A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

MEAGAN MARION
Assistant News Editor

As a child, Michaela Minichello travelled from one optometrist to the next.
She decided when she grew up, she would improve people’s quality of life by researching human eye development, and that is just what the senior biology major is working to do.

This past summer, Minichello was awarded a Fight for Sight’s Summer Student Fellowship Grant of $2,100 for her ongoing eye research project on the study of aniridia, a birth defect of the eye. She will continue her research throughout this semester.

Fight for Sight is a non-profit organization that provides funding to aspiring scientists for their eye and vision research. Summer Student Fellowship awards are given for two to three months of research. The $2,100 award will compensate Minichello for the lab work she completed at UD this summer.

Minichello herself suffers from a birth defect in her left eye, and after spending a portion of her childhood visiting optometric and ophthalmic offices, developed an interest in optometry-related research in pursuit of advancing people’s quality of life.

In the Fight for Sight’s 64th annual selection of grantees, Minichello was one of the 23 recipients of the student fellowship grant, which is awarded to undergraduate, graduate and medical students.

The senior represented UD among other students from Harvard, Stanford, Berkeley and several Ivy League schools, according to her advisor, Dr. Amit Singh.

In addition to carrying out research, Minichello also is the president of Beta Beta Beta, the biology honors society, and has been awarded a student fellowship grant, which is given to students in vision research, and will pursue her work throughout the fall semester.

Minichello’s research focuses on the absence of the iris, which is caused by a gene mutation that causes the eye to stop developing too early. By studying birth defects in the human eye using a fruit fly model, she aims to better understand the role of the defective pro-ventriculus (dve) gene in human eye development.

The student spent one year writing her honors thesis with advisor Singh, and devoted her summer to researching the project. Minichello also works with two graduate students who help teach her techniques in the lab and implement experiments.

“Michaela is a highly industrious and diligent student with a strong aptitude toward research,” Dr. Singh said. “She has generated interesting data in a short period of time. She has proved to be a great colleague to other members in my laboratory.”

Minichello will complete her honors thesis in April 2011, and the work that won her the grant will contribute to other research to form a complete story of the dve gene in eye development. She plans on pursuing optometry school after graduation.

In addition to carrying out research, Minichello also is the president of Beta Beta Beta, the biological honors society, and has been awarded an honor’s thesis grant. She is a recipient of the Learn, Lead and Serve grant program which enables students to pursue special projects through an anonymous donor, as well as various other awards. She also was interviewed by “Eye on Vision” radio and has been featured along with Singh in a Dayton Daily News article.

“My personal experiences have given me direction toward a career and a passion to find answers and solutions about birth defects of the eye,” Minichello said. “There is so much potential to improve the quality of life for many people within the field of optical and vision-related research.”

Professor in Iraq shares view on end of war, hopes for bright future in Middle East

STEPHANIE VERMILLION
Director of Multimedia/Marketing

In spring 2010, the University of Dayton bid farewell to five-year faculty member and associate professor Dr. Grant Neeley as he was deployed for a year to Iraq.

After being overseas for months, Lt. Neeley said he understands what President Barack Obama’s Aug. 31 announcement ending the war in Iraq means from a firsthand perspective.

“The change from combat operations to stability operations really hasn’t changed what U.S. forces do,” he said. “We’ve been focused on advising, training and assisting the Iraqi Security Forces for a while now, so we will continue to do that mission until we leave at the end of 2011.”

According to Neeley, it’s vital that citizens recognize the mission the U.S. is working for very much relies on how ready the historically unstable Iraqi government is to control itself.

“What’s important is that Iraq is ready to be a sovereign, stable and self-reliant nation,” he said. “It’s also important to remember the sacrifices made by [the] U.S. Coalition and Iraqi forces to get Iraq to this point in its history.”

With seven years of battle under America’s belt, it may seem to citizens back home that the idea of an end to fighting is just what the U.S. military overseas wants, but that isn’t necessarily the case. After several weeks of training in the
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COLLEGE DEMOCRATS RETURN TO CAMPUS
After eight-year absence, the club’s new leaders hope to boost voting participation, excite students

ERIN GAHIMER
Staff Writer
The University of Dayton College Democrats have re-emerged on campus this fall for the first time in eight years.
The organization was reestablished by sophomore Daniel Rajaiah and senior Kevin Lolli, who said they felt a need for a Democratic voice on campus. According to Rajaiah and Lolli, at a university where a Republican presence has been strong throughout the years, they felt it was their duty to create a forum for Democrats as well.
“It’s always concerning when there is only one voice on campus,” said Lolli, a political science major and the organization’s vice president. “We believe there should be dialogue on competing views and issues, and that’s what we sought to do.”
The group’s aim is to get UD students excited about and involved in the political process, as well as to raise awareness about Democratic candidates at the local, state and national levels, according to Rajaiah and Lolli. They feel this goal is especially pertinent with midterm elections coming up this November.
The organization was reinstituted by sophomore Daniel Rajaiah and sophomore Daniel Rajaiah, the organization’s president. “While we support the Democrat cause, one of our main goals is to get people, especially college students, to the polls to make a difference.”
As an organization, the UD College Democrats have weekly meetings to discuss current political issues. In addition to meetings, the organization intends to schedule an array of state leaders to speak at UD, according to Rajaiah and Lolli. Currently, democrat Eric Brown of the Ohio Supreme Court is set to speak on campus Wed., Oct. 13. This event is open to the public.
“We are trying to get politicians to come and understand UD,” Lolli said. “We want to show the leaders that students today have a voice.”
Rajaiah and Lolli said they realize some students may be weary about joining, thinking all the group does is discuss and debate politics. While political dialogue is part of their mission, both leaders said they want the group to be entertaining and engaging for all. One of their primary goals is to get college students excited about politics.
The group plans on having several social events throughout the year, including a cookout, debate watch parties, and an ice cream and bowling night. Rajaiah encourages all students to consider joining the club as a way to gain a political voice.
“We don’t want to be a group that sits around and just talks,” Lolli said. “We want it to be social and fun and make it a positive atmosphere.”
More information about the College Democrats can be found on the group’s Facebook page, University of Dayton College Democrats, or on their website, udcollegedems.webs.com. Additionally, students can contact Rajaiah at udaytondems@gmail.com or 513-562-3114 for more information. The group meets every Wednesday at 7 p.m. in Humanities Building Room 207.
Semester of Service provides unique learning experience for UD students

CHRIS RIZER
Chief News Writer

Stephanie Carpenter, a senior education major, spent her summer differently than most UD students. As a participant in the Semester of Service program, she worked with children ages 7 through 12 at a day camp at the Dakota Center in Dayton.

The Semester of Service program is “an opportunity for UD undergraduate students to take a semester away from classes in order to continue education through service at a full-time non-profit agency coordinated by the Fitz Center for Leadership in Community,” said Joanne Troha, director of community service learning for the Fitz Center.

The program, funded by Marianists, pairs 20 students with service organizations during the fall, spring and summer semesters, according to Troha. Six students are participating in the fall 2010 program, and 11 participated this summer. Forty-five students submitted applications for all of 2010’s programs, a record number, according to a UD press release.

The selection for the program starts with an interview with Ed Zamierowski, a senior community service advisor in the Fitz Center, and Kathy Trick, graduate assistant for the Fitz Center. Remaining students are then sent to agencies for interviews, and after the agencies make selections, the students indicate their preferences regarding the organization they are assigned to for the semester, according to Troha.

She said the Fitz Center is able to work with its service partners to select experiences to fit “the diversity and interests of the students,” on a year-to-year basis. “[Semester of Service] can be a real revelation in terms of where their [students’] talents and hearts lie,” Troha said.

Carpenter said she was debating between teaching middle school and high school students in the future, and the program helped her decide to teach high school.

Mike Bennett, a UD alumnus, also considered Semester of Service to be a valuable experience during his college career. Bennett, who graduated from UD in 2008 with a degree in religious studies, participated in Semester of Service in the summer of 2006 with East End Community Services summer camp, coordinating lesson plans and field trips for kindergarten through fifth grade students.

“It’s an amazing opportunity for students on campus to get involved in the city, and most of the time students involved in those agencies stay involved in them,” Bennett said.

Some students who participated in the program with him were offered full-time jobs from their respective organizations, according to Bennett.

“To me that experience sort of oriented me to the non-profit world and opened me up to see how my desires for ministry could be used in that sector,” he said.

Troha said participants in Semester of Service receive a stipend which “comes close to covering room and board.” They are not allowed to have an additional job. Students live in an on-campus house with other program participants and have a weekly dinner to discuss their experiences.

“At the end of every day, we would always talk about our day together,” Carpenter said. “It was so much better living with people going through the same thing … We just talked about it a lot and reflected as a group.”

Participants in the program during fall and spring semesters live in regular UD housing. Students in every session are required to take a three-credit hour course on “social justice and urban issues” related to their service, Troha said.

“It’s not at all unusual that after this shared, intense experience that people come out of the Semester of Service with a new set of best friends,” she said.

To find out more about Semester of Service, go to http://www.udayton.edu/arts/sciences/fitzcenter/semester_of_service.php.
CLICK! Think you’ve got an eye for photography? Here’s your chance to get it published. Just send your ‘CLICK’ picture to editor@flyernews.com along with your first and last name and a brief description. Click away!

The sights of the 2009 Dayton Greek Festival are reflected in the glasses of a UD student. This year’s festival will be held Friday, Sept. 10, through Sunday, Sept. 12, at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church. Times and directions can be found at daytongreekfestival.com.

Classifieds

**CLASSIFIEDS**

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Nanny/sitter needed immediately for three-year-old set of boy/girl twins in Centerville-Springboro area, approximately 15 minutes from campus. Times needed are Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and all day Friday. Parents will be flexible with the Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and all day Friday. Pay is $150 per week. Please call or e-mail Adrienne at (937)581-0310 or adrienne-d-brooks@hotmail.com

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PowerPoint/Publisher skills required. Prefer local Sophomore or Junior who can work year round for the next 2 or 3 years. Send resume to dave@woodlandcemetery.org $10/hr to start, 15 hours/wk. Exam weeks off. Free park and walk to classes. Must be dependable.

Oakwood Family (2 mi from campus) seeks responsible after-school sitter with references for 2 thoughtful boys ages 10 & 13; weekdays 3:10-5:10 PM; oversee transition, simple chores, and homework starts. Flexible parents. Excellent $8 for right UD student. Will consider shared responsibility (2 students) for best candidates. Call/text 937-902-5937 between 5-8 PM.

BABYSITTER WANTED Experienced babysitter w/ own transportation needed for Oakwood family. Job entails babysitting/driving an 11 year old boy to and from activities, and driving a 14 year old girl to and from activities. I’m looking for someone I can count on for Tuesdays and/or Thursdays, preferably both (must be available to pick up at 2:45) as well as anyone who is interested in being called sporadically/somewhat last minute (I have a husband who travels), particularly for evenings on Mondays and Wednesdays. Please be responsible, reliable, and have a spotless driving record. $10/hr; gas reimbursed. Please respond via email to: oakwoodbabysitter@hotmail.com with detailed information (references required), as well as specific availability for this semester. Thanks!!!

BABYSITTER WANTED Babysitter wanted for our son who’s almost 4 years old. Must be caring, fun and experienced. We live in Centerville, and we need a sitter on various weekend nights. Call 937-271-4120.

Part Time Nanny in Centerville Professional Centerville couple with 5 children ages 6-15. Need of Nanny Tuesday-Sunday, Wednesday, Thursday afternoons/ early evening (approx 3 p.m.-7 p.m.) - and every other Friday evening for date night. Approximately 16 hrs per wk. Children well/behaved/active. Must have reliable transportation and provide some transportation to activities. Meal preparation. Full reimbursement for driving expenses incurred while transporting children. Earn paid time off. If interested please call 937-344-8648 after 5 p.m. in the FN!!

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**SOLUTIONS AND PREVIOUS PUZZLES ON WWW.FLYERNEWS.COM**
Behind-the-scenes
Win some, lose some, except at last Wednesday’s ‘Diviners’ auditions

FRANK STANKO A&E EDITOR

Last Wednesday, Sept. 1, A&E editor Frank Stanko sat in on an audition for “The Diviners,” which announced its casting Friday, Sept. 3. In the second of a three-part series, he shares his observations.

Whether they were cast or not, the actors at Wednesday’s “The Diviners” audition presented themselves as winners.

A level of mutual respect and admiration ran rampant through Roll Theater that night. Applause after a reading, something that never happened Tuesday night, occurred after seemingly every tryout.

“That was all Pat Coyle,” said sophomore Kyle Himsworth about the applause. “He led it, and it showed that tonight’s auditions were not cut-throat and very welcoming.”

Himsworth didn’t participate in the applause, or watch others audition, but that wasn’t for unfriendly reasons.

“I arrived late and was spending all that time reading my script,” Himsworth said.

Performances by veterans of community and UD theater, like Himsworth and senior Erin Phelps, in many ways equaled those of freshmen and audition novices.

“I thought it was good … nice … that we had only a few seniors,” Phelps said. “It kept things comfortable, not off-putting. We all started with a clean slate.”

Phelps read for both roles in a scene focusing on Norma and Luella, small town residents talking about newcomer C.C. Showers. In the scene, Norma is optimistic about Showers taking the town as a calling, while Luella is doubtful.

“I tried to make both roles look comfortable,” Phelps said.

Someone who started out uncomfortably was freshman Alex Chilton.

“First I was kinda nervous, worrying my eyes out,” Chilton said. “Then I got into the groove … I don’t know, my dad says I’m my own worst enemy.

For his audition as Showers, Chilton based his characterization on Gregory Peck’s performance in “To Kill a Mockingbird.” When asked if he would have considered reading the part “in your own skin,” Chilton responded negatively.

“I try on different coats or skins in my preparation process,” Chilton read the “Diviners” script before auditioning, and what I like to wear, I grow into,” he said.

Among the scenes Chilton read for was Showers’ arrival at the home of Buddy, a mentally-disabled youth, and his maternally-minded sister, Jennie Mae. Sophomore Katherine Fennessy read for Jennie Mae, but was doubtful about getting the part.

“I was better at the bitch,” said Fennessy, referring to the role of Darlene, an acquaintance of Jennie Mae’s.

Despite that, Fennessy returned to the Boll stage a moment later to read for Jennie Mae.

Midway through auditions, director Louan Hilty announced callbacks would occur Thursday, Sept. 2, at 6 p.m.

“But just because you aren’t chosen for a callback doesn’t mean that I’m not considering you for a part,” Hilty said.

Despite Hilty’s encouragement, Fennessy said she was nervous.

“I always hate hearing those words, ‘you can go now,’” she said. “I know they don’t mean anything bad, but still it’s not something I want to hear. It’s a small audition group, and in those, you put yourself out more.”

Up next: a view from callbacks. To read part one and part three in this series, go to flyernews.com.

Stay tuned for “Star Like Me,” an exclusive journal from ‘Diviners’ cast members, coming soon to Flyer News.

Marching band welcomes new director
30 new members, one enthusiastic leader added to POD

FRANK STANKO A&E Editor

Members of UD’s Pride of Dayton Marching Band are being taught a simple but well-established idea: Be the best person you can, in or out of the classroom.

Tremon Kizer, who became marching band director this year, said he has picked up these notions of collaboration and hard work, and is avidly encouraging his students to apply them.

Kizer has an extra reason to insist on such mutual respect; that kind of respect, which he saw around campus, was what interested Kizer in working as the POD’s director.

“I love its vision,” said Kizer of UD. “It was a place talking about faith, giving to your community. It’s an interesting process, and I got to see it more and more.

For Kizer, taking the band director job was an easy choice.

“I thought, ‘I can be myself,'” he said. “I can also grow, like UD.”

And growth is definitely occurring in the POD, which added 30 new members, bringing its membership to over 120 members.

“The growth is due to thepopularity of the POD, the current assistant director Jim Leslie, the music department head Sharon Gratto and the rest of the department,” Kizer said. “I am not the reason why the POD is successful; it’s the foundation that has been set by those two, and the recruiting efforts by the music department, along with the previous director of the POD, Nicole Gross.”

And if 130 members seems like a lot, consider an event like Alumni Band Day, where former members are invited to come back and perform, Kizer said. It is another in a series of events that will take the POD members further into the community.

Back on the UD campus are events like the Saturday, Sept. 3, UD-Robert Morris football game. At the event, the POD presented a Blues Brothers medley for halftime, as well as the usual school songs and a few surprises.

Asked about what gets a marching band from the rehearsal room to the football field, Kizer again said how important collaboration and hard work is.

“It takes a dedicated group of people — people sold on the vision, sold on the passion, energy and excitement,” he said. “We’ve been practicing for this since Aug. 14, with our band camp.”

But, Kizer said, it all comes back to community spirit.

“We want the community to know that we’re still here,” he said. “We’ll be seen at the first game, and we want everyone to know we’ll be seen at more.”

And, of course, all the exposure and community support wouldn’t matter without dedication, he said.

“We won’t stop [until we] get the best, on the field or in life,” Kizer said. “That’s what we preach.”

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Dayton Playhouse production of ‘Producers’ blends spectacle, humor in tuneful romp

With student tickets costing only $10, seeing this musical is a fantastic way to spend a Friday night.

The show starts with a song about Max Bialystock (Saul Caplan), a Broadway producer who just opened a complete flop, “Funny Boy.” “Funny Boy,” a musical version of “Hamlet,” is quickly proclaimed “the worst show in town.”

Down on his luck and with little hope left, Bialystock has just about given up when he meets Leo Bloom (David Sherman), an overworked accountant with a secret ambition to become a Broadway producer.

The two quickly devise a scheme that, if all goes according to plan, will make them more money: Produce a Broadway flop, the real worst show in town, instead of a Broadway hit.

From there, the cast truly threw themselves into each character and played far into the audience.

One thing I know from my theater experience is that it’s not enough to simply act like the character, but one must become the character, thinking and feeling as they would. This cast was incredibly convincing. They truly became the characters.

The cast performed tunes ranging from Bialystock’s rousing “The King of Broadway,” to “Prisoners of Love,” where the inmates sang while using soap on a rope as a dance prop. “Springtime for Hitler” and “Keep it Gay” were two songs that easily got stuck in my head.

“My favorite song of mine, was performed by Bialystock. It was staged creatively, to say the least, with spectacular costuming. Showgirls with pretzels on their heads and men dressed in drag: What more could you ask for in a musical?

Betrayed,” another favorite song on their heads and men dressed in drag; what more could you ask for in a musical?

Springtime for Hitler” was a wonderful and hilarious performance, not only because of the lyrics but also because of action ensuing in the background of the scene – which you’ll just have to see for yourself in order to fully appreciate it.

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**EXPERIENCE:**

**ESSENCE OF EDUCATION DEVELOPED BY STUDENT LEADERS**

When we were children, our parents only gave us one guideline to live up to: Do your personal best, no matter what that may be. We think back to that when we look at the students who are getting involved on campus in new and dynamic ways. These men and women are not only getting involved with clubs and organizations; they are taking the initiative to do so much more.

For example, recipients of Fight for Sight’s Summer Stewardship Fellowship Grant, like Michaela Minichello, are dedicating themselves to learning about and combating birth defects of the eye. Eleven students spent their summers working with children at the Dakota Center. More students spent their summer drafting new works of art for the campus.

These endeavors go well beyond the smug catchphrase advertised on T-shirts that “college is a fountain of knowledge, and we’re here to drink.” No, as far as we’re concerned, and these students are proving, college is a fountain of experience.

We’re to a point in our lives when setting ourselves apart is not something we do to look good on applications; it’s a way of living and style, with some dedication and a certain eloquence in action? What adults we are going to be. Why shouldn’t we go on our way with some taunts and jeers.

**Word on the street...**

What will you do now that the KU cafeteria is closed on weekends?

**ETHAN HARPER, GRADUATE STUDENT**

**AEROSPACE ENGINEERING**

“*It doesn’t matter to me; I live off campus.*”

**OLIVIA LEE, SOPHOMORE**

**VISUAL COMMUNICATION DESIGN**

“What? I’m a little upset. No more weekend breakfasts!”

**MADIE SZALLER, SOPHOMORE**

**EDUCATION ENGLISH**

“I’ll probably have to cook more often. And if I’m on campus I’ll go to Marycrest or the Emporium.”

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**OPINIONS**

Flyer News—Friday, September 10, 2010

www.flyernews.com

“Words ought to be a little wild, for they are the assaults of thoughts on the unthinking”

John Maynard Keynes, economist, 1933
CONCEPTIONS OF MASCULINITY HURTFUL TO MEN, WOMEN AT UD

Two issues into this year’s Flyer News cycle, we have seen a wide range of topics discussed on this opinion page. Annie Schuerman made a wonderful connection between the lack of class diversity in our nation’s capital and on our campus. Michael Miller encouraged new students to wear sweatpants to class, because, duh, this isn’t Miami. And the Flyer News’ own Maureen Dowd, Maggie Malach, wrote a salient piece identifying stereotypes of homosexuality in the media.

“...ignorance helps to breed a standard of conduct among college students, especially men, that has created a hostile environment for women on campus.”

NICK HAYNES, SENIOR

Last year, regular FN readers were treated to a number of discussions about women and feminism, often initiated by Malach. But with the new school year (and football season starting this week), the time has come for a related and somewhat less discussed topic: conceptions of masculinity on American university campuses.

Male students on college campuses have a unique opportunity to contribute to discussions of feminism and women’s issues. Not nearly enough men, however, even understand these issues exist. Search youtube.com for “men explaining birth control” for an enlightening video posted by the (now inactive) blog “The Sexist,” in which men admit that a good portion of their knowledge of the subject comes from “Seinfeld” episodes. On a more serious note, though, this ignorance helps to breed a standard of conduct among college students, especially men, that has created a hostile environment for women on campus.

I can speak from personal experience about the weight that college men put on the number and variety of sexual encounters, even among otherwise intelligent, reasonable students. The ubiquity of “the hunt” or “the chase” creates a culture in which men separate and look to identify themselves in a caste system with the glory of being a “dude” above the shame of being a “fag.”

Language and actions clearly define the two groups. Nonconforming men are called “puddy” or “fag” for failing to finish a beer, having to do homework instead of drink or being timid when talking with women they like. Men with tales of heterosexual encounters, excessive alcohol consumption and otherwise unacceptable behavior are praised as being “cool dudes” and “real bros.” Controversial opinions are at best ignored, and at worst are violently discouraged.

These actions are justified and encouraged by a culture of alcohol fueled by billions of dollars in advertising and popular websites like collegehumor.com and break.com, all of which stress the importance of the dude/fag dichotomy and manage to throw some misogyny in with it all.

This toxic culture of masculinity contributes in large part to the dirty secrets of American universities: sexual violence that is kept quiet by shamed victims, indifferent witnesses and an embarrassed university administration. Petty theft is not the only crime committed on this campus, despite what FN’s crime log might tell you.

So, picking up Christine Olding’s challenge on this page last week that we are a generation of all talk and no action, I would like to address students of all genders reading this column: How does your conception of masculinity jive with the health of our community, the stated goals of this university and your personal development into a college-educated person?

JUNIOR

PHILOSOPHY/PHYSICS

Opening up Flyer News is typically something I look forward to. I know a good deal of the writers, and like to hear about campus goings-on. I would not otherwise know about. However, the recent letter to the editor entitled “Appropriate conduct key to good leadership, credibility” is simply an uninformed, slanderous statement attacking our elected SGA president and the SGA itself.

The author of the piece fails to provide any evidence to support his claim that, “It is clear that SGA has a credibility problem, not only amongst students and peers, but with faculty, staff and administrators at all levels.” My question is a simple one: Who are these individuals? In fact, in direct opposition to the statement, I as a student at the University of Dayton am confident in the SGA and its president.

The author goes on to say that the SGA is viewed as a clique. Again, failed logic is illustrated on the part of our author: A clique as defined by worldnetweb.princeton.edu is “an exclusive circle of people with a common purpose.” As a great deal of the SGA members are elected into office by the entire undergraduate population at UD, I fail to see how that can been seen as an “exclusive” group – not to mention that anyone can run for office.

Additionally, the article suggests that the members of SGA, including its president, consider themselves above the rules and regulations that the university has set forth. For this claim, the author uses an example, (the first in the letter) of a bed sheet that recently hung from president Jim Saywell’s Evanston home. However, the argument crumbles when one notes that bed sheet messages are common throughout both student neighborhoods and are a symbol of tradition and community. Time and time again, students, parents and faculty members alike are struck with a smile reading the bed sheet messages.

Furthermore, had Mr. Schumacher asked Mr. Saywell the meaning behind the message, he would have been informed it was to welcome new students to campus; “honk if you want to be us” means honk if you want to be a UD student.

I, too, wish to encourage students to take action, though not against earnest, passionate and dedicated leaders, like Mr. Saywell. Instead I encourage all students at this university to become informed. Go to an SGA meeting, join a committee and see for yourself this “inappropriate” leader which the student body elected. Then ask yourself why Flyer News would allow an article so contestable and unfounded to be published.

STEPHANIE MOON

OPINIONS

JUNIOR

PHILOSOPHY/POLITICAL SCIENCE

Wow, looks like it’s really pouring out there.

Actually it’s sprinkling.

BEN GIRMANN, JUNIOR

OPINIONS

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Volleyball

NO. 20 DAYTON HEADS TO DAUNTING TOURNAMENT

BRENDAN HADER
Chief Sports Staff Writer

The University of Dayton volleyball team is headed to Lincoln, Neb., to compete in the much-anticipated Ameritas Players Challenge this weekend.

The Flyers, currently ranked No. 20 in the country, will face stiff competition from Thursday, Sept. 9, through Saturday, Sept. 11. UD will play No. 3 Illinois, No. 7 Nebraska and Western Michigan in the tournament, and while some teams might cringe at this type of schedule, Dayton embraces the stout competition.

“When you go into tournaments like this, you get excited about the challenge,” head coach Kelly Sheffield said. “Competitors like to be tested, and that’s what we are.”

The players feel the same way, led by reigning Atlantic 10 Conference Defensive Player of the Week Lindsay Fletemier. The redshirt senior earned the award with 20 blocks in three matches last weekend at the Diet Coke Classic in Minneapolis. “Playing against these quality teams is something I’ve been looking forward to,” the middle blocker said. “This is the toughest schedule we’ve had in my four years here, so I’m excited to play these good teams that will prepare us for the end of the season.”

The Flyers finished 2-1 in last weekend’s tournament hosted by then-No. 8 Minnesota. The team’s only loss was in the final game against the Golden Gophers. The girls saw some positives in their performance, but know there are areas for improvement. Entering the three matches against quality opponents this weekend, they recognize they must resist getting overly-excited and stick to their game plan.

“We go in with the same mindset of just playing Dayton Flyers volleyball, but in the back of your mind, you are a little more excited, and it provides some extra motivation,” senior outside hitter Tiffany Gaerke said. “I noticed from last weekend that no matter what happens, we need to stick together and keep our heads up. We have to embrace the moment and just play our game.”

One unique storyline for Dayton this weekend involves redshirt senior setter Jessica Yanz. Yanz spent the last two years as a Nebraska Cornhusker, the host of the Ameritas Players Challenge and the Flyers’ opening opponent Friday, Sept. 10, at 8 p.m.

“My time there was fun, but it was a huge learning experience for me,” Yanz said. “I redshirted my first season there, so I could practice but not play. It put me in a whole different role and taught me how to make my team better. I still talk to a bunch of the girls from there, and we are pretty good about keeping in touch.”

The Flyers know they must come out with more intensity than they had in Minneapolis. Winning two of the three games gave them something positive to build off of heading into this weekend’s tournament, but with high caliber opponents looming yet again, a more focused effort will be required.

“I thought we had a lot of positives from last weekend, but we have to make it a point to come out swinging this weekend,” Sheffield said. “We really need to drop the gloves, put our heads down and keep plugging away.”

Men’s Basketball

STATEN THE STAR OF FRESHMAN CLASS

NATE WAGGENSPACK
Assistant Sports Editor

With the season still a couple months away, the Dayton Flyers men’s basketball team is working hard, and its newest members including highly touted freshman Juwan Staten are ready to go.

At the moment, however, things are moving a bit slowly. Due to NCAA rules, until Wednesday, Sept. 15, teams can only work out or practice for eight hours a week, and if they play basketball, it is with a maximum of four players on the court. Until the deadline passes, the players are spending most of their time on strength, conditioning and some individual workouts on the court.

Head coach Brian Gregory said this time, and even after the Sept. 15 deadline, will be spent mostly working on individual skills.

“During this early part, we focus on getting some of that core skill stuff that is going to be important to the development of the team,” he said.

One area of the team that will need work is the backcourt. Having graduated four guards that played significant minutes for the Flyers last season, a slew of new faces will be running the show from day one. It will be important for them to learn to play the UD way quickly. Gregory is not too worried about them, though.

“The incoming freshmen, I was pleased with how each and every one of them finished their high school careers,” he said. “Those guys are ready to learn from the upperclassmen but at the same time, know that they’re going to have a role on this team.”

Of the new faces on the team, the most highly anticipated is Staten, a 5-foot-10 guard from Dayton who has gotten plenty of help from the upperclassmen, from basketball related advice, to pointers on how to approach a coach, to even something off the court like how to deal with girls.

“The guard said he has enjoyed getting to hang out with everybody, and that is a fun team.”

“We’ve got a great group of guys,” he said. “Everybody comes in with a positive attitude. There’s no arguing; there’s no big heads. Everybody’s ready to learn. We’re just putting a real big thing out of team first.”

In addition, Staten said he has gotten plenty of help from the upperclassmen, from basketball related advice, to pointers on how to approach a coach, to even something off the court like how to deal with girls.

“The guard said he has enjoyed college thus far, but that more than anything, he is ready for the season to start.”

“I’m real excited,” he said. “It seems like it’s taking forever to come. I keep looking at the date of our first exhibition game and where we are now. It’s taking forever —seems like the days aren’t moving.”

Fulbright Scholarships

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• Program lasts about nine months •
• Stipend and travel expenses awarded •
• Teach English and/or research abroad •
• GPA of 3.5 or above preferred •
• Foreign language a plus •
• Program lasts about nine months •
• Stipend and travel expenses awarded •

Contact Dr. John McCombe
Office of Fellowship Advising
University Honors Program
john.mccombe@notes.udayton.edu

Office of Fellowship Advising and Graduate Students
Women's Soccer

UD learning how to recover from tough early losses

The streak is over.
After not losing a regular season game since October 2008, the University of Dayton women's soccer team has lost twice already this season against Colorado College and Ohio State.

“We are playing good teams, so to lose is not a terrible thing,” head coach Mike Tucker said. “As much as I hate it, it’s not terrible, but you got to learn in the end to get better. The key is for our players to look at this as a learning experience.”

The Flyers last lost on Oct. 24, 2008, at Charlotte with a score of 2-1.
Following that game, the team cruised to a 22-month and 24-game regular season unbeaten streak.

Now the team is looking forward to a pair of road games this weekend against Lehigh and Pennsylvania on Friday, Sept. 10, and Sunday, Sept. 12.

“We’re good on the road; the road’s always been pretty good to us,” Tucker said. “We have a system. We go out and prepare and play, and we know a little bit about the teams we’re playing.”

Tucker believes that focused training will help put his team back on track.

“Our training up until [next weekend] is going to dictate how much success we have,” he said. “You know, make every minute of training count and make sure we fix the things that we need to fix, [which is] the coach’s job and the player’s job.”

New talent from nine freshmen also will give the Flyers an added advantage this season.

“We have a great mix of young ladies,” Tucker said. “Our freshmen players coming in are really talented, and if [you] you add those to the players that we have, I like our chances to be pretty good at the end of the year. We have freshmen that can step onto the field and help us get better all the time.”

Additionally, the Flyers have a deep team coming off the bench, which will help them late in the game.

“We don’t lose a whole lot when we pull somebody off the bench; what we have to rely on is our numbers,” Tucker said. “We’re a team right now, and we have to re-main that.”

The number one goal for the team this year is to play in the NCAA Tournament, according to Tucker.

“Our biggest and our first goal is always to play in the NCAA Tournament,” Tucker said. “We still have that opportunity, but we’re making it a little harder on ourselves yet again. We’re not happy right now with two losses, but if that’s all we’ve got at the end of the year, we’ll be real happy.”

Lehigh and Pennsylvania better prepare because according to Tucker, his team has its sights set on getting back on the winning track.

“I think the girls are just hungry to win right now,” Tucker said.

CRAZY EIGHTS
The Dayton men’s basketball team released its 2010-2011 schedule earlier in the week. The Flyers will play eight teams that appeared in a postseason tournament last season and will twice match up against A-10 opponents Duquesne, Saint Louis and Xavier.

BLOCK PARTY
Volleyball redshirt senior middle blocker Lindsay Fletemier has recorded a block in 54 straight matches for the Flyers. She was named A-10 Defensive Player of the Week.

FLYIN’ HIGH
Cross country seniors Maureen Bulgrin and Chris Lemon both earned Atlantic 10 Performer of the Week honors for their outings at the Flyer 5K Challenge.

STEVE STAR
Quarterback Steve Valentino won the Pioneer Football League Offensive Player of the Week in totaling 317 yards and two touchdowns in Dayton’s 28-14 win over Robert Morris.

OPEN INVITE
The UD club softball team is holding tryouts on Saturday, Sept. 11, starting at 10 a.m. at West Carrollton High School. Contact Marci Duckro for more info.
Men’s Soccer

SENIOR WATKINS LEADING SQUAD

JACOB ROSEN
Sports Editor

The University of Dayton athletic program has seen many high-profile stars complete an impressive four years in their respective sports. No player may be as noteworthy recently as men’s soccer senior defender Tommy Watkins.

Battling back from a broken leg his freshman year and a car accident last season, Watkins has emerged as a co-captain and leader of the reign- ing regular season Atlantic-10 Conference champions.

“It has been up and down, but noticed Watkins while recruiting him from Richmond, Va. four years ago. The program leader was impressed by the youngster’s confidence at that moment and continues to talk about the helpful characteristics of his star defender.

“Tommy’s been an integral part of our program and a symbol of Dayton soccer,” Currier said. “He is really the epitome of a student-athlete that we want to represent our team, both in the classroom and on the field. Being his last year, he has stepped up into a huge leadership role, and he is going to have a big role in teaching the younger guys what a true Dayton Flyer is.” Watkins was named to the pre-season A-10 All-Conference team this year and has appeared in all but one game dating back to the start of the 2008 season. The co-captain is now one of just two seniors amidst 18 new players in a rising program with back-to-back appearances in the conference tournament final.

“Well, being the only guy left from my original recruiting class, I certainly have a lot of responsibility on my back trying to show all of these new guys what it is all about to be in the Dayton Flyers soccer program,” he said. “It is kind of motivating … I’ve really taken it in stride, and I enjoy being a leader for these guys.”

Highly-touted freshman Marklon Duran said Watkins is an “almost perfect” role model and the senior even picked up Duran from the airport on his first day in Dayton this year. The two have a close working relationship on the field, since the first-year primarily plays defensive midfield.

“I’m always learning from Tommy everywhere, every game, every practice, and he is always telling me what to do and how to do it better,” he said.

In terms of lasting memories, Watkins maintains that his favorite moment at UD was winning the A-10 tournament championship in Pittsburgh in 2008, securing the team’s first-ever NCAA Tournament appearance. He hopes to help the new players on the team achieve a similar goal in the years to come.

“I don’t want to say that I am going to leave too much, but I’m just obviously going to leave with a lot of memories,” he said. “I just want to leave with a legacy of someone that worked hard, put in their time and hopefully influenced other guys to follow the right path.”

The senior is closing in on a historic career at UD, and is certainly setting an example for star soccer players in the future.

“It’s great to have a guy like that on the field because he helps you with everything,” Duran said about Watkins’ impact. “The worst, the good or whatever is coming, that is a guy that you can rely upon for anything.”

Away from the pitch, the pre-physical therapy major has a 3.79 GPA and was recently named as a finalist for the Lowe’s Senior CLASS Award. The recognition goes to one of the top five student-athletes in all NCAA sports, and UD’s reigning “student-athlete of the year” in several categories.

“It’s great to have a guy that you can rely upon for anything,” Watkins said about Mahone’s recruiting skills which landed a deep and talented class led by Alex Crum out of St. Xavier High School in Louisville, Kent.

“From a team standpoint, it should be a much different environment, hopefully leading to a much more successful campaign,” Koscieslki said. “In terms of expectations, there aren’t any lingering feelings from last year. We want to win the conference tournament. That would be the ideal way to go out, to get the automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.”

The 2010 men’s tennis team has many of the necessary elements for an improved and exciting season, hopefully culminating in a trip to the NCAA’s for the first time in program history.

SCHEDULE

Men’s Cross Country
Saturday, Sept. 11, at Mel Brod Invitational, Bowling Green, Ohio

Women’s Cross Country
Saturday, Sept. 11, at Miami Invitational, Oxford, Ohio

Football
Saturday, Sept. 11, at Duquesne

Volleyball
Friday, Sept. 10, vs. Illinois (at Nebraska);
Saturday, Sept. 11, vs. Western Michigan (at Nebraska)

Women’s Soccer
Friday, Sept. 10, at Lehigh Sunday, Sept. 12 at Pennsylvania

Men’s Tennis

Men’s Club Rugby
Friday, Sept. 10, vs. Ball State (at Stuart Field)

Men’s Golf

FOR A Q&A WITH TOMMY WATKINS CHECK OUT THE VIDEO AND FLYER FOCUS BLOG >> www.flyernews.com

Men’s Tennis
Flyers hoping five youngsters lead way to NCAA Tournament glory

MICHAEL PATTY
Sports Staff Writer

Spirits and expectations are high as the University of Dayton men’s tennis team’s 2010 campaign begins this weekend in East Lansing, Mich. for the Michigan State Invitational.

The Flyers return from a sub-par 6-18 record during the spring season under first-year head coach Eric Mahone, but there is plenty of optimism with a very different Flyer squad from last year. Five new freshmen join the team in 2010, composing half of the entire roster and igniting a revitalized youth movement.

“There’s a lot of optimism about this freshman class,” co-captain and lone senior Mike Koscieslki said. “All of the freshmen are extremely talented with a lot of room to grow; the program is definitely heading in the right direction.”

The schedule is set up to test the young Flyers early and give them opportunities to showcase their skills with trips to Michigan State and Purdue for the first two tournaments of the fall season.

“The fall is much more laid back, much more individualized and getting your feet on the ground; easing your way into college tennis (for the freshmen),” Koscieslki said. “Everyone is bringing everything they have ever done, and the positivity surrounding the team is off the charts.”

Off the court, there is a lot of talk about Mahone’s recruiting skills which landed a deep and talented class led by Alex Crum out of St. Xavier High School in Louisville, Kent.

“From a team standpoint, it is really the epitome of a student-athlete,” said Mahone.

Senior Tommy Watkins helps the Flyers during a game against IPFW on Friday, Sept. 3, at Baultan Field. JARED SIECHY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

WATKINS CHECK OUT THE FOR A Q&A WITH TOMMY WATKINS CHECK OUT THE VIDEO AND FLYER FOCUS BLOG >> www.flyernews.com