5-1-2002

'Brother Ray' to Preside Over His Final UD Graduation; Fulbright Winner; First, Habitat Americorps; Post 9-11 Immigration; In Demand; Bye-Bye Fresca King

University of Dayton

Follow this and additional works at: https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news_rls

Recommended Citation
University of Dayton, "'Brother Ray' to Preside Over His Final UD Graduation; Fulbright Winner; First, Habitat Americorps; Post 9-11 Immigration; In Demand; Bye-Bye Fresca King" (2002). News Releases. 10053.
https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news_rls/10053

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Marketing and Communications at eCommons. It has been accepted for inclusion in News Releases by an authorized administrator of eCommons. For more information, please contact frice1@udayton.edu, morschlan1@udayton.edu.
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 marceldb@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.

—over—
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.

Contact Brandee Harlor, a native of Grove City, Ohio, at (937) 627-8380 or via e-mail at
harlorbn@flyernet.udayton.edu.

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.

Contact Jeff Galles at (937) 627-2146 or via e-mail at gallesjd@flyernet.udayton.edu.

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/ 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.”

Contact Ryan Adair at (937) 627-8058 or via e-mail at adairryp@notes.udayton.edu.