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May 1, 2002
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NEWS TIPS

SUNDAY, MAY 5: 'BROTHER RAY' TO PRESIDE OVER HIS FINAL UD GRADUATION

In his record 23 years as president of the University of Dayton, Brother Raymond L. Fitz, S.M., has handed out 56,110 diplomas, all accompanied by a warm handshake or hug. At 10 a.m. Sunday, May 5, in UD Arena, he will preside over his final commencement as president.

He'll add 11 doctoral graduates, 308 master's and 1,223 bachelor's degree graduates to his roster on Sunday, bringing the total to 57,652.

For the first time, a graduating senior will address her fellow graduates at the ceremony. Kate Ruda, a biology major from Cleveland and president of the student government association, will give a short recap of her four years, salute the class and acknowledge Fitz's leadership, she said.

An honorary doctoral degree of humane letters will be presented to Herbert Woodward Martin, professor emeritus of English and an accomplished poet. "It's such a thrill to be honored by the people you work with and practically live with on a daily basis," said Martin, who began teaching at UD in 1971. "This is a very, very special award for me."

Martin, 68, has earned national acclaim for his poetry and portrayal of poet Paul Laurence Dunbar, a native Daytonian and the country's first African-American poet to achieve national and international fame.

FULBRIGHT WINNER — Dominic Marcellino, a graduating philosophy major, has been awarded a prestigious Fulbright scholarship and will spend the next year in Germany researching how cultural influences reflect on political decisions about the environment. He'll also take two semesters of classes through the philosophy department at the University of Augsburg, a UD partner.

With five semesters of German under his belt and an 11-week stint in Augsburg as a junior, Marcellino feels fairly well equipped for the trip. "Hopefully I can improve my language skills through interaction in classes, researching and a healthy social life," he said. "It'll be great to know what it feels like to be a German in Germany."

With nearly a quarter of a million participants since its inception in 1946, the Fulbright grants are competitively sought after. Proposals of one-year research projects and recommendations from professors are evaluated in judging the proposals.

Contact **Dominic Marcellino**, a native of Louisville, Ky., at (937) 627-8565 or via e-mail at marcelldb@notes.udayton.edu.

FIRST, HABITAT AMERICORPS — Rachel Miketa, a chemical engineering graduating senior at UD, seriously considered the idea of performing a year of service after graduation before entering the working world. So she went on only one job interview, with Rohm and Haas Co., a specialty chemical manufacturer in Louisville, Ky.

"At the second interview I mentioned I wanted to do a year of service," Miketa recalled. "He looked at me right in the eyes and he said, 'We'll wait.' I was trying hard to be composed,

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but I was ecstatic. I called my parents, and they were hootin' and hollerin.' They were thrilled to death" with her job offer, she said.

Then, and only then, she told them of her decision to serve with Habitat Americorps for a year. "Dead silence. But the more we talked, and the health insurance (provision) was big for them, they came to understand how enthusiastic I am. Now it's one of the bigger things they're proud of about me."

In August, she'll be going "somewhere in the U.S." for an 11-month, 1,700-hour stint for which she'll receive a stipend of \$9,600. Miketa will also receive an educational stipend of \$4,725 at the completion of her term to be applied toward student loan repayment or further education. She caught the Habitat bug as a high school student when she and her father would work on house sites on the weekends. This year, she served as president of UD's chapter.

The job offer from Rohm and Haas is all but guaranteed. "I'll have a job, provided they're hiring," Miketa said. "And they expect to be hiring."

Contact **Rachel Miketa** at (937) 627-8202 or via e-mail at rmiketa@yahoo.com.

POST 9-11 IMMIGRATION — Brandee Harlor, a criminal justice and psychology major who will graduate May 5, was leaning toward a federal job even before terrorists attacked the U.S. "But Sept. 11 instilled in me the idea that, yeah, this is definitely what I want to do," she said. Harlor is in the final stages of gaining approval for a position with the Immigration and Naturalization Service. She'll spend more than four months training beginning in June and wants to focus on getting immigrants settled rather than law enforcement.

As a placement coordinator for a temp agency, Harlor "gave jobs to people who needed them," such as refugees from Somalia. "That kind of experience is so rewarding, knowing I can help people. That sounds like a great job for me."

The expanded and revamped INS "gives me the ability to be flexible as to where my primary location will be. I like the flexibility of the agency, the ability to travel overseas if I want to and the opportunity to network with other federal agencies like the FBI and CIA," she said.

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IN DEMAND — Instead of struggling through numerous interviews and sweating over resumé details, Jeff Galles had a job offer in hand by the beginning of his senior year of college. The computer science major from Kokomo, Ind., will be a computer analyst at Procter & Gamble beginning in June.

"This will be the first month off I've had since junior year in high school," Galles said. Internships with Delphi in Kokomo and P&G last summer have kept him busy, and his Procter & Gamble experience led directly to the job offer he accepted. A similar offer from TRW was also attractive, but "I liked the opportunity to live in Cincinnati a little better, and I was comfortable and familiar with the people and the work at P&G," he said.

His interest in his field started early. "I came into UD as a declared computer science major, but I was open to change if I found something else I liked," he said. "The classes I found most challenging and valuable were in computer science." Despite a national trend that shows a cool computer science job outlook, about 70 percent of UD's 21 computer science graduates this year will have jobs by graduation.

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BYE-BYE FRESCA KING — Coca-Cola's fizzy grapefruit soda may not be among the soft drink royalty, but UD graduating senior Ryan Adair proclaims himself the king of Fresca followers.

Adair, a computer science major, has been an enthusiast and promoter of the beverage since high school. He created the only Web site on the Internet dedicated solely to the soda. [Http://members.aol.com/frescaking/](http://members.aol.com/frescaking/) has received more than 15,000 visitors since 1995 and attracted attention from Coca-Cola. The *Wall Street Journal* wrote about Adair in a story on the resurgence of the soda.

Adair admits he is addicted to the zero-calorie, caffeine-free drink. "I do get sick of Fresca once in awhile," he said. "But, I'll never stop drinking it."

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