Study shows students learn little, socialize more in their first years of college

Megan Harrell
Lead News Writer

By making socializing a priority over studying and going to class, nearly half of students in the U.S. are showing little to no progress in learning during their first two years of college, according to USA Today.

Based on findings from transcripts and surveys of more than 3,000 full time undergraduate students on 29 campuses nationwide, USA Today reported on Tuesday, Jan. 18, that after two years in college, 45 percent of students showed no major progress in learning; after four years, 36 percent showed little change.

These findings have led to questions regarding what can be done to improve these statistics and whether attending college is actually worth the cost of tuition.

Although college enrollment is becoming increasingly expensive and students may show little improvement in learning their first two years, Dr. Elizabeth Gustafson, associate dean of the School of Business Administration, still believes having a college degree is important in order to get a good job.

“The days when those with little education could earn a good middle-class income in manufacturing are about over,” Gustafson said. “Having a college degree admits you to entry-level jobs that can lead to career growth that is often not available for those with less education.”

According to Dr. Daniel Raisch, associate dean for administration in the School of Education and Allied Professions, choosing to socialize over studying has always been a trend among students.

“The fact that we have more students in college and many, many more distractions certainly adds to it,” Raisch said.

Raisch said he believes university education can improve by encouraging students to find out what kind of learning environment has been growing even when the economy is down,” Durkle said. “UD is helping to shape Dayton ... and the university’s health is very, very strong.”
UD Bookstore climbs to top, named collegiate retailer of year

RACHEL TOVINITTI  
Staff Writer

The University of Dayton Bookstore recently was named the first-ever Collegiate Retailer of the Year by the National Association of College Stores Foundation.

The Collegiate Retailer of the Year Award is funded by the Tommye and Keith Miller Endowment due to their passion for the industry and belief that running a successful college store is vital to the campus, according to DeAnn Hazey, NACS Foundation executive director. It is the highest level of collegiate retailing distinction in the United States and Canada.

The NACS had eight submissions and four finalists in the running for the award. Applicants were judged upon six criteria: culture and profitability; customer support, customer commitment, campus connection, academic mission and being profitable.

“Students and alumni, like graduates and prospective students and alumni, like graduation events and prospective student fairs, according to Banks.

“We know college life is demanding, so we try to make everything easy, time saving and convenient for our students,” she said. “We are constantly striving to improve the way we do business.”

Banks received an e-mail last year from the NACS about the competition and brought it up at a meeting with the bookstore’s full-time staff, who saw it as an opportunity.

“We approached it with an attitude of, ‘Why not give it a try?’ and a group of four [staff members] began working on our submission last spring,” Banks said.

“Our student employees were a big help when it came to collecting testimonials from customers as they shopped in the store; there was a lot of data to collect and organize.”

The bookstore oversees four campus retail operations: the main bookstore, the UD School of Law Bookstore, the UD Tech Shop in Miriam Hall and Flyer Spirit on Brown Street.

The UD Bookstore will be recognized by the NACS and presented with an award of $5,000 on Saturday, Feb. 26, at the Campus Market Expo, the college store industry’s largest educational and buying show, held in Houston, Texas.

“It is very exciting for our bookstore to be the very first winner of this award,” Banks said. “No one else will ever hold that honor. We are very proud and honored for the work we do. We are considered a small school by national standards, but we have a big heart.”

STUDENT DOUBLES AS SECRET SERVICE AGENT

STEPHANIE VERMILLION  
Director of Multimedia

Junior Lauren Wargacki lives the typical life of a UD college student. She studies criminal justice, loves making her rounds through the Ghetto to visit friends and can’t pass up a trip to the Galley for a milkshake.

But from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, Wargacki is far from just a college student. She is an employee of the Secret Service.

She’s met the president and vice president since she began her work in May 2010. But it hasn’t been all glamour for Wargacki. The initial hiring process took from January 2010 to May 2010, with extensive background checks to ensure her citizenship and capability for the job of ultimately protecting the U.S. government.

Sound like an Angelina Jolie action movie? We thought so, too. Check out www.flyernews.com for an exclusive video interview to get Wargacki’s full story of life as a Secret Service employee.

GET THE FULL STORY WITH AN EXCLUSIVE VIDEO

ONLY AT www.flyernews.com
ALUMNUS WELCOMES STUDENTS TO COLLEGE THROUGH INTERNET VENTURE

JEN CHENEY
Assistant News Editor

Last September, University of Dayton alumnus Justin Bayer founded WelcomeToCollege.com, a free website that focuses on high school students and their visits to various campuses during their college search.

“The website is for high school students, primarily sophomores and juniors, planning college visits,” Bayer said. “The idea has been brewing in my head since 2005.”

The website allows students and parents to rate schools after a campus visit, Bayer said. They can get on the site and read reviews of universities in order to better plan their visits, as well. Parents and students can then compare their experiences with others that also have posted on the site, giving families multiple perspectives for making their college selection a confident and comfortable decision.

Bayer said he bought the domain name “Welcome to College” in 2005 while in graduate school at the University of Vermont.

“I was running tours of the university and realized how much impact tour guides have on potential students,” he said. “I realized there is a real niche for high school students planning college visits.”

He moved back to Dayton in April 2010, launched the site the following September and partnered with UD for the site’s debut profile.

“UD is a national leader in higher education,” Bayer said. “And its impact tour guides have on potential students is very important issue to address,” Farmer said. “This forum [will include] some important issue to address,” Farmer said.

We are hoping the forum will be a collaborative effort, between both students and administrators, to make housing safer and nicer for residents,” LoPresti said. “We would like to stay away from the student’s versus administration mentality, which is often implied in forums like this.”

According to Bayer, WelcomeToCollege.com opens new doors from an admissions point of view. As subscribers to the site, UD and other universities can set up a profile and brand all the content within that profile. Universities will be able to view data, such as how visitors rate the school and how these ratings compare to other universities across the nation.

Also, with the campus visit survey tool, universities can ask prospective students questions in order to gather feedback and adjust tours accordingly.

According to a press release from Welcome to College, UD was the first university to partner with the company and receive a profile on the site. Now, four universities have signed on to create a profile on Welcome to College, where UD’s profile is serving as a model for future schools.

“I see it as a very beneficial tool to independently show people that our campus visit experience is worth their visit,” said Kevin Shultz, UD’s social media coordinator and mediator between UD and Welcome To College. “The neat thing about this tool is that we can continue to refine and improve our visit as we are accustomed to doing, but we can also share that data with the world and let students hear from others, not us, that our visit is worth the time. We know that when students visit campus, they are much more likely to seriously consider UD... It is a very important part of our process.”

Bayer hopes the website will become a brand name for high school students who are just starting their college search.

“There are many, many sites that aggressively market themselves to high school students to assist or support them in some way in their college search,” Shultz said. “Welcome to College has focused on an area that doesn’t yet have any strong players, but they’ll have to play their cards creatively to convince high school students that they are worth the effort.”

Now in the site’s infancy, with everything happening so fast, Bayer finds comfort in being back at Dayton.

“I’m excited and hopeful to be working with UD,” Bayer said. “Experiences at UD have helped shape me to who and where I am today.”

Bayer graduated from UD with a degree in business and went on to get a master’s in higher education from the University of Vermont. He said he still remembers his initial tour of UD. Bayer said his was the classic story of falling in love with the campus.

“I didn’t even want to visit Dayton, but once I got into the tour I knew this is where I had to go,” he said. “Now looking back, I could probably recount every time my roommates and I sat on our front porch at 236 Kiefaber.”

Campus forum aims to answer students’ questions about safety

JEN CHENEY
Assistant News Editor

The University of Dayton’s Student Government Association is planning a campus housing forum to answer questions regarding housing safety that were raised after the floor collapsed at a K Street residence earlier this school year.

The forum will take place on Monday, Jan. 31, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in Kennedy Union’s Torch Lounge. Undergraduate students will have the opportunity to get their housing-related questions answered.

The forum will provide a chance for students to directly speak with appropriate administrators, since most of the time students struggle with who to contact for certain issues, according to Christine Farmer, a junior and chair of SGA’s Safety and Standards Committee. Students will be able to ask questions regarding the housing lottery, house basements, garbage pickup, fire safety, housing capacities and beyond.

“Students this year, more than years past, have brought issues with their houses and dorms to their senators in hopes of getting some of them resolved,” said Anthony LoPresti, a senior Ghetto senator and member of the Safety and Standards Committee.

“I believe students are really starting to understand the working relationship between SGA officials and the UD administration... We have had forums in past years, and they usually have brought outstanding turnouts and generated great discussion.”

Colin Gerker, a current graduate student and former member of SGA, will facilitate conversation between the panel and students. At the beginning of the forum, each student will be given a question card, which Gerker will look through and present to the panel as time allows.

“We are hoping the forum will be a collaborative effort, between both students and administrators, to make housing safer and nicer for residents,” LoPresti said. “We would like to stay away from the ‘students versus administration’ mentality, which is often implied in forums like this.”

Six administrators will be present at the forum to address questions, including Bill Fischer, vice president of Student Development and dean of students; Bruce Bullman, director of Facilities Management; Steve Herrndon, assistant dean of students and director of Residence Life; Bruce Burt, executive director of Public Safety and chief of police; Beth Keys, assistant vice president of Facilities Management; and Robin Oldfield, director of environmental health and safety/risk management.

“Last semester, it was apparent that housing became an extremely important issue to address,” Farmer said. “This forum [will include] some of the most knowledgeable administrators on the topic of housing standards and housing safety.”

According to Farmer, students are looking for assurance that an incident like the one on K Street will not happen at their house, and that is what SGA is trying to provide in this forum.

“While the collapse itself was very concerning, the more concerning issue is how likely this is to happen again,” she said. “How can we as students prevent such an occurrence given the everyday wear and tear on homes? How do we know the grade on our home? What action steps should we take? This forum is an opportunity to get these questions answered.”
NEWS
Flyer News•Friday, January 28, 2011
www.flyernews.com

With support of KU, Marycrest dining hall recovers from pipe burst, water damage

ANNA BEYERLE
News Editor

JACQUI BOYLE
Editor-in-Chief

The Marycrest Complex dining hall was closed from the afternoon of Saturday, Jan. 22, through the morning of Tuesday, Jan. 25, due to a pipe burst in the main serving area.

A sprinkler pipe froze due to the cold weather, and burst in two places just before noon on Saturday, placing an automatic call to the fire department, according to Mary Elbeck, general manager of Marycrest’s dining hall. The pipe burst near the deli and “Near and Far” serving areas.

The dining hall then immediately closed down to clean up debris and throw away damaged food, she said. The dining hall re-opened at 7 a.m. Tuesday morning with the deli and “Near and Far” shifted to other serving areas. According to Elbeck, those areas are partitioned off by plastic sheets, and the water damage should be repaired in one to two weeks.

“We’re not missing a beat,” Elbeck said.

According to David Radkey, the co-manager of Kennedy Union Dining Services, KU’s main dining hall was open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 23, which was a few hours earlier than it would have opened, due to the closing of Marycrest’s dining hall. KU dining hall also stayed open for several extra hours on the night of Jan. 22.

In addition, several Marycrest dining hall staff members worked in KU’s dining hall on Saturday and Sunday, Radkey said.

KU dining hall was not just open this weekend, though. It has been re-opened for all weekends this semester. Normal hours are Saturday from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Due to slow business on Saturday and Sundays, Kennedy Union’s main dining area closed on the weekends last semester, but the Barrett Dining Room was open on Saturdays and Sundays from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. for students.

“We are open downstairs because we had a clear indication from the students that it was more popular for them because of the variety and the televisions,” Radkey said.

He said that even if KU didn’t resume their weekend hours, they would have opened this weekend anyway due to Marycrest’s closure. Radkey said Marycrest has recovered well, and believes all services will be open again soon as they were before.

“If any problems come up, we would open to cover the difference,” Radkey said. “We work as a team.”

Parts of Marycrest’s dining hall is partitioned off following a water pipe leak on Saturday, Jan. 22. The dining hall was closed for nearly 48 hours, but is now fully operating. ANNA MARIE BOGUEZ PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Crime Log

The following incidents were reported to the Department of Public Safety from Jan. 6 through Jan. 18. This log was compiled by Flyer News from actual police reports obtained from the Department of Public Safety.

Criminal Damaging
Jan. 13, 10:00 p.m.
Officers Watts and Ware were dispatched to Lawnview Ave. on a criminal damaging report. A friend of the resident, who was currently away from campus, reported a broken front window of the house. There are no known suspects or witnesses at this time.

Criminal Damaging
Jan. 18, 4:20 p.m.
Officer Little was dispatched to a university-owned parking lot at the rear of Kiefaber Street on a criminal damaging report. He met with a 21-year-old UD student who said someone had damaged the passenger side mirror of his car. There are no known suspects or witnesses at this time.

Theft
Jan. 19, 4:40 p.m.
Officer Weber was dispatched to Marianist Hall on a theft report. He met with a 19-year-old UD student who said between Jan. 16 and Jan. 18, his Harrow BMX bike and lock were removed from the stairwell. Officer Weber checked the camera for suspects, but did not find anything due to the video length and time frame.

Criminal Damaging
Jan. 23, 12:45 p.m.
Officer S. Durian was dispatched to College Park on a criminal damaging report. He met with a 21-year-old UD student who said the outer pane on the front window was shattered sometime after he’d gone to bed at 2 a.m. on this date. They noticed the front living room window was broken around 1 p.m. There are no known suspects or witnesses.
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!

University of Dayton men’s basketball head coach Brian Gregory instructs his team during a timeout huddle. The Flyers lost 70-61 in their last contest to the University of Richmond Spiders on Tuesday, Jan. 25, at UD Arena. ETHAN KLOSTERMAN/ASSISTANT PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

“More and more parents and students are taking advantage of dual enrollment, community colleges and online learning as a way to reduce the cost of an education,” he said. “Overall, I believe students will learn more because of the multiple options for learning.”

Senior biology major Pamela Miko said she sees nothing wrong with socializing with friends as long as she gets her school work done beforehand.

“If I can get my work done and done well, then I see no problem in going to socialize whether it’s a Tuesday or a Friday,” Miko said. Senior marketing major Michael Duda said he believes any student can achieve academically throughout college if they have the motivation to do so.

“Some students are always going to feel pressured to hang out with their friends the night before a test instead of studying, but whether or not they give in to the pressure is up to how motivated they are to work toward their future plans,” he said. “People who know what they want to do after college will do everything they can to reach their goals.”

Scholarships available!
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‘NIGHT’ OPENS AT LOFT THEATER

FRANK STANKO
A&E Editor

William Shakespeare once said, “If music be the food of love, play on.” The Human Race Theatre Company, presenting his “Twelfth Night” at the Loft Theater, is banking on audiences being ready for a sensory feast.

“Twelfth Night” opens with tonight’s 8 p.m. show and will run through Sunday, Feb. 13.

This current production of “Twelfth Night” is set in 1930s Chicago. After surviving the shipwreck that presumably killed her brother, and facing an uncertain future, Viola (Claire Kennedy) disguises herself as a man for employment. Trouble arises when Viola’s boss, Orsino (David Dortch), enlists her help in wooing Olivia (Sarah Mackle), only to have Olivia fall for Viola, and Viola for Orsino.

“[Viola] a different kind of Shakespearean lead,” Kennedy said. “Here she is, in a strange land, and she makes choices, but then she steps back. It’s different than, say, Kate in ‘The Taming of the Shrew’ or Rosalind in ‘As You Like It’ [both parts that Kennedy has played]. They drive the story.”

Kennedy said the challenge of playing an observer, not an instigator, is rewarding.

“Viola refers to time often,” she said. “She has a line, ‘O time, thou must en-tangle this.’ She’s an observer, almost to the point of being passive, and in that situation, it’s just as important to be engaged, and a good listener.”

Director Aaron Vega, who happens to be Kennedy’s husband, said the Human Race, with its ability to “create beautiful stories on [the Loft’s] stage,” can remove the stigma of Shakespeare’s works being hard to understand. He also said the Loft Theater was an ideal performance venue for the show.

“There are 219 seats,” he said. “The only disadvantage is that we sell fewer tickets. The advantages are that we’re so close to the audience. You can’t get more intimate, and when you combine that with our more thrust [surround-ed by the audience on three sides] stage, it creates a 3-D view.”

Kennedy said acting in and directing “Twelfth Night” has been a wonderful opportunity for her and Vega.

“The Race has been an artistic family for us, and I’m so elated to have that,” she said.

Kennedy also said she’s excited to share the stage with Mackie and Dortch.

“Sarah’s a real go-getter,” she said. “She’ll try everything in rehearsals, and always surprises me. And David’s lovely, sweet and kind. It’s been a pleasure to fall in love with him every night.”

How to go
When: 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. performances; Friday, Jan. 28 through Sunday, Feb. 13
Where: The Loft Theater, 126 N. Main St.
Price: $18.50 to $20.50 for students, $36 to $40 for adults
Note: No Monday performances. The Sunday, Jan. 30, performance will take place at 7 p.m.

TO SEE OR NOT TO SEE: Playhouse South will present the second weekend of “1 Hate Hamlet” at the Clark Hanes Theater, 3700 Far Hills Ave., Kettering. Student prices are $7, and adult tickets are $12. For more information, call (937) 228-3792.

D-A-Y-T-O-N P-L-A-Y-H-O-U-S-E is presenting “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee” from Friday, Jan. 28, through Sunday, Feb. 13. “Spelling Bee” is a charming, laugh-filed musical chronicling the lives of six students as they compete for a chance to travel to the spelling finals in Washington, D.C. Regular tickets are $15, and student tickets are $10. For show times, go to www.daytonplayhouse.org.

IT’S A BLUEGRASS EVENING at the Dayton Masonic Center beginning at 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 29. Ricky Skaggs and Kentucky Thunder, with special guests the Steep Canyon Rangers, will perform. Skaggs is a Grammy-winning bluegrass artist who has been performing for 40 years. Tickets range from $18 to $32, with student priced tickets and rush tickets available. To purchase tickets or learn more about the artists performing, go to www.cityfolk.org/roots.htm.

“AHM STREET: Come out from 9 to 11 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 29, for a relaxing time at ArtStreet. Take advantage of free massages in Studio C, a chance to make your own neck warmer in Studio D and a relaxing time watching a movie while munching on healthy snacks in Studio B.

To learn more, go to artsstreet.udayton.edu.

THEY'RE BACK! As classes swing into motion, so do the dancers from the Dayton Contemporary Dance Company. The RecPlex’s Studio B will host DDCC’s workshops from 8:30 to 10 p.m. every Tuesday this semester, beginning Feb. 1. The group also will be offering “DCDC Fit” three times. Try out this workout that world-class dancers use; no previous dance experience is necessary. For a full schedule, go to artsstreet.udayton.edu.

For the complete list, check out Assistant Opinion Editor Dan Cleveland’s review at flyernews.com

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
www.flyernews.com

LOCAL AND GLOBAL ARTS AND EVENTS

B E S T A L B U M S O F 2 0 1 0

10. Harlem’s “Hippies”
9. Los Campesinos!’s “Romance Is Boring”
8. Yeasayer’s “Odd Blood”
7. Vampire Weekend’s “Contra”
6. The Black Keys’ “Brothers”
5. The Dead Weather’s “Sea of Cowsards”
4. Gorillaz’s “Plastic Beach”

1. Arctic Monkeys’ “The Last Shadow Puppets”
2. Arcade Fire’s “Funeral”
3. Black Keys’ “Brothers”
4. Bloc Party’s “Silent Alarm”
5. Cage the Elephant’s “Keep It Clean”

8. Yeasayer’s “Odd Blood”
9. Vampire Weekend’s “Contra”
10. Harlem’s “Hippies”

For the complete list, check out Assistant Opinion Editor Dan Cleveland’s review at flyernews.com

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9. Vampire Weekend’s “Contra”
10. Harlem’s “Hippies”
Star Like Me: ‘Lee’

“Star Like Me” is a series of journals written by University of Dayton actors. To see previous entries, go to flyernews.com. This issue’s writer is Dr. Saverio Perugini, of “True West,” opening Friday, Feb. 4, in Roll Theater.

Participating in UD’s production of “True West” has been an Odyssey of discovery — both self-discovery and re-discovery — and growth. I am thankful to Tony Dallas for an opportunity to work on this material.

Tony’s approach to theater is simple. First, we need to understand what the game is, and second, we need to be in it. Acting is about understanding the shot, what I want. Understanding the subterranean plot of the play is paramount. What is the thing? What is the pitch? This is what Constantin Stanislavski calls the super-objective of the play.

We spent the first few weeks of rehearsal primarily focused on discovering the super-objective. We had several round table discussions, and I felt like I was back in a humanities class. We discovered that at the core “True West” explores what it means to live a truly authentic, realized life, and how we think if we can just get there, to that place, we will have solved all of our life problems, and in a sense we will have “made it,” “arrived.”

What we discover, though, is that place is ever-evading us. We can never quite get there, primarily because it is safer, comfortable and convenient to stay in our current situation (Austin says in scene seven: “Nobody can disappear.”).

Austin, my character’s brother, thought screenwriting would free him from his dysfunctional family and past. Lee is the obstacle to that plan that succeeds in derailing his screenwriting efforts and takes what he thought was his sacred life away from him. Austin not only tries to find a different escape, but also begins to question the authenticity of the life path in which he has invested much.

Lee, on the other hand, thought his intimate connection with his father was his realized life. Austin threatens that security by trying to take their father up north and away from Lee. So Lee shows up to effectively say, “You thought you were going to screw my life up little brother? No, I’m going to screw yours up.” However, Lee gets derailed by the lure of money his deal with Saul, a producer, might bring.

The obstacle each brother faces (i.e., the other brother) in trying to live a realized life gives each actor their trajectory (what they want from their stage partner).

For the full story, go to flyernews.com.

Country trio playing at Wright State tonight

Country music trio Rascal Flatts is playing tonight at the Wright State University Nutter Center, as part of its “Nothing Like This Tour.” According to ArtStreet graduate assistant Marie Costanian, Rascal Flatts’ concert is sure to “really hit home with Ohioans,” since the group originated in Columbus, Ohio.

Doors open at 6 p.m., and the concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. with opening acts Luke Bryan and Chris Young. As of Monday, Jan. 24, tickets were still available, ranging from $22 to $96, but selling fast, according to Misty Cox, the Nutter Center’s marketing manager.

“This area has a lot of country fans, so anytime we do any big country artist, our shows do really well,” Cox said. “Rascal Flatts was supposed to come last winter, but was postponed, then canceled because of weather. When the promoter [contacted us] and wanted to bring them back, we were on board.”

Junior education major Jessica Hanley, president of UD’s Charity Concert Committee, said the CCC would consider bringing Rascal Flatts or a similar band to the UD campus in the future.

“we have definitely considered all genres,” she said.

Along with Rascal Flatts, the Nutter Center will be host to numerous other performers in the coming months.

Comedian Jeff Dunham will be making a visit to the Nutter Center at 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 11, as part of his “Identity Crisis Tour.” Tickets are still available for $44.50. Performing artist Ke$ha will be making an appearance at the Nutter Center Tuesday, April 5. Tickets for the concert will go on sale Monday, Jan. 31.

For tickets and to learn about performances, visit the Nutter Center at 3640 Colonel Glenn Hwy, or go to www.nuttercenter.com.

University professor, fellow jazz musicians to perform original pieces at Sears

University professor, fellow jazz musicians to perform original pieces at Sears

Frank Stanko
A&E Editor

This Monday at 8 p.m., the Ed- die Brookshire Quintet will take the Sears Recital Hall’s stage for a free concert open to students and the public.

Brookshire, who teaches jazz bass and jazz combos at UD, will join his fellow musicians with original and standard jazz compositions.

The quintet is made up of Brookshire on the acoustic bass; Dr. Gary Onady, on the trumpet and flugelhorn; Jack Novotny on the tenor and soprano saxophones, and flute; Fenton Sparks on drums; and Keigo Hirakawa on the piano. All arrange and compose the many original compositions they play.

“Hirakawa] was among the most interactive and creative jazz pianists in Boston,” Brookshire said in a press release for the quintet.

After three or four months talking on and off with Brookshire before he came to Dayton, Hirakawa asked if he could play with him, Brookshire said.

“Without a doubt he fit the band perfectly,” Brookshire said.

Sparks, a longtime friend of Brookshire’s, returned to Dayton to finish his degree at Central State, Brookshire said.

The quintet has released one CD, “Bass Notes: The Heart Beat of Jazz,” and according to Brookshire, there are plans to record another CD with the current lineup.

“We are currently showcasing [our] musical virtuosity throughout the U.S. and can be booked for performance opportunities,” Brookshire said in the release.

According to Brookshire, Sears Recital Hall has several advantages as a performance venue.

The hall’s recent acquisition of an over $60 thousand grand piano is one of its special features.

A university press release described the instrument as a gift from a former Kettering musician and UD teacher that “has become the inspiration for the University’s Fall Arts Series’ lineup of piano-themed performances.”

Sears Recital Hall, Brookshire said, is “a great hall, very intimate.”

“The audience that comes is there for the music,” he said.

Brookshire said Monday’s concert is not about what he thinks audiences will get out of it.

“Everybody in the audience can relate in their own way to the music, and think about something meaningful to them,” he said.

And what does Brookshire think of while performing?

“How good God has been to me,” he said. “That’s the controlling thought. Music is supposed to improve one’s life. It’s absolutely true.”
**SLACKING?**

**STUDY REVEALS STUDENTS MUST TAKE ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITY**

The American model of education is simple: Young people across the country pay money to take classes and have a new social life while preparing for the workforce. But are we really learning anything from this fusion of activity? A new study from a book titled “Academic Adrift: Limited Learning on College Campuses,” released by the University of Chicago Press, suggests we really don’t gain that much.

The study tested 2,300 college students from a range of colleges and universities across the country. Forty-five percent of students “did not demonstrate a significant improvement in learning” after their first two college years. The number then dropped to only 36 percent when including the traditional four years of college.

At first glance, it is shocking to see this data. Why would American students ever pay to attend colleges and universities when they weren’t really learning anything in the classroom? What is impeding this new knowledge from actually taking hold? Is there something that we are missing?

The total annual average cost of full-time tuition, university housing, meal plan and student fees is currently over $40,000 at this school. Yet whether they’re paying for college themselves, through loans or scholarships or with their parents’ help, students are still not taking enough responsibility for their education.

While college is a unique opportunity to meet new people, create a personal foundation for this system’s existence. If you hear something interesting in the classroom, bring it into your everyday discussions with friends. Find new ties across the country. Forty-five percent of students “did not demonstrate a significant improvement in learning” after their first two college years. The number then dropped to only 36 percent when including the traditional four years of college.

As the congressmen and women stood up frequently to applaud, their sprawling seating assignments gave an overall bobbing impression reminiscent of Whac-A-Mole. Normally, in a full chamber, the Republicans sit on one side and the Democrats on the other. As the president makes proposals that please either party, whole sides of the room stand up together and applaud, while the other half shows their displeasure by staying put. Talking about gun control? Up pops the left. Decreasing the size of government? The right is on its feet.

Yet Tuesday night, in a rare state of the Union address, President Obama asked Congress to sit together, but that will mean something in the long run. It will be these issues, and more, that bring the real test of unity. Congress has demonstrated it can sit together, but that will mean nothing if it cannot work together.

Yet Obama’s speech and the atmosphere surrounding it offered a glimmer of hope for real change – two things at the core of Obama’s original election platform.

He articulated some impressive goals to revitalize our country’s infrastructure. Electric cars, high speed rail and clean coal can speed Americans into the new era of education and innovation Obama envisioned. While a “Sputnik moment” might be an overstatement, the image of an education driven America should resonate strongly.

We also heard echoes of hope and change when the president affirmed the place of Muslims in the American family and gays and lesbians in the military. It will be these issues, and more, that bring the real test of unity. Congress has demonstrated it can sit together, but that will mean nothing if it cannot work together. Yet for the first time in a while, the American people might be justified in a sense of optimism that their leaders will learn to bop together again.
Campus growth: bigger not better

I read in the Dayton Daily News that UD will spend $28 million on new dormitories in the old Frank Z lot on Brown Street in order to provide housing needed by 2014 .

This year, many rooms in Marycrest have been converted to triples. Student housing is sprawling up Irving Avenue and to the tip of Alberta and Wyoming. Many academic classes have been siphoned off campus property and have been relocated to the College Park Center. Quite obviously: UD is growing.

Because of this growth, I write. I write to warn all who feel that UD is a special place. I write to warn the administration: The increase in student population and campus size is a direct threat to the idea of a community. Yes, ladies and gentlemen, the C-word is in jeopardy.

Increasing campus size is not beneficial to the sense of community. Community is not just an emotional concept; it is a physical reaction to place.

We, UD students, are physical beings. As humans, our legs are only long enough to carry us a certain distance. When such distance grows too long, we lose connection with far-off people. We are no longer members of the same residential community. We don’t share a similar sidewalk on our daily walk to class.

Increasing the size of the student body also damages the sense of community. More students create a looser perception of a community. Our campus is a balance of personal and anonymous, and I would be disappointed to see the sense of community shift toward the side of anonymity.

I like that the cashiers at KU know my name. I like having a short walk to class. I like seeing people I know as I walk through the new KU field. I like having small classes. I like feeling a part of the grand UD community.

I do not want these feelings to be unrealistic for future classes of UD students. Please, administration: Halt your expansion, and concentrate on the community that we have already.

NOLAN NICIASE
SENIOR
BIOLOGY

Study abroad an opportunity to step outside comfort zone

I am convinced that UD is one of the best schools in the world. I move in as early as possible and stay as late as possible during finals week. I’m usually a walking billboard sporting all my UD T-shirts, sweats and shorts (ask any of my friends). So you get it: I’m in love with UD. This made deciding to leave for a semester to study abroad in Madrid, Spain, very difficult.

In addition to essentially no drinking age, clubs staying open until 6 in the morning, all classes being pass/fail, and beer and wine priced cheaper than water, there is much to learn about European culture, European perception of the United States, and oneself from a study abroad experience.

I understand the appeal of the UD sponsored summer abroad programs, and I think they are a great way to get a taste of another culture; however, you are essentially taking a piece of the UD bubble and moving it to a foreign country. You aren’t forced out of your comfort zone or truly immersed in a new culture and lifestyle. I was constantly challenged over the semester and learned so much about myself. I traveled to 10 different countries and took classes with students from 15 different countries. Being able to relate to and understand people in today’s global environment is an invaluable skill.

If you are able to study abroad for a semester, seize the opportunity now – you won’t regret it. The most important things you will learn will not be from a textbook; you will have an entirely new global perspective. I thought UD was livin’ the dream, until I lived in Spain for four months.

Take a chance, and step out of your comfort zone. Challenge yourself, and you will be surprised by what you can achieve.

When else will you get the chance to live in a foreign country for five months without worrying about your job or family? The world is becoming more and more global by the minute, and it’s not stopping to wait for you.

TRISH CASTRATARO
JUNIOR
ACCOUNTING, FINANCE

letters to the editor

DESPITE BOOKSTORE’S EFFORTS, PRICES STILL TOO HIGH FOR SENIOR

You know this, too. On the homepage of your website, you have a link to ways you’re “helping” us students. I appreciate you offering such alternatives as e-books and rentals, but in reality they are not money savers at all.

Those who rent textbooks get the content at a cheaper price, but are also unable to return their books at the end of the semester. Not that selling back textbooks is a great source of income.

According to the website, the bookstore promises, “At the end of every semester, students can bring their books back to us, and receive up to 50% of the NEW book price, regardless of whether you bought the book new or used.” While this is true, receiving up to 50 percent of the price the student paid still comes at a 50 percent cost to the student.

Sell your book on Amazon, and make 100 percent back. It’s math even I understand. As long as you sell your books back to Amazon, you might as well buy them there in the first place. This semester I purchased all of my books online for a grand total of $197.80. I added up the minimum the bookstore would have charged me — noting that some books were not even offered used — and I would have had to pay $397.55. That’s more than twice what I paid.

One trick of the trade: Sign up for Amazon Prime for free with your udayton.edu email and get free two-day shipping on textbooks. Total bailer status.

I spoke with Kevin Poinexter, the textbook manager at the bookstore, and he told me the staff understands it’s hard for students to pay for the books.

“I know we will never be the lowest price in town,” he said. He added the bookstore tries to be as competitive as possible, but they are limited in the discounts that they can offer students. This academic year alone, they have collectively dropped the prices of 250 books.

I understand that the bookstore is doing the best that they can, but I also understand that as students, we have to look for the best deals possible.

The number of people I know who have blackballed the bookstore is increasing, and it’s not hard to figure out why. We don’t have the money to pay such high prices for books. UD Bookstore, if you want to win us back, something is going to need to change.

Show us that you truly want to help us, and cut us deals that are actually discounts.

MAGGIE MALACH, SENIOR

“Bookstore, I want to like you. Really I do ... but if we are talking plain and simple, buying my textbooks from you is a luxury I cannot afford.”

MAGGIE MALACH, WEB MANAGING EDITOR

I’m not a numbers kind of girl, but I do understand logic. That is why I happily choose to save over 50 percent on my textbook costs and buy from anywhere but the UD bookstore.

Bookstore, I want to like you. Really, I do. I want to be able to support you. I want to be able to peruse the shelves upstairs, tracking down the books for my classes amongst my fellow students. But if we are talking plain and simple, buying my textbooks from you is a luxury I cannot afford.

I want to be able to support you. I want to be able to peruse the shelves upstairs, tracking down the books for my classes amongst my fellow students. But if we are talking plain and simple, buying my textbooks from you is a luxury I cannot afford.
Men’s Basketball Club
NEW TEAM GROWING IN SECOND SEASON

BRENDAN HADER
Chief Sports Staff Writer

With the success of many University of Dayton varsity sports programs this school year, one new campus team is looking to make its mark.

The UD men’s basketball club has had some early success in its first full year of existence, including a third place finish at the Miami University Regional, and is excited about the potential for the remainder of the season.

Club president Ben Oren, a junior, founded the team during the 2009 fall semester after originally contemplating walking onto the basketball team as a freshman. He said he then gave club volleyball a chance, but changed his mind and became determined to start the men’s basketball club team.

“Working at the RecPlex as a referee and a supervisor helped me to get in touch with the correct contacts to help me found the team,” Oren said.

As president, he organizes practices, games and tournaments. He communicates with the team, and presidents and coaches of other teams, as well as facility directors at UD and other campuses. Oren also serves as the captain of the team by conducting two-hour practices twice per week and leading by example during games.

Oren isn’t the only player who occupies a position off the court for the club. Junior center Christian Files also serves as the treasurer, concentrating on club finances in order to support the team. The two teammates work together to ensure the organization has sufficient funds to support the club’s objectives.

Originally there was only one club basketball team, but this year it has grown to two because of increased interest. Originally the squads of eight or nine players were formed at random, but that has changed this season. While there are not designated “A” and “B” teams, each is set up based on who attends practice regularly and who plays well together. In essence, commitment and team chemistry determine which team a player is on.

The basketball club does not have a set season like varsity sports programs; instead, it participates in a variety of tournaments throughout the year at many different college gymnasiums, such as Dayton’s own RecPlex. The team typically travels to these events via personal transportation.

While large schools like Ohio State University would seemingly put out the best product on the court, this isn’t always the case.

“A lot of the smaller schools actually have the better teams,” senior guard Mike Trott said. “The last tournament at the end of the first semester, we swept it. We beat schools like Miami [University] and Bowling Green [State University], and we’ve beaten Ohio State before.”

The games are played in a similar format to intramural basketball, with two 20-minute halves. The clock runs throughout the contest, except for stoppages of play in the last minute of the first half and the final two minutes of the second half.

Teams are guaranteed three games at the tournaments, and as Trott pointed out, a team can play up to five games on the last day if it keeps winning.

The club’s upcoming schedule includes a tournament at Bowling Green starting Saturday, Feb. 12. Two weeks later is the National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association Regional Tournament at Miami University. The weekend of Friday, March 18, through Sunday, March 20, UD’s men’s and women’s basketball clubs will host the American Collegiate Intramural Sports Regional Tournament. Playing in the two regional tournaments gives UD the opportunity to qualify for nationals and travel to Texas and/or North Carolina respectively.

“We’re a growing program that is looking for support,” Oren said.

To find out more about becoming part of the team, contact Oren at 41. ben. oren@gmail.com.
The UD women’s tennis team began its spring season with a loss to rival Miami University on Sunday, Jan. 23. The Flyers lost all six singles matches with the lone victory by the doubles pair of senior Laina Grote and junior Loni Dickerhoff, winning 8-3.

**1**

The Flyers’ basketball team finished 8-25 from behind the three-point line in its 70-61 loss to the University of Richmond at UD Arena on Tuesday, Jan. 25. The performance also marked the eighth worst three-point shooting night for Dayton in 21 games this season.

**8**

Assists totaled by freshman point guard Juwan Staten already this season, a new Dayton freshmen record. Staten compiled four assists Tuesday despite the stomach flu, surpassing Negele Knight’s previous record of 128 assists set in 1985-1986.

**130**

Assists totaled by Dayton senior forward Chris Wright was one of four players nominated for week three of the 2011 Dunk of the Year voting competition by sports television production company Internopt. Wright’s one-handed putback dunk against the University of New Mexico on Saturday, Jan. 1, will run in voting online at http://www.facebook.com/dunkoftheyear through Sunday, Jan. 30.

**TOP FLIGHT**

Dayton senior forward Chris Wright was one of four players nominated for week three of the 2011 Dunk of the Year voting competition by sports television production company Internopt. Wright’s one-handed putback dunk against the University of New Mexico on Saturday, Jan. 1, will run in voting online at http://www.facebook.com/dunkoftheyear through Sunday, Jan. 30.

**SET IT UP**

The University of Dayton volleyball team and head coach Kelly Sheffield announced that it will hold open tryouts for walk-ons through Sunday, Jan. 30. The team eventually lost in the opening tournament during the winter season.

**Volleyball**

**FLETEMIER SIGNS PRO CONTRACT IN PUERTO RICO**

**NATE WAGGENSPACK**

Assistant Sports Editor

Former University of Dayton volleyball star Lindsay Fletemier graduated on Saturday, Dec. 18. By Thursday, Dec. 30, she had signed a contract to pursue a professional career in Caguas, Puerto Rico. Fletemier, a three-time All-American middle blocker in her Dayton career, weighed options from many different professional volleyball teams before deciding to play with Las Criollas de Caguas, a club in the Puerto Rico Volleyball Federation.

Dayton head coach Kelly Sheffield said he was happy for the former UD standout, one of the top talents on his team over the past three years.

“I think that’s been a dream of hers for a long time, to play professionally,” Sheffield said. “I mean, what a cool life. She gets up and practices, then she goes home and hangs out on the beach for a couple hours, then she goes back and practices later in the day.” Sheffield said he had been contacted by organizations from many different countries who were interested in signing Fletemier. He also said the U.S. national team had expressed interest in her based on her previous experiences with the prestigious U.S. Women’s National A2 Team, the second-highest level a student-athlete can achieve behind the U.S. National Team, over the past two summers.

“She’s athletic; she’s talented,” he said. “She has things that pro and national teams are looking for.”

In an interview with Flyer News on Tuesday, Nov. 16, 2010, Fletemier said the NCAA Volleyball Tournament Final Four was the same weekend as graduation, and she was holding back on making any promises until UD’s season was finished.

“The team eventually lost in the second round of the tournament to Ohio State University on Saturday, Dec. 4, but she did share a little information at that time about her potential plans after she was finished at UD.

“Well, I’m going to go home for the month, and then in January I’m going to go out to Anaheim for the USA senior training block so we’ll see how that goes,” Fletemier said on Tuesday, Nov. 16, 2010. Fletemier and Sheffield have spoken a few times since she has been with her new club, and he said she told him it has been difficult.

“Ghetto Force” is preparing for week three of the 2011 Dunk of the Year voting competition by sports television production company Internopt. Wright’s one-handed putback dunk against the University of New Mexico on Saturday, Jan. 1, will run in voting online at http://www.facebook.com/dunkoftheyear through Sunday, Jan. 30.

**Ultimate Frisbee Club**

**JACK SMITH**

Sports Staff Writer

With a large number of freshmen newcomers, the University of Dayton ultimate Frisbee club “Ghetto Force” is preparing for another successful season.

Senior co-captains Alan Smith and Phil Brodrick said the team has started conditioning, and hopes it will help the program improve even though competition is still several weeks away.

“We are just beginning our offseason after a long Christmas break,” Smith said. “We have four practices a week with two early morning practices. It is a chance for us, as a team, to see the dedication that is needed from the players. Conditioning is a big focal point as we play as much as nine or 10 games a weekend.”

Having lost several key seniors to graduation following a 17-12 record and trip to the regional tournament during the 2010 season, the team will look to Smith and Brodrick for leadership on and off the field. Smith said there are about twice as many freshmen on the team as seniors, so this season already was expected to be a transition year for the program.

“We definitely have a lot of guys to step up and fill those shoes,” Smith said. We have a lot of good rookies with a lot of potential that will hopefully be able to step up in addition to our more experienced players.”

The co-captains said an important piece to the team’s development this season will be relying upon the experience and leadership of head coach Evan Corcoran. He was a five-year player and four-year team captain at UD before graduating in the May 2010, and the team is hoping his presence will lead to more success in 2011.

“Coach Corcoran played for FORGK, which is a former Pitts- burgh club team, so he really knows what he is doing,” Brodrick said. “The club series is very professional, and Corcoran brings a huge understanding of the game, giving us a lot of input and good leadership on the sidelines.”

Smith said the club will split into “A” and “B” teams this season, and will vote on a new captain for the “B” squad shortly. He said this will help the club to still hope- fully qualify for the regional tournament with the “A” team, while competing more as an overall UD team.

Freshman Jesse Grewal is one of the many new members to the team this year. He said this is his first full season of playing ultimate Frisbee, and has enjoyed the experience with the team thus far despite two injuries suffered within the same week during the fall semester.

Grewal emphasized the importance of this conditioning time period in order to prepare for the upcoming slate of games.

“You want to develop good chemistry, and conditioning kind of helps that,” he said. “We all get to know each other, we all get to make jokes with each other, and when it comes time for a tournament to show up, we all know what each other do well, and we all know each other’s strengths in terms of conditioning in order to move forward in the tournament.”

The team will continue conditioning until the spring season opening tournament during the weekend of Friday, March 19, and Saturday, March 20, at Miami University.

Called “Boogie Nights,” the tournament against the local rival will be an important upcoming step in the continued progress of the program.

“We did OK in the fall season, probably pretty good for what we have [since] we have a lot of rookies right now, and we lost a lot of veterans last year,” Smith said. “So it’s really just developing our rookies and giving them playing time just so they can learn the game and when tournaments come around, hopefully be more comfortable with it and do well.”

**UD team hopeful for continued success as conditioning begins**

**NATE WAGGENSPACK**

Assistant Sports Editor

Former University of Dayton volleyball star Lindsay Fletemier recently signed a professional contract with Las Criollas de Caguas, a club in the Puerto Rico Volleyball Federation. ETHEAN KLOS- TERNAN/ASSISTANT PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
STRUGGLING FLYERS TRAVEL TO FACE RED-HOT DUKES

JACOB ROSEN  
Sports Editor

There’s hardly any time to rest for the University of Dayton men’s basketball team this time of the year. The Flyers are in the middle of one of their most difficult weeks of the season, and face another important road battle this Sunday, Jan. 30.

After a third loss in just five games, and falling to 15-6 on the season, Dayton will hope to recover against surprising Atlantic 10 Conference co-leader Duquesne University at 2 p.m. at the CONSOL Energy Center in downtown Pittsburgh.

Last time out on Tuesday, Jan. 25, UD hit a road block with the University of Richmond Spiders, falling 70-61 at UD Arena. The nearly start-to-finish loss seemed to be a potentially humbling experience for the young Flyer team who also lost at rival Xavier University on Saturday, Jan. 15.

“I’m disappointed that we didn’t play better in those last 10 minutes,” said UD head coach Brian Gregory in his opening remarks after the Richmond loss. “I’m fairly pleased with the general effort and the desire to play well tonight, but we played a team that right now, on the 25th of January, is better than us.”

It was a somber setting in the Flyers locker room after the contest, as the team attempted to find improvement points they could take from the loss.

“We just got to come together and learn from this top to bottom really, even us older guys who tend to take things for granted and think things will just fall into place,” senior forward/center Devin Searcy said. “We go to go out there every day and earn it, and that starts in practice and the other stuff away from the court.”

Awaiting UD in its next A-10 contest will be the Duquesne Dukes, a team that has turned many heads after a tumultuous offseason.

Guard Melquan Bolding, the team’s third-leading scorer from 2009-2010, did not start and only played 21 minutes in Tuesday’s loss to Richmond. The two offensive leaders for the Dukes are senior guard/forward Bill Clark (17.0 points and 6.4 rebounds per game) and senior forward Damian Saunders (12.5 points and 7.5 rebounds per game). Duquesne also is riding a nine-game winning streak since the return of previously injured junior guard Eric Evans, who now appears off the bench after starting last season.

Matthew Kasznel, sports editor of the Duquesne Duke, the school’s student newspaper, said his team’s victory over preseason conference favorite Temple University on Saturday, Jan. 15, ignited a growing support in Pittsburgh. Hosting the game at the home court of the National Hockey League’s Pittsburgh Penguins will only add to the fervor Sunday.

“The Dukes haven’t won yet at the CONSOL Energy Center, so it would be good in that sense if they could finally win on a bigger stage,” Kasznel said.

Kasznel said his team has succeeded this season despite an unusual roster for the collegiate game. Duquesne starts just one player taller than 6-feet-5, and that has led to the league’s highest scoring offense at 81.3 points per game, and most aggressive defense with the A-10’s top average of 10.3 steals.

That style of play enabled the Dukes to pester Temple’s star senior forward Lavoy Allen in the previous matchup, and Kasznel said he is worried about how effective that approach will be against Dayton’s group of big men.

Led by senior forward Chris Wright, who scored 22 points and grabbed eight rebounds against Richmond, the Flyers are hoping this week’s practice will set them up for a more complete effort on the road.

“You can expect another good game,” Wright said. “They are a top team in our league. They are 6-6, so they are going to be ready, so we just got to prepare.”

Another positive aspect of the time off until Sunday will be the expected recovery of UD freshman point guard Juwan Staten. The NCAA’s leader in assists for all freshmen with 6.6 per game, Staten did not start and only played 21 minutes in Tuesday’s loss to Richmond.

Gregory said that was a major difference in Dayton’s half court offense, and thus should improve with his return to the starting lineup. Overall, the UD head coach said he expects to see his team perform well Sunday despite the difficult recent stretch and tough schedule of late.

“We better play our ass off; that’s what we better do because that’s what we do here,” Gregory said. “And our guys have responded extremely well in challenging times for the most part, and I don’t see any difference. We are going to have to rely upon those juniors and seniors in particular to set the tone for that.”

1/30  2 p.m.  know the foe  AT DUQUESNE

10-11 record  14-5 (6-0 A-10)  conference Atlantic 10 Conference

key player Senior G/F Bill Clark, averaging 17.0 points and 6.4 rebounds per game with 40% 3-point shooting

“I think Duquesne wins in this one. I don’t think it’s going to be the ridiculous blowout that the last couple games have been, but I think it’s going to be maybe a six or seven-point win.”

- Matthew Kasznel, sports editor  The Duquesne Duke