.
Lighting up Lawnview

JACLYN PHELPS
Staff Writer

This year’s house decorating contest theme for Christmas on Campus, “All Is Bright,” has given an opportunity for students to share the Christmas spirit with roommates by decorating the Ghetto. This year’s winners are senior residents of 108 Lawnview Ave., Mary Benko, Maura Carroll, Kelsey Daniels, Brooke Dreyfous and Kiki Wilson. Winners were announced Tuesday at the OCC opening ceremony in Humanities Plaza.

The winners received a Daytona package which includes a free trip, VIP passes and two ocean-front hotel rooms. They arrived with second, third and fourth places will also receive gift cards of their choice. Benko, an education major, said at first they weren’t planning to do the contest at all; however, their often impulsive roommate changed that. “Kiki [Wilson], who has some spontaneous tendencies, gave us the inspiration,” Benko said. “She told us she was going to Walmart for some decorations and came back with half the store. From there it was kind of a free for all by all the roommates and our friends Will Blum and Cassie Ciaccini.”

The girls were all involved while the judging was going on. While other participants had one house representative meet with the judges, they also had hot chocolate and Red Bull for the judges and had 11 people spell out the theme “All Is Bright.”

The winning 188 Lawnview Ave. house was decorated with two blow-up inflatables on the roof, silver wrapping paper at the bottom of the house to reflect light to make the “All Is Bright” theme and used over 1,500 lights. “The final cost totaled us two days energy, three cases of Red Bull, one Emperior stop, two trips to Walmart, one blown fuse, one visit from Mike from residential services and a lot of laughs,” Benko said. “But our house was the best because we lit up Lawnview.”

There were 11 houses that participated in the contest which is just a little shorter than the previous year, said Julie Ramaccia, senior public relations major and OCC planning committee member. A number of houses were unable to enter the contest this year because the houses needed to be fully decorated the Tuesday after Thanksgiving break, giving them less time than normal. “We had initially missed the deadline but Brooke [Dreyfous] had connections and we got cleared,” said Wilson, a marketing major. It was because of the way break fell this year, Ramaccia said. Contestants usually have the house decorating contest one week after break so there was also a slight decrease in participants than the previous year.

“We figure this was due to less preparation time than in the past,” Ramaccia said. “It was still extremely successful, and we were impressed with most of the houses.”

The judging committee is a team comprised of faculty recommended by members of the OCC committee. Judges looked for creativity, theme, effort and school spirit in the decorations. Houses that placed were 460 Kiefaber St., second place, 120 Lawnview Ave. and 1392 Brown St. tied with third place, and 224 L St. was fourth place.

The girls of 108 Lawnview Ave. put Christmas spirit in the Ghetto and won the OCC house decorating contest Tuesday. LAURA MACK/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
On Tuesday, first and second graders were able to partake in the 46th annual Christmas on Campus. Nearly a thousand children, an all-time high, were adopted for the festivities. Mike Malloy/staff photographer

STUDY DAY
(cont. from p. 1)

“I believe that this probably happened because of the occurrence of the weekend and possible concern that if students had three to four days off that they might not use them wisely,” McGrew said. “Unfortunately I feel that this penalizes the hardworking students who would use (and sometimes need) the three to four days to prep for exams.” Westendorf claims the change in agenda has nothing to do with preventing students from using the night before study days as a reason to party, and a number of students truthfully use the day to study and prepare.

“If it was a designated study day then I would use it to study and take advantage of a study day,” said Hoefert. “We have an entire semester to go out and party and this is the one week we have to actually buckle down and focus.”
FRANK STANKO  
Staff Writer

In case you’ve been under a rock for the last few months, you’ve heard Miley Cyrus’ song “Party in the USA.” But UD sophomores Paul Azzi and Jacob Rosen want the country to hear it in an entirely different way Thursday at 10:30 p.m. EST.

Over 80,000 people from all over the nation responded to their Facebook invites, saying they would play “Party in the USA” at the designated time.

“Together, children, teenagers, adults and elderly folk alike can come together for five minutes to nod their head like ‘yeah’ and move their hips like ‘yeah’ for a five minute ‘Party in the USA,’” the event description said.

The mass playing is “one single unifying act throughout the country [that] will bring individuals from all different backgrounds together for three minutes and 21 seconds of glorious partying,” Rosen said.

Sophomore Emily Mills, who “finds the entire concept entertaining,” said she hopes to convince her roommates to join her.

Many were not looking forward to the event, however. Senior Elizabeth Penrod said she won’t participate.

“I don’t like Miley Cyrus,” Penrod said.

Nearly 62,000 invitees have declined participating and nearly 36,000 have not replied.

“Our expectations were at least 300 million [participants] to start, so we were very serious with our initial intentions with this event,” Rosen, an applied mathematical economics major, said. “The exponential increase slowed down during Thanksgiving break but picked right back up after. We are now looking forward to a continued increase in growth during the moments leading up to the event.”

Many individuals in attendance have commented on the event page about their appreciation for the description.

“Profoundly impacting American culture with her music, Miley Cyrus is one of today’s most influential and talented artists,” the event page said. “Her new hit single ‘Party in the USA’ not only demonstrates a mastery of chords and progressions, but her lyrics are aesthetically pleasing while remaining meaningful.”

He continued, “Party in the USA” deals with Miley’s personal struggle of adjusting to the fame and glamour of the upbeat Hollywood lifestyle while remaining true to her Southern and simple roots from back home; a struggle we all can relate to.”

Many wonder how much of the “Party in the USA” event is a joke.

“Really it is as much of a joke as people want it to be,” said Azzi, a pre-law student. “All I have done is create the guidelines. People can interpret the event however they want to, and that is the beauty of it.”

One question remains: Has anyone told Cyrus about the event?

“God, I hope so,” Azzi said.

Sophomore Paul Azzi danced in front of KU’s map of the United States in honor of the Facebook event that he created titled “Party in the USA.”

“Profoundly impacting American culture with her music, Miley Cyrus is one of today’s most influential and talented artists,” the event page said. “Her new hit single ‘Party in the USA’ not only demonstrates a mastery of chords and progressions, but her lyrics are aesthetically pleasing while remaining meaningful.”

He continued, “Party in the USA” deals with Miley’s personal struggle of adjusting to the fame and glamour of the upbeat Hollywood lifestyle while remaining true to her Southern and simple roots from back home; a struggle

BROADWAY
(cont. from p. 1)

Phantom of the Opera”, Carter Calvert (“Ain’t Nuttin But The Blues”) and Danny Zolli (“Jesus Christ Superstar”).

The production will feature songs from shows including “Guys and Dolls,” “Chicago” and “Jersey Boys.” Performers will also sing holiday tunes.

“I think this show has something that everyone will enjoy,” Schneider said. “It portrays a variety of musical styles from not only Broadway tunes but beloved Christmas favorites. The talent is phenomenal and so is the music.”

Tina McPearson, vice president of programming at Victoria Theatre Association, said Victoria Theatre is excited to spotlight local talent during the production.

“Although we have not put both casts together yet, we have no doubt that it will be electric on the stage,” she said.

According to McPearson, more than 30 singers auditioned live or through submissions to YouTube, Facebook and MySpace. Two winners and five runners-up were selected.

“We are thrilled to have them join us,” Berg said in the press release.

Performances will take place at 8 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturdays and 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sundays.

Ticket prices start at $38. Discounts are available for senior citizens, students and groups. Tickets can be purchased through Ticket Center Stage and at the Schuster Center box office. Individuals may also buy tickets by phone at (937) 228-3630 or (888) 228-3630 or online at www.ticketcenterstage.com.

“I think the Victoria Theatre wanted to be able to show that Dayton has talent just as capable as Broadway performers,” Schneider said. “I believe that they chose to do the competition to get the community involved in the performance. Also, it’s an amazing opportunity for myself and the other winner to perform with other great talent.”

SOUTH PARK UMC

- New Horizons Contemporary Worship (casual dress)
- South Park Church - Stonemill and Brown St. (across from UD)
- Beginning December 6th
- Time: 11:30-12:15
- Praise Music
- Coffee Bar
- Children’s ministry available
- Interactive worship - (Text the Pastor)
Alumna celebrates through art

SARA GREEN
Assistant A&E Editor

Filled with emotion, 1991 alumna Lori Mellon Skinner described her life experiences that have led her back to the University of Dayton.

Her exhibit titled “Celebration of an Excellent Education” showcases various pieces of her work that tell the story of where she has been in her life.

“Artists create works of art for a variety of purposes, including homage or respect for something or someone who has impacted their art,” said Nancy Parks, an assistant art education professor. “Lori Mellon Skinner does just that in her exhibit.”

The exhibit will be on display now through Dec. 18 in the Marianist Hall Learning Space.

“The show starts off with a broken belt buckle,” Skinner said. “I had quit high school at the end of ninth grade and was married the next year. When I started college, I was 23 and had three children.”

Skinner had not thought about attending college until she was 21 and making belts.

A woman who owned a shop offered to start carrying her line of belts, and it was then that Skinner realized she did not have the knowledge to make her creations into a company.

It was only two years later that Skinner started college. After attending a different college for two years, Skinner transferred to UD with a scholarship to pay half her tuition.

She said she is more than grateful for the education she received at UD.

“UD is phenomenal,” she said. “The first thing I’d say is you don’t know what you learn at UD until you go out and use it.”

Skinner said she has not turned down any opportunities since graduating from UD.

“UD doesn’t just train you,” she said. “They actually give you the confidence to go out and be successful.”

Parks said she enjoys that Skinner recognizes how her education has shaped her future.

“Skinner celebrates the quality of her education as an art education student and the recognition of her achievements as an art teacher in the Vandalia Butler Schools,” Parks said.

Coming back to the campus after teaching art for 14 years, running her own bakery and starting a nonprofit organization, Skinner said she has been able to realize aspects of UD that she did not always notice while obtaining her undergraduate degree.

“I think the best thing about coming back to UD has been seeing all the crosses and pictures of Mary,” she said. “It was very comforting to know that these things are still there and have always been there shining as a light on campus.”

Skinner said that it is a comfort to know that no matter where she goes on campus, she is able to see some sign of UD’s spiritual heritage, whether that be the blue roof and cross of the Immaculate Conception chapel, a cross on a building or a picture of Mary.

Also while back at UD, Skinner has been asked to put together a preliminary draft for an alumni book that contains pictures of the campus.

“I’ve been on campus four different times, for hours each time, to photograph it,” she said. “I have about 80 percent of the book done, and now it is just a matter of a series of steps to make it into something real.”

According to Parks, Skinner was recognized by the Ohio Art Education Association (OAEA) in 2000 as their art teacher of the year.

In addition to teaching, Skinner also spends her time creating art and trying to start an organization that she has titled Avalon. She said she has put lot of energy into this project, which is similar to that of Ronald McDonald Houses.

“It [Avalon] is a place for an older caregiver, who has to come to town to take care of a sick parent or other person,” she said. “Most people don’t have money to stay in hotels and go out to eat when they return to take care of someone, so this provides them with a place to stay and food to eat.”

Pieces in Skinner’s exhibit represent many of these experiences that she has had and range in character from paintings of the Statue of Liberty—which Skinner has described as “impact art”—and is meant to leave the audience thinking and changed—to clay sculptures and photography.

“The impact art is not about someone liking it or not liking it,” she said. “It is about it changing something within you.”

Through her exhibit, Skinner said she wanted to show UD students and others who will be viewing her work how much the university has prepared her for life and to express the idea that one must get out in the world and not let fears hold him or her back.

By doing this project, Skinner has been able to look back on her life and see what has brought her to where she is now.

“I am amazed with where I have come in 19 years,” she said. “I am excited to see where the next 20 take me.”

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Mistletoe:

Junior reflects on night of Yuletide partying in Ghetto, wonders how she got to this point in life

MAGGIE MALACH  OPINIONS EDITOR

“Twas the night before Christmas, when all through UD, Not a creature was stirring, not even Schmeling; The trash bins were filled with half-empty cans, Consumed by every undergrad woman and man; The students were nestled all snug in their beds, While the aftermath of Natty raged in their heads; My roommate not home, and I in my sweats, Had just settled down with a guy I just met. When out on Lawnview there arose such a clatter, I fell from my bed to see what was the matter. Away to the window I stumbled drunkenly, Pulled aside the blinds and leaned out to see: The moon on the breast of half-melted snow Trampled by students walking to and fro. When, what before my bleary eyes should appear, A group of wee freshmen, warm from their beer.

All dressed to the nines, with ID-laden necks, They were heading to Lowes with hopes of getting wrecked. The girls noticed some friends, a moment of glee, They called to each other, oblivious of me; “Hi, Meagan! Hi, Sara! Hi, Wie-gand and Kelly! ‘Sup, Anna! ‘Sup Jacqui! ‘Sup, Stephanie and Kelsey! Oh, my gawd, how are you? You all look so cute! Oh, look, we all match with our tights and Ugg boots!” They hugged and they squealed, as sauced girls do, When seeing their friends for the first time since two. I turned to the boy, whose name I knew not, He told me it once, just before my tenth shot. I gestured to the girls, all giggly with cheer And hope that Santa will bring Korski this year. I drew in my hand, and was turned around, When a flash of red metal made a great sound. The girls froze in their tracks, unable to believe, Right before their bloodshot eyes, Santa they perceived. The vehicle, though red, was rusty and old, With no heater to protect its passenger from the cold.

The door opened and lo! a man appeared, Decked out in red and sporting a bushy white beard. In his arms was a gift, wrapped in silver and square. A prize that is so delicious, it is not at all rare. The girls did double takes, still floorled with awe, He lives! Santa’s real! The thought lowered their jaws. The man gave a chuckle, he knew they were crashed. Not knowing they thought his car was Santa’s sleigh crashed. He reached down and grabbed another two things, White plastic cups with soda brimming; “Big ten?” he asked to the thunderstruck frosh. After all, ‘tis the food to order after getting sloshed. In swooped a junior with a sketchy moustache, He picked up the gifts in exchange for some cash. The girls, seeing this, were obviously pissed. It appeared they are not on Santa’s nice list. The bearded man nodded goodbye, silent and polite, His engine roared and he drove away, derestruck frosh.

The only tradition carried on in my family is my dad’s three fingers of Jameson Irish whiskey at night.

MAGGIE MALACH  OPINIONS EDITOR

Word on the street...

What is your favorite Christmas tradition?

MEGAN LANDRY, FRESHMAN

MIDDLE CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

“Watching A Miser Brothers’ Christmas.”

ALLIE FALK, JUNIOR

MECHANICAL/AEROSPACE ENGINEERING

“On Christmas Eve we have seafood soup.”

ROBERTO GARCIA, JUNIOR

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

“The only tradition carried on in my family is my dad’s three fingers of Jameson Irish whiskey at night.”
Exam week leaves sophomore questioning grading system

JACOB ROSEN, SOPHOMORE

Finals week is here and this is now the perfect opportunity to introduce a topic I brought up recently in my philosophy class. This topic relates to a struggle for all students in the country and something they wrestle with on a constant basis.

This dreaded topic is the grading scale we use in this country, not necessarily just at UD, and how it is pro-hibitive to actual learning and initiative among our young students.

I am not an education major or anywhere close to it, but I remain convinced there should be some sort of a system that works better along with actual student learning.

For example, how many of you have ever calculated what you need to get on a final exam or a big test in order to maintain a certain grade? Ever been in a position to still failing or barely passing your last big assignment?

Those problems are indicative of why the American grading scale, based around a grade point average, is a flawed concept. When the student is ever in a position to not try his or her hardest or continue the process of learning in their classes, it is a waste of time for all parties involved and a non-value-add to society as a whole.

On the side of my Flyer News writing, I also work for a Cleveland sports blog called WaitingForNextYear.com. In a recent article this week, I detailed how 35-year-old guard Delonte West has made the Cavaliers a great team in 2009 with his play off the bench.

He was a starter for the team last year, but his minutes have been reduced this season after his legal problems during the summer. He still could face harsh penalties from his home state of Maryland, but the point I am trying to make is that it was possible for me to differentiate between the characteristics of a elite NBA team and a merely good team.

Heading back to the classroom, what is the true difference between an elite student and a merely good student? The world may never know because there is no incentive for students to achieve beyond their expectations under our current grading system.

Think about the hardcore data in the current system now. For an individual, Student A, that studies hard, tries his or her best at everything, and continues to work diligently throughout the semester, a 100 percent is surely possible. That will give him or her 4.0 on the grade point scale for that class.

Next, there is a Student B that is bright as anyone else in the class, but realizes that his or her additional time could be spent toward other classes instead of continuing to keep ahead of the course. Solid grades at the beginning of the semester keep him/her afloat, as he/she manages to sneak out of the class with a 94 percent.

What is the grade point difference between these two individuals? Absolutely nothing, and this shows:

“When the student is ever in a position to not try his or her hardest, it is a waste of time for all parties involved and a non-value-add to society as a whole.”

JACOB ROSEN, SOPHOMORE

That is not necessarily true for all students in the classroom to continue to honestly work their hardest throughout the semester.

I can admit I have been a little bit of both Student A and Student B, but there is practically no difference between the two.

Subtract another seven percent from this student’s grade for the class, and his/her grade point drops all the way from a 4.0 to a merely average 3.0. How is that fair or justified at all when Student A and Student B were already considered the exact same despite the same drop in the percentage grade for the course?

The grand point of this argument is that our current grading scale inherently is pro-hibitive to actual learning and development in the classroom. There is no additional incentive to be an elite student every single day throughout the semester, and that is a troubling concept for our future.

Current health care plan confusing, exemplifies government’s issues

I do not have health care.

As a full-time student, I did. I was covered under my parent’s policy. Now, as a part-time student, I don’t receive that benefit. I work almost 40 hours a week and my employer does not offer me health care.

Now, I know that there is some turmoil going on over President Obama’s new health care reform bill. The problem for me is that I have no idea what actually is contained in the bill. I don’t know, not because the information isn’t available, but because the bill is agenda-driven.

What happens is that all of the congressmen and senators will only pass the bill if their amendments to the bill are added in. This sometimes is called “pork-barrel spending.”

The problem with this for me is that nothing is ever simple or clear. There is always a hidden agenda or motive for getting bills passed which completely dilutes the original bill. Because of this, I am not so sure what exactly is in the president’s health care reform bill.

What I do know is that myself, and millions of other young people are uninsured and we shouldn’t be. Therefore, I am pro-universal health care because this is an issue that affects me personally.

I used to love to play sports and skateboard, but now I am more wary about doing physical activities that I used to enjoy. If I get seriously injured, then it is pretty much guaranteed that I will spend the rest of my life in debt. This is unfortunate because if it has happened to me, it is happening to other people.

If you listen to the pundits on the radio or TV, they all have something to say about this issue, but nobody ever talks about the issue. They just talk around it, often leaving me in a state of confusion and bewilderment.

How am I, or anybody for that matter, supposed to make an educated opinion on this subject when there is so much bureaucratic red tape to cut through? Have you ever tried to actually read a congressional bill?

The language that is used is so difficult to understand, that one page feels like you are reading a hundred. It is very difficult to understand.

Another issue is the length of the bills. Obama’s health care reform bill is over 2,000 pages long with every page filled to the brim with legal language that is totally not understandable to the average person.

Of course, the people in Washington have to understand this fact. I would imagine that they do it on purpose. The fewer questions that people ask, the fewer problems the politicians will have getting what they want.

In reality, I have no choice but to not understand. No one is going to explain this bill to me in the detail that will give me a complete understanding of what is actually going on.

What I do know is that I am uninsured, along with countless others, and that is simply unacceptable.

JOSH GOLDMAN, SENIOR

ELECTRONIC MEDIA

Someone took his sponsorship a little too seriously...

Define “do it ...”

ONLINE POLL

What did you do for Christmas on Campus?

Volunteered 21%

Adopted a Child 31%

Attended without a child 24%

What did you do for New Year’s resolution last?

Nothing 24%

How long did your 2009 resolution last?

Zero 67%

6 months 7%

1 year 3%

Next Question

our policy

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Intramurals

Intramurals team representing UD at nationals

Team Funky Chicken won regionals on second trip, sets sights on national event

MARISSA MALSON
Staff Writer

In a phenomenal year for UD athletics, even the intramurals is chipping in with the success.

Team Funky Chicken will be the first intramural team to represent UD at a national tournament in any sport.

The team has captured the UD coed competitive intramural football title two years in a row and has also made back-to-back appearances at the regional tournament. They will now move on to the national tournament in New Orleans from Dec. 28-31.

“Regionals was an absolute blast,” senior team captain Jarrett Creely said. “We qualified for regionals last year, but unfortunately we were not able to win a single game. It was our first year playing so we did not have that much experience, especially playing teams who have been playing together for multiple years. However, this year we were able to come out and mercy our first three opponents and then advance to the championship.”

The team is made up of all senior students. In addition to Creely, Funky Chicken team members are Jim O’Connor, AJ Martin, Jay Merchenthaler, Kaki Tighe, Carrie Minnick, Ryan LeMier, Elyse Grothouse, Ashley Miller, Patricia Snow and Jenny Roetker.

“The guys on our team have been roommates since sophomore year,” Creely said. “The girls did not know each other until our team was formed and now they are all really good friends.”

Funky Chicken clinched the regional title in a down-to-the-wire battle against Ohio State.

“We won the championship 24-20 in the last minutes when Kaki [Tighe] scrambled for the game winning touchdown,” Creely said. “It was a pretty intense game since we were trailing throughout and had to come from behind to win in the last minutes.”

Funky Chicken outscored its opponents 160-45 at the regional event and Creely was named MVP of the tournament. Amazingly, the team has only two former football players on the team (Creely played from seventh-12th grade and LeMier one year in fifth grade), so Creely attributes their success to their friendship.

“Our team is so good because we are all good friends and have played on multiple intramural teams together,” he said. “The chemistry is there and since we all hang out a lot off the field, we play the game to have fun and rarely get stressed out. We bring the experience and wisdom of many gridiron battles every time we step on the field.”

In addition to showing off their flag football skills, Funky Chicken has displayed great sportsmanship during its intramural play at UD.

“Team Funky Chicken has represented the university very well both on and off campus in the past couple of years,” said assistant director for intramurals Mark Hoying. “They have been a finalist for the team sportsmanship award in each of the last two regional tournaments. The university community could not ask for a better group of students to spread the mission of UD and campus recreation through the spirit of competition.”

Funky Chicken expects to succeed at nationals.

“We expect to compete against some of the best teams in the nation including UNC Chapel Hill, UNC Charlotte, Nebraska and UL Monroe,” Creely said. “Ultimately we expect to win a national title and put UD’s name on the map for national intramurals. We are all seniors, I could not think of a better way to kick off our last semester than to bring home a national title back to UD.”

Athletes take one for the team over winter break

NATE WAGGENSPACK
Sports Editor

Dayton athletes are dedicated beyond anything the typical student can understand.

When finals week is over, the rest of the school goes home to recharge for the spring semester, but the athletes involved in winter sports (men’s basketball and women’s basketball and indoor track) hardly get a break.

They have to stick around campus for almost the entirety of break because there are practices and games to worry about. That can be difficult.

“It’s different,” junior guard Patrice Lalor said. “There’s really no one around. We’re pretty much just hanging out with ourselves. It’s different, but you get used to it after a year or two.”

Continuing to practice and go on the road for games is tough, but junior Kristin Daugherty says one of the worst parts of staying in town is how empty the campus gets over break.

“It’s very dead,” Daugherty said. “We usually hang out with each other and never have more free time than they know how to fill. Lalor says she is okay with being bored if it means she has no classes, though.

“It’s definitely really boring, but it’s probably worth it,” she said. “I’d rather just sit around and watch TV or hang out than do homework.”

Still, the women’s team has found some ways to pass the time on campus and off. They like to watch movies and can get some Christmas shopping done by going to a mall.

“We find things to do,” Lalor said. “Last year we sat around for probably four hours just listening to old school music and singing and dancing and playing Rock Band. We found ways to entertain ourselves.”

Daugherty said this year the team is planning on learning the dance to “Thriller” during their spare time.

While they don’t get the break the rest of the school enjoys, the athletes do get to go home for a bit. The women’s basketball team will go home after their game against Butler on Dec. 21, and they will come back by the evening of Dec. 26. This actual break is the best part for the athletes.

“It definitely is [a highlight of break], especially since we don’t have that much time during the entire year to go home,” Lalor said. “When we can go home, especially during Christmas break, it’s great. Everyone can’t wait; everyone enjoys it a lot.”

After they come back on the 26th, there is still some time left for the team to kill. The ring in the New Year together, while the squad doesn’t party quite as hard as some other students do because they are in season, they still have fun.

“We usually hang out with each other on New Year’s,” Daugherty said. “We don’t really do anything too exciting. We just hang out and watch the ball drop.”

The key for the team in surviving boredom during a break with no classes, few people to hang out with and very little to do is being close with each other and enjoying their time together.

“We’re like family; we like spending time with each other,” Daugherty said.
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DOING THINGS BIG AT UD

Nance brings size, leadership, energy on and off court for women’s team

The University of Dayton women’s basketball team is off to an impressive start in the 09-10 campaign. One of the big reasons why: sophomore center, Casey Nance.

Nance has started all nine games averaging 4.6 points, 5.9 rebounds and 1.8 blocks per game in the middle for the Flyers (No. 20 AP, No. 20 ESPN/USA Today).

UD is lucky to have Nance, considering she only started playing basketball as a freshman in high school. Nance, whose father played 13 seasons in the NBA, did not grow up playing basketball and was never pressured into it.

As she grew into her 6'4” frame, she realized on her own that basketball might be something she would want to pursue, which may seem like a pretty smart choice for the center from Revere High School in Akron, Ohio. She wound up making second team All-State in both her junior and senior seasons. She was also a McDonald’s American nominee after averaging 14.8 points and 16.2 rebounds per game her senior year.

She landed at the University of Dayton because she was looking for a place close to home.

“I also really liked the coaches and family aspect of the program. I was looking for a team that felt like a family, not just teammates,” Nance said.

UD Head Coach Jim Jabir and teammate/roommate Justine Raterman could not be more excited to have her on board.

“She brings tons of energy and enthusiasm to the team. She carries herself very well,” Raterman said.

Nance is by far the tallest member of this year’s squad. She is the main inside presence, carrying the responsibility of matching up with the opposing team’s center, which can be tough in a league as strong as the Atlantic 10.

“Having someone inside like Casey really adds another dimension to our offense,” Raterman said. “She has really matured from last year, being smarter with fouls.”

Foils will be crucial for Nance, a member of the A-10 All-Rookie team a year ago, because the Flyers “need her on the floor,” according to Raterman, UD’s leading scorer.

Looking back on her freshman season, she was able to provide an immediate impact, starting 33 of the 35 games she played in. She averaged 6.5 points and 6.5 rebounds per game, good for third best on the team. She led the conference in blocked shots with 1.8 per game. Her current career-high of 21 points came against Fordham on Feb. 10th.

When asked what the difference was from last year to this one, Nance said it was experience.

“I knew what to expect,” she said, adding inexperience was a factor at times last year.

This year, Nance said the team is more experienced and focused on “making a name for themselves.” They have done just that by coming out early this season with wins against big-name opponents. Among their victims are No. 10 Michigan State, Georgetown and No. 23 Purdue.

Nance admitted she was a little nervous when she saw the schedule and learned that the Flyers would open with the Spartans at home, but she said the team has come to realize just how good they could be after this hot start against quality opposition.

Even though she is only a sophomore, Nance has emerged as one of the vocal leaders on the team because of the energy that she brings to the team on and off the court. Her presence is one of the many factors that make this team a title contender in the Atlantic 10.

“Shes brings lots of energy and enthusiasm to the team. She carries herself very well.”

Justine Raterman, sophomore forward

Balancing sports and studies

It’s coming down to a tough part of the year: finals.

When finals week comes around, it can often take over our lives, but sports fans just can’t allow that to happen. There are way too many great events going on this time of the year. Between the NFL regular season winding down and the college basketball season finishing up its nonconference schedule, you can’t afford to miss out on the action.

Fortunately, there is a way to keep up with sports and school; it just requires some time management. So I have put together a five-step method for balancing your sports and studies.

1. KNOW WHAT SPORTING EVENTS ARE COMING UP. Check your go-to sports Web site or the Remote Control section in the Dayton Daily News sports section to see what is going to be on TV or ESPNews.com. There are all kinds of schedules available, so it is important to know where and when the games are taking place. That way, you know if you can watch it at home on your TV or computer, or if you’ll have to go to Milano’s or BW3’s for a game, like you would for one of those awful NFL network games with Matt Millen doing the color commentary.

2. SET ASIDE SOME TIME BEFORE THE EVENT. For example, if you know one of your favorite teams is playing at 7 p.m. on a Tuesday (like the Dayton Flyers were going to as I was writing this article), then have some time to do your work before 7 p.m. Hopefully you’re not in classes until that time. If you do, there’s not much I can do to help you. Finish your homework a day in advance so you have none, in that case. At any rate, have time to do homework before the game happens so you are ideally done by the time it starts.

3. WATCH SOME SPORTS. This is the fun part of the five-step plan. You get to actually enjoy yourself. Kick back, relax and turn on the TV. If you live in Founders or Stuart, sorry, you probably can’t do the kicking back portion because there isn’t enough room. You get the idea, though. Turn on the TV or head to the bar and enjoy the game. Take some deep breaths, enjoy the incredible feeling of not studying. That is the key to this step—don’t study or do homework. Don’t even have your notes or whatever on your lap. Just focus on the game, and give your brain a break.

4. UTILIZE HALFTIMES AND TIMEOUTS EFFECTIVELY. If you don’t quite finish your homework as a result of step two, that’s what commercials are for. TV timeouts and halftime are great times to get a couple minutes of work in. If you are watching at home, get up and sprint back to your computer or notebook and keep studying or doing work. Just make sure to have a spotter near the TV to yell at you and let you know when the game is about to come back on. It can be an exhausting dance to sprint back and forth from TV to homework, but it’s worth the workout when you finish that much earlier.

5. KEEP TABS ON THE INTERNET. Look, even the best made plans don’t always work out. Sometimes, there are factors working against you, like a group project in which the rest of your group doesn’t understand the sanctity of sports. Somehow, you get stuck in that group, and every time, they schedule a meeting right in the middle of a big game. It’s devastating. So if this awful thing happens to you, or you have so much homework that you can’t justify wasting any time watching sports, there is still one thing you can do. Go to ESPN.com (that’s my choice anyway, other sites are fine if you like them better), and pull up a gametracker of whatever game you wanted to watch. Then you can at least check the score for a couple seconds and look at what players are doing well. You can at least keep your sanity that way.

There you have it. I hope that you can keep yourselves from permanently falling into the doldrums of studying for finals and nothing else. Everyone has to break things up a bit during finals week. I know for sure this helps me get better grades on my finals, so give it a try.