INDEPENDENT MOVEMENTS STIR POLITICS, ELECTIONS

KAITLYN RIDEL
Asst. News Editor

Since August, protesters have united in different cities around the globe for a new liberal movement called Occupy Wall Street.

Wall Street began when groups of people in New York City got together and decided they needed to do something about the corruption on Wall Street, said William Jesse, an Occupy Wall Street public relations representative.

People came up with the idea to inhabit Wall Street on Sept. 17 in Liberty Square in Manhattan’s Financial District, he said.

“It really resonated with people,” Jesse said.

The protests have now spread to more than 100 cities in the U.S. and more than 1,500 cities globally, according to the unofficial Occupy Wall Street website.

Jesse said the main goal of Occupy Wall Street is to put pressure on government and on society in general to make it unacceptable for banks and large businesses to have an influence on politics.

“What Occupy Wall Street is advocating is employment and economic justice,” said Aaron Adams, a senior political science major and legislative aid for the Dayton City Commission office.

Adams said it is important to understand the economic context of the movement in order to make an opinion about it.

“It is not about whether you agree or not, it is about understanding why they are protesting,” he said. “People have gambled with our money, and ruined the hope for the American dream.”

The movement claims to fight against the “1 percent” of the richest Americans allegedly controlling the economy, according to the website.

Adams said income for this 1 percent of the population has increased by over 250 percent since the 1990s.

Another main pur-
Flyer Enterprises CEO shares passion in, out of office

CHRIS CRISANTI
Staff Writer

There is more to Jeff Firestone than being the CEO of Flyer Enterprises.

Firestone, a fifth-year senior finance and accounting major working on his Master of Business Administration, was named CEO of Flyer Enterprises in March.

Flyer Enterprises is a student-run business that generates average revenue of $1.4 million and employs over 170 students, according to its website.

Firestone said the CEO position is an opportunity for him to build on his long-growing interest in business. He said he had been pursuing the position since the beginning of his time at UD.

“I have had an interest in finance ever since my freshman year,” Firestone said. “Flyer Enterprises is one of the reasons why I came to the University of Dayton and my interest in finance is what drove me to work my way up in becoming CEO.”


The organization is the sixth largest student-run business in the country, according to a university press release.

Firestone said he started working at The Blend, Flyer Enterprises’ coffee shop located on the ground floor of Roesch Library, his freshman year. He was then promoted to the store’s product buyer position his sophomore year, and became general manager his junior year. Last year, he served as Flyer Enterprises’ president of Coffee Divisions, according to the organization’s annual report, which was released on its website on Monday, Dec. 5.

Firestone also is involved in UD’s President’s Emissaries, a group of students that represents the university at various functions with President Daniel Curran, and the Flyer FOREX Fund, a student-run proprietary trading group in the School of Business Administration.

He said his experience with President’s Emissaries has allowed him to interact with administrators and alumni, lead campus tours and host dinners.

Firestone also is the graduate assistant for the Flyer FOREX Fund and traveled with the group to New York City in October to learn about finance, according to an Oct. 17 Flyer News article.

“FOREX Fund is an economic trading group that really gave me experience in managing my finances,” he said.

Firestone took over the CEO position from Joseph Guy, who graduated from UD in the spring.

Guy said he feels Firestone is an excellent successor.

“From the times I have worked with Jeff, I can say that he is a person that cares about what he does,” Guy said. “Jeff has always worked to enhance the experience to help propel the organization to success, and is a guy who truly cares about the learning experience of education.”

Michael Cozzie, a senior communication management major, and Aaron Crandall, a senior computer information systems major, said they like being roommates with Firestone.

Cozzie and Crandall said they met Firestone through their roommate Jimmy Hankenholz, a senior finance and business major and president of Dining Services Joint Ventures at Flyer Enterprises.

“We were introduced at a party last year and he [Firestone] told me he liked my jeans – I think he was just breaking the ice,” Cozzie said. “We then started talking about History Channel’s ‘How It’s Made,’ a show we now frequently watch together because we are both curious how things are made.”

Crandall said Firestone has introduced him to new people and added in well to their house’s dynamic.

Cozzie said he has enjoyed living with Firestone, who he described as driven, enthusiastic and invested in the well-being of Flyer Enterprises.

“He is rather busy with his MBA classes, running FE and attending conferences in New York, so he is often out of the house for days at a time,” Cozzie said.

Firestone said he ties these business interests to one of his hobbies – reading. He said he enjoys reading books, especially those about current market conditions.

Firestone said this year’s Flyer Enterprises annual report displayed the company’s successes and challenges and outlined its goals for the current year.

He said the report displays a year when Flyer Enterprises didn’t do as well as it hoped because of the down economy and having to spend money on replacing equipment.

But, he said it also represents a time when its employees learned a lot about how to handle business in the real world.

“I was very, very happy with the way the team was able to put that together, it was very professional,” he said. “It’s something students can take with them to job interviews and tell them about what Flyer Enterprises does as a team.”
Student group organizes Christmas gift drive for Christians in Jordan

RACHEL TOVINITTI
Staff Writer

The University of Dayton’s Pax Christi group is hosting its second annual Christmas gift holiday drive to send donations to Christians in Jordan.

Pax Christi, meaning “Peace of Christ” in Latin, is a national non-profit organization that works to raise awareness of peace and social justice issues among Catholics worldwide.

Students can participate in the program by choosing one of hundreds of ornaments from a bulletin board located in the back of the Immaculate Conception Chapel. Each ornament has details on a specific gift so the students know what to purchase, according to Pax Christi’s co-chairs, Lindsey Cummings, a senior international studies and history major, and Andrew Kuttler, a senior biochemistry major.

“The ornaments all have specific gifts written on them for people to purchase; for example, clothing, toys, and school supplies,” Cummings said in an email to Flyer News. “Most of the gifts will be under $10.”

Students must drop off their gifts by Sunday, Dec. 11, under a Christmas tree by the chapel bulletin board, Kuttler said in an email to Flyer News.

“There is a table under the tree for the gifts to be placed,” he said.

“We ask that they be returned unwrapped with the ornament so that they can be efficiently distributed,” Cummings said she has more than one reason for participating in the holiday gift drive.

This past summer, she said she traveled to Amman, Jordan, to do research for her honors thesis paper, which focuses on Iraqi refugees living in Jordan. She interviewed Iraqi families and also people for some of the organizations who will be receiving the gifts from this year’s drive.

She said she forged strong bonds with the people she met in Jordan and received hospitality from families who live in poverty. Pax Christi is working with many organizations to have the gifts delivered to Jordan, including international organizations partially because of Cummings’ research in Jordan, she said.

“It is sort of a personal project for me, but it is also a great way to raise awareness for the suffering of Christians in the Middle East,” Cummings said in an email.

She said the gift drive is an example of one of the principle functions of Pax Christi – advocacy for the needy and vulnerable.

“When we were beginning to plan the gift tree for this year, I thought it would be great to support some of these people,” she said.

Cummings said one of the organizations is Caritas, an international organization which has an office in Amman, Jordan, to aid the country’s refugees and poverty-stricken people.

Pax Christi also is working with a Catholic church in Amman, which is composed mostly of Iraqi refugees, she said.

“This church, and their priest, Fr. Raymond Moussalli, provide important resources for the Iraqi Christian community in Amman,” Cummings said.

This is the third year Pax Christi has been on UD’s campus, according to Cummings. Last year, Pax Christi donated gifts to Dayton’s Good Neighbor House, she said.

The Good Neighbor House provides support and resources to the needy with the goal of helping them become self-sufficient.

“We did 101 gifts last year and although it is getting a later start and less time before we leave we are hoping to surpass the number from last year,” Kuttler said in an email.

Kuttler said he appreciates the generosity of the UD community in supporting this year’s project.

For more information on Pax Christi and its gift drive, contact Lindsey Cummings at cummings-s11@udayton.edu.
Student organization looks to fight human trafficking problems

Group holds campus awareness events, lobbies with state government to change legislation

SARA DORN
Chief News Writer

The United Nations estimates 2.45 million people are enslaved worldwide, and the University of Dayton New Abolitionist Movement organization is working to combat that crime.

Alex Kreidenweis and Alisa Bartel, both public administration MBA students, said they founded the organization through the human rights studies department in 2009 as undergraduates. Since that time, they have lobbied six times at the Ohio Statehouse, spread awareness at four local high schools, organized awareness events and collaborated with similar organizations in the Dayton area.

Kreidenweis said he and Bartel, both 2010 graduates, were compelled to start the group when they recognized the lack of awareness surrounding the issue, as demonstrated at the 2009 Dayton Human Trafficking Accords hosted at UD.

“What we found out was people were coming [to meetings at the accords] just to find out what trafficking was – policy makers, social service workers, police – people who should know what it is,” Kreidenweis said. “... And that was a critical breaking point.”

The U.S. Department of State defines human trafficking as “an umbrella term for activities involved when someone obtains or holds a person in compelled service.” Forms of trafficking range from debt bondage to child sex trafficking.

Bartel said the dynamics of a student organization are ideal for fighting human trafficking.

“We have a lot of resources on our hands. ... If we use that passion and combine it with the resources we have and the expertise of our faculty, we can do a lot.”

ALISA BARTEL,
NEW ABOLITIONIST MOVEMENT FOUNDER

“The victim’s focus recently has turned to the 2011 reauthorization of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act. Originally signed in 2000, the act appropriates funds to efforts to end international human trafficking. It is required to be reauthorized every three years by Congress.

The law has been amended in the past and it was a critical piece. ... It was one of our most prolific achievements.”

Kreidenweis said the organization meets every Wednesday at 10 p.m. in the Women’s Center in Alumni Hall, and new members are welcome.

The organization will be hosting a fair-trade chocolate sale in Kennedy Union Plaza this week through Friday, Dec. 9, according to minutes from a recent meeting.

For more information, contact the organization at thenewabolitionistmovement@gmail.com.
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Tea Party
(cont. from p. 1)

right idea.
“I think it’s good for America,” Seeds said. “It shows people are trying to reign in government spending and keep politicians accountable.”

Seeds said UD College Republicans have done door-to-door awareness events with the Dayton Tea Party, but that there has not been a large amount of interaction between the two groups.

Christina Green, a junior pre-physical therapy major and member of College Republicans, said that since the Dayton Tea Party does not have direct ties to the Republican party, it is a non-partisan organization. She said that she agrees with most of the Tea Party’s viewpoints and that she attended an event they held for Herman Cain, a Republican candidate for the 2012 election who recently suspended his campaign.

Seeds said he was interested to learn that the Dayton Tea Party was started by two UD alumni.

“I think it reinforces the idea that a few people can make a difference,” Seeds said. “That is extremely significant.”


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Colors, rhythms in student artwork revive Roesch

LINDSAY MUDD
Staff Writer

Bold-colored artwork and unique sounds combine to symbolize the meaning of “Transitions” in the work of two University of Dayton students who transformed the Roesch Library stairwell.

The stairwell landings feature brightly-painted panels by senior Lisa Lorek, a visual communication design major, and instrumentation by junior Phil Titlebaum, a music major, produced through the UD Artist-in-Residence program. The summer program allows students to create original works of art for installation around campus, according to the ArtStreet website.

Lorek and Titlebaum lived at ArtStreet for 11 weeks this summer pursuing the finished project, Lorek said.

“This piece is a study in transition, both in its subject matter and the way in which it is experienced,” said Titlebaum, the original creator for the “Transitions” project, in his artist statement.

The staircase is a structure used to transition from a point of departure to a destination, while at the same time, a library acts as a chronic of transition documenting the development of the human race, he said.

“It allows a user to move between the different areas of knowledge that civilization has gathered and maintained throughout the existence of the human race,” Titlebaum said.

Lorek said she created the artwork panels representing a transition through the full spectrum of the rainbow.

“I envisioned the stairwell being alive and active with highly-saturated pigments and bold shapes,” Lorek said in her artist statement.

The layout groups together panels of each color on each landing, from red up to violet. Smaller panels are used to foreshadow the next color as the energy and transition is captured through the change in color on each landing, she said.

“Transitions’ is a sonic representation of its name, a dynamic-changing experience sculpted by perspective,” Titlebaum said.

To illustrate a gradual shift, Titlebaum created two levels of sound that play on two different floors and together resonate through the stairway. He said he began with traditional sound in the first channel, created through acoustic instrumentation, marimba, guitar and vocals. This type of arrangement creates a calming atmosphere, something important for a library, he said.

The second channel of sound incorporates sound from the UD archives and the Marian Library, in addition to field recordings, synthesized sound and acoustic instrumentation, he said.

The transition from traditional to experimental music enabled Titlebaum to include sound from the UD archives, illustrating the university’s history and development, he said.

More of Lorek’s artwork is located in the Roesch Library ground floor stairs by the Ryan C. Harris Learning Teaching Center in a single representation of all of the colors.

“This panel is a bit more chaotic, but appropriate when capturing the movement of one of the most traveled stairwells in the library,” Lorek said.

A total of eight students participated in the 2011 UD Artist-in-Residence summer program developing art projects in seven campus buildings, including Albert Emanuel Hall, Alumni Hall and the College Park Center. The program has funded the installation of more than 200 original works of art in campus buildings developed by 34 undergraduate students since 2006, according to the ArtStreet website.

For more information about the Artist-in-Residence program, visit www.artstreet.udayton.edu/air.
Student band gears up for EP release

EVAN SHAUB
Staff Writer

While most musical groups opt for the traditional four-man band format, one local band has decided to break the mold.

OneSecond, a band consisting of five students from three different universities in the Dayton area, is releasing a six-track EP on Friday, Dec. 9. They will debut the album at McGuffy’s House of Rock, located at 5418 Burkhardt Rd. in Dayton.

The members are University of Dayton students Bobby Trick, a sixth-year senior general studies major; and Lauren Cummerlander, a senior sociology major; Wright State University students Eric Ulliman and Georgia Fenton; and Sinclair Community College student Sean McGrath.

According to Trick, the band was started by Ulliman, the band’s front man and songwriter, and McGrath, the band’s drummer; several years ago. However, the group didn’t come together in its current format until six months ago when Cummerlander joined as the band’s bassist, McGrath said.

The band also features Trick on the keyboard and Fenton on the violin and cello.

“We’re definitely unique,” McGrath said. “We mesh a lot of genres, and we’ve kind of created our own niche. I guarantee you’ve never heard anything like us.”

The EP is the product of six months of recording at ArtStreet in the Street Sounds Recording Studio, Trick said. Trick is the co-president of Street Sounds.

“I spent three weeks in the studio until 4 a.m. every night,” McGrath said. “It was definitely an experience. Even after all that, we still barely finished it in time.”

Along with the EP, the band will be featured on this year’s Thursday Night Live compilation album, an album consisting of the best performances that have occurred during this year’s Thursday Night Live sessions at Art Street, Trick said.

Trick said some of OneSecond’s influences include Jimi Hendrix, Dave Matthews, Carter Buford and John Mayer.

The EP, titled “Long Road,” is named after the fourth track on the album, and contains elements of jazz, rock, blues and ’90s era punk, McGrath said.

“This is our first studio album with this set up,” Ulliman said. “We play an alternative blues-rock. I’d say we’re like a combination of Maroon 5, Muse and John Mayer. After the show on Friday, the whole EP will be available online on our Facebook, MySpace and ReverbNation pages.”

Earlier this year, OneSecond played at Zeta Tau Alpha’s Freefall event and ArtStreet’s Rocktoberfest with good results, Ulliman said.

“The Dec. 9 show at McGuffy’s will be a fun experience,” Trick said. “It’s a good area and the two opening acts are both great.”

The opening acts are Lauren Eylise and the Boys, and Customer Service and the Gem City Horns, both University of Dayton student-led groups as well.

“Everyone who comes to the premier will get a special CD exclusive to the concert.” Trick said. “It’s a great night to relax and have a good time before you hunker down for finals.”

OneSecond Release Party

DEC. FRIDAY
09 DEBUT THE ALBUM AT MCGUFFY’S HOUSE OF ROCK 5418 Burkhardt Rd. in Dayton.

OneSecond, a band that includes two University of Dayton students and three other students from local universities, is releasing an EP titled “Long Road” on Friday, Dec. 9, at McGuffy’s House of Rock at 5418 Burkhardt Rd. in Dayton. ALBUM COVER CONTRIBUTED BY ONESECOND VIA KATHLEEN HROVATICH

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Travel abroad refines life perspectives

This July, I sat next to Editor-in-Chief Jacob Rosen on the patio of a Spanish bar: just two 20-year-old guys legally sipping beers and admiring the gorgeous views of the mountains surrounding Segovia. I remember thinking this trip would provide excellent material for Flyer News columns.

Then I came home, started school and subsequent Flyer News column writing, and before I knew it, it was December and I still hadn’t written about my trip. But emails promoting study abroad trips started teasing me, and I began to feel nostalgic for my time in Spain.

While I wholeheartedly think Americans should see all 50 states in their lives, I also realized that witnessing unfamiliar cultures is necessary to one’s understanding. So last year, I signed up to study abroad in Segovia, Spain; my first-ever trip out-of-country.

That was easily the best decision I made in 2011. Some people think these trips are filled with annoying classes and boring sightseeing of historical landmarks. I won’t deny it: I daydreamed about the beach during classes. I took hour-long bus rides to stare at buildings and pieces of marble I had never heard of before.

But I’ll also admit I enjoyed it. I took interesting classes about Spain, conducted in Spanish by an outstanding professor, Francisco Petas-Bermejo. I completed six UD credit hours in just four weeks for, quite frankly, a very tolerable amount of work, making the already-reasonable cost of the trip even more justifiable. Spain was filled with opportunities I didn’t know were possible—not just educational ones, but real, live thrills.

I found myself suddenly legal to drink alcohol for the first time in my life, and used that advantage to experience Spanish bars and nightclubs—some that didn’t even open until 3 a.m. I trekked around Spain with a group of strangers: other University of Dayton students that are now among my closest friends. I watched one of those friends chop the head off of a cooked pig with a plate, followed by an old Spanish tradition. I saw some of the most beautiful sights I’d ever before witnessed, from towering Spanish mountain ranges to narrow, beautifully-winding cobblestone streets. I howled Bruce Springsteen’s “Born in the U.S.A” to Spaniards on the Fourth of July. I conversed in Spanish with total strangers while traveling backwards at 194 mph in high-speed trains. I did all these things and didn’t even think twice about them, because I was truly a part of it all.

Most importantly, I discovered a world outside of my own. Not just the physical aspects of it, but the mental perception as well. Sometimes, I even pretended to be a Spaniard; not out of desire, but simply to witness life through another lens. I felt as if I had temporarily gained the ability to see the world, and my own native culture, through an outside perspective.

Each time I’ve spoken to someone who has traveled abroad, the word “experience” has always been used at some point to describe the trip. That word shows up as frequently as “experience” does around this campus. Now, I understand why: There’s no other way to sum it up in a time frame that doesn’t include hours.

Now, it’s that time of year again when information emails for UD study abroad trips will start coming in, and I encourage everyone to consider them. Instead of just ignoring them, think to yourself, “How much of this world do I really want to experience?”

“Those who know nothing of foreign languages know nothing of their own.”
Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, German writer and scientist, 1749-1832

Word on the street...
What are you planning on doing for Christmas on Campus?

ELIZABETH STOIBER
JUNIOR
ENTREPRENEURSHIP & MARKETING

“I’m helping to run a carnival game for the entrepreneur fraternity.”

MICHAEL ISING
FRESHERN
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

“I’m helping set up a maze and I’m adopting a kid. I bought him a Nerf gun and bouncy balls.”

MACKENZIE GASPER
SOPHOMORE
SPECIAL EDUCATION

“I adopted two kids. One through Christmas on Campus and one through the Dakota Center.”
Islamists inspire hope for democratic change

As a student at this university, the administration’s refusal to officially recognize the Society of Freethinkers is of great concern to me. An attendee at two of the recent SOFT meetings, I was initially wary that I might find pretentious atheists convened to disparage religion. Instead, I found both gatherings to be consistent with the intentions that SOFT organizers Branden King and Nick Haynes have maintained.

The meetings served as a platform for meaningful dialogue, among an evidently diverse group of students, about the implications of a lack of religious faith, or of the presence of it, in everyday issues and experiences. The presence of this platform is invaluable. It is my personal belief with the hatemongers of the Westboro Baptist Church. So too do I, as a non-believer, dislike being tied to any who would dismiss faith, a source of meaning and hope for billions, as simply a manifestation of ignorance or folly. A lack of faith does not necessitate the condemnation of it. Nor does a lack of faith stem, categorically, from a desire to escape accountability for one’s actions, a misunderstanding of doctrine, or some notion of malvolence. My own transition from an exceptionally devout Catholic to a person who is searching, who cannot unquestionably accept the existence of a god, or at least, not God as I knew him before, was difficult. This shift in my orientation was indeed largely by my studies of theories and concepts in philosophy and other classes at the University of Dayton, as well as extensive time abroad in Egypt last year.

All students at this university are introduced to a multiplicity of worldviews in required core classes. Most of the material is certainly not presented to us on the condition that we evaluate it with a Marianist grain of salt. If we, as students, find ourselves confused and our faith challenged or changed, to where should we turn? It is not viable to ask questions of a god one no longer believes in. Ultimately, UD’s denial of official status for SOFT is an implicit denial of the in-comparable significance of these kinds of experiences, and alienates the students who live them. Furthermore, though the university has repeatedly stated the organization’s denial, it has never given an acceptable explanation. What is the actual and immediate harm of official SOFT recognition? A Nov. 17 article in Flyer News quoted Amy Lopez-Matthews, director of Student Life and Kennedy Union, as saying that UD “just can’t have its name attached to SOFT.” This point of defense is embarrassing, thin, and yet it is allowed precedence over the well-being of UD’s students and community? Certainly, the environmental and human rights abuses of the Coca-Cola Co. have not prevented the university from affiliating with that name. UD’s mission statement claims the “constant seeking of truth and knowledge in our overall mission to improve the world.” SOFT provides a place for students to do this by subjecting the influences of their faith to moral and ethical scrutiny. Historically, it is not the examination process that is a cause of harm – it is the failure to acknowledge the value of it. The university must officially recognize SOFT, or abandon that word featured so prominently on banners around campus – integrity.

KIKI WILSON
SENIOR
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Official SOFT recognition would do more good than harm

While much of my work is journalism-related, my boss is also one of the main leaders of the party, so I’ve been able to observe firsthand a tiny bit of the implications and concepts of social policies. Many will ask what they think about women? What are their positions on alcohol and homosexuality? While studying abroad in Romania, the capital of Morocco, I’m working with many members of the PJD on the staff of the daily newspaper, Attajdid. In a country beset with gender inequalities, I’ve been pleased to notice how equitable the staff interactions are. There is a running joke as well about the democratic kitchen from which all staff members, including the editor-in-chief, eat the same food and have tea together.

While the previous regime, the Tunisian Islamist-inspired Ennahda (Renaissance) Party recently made headlines by winning a transparent election and winning an election. During this time, I’ve seen the staff and party members go from political thinkers presenting a platform to becoming elected officials with the potential to change the country. Now with the first chance in decades to actually do so, I’ve been inspired by the passion and hope these young, educated people have for their country.

Across the Arab world, Islamists are taking the reigns as springtime has faded into winter, but it’s important to note Morocco is its own case; its Islamists are not those of Tunisia, Turkey or Egypt. The PJD has its own unique agenda and unique constraints. Despite their good goals for the society, will they be able to implement them along with the monarchy? Time will give the only true indication.

WE IN THE WEST ARE OFTEN ASKING THE WRONG QUESTIONS. THE PROBLEMS FACING MOROCCO AT THIS MOMENT ARE MORE PRESSING THAN RELIGIOUS ATTITUDES.

REBECCA YOUNG
MANAGING EDITOR

OPINIONS
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OpiNiONS

We in the West are often asking the wrong questions. The problems facing Morocco at this moment are more pressing than religious attitudes.”
The University of Dayton women’s track and field team opened its season on the right foot this weekend at the Oiler Opener in Findlay, Ohio.

The meet lasted from Friday, Dec. 2, to Saturday, Dec. 3. On Friday, the meet started with the field events. Leading the way for the Flyers in the pole vault was senior Courtney Siebenaller, who finished second with a jump of 3 3/4 meters.

Siebenaller said it felt great to be competing again.

“It feels awesome,” she said. “I love vaulting, and as a senior, I need to make every meet fun and get the best experience from it.”

Overall, it was a successful first day for UD, according to Siebenaller.

“We did really well for our first meet,” she said. “Two girls set new personal bests and all of our vaulters were over 11 feet. Overall, it was a lot of fun.”

The success carried over into Saturday.

Senior Rachel Weber set a school record in the 600-meter run with a time of 1:37.13. She finished second in the event and also anchored the 4x400 relay team that finished first.

Meanwhile, freshman Kelsey McDonald finished fourth in the 600-meter race, and her time was good for fourth all-time in program history for the 600-meter run.

Dayton also had multiple top-finishingers in other Oiler Opener events. In the 200-meter, freshman Maya Pederson and sophomores Noelle Tazioli and Cassie Grandstaff finished second, fourth and fifth, respectively.

In the 800-meter, freshman Lauren Clark finished first with a time of 2:22.07. Sophomore Kassy Thomas and freshman Chelsey VanHook filled out Dayton’s one-two-three finish in the event, respectively.

Junior Jada Henderson also finished third in the 400-meter run.

First-year head coach Jason Francis said he was happy with the team’s results.

“We performed really well,” he said. “We had nearly everyone around their personal bests and I’m excited for what these results can bring for the rest of the year.”

Francis is in his first year coaching Dayton after coaching at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee for seven years. He said it was a welcome change coaching only the women’s track team, and not also a varsity men’s squad, for the first time in his career.

“It was weird not coaching as many events, however, it allows me to focus on the individual events and allows me to coach each player individually,” Francis said. “So it is a nice change of pace.”

The early start from the Flyers could be the beginning of another run at an Atlantic 10 Conference championship, according to Francis.

“I’m really excited about this year,” he said. “We are deeper across all of our events and that will lead to more points down the road. The A-10 title is a real possibility, and we’re ready to give it another shot.”

Meanwhile, Siebenaller said she is excited to see what becomes of her senior year.

“We started off at a good pace and I hope we can continue that the rest of the year,” she said.

The Flyers don’t return to action until after the new year at the Doug Raymond Invitational on Jan. 14, 2012, in Kent, Ohio.

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In this Feb. 18 file photo, UD senior Courtney Siebenaller jumps during the Atlantic 10 Conference Indoor Track and Field Championships at the University of Rhode Island’s Mackal Field House in Kingston, R.I. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY DANIEL PETTIVILLE
Writer says A-10 is making name for itself once again

It is now December, which means the men’s college basketball season is taking shape. There are definitely some trends still to be discovered and some that just need more recognition, like the Atlantic 10 Conference.

So far this season, the A-10’s members are proving themselves against the Bowl Championship Series conferences. As of Nov. 28, the conference was third in the Ratings Percentage Index ranking formula, according to www.collegesports.com, ranking only behind the Big 10 Conference and the Southeastern Conference.

Xavier University is up to its old tricks and looking like the NCAA tournament regular it has become with more high-profile victories. One came against 20th-ranked Vanderbilt University on Nov. 28 on the road, and the other was against Purdue University on Saturday, Dec. 3, at home.

Saint Louis University appears to have the makings of a serious tournament candidate after winning the 76 Classic on Nov. 27. The Billikens have already defeated four teams from four different BCS conferences and entered the top 25 of each major basketball poll on Nov. 28.

And on the subject of tournament champions, the University of Dayton won the Old Spice Classic hours before Saint Louis’ championship, helping set the Flyers up for possible NCAA tournament bubble discussions come March. Losing in back-to-back games against the University at Buffalo and Murray State University was a step backwards, but a top-15 University of Alabama team is next on the schedule on Wednesday, Dec. 7.

Xavier University and the University of Richmond are viable contenders for the conference crown. Both teams have opportunities for big-name wins soon, with upcomming games scheduled against Duke University, the University of Texas and the University of California, Los Angeles.

It was a magical year for the conference in 2004. Saint Joseph’s University was the No. 1 team in the country at the end of the regular season and, along with Xavier University, made a run into the Elite Eight round of the NCAA Men’s Basketball Tournament. Although neither team made the trip to the Final Four that season, the conference did have a total of four teams compete in the tournament, its most since 1996.

With the recent realignment trend toward “super conferences” of dominant basketball teams, four is getting to be a gigantic number for a smaller league like the A-10. Out of the 16 current members of the Big East Conference, a record 11 schools received bids to last season’s tournament.

Now, other conferences such as the SEC are getting up to that membership level with 14 teams beginning Dec. 7. With football being the driving force behind many of these moves, the football-lacking A-10 gets to quickly kick back and watch it all unfold while making a name for itself on the basketball court. And the conference does it in its own unique way that almost no other so-called “mid-major” conference can say.

The A-10 currently has a dominant team in Xavier that can be compared to the way Gonzaga University and the University of Memphis have ruled their respective conferences, the West Coast Conference and Conference USA. Unlike the in-conference competition these two schools face though, there are other teams that year in and year out compete against Xavier.

Having a single national powerhouse school in a conference doesn’t ensure receiving a high number of bids to the NCAA tournament. It is multiple teams with impressive non-conference performances that build up the prestige and resumes of a league.

Although the A-10 is the only non-BCS conference to have at least three of its members make the tournament in each of the last four seasons, it has yet to hit the four-member plateau since 2004. Is the conference as good top-to-bottom as any in the country? Probably not, but the foundations are already being set for several teams to make the tournament again this year, leaving plenty of time for more squads to make cases as well.

And it is time for the country to take notice of the high level of play coming from the A-10.
Women's Basketball

UD shoots down Eagles in ‘sloppy’ home victory

ERIN CANNON
Staff Writer

Despite the victory over Boston College this past Sunday, Dec. 4, the University of Dayton women’s basketball team was not pleased with a “sloppy” performance.

The Flyers (4-3) defeated the Eagles 69-60 at UD Arena. Dayton once had a 16-point lead, but allowed BC to fight back late in the first half to cut the lead to only three points.

Dayton head coach Jim Jabir said BC’s comeback was sparked by Dayton’s sudden urge to stop playing.

“We defended well and had a 16-point lead, but then we stopped defending,” Jabir said.

Jabir said that the Flyers lately have been playing more timidly, not as physical and not as consistent.

“We are not putting it all together and we need to get there,” he said.

Senior forward Justine Raterman scored a game-high 21 points for the Flyers in the victory. Raterman, who was named to the John R. Wooden Award Postseason Top 30 List honoring the top players in college basketball, said she also is frustrated with the team’s play so far this season.

“It can be frustrating because we know what we are capable of,” Raterman said. “We need to be more consistent.”

This was the first game at home for the Flyers since a 69-38 win against Bowling Green State University on Nov. 11. After that, the squad was on the road for five straight games.

“I am not happy with where we are,” Jabir said. “We are better than this and we’re not playing at a high level right now. I hope it’s not like this all year. Hopefully we will get better.”

The Flyers will face Wright State University at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 6, in UD Arena. Dayton then heads on the road for its next four games. UD returns back to the UD Arena to open up A-10 play against the University of Rhode Island on Jan. 7, 2012.

Men’s Basketball

Flyers lose by double digits again, fall at Murray State

CHRIS MOORMAN
Sports Editor

The University of Dayton men’s basketball team was outrebounded and, once again, suffered a loss.

Dayton (5-3) lost 75-58 to Murray State University Sunday, Dec. 4, in Murray, Ky. Dayton was beat on the boards, 27-25, against a smaller Murray State offense.

First-year head coach Archie Miller said in his post-game radio show on WHIO that back-to-back losses is no reason to give up on the season this early into the year.

“There’s no point in hanging your head,” he said. “There’s going to be a lot of bumps in the road. There’s a lot more games to be played and that the thing that our team can’t go from is extreme high to extreme low. You have to try to fight like crazy to look yourself in the mirror, coaches included, and really try to get back to work and earn the right to play well. That’s where we have to fight.”

Canaan entered the game as the nation’s 26th leading scorer, averaging 20.3 points per game. He shot 7-for-13 from the field in the game, including 5-for-8 from the behind the three-point line.

Dayton held an early 17-14 lead in the first half at the 10:17 mark when redshirt senior guard Josh Benson hit a three. Dayton finished the game 3-for-21 from three-point territory.

Murray State (9-0) closed out the first half on a 15-6 run. Canaan was held to seven points in the half, but the Flyers trailed 29-23.

In the second half, Canaan exploded for 14 points and the Murray State defense disrupted the UD offense, according to Parker.

“Yeah, he’s a tough kid,” Parker said of Canaan. “He plays hard all the time. We just knew he had to contain him; he was the engine that ran the team. He got some shots off tonight. We just got to do better.”

The Racers played an aggressive man-to-man defense that pushed the Dayton guards back to half court to set up plays. Twice, UD was called for backcourt violations.

“They play tough,” Parker said in a phone interview after the game. “They play tough, hard-nosed man-to-man deny defense and they disrupted us a little bit. We couldn’t get nothing flowing like we wanted to get. The only thing we can do is learn from this and continue to work at it.”

Miller said in his post-game show that the defensive pressure was unrelenting.

“It was very, very difficult to pass, let alone dribble,” he said.

Dayton only managed to climb within four points in the second half against Murray State. With 4:34 to go in the game, Dayton trailed 37-33. Murray State then went on an 18-6 run over the next five minutes to put the game away.

Parker tried to get his team back into the game with a left-handed transition layup and a free-throw make for a three-point play at the 10:07 mark. As the referee went to report the foul on MSU senior forward James Poole, Parker shouted at his teammates.

“I just trying to tell them, ‘Let’s go, man! The game’s not over. We can do this whether if we’re down or not. We can’t quit, we can’t give up. We just have to keep playing,’” he said. “And so that’s all I wanted to tell my team and I just tried something to get them going.”

Dayton kept trying to get into the game by forcing three-point shots, but most fell short of the rim. UD also committed 17 turnovers, the team’s second-most in a game this season behind committing 22 turnovers in a loss to Miami University on Nov. 15.

Redshirt junior forward Josh Benson led Dayton with 17 points on 8-for-8 shooting in the game. He also had six rebounds and five turnovers. Benson scored all 17 of his points in the second half.

“We just got to keep feeding him down there,” Parker said about Benson’s play in the post. “He’s going to continue to play against tough bigs and the thing about it is we got to keep him confident down there, throwing him the ball and keep encouraging him. In the second half, he went out and played like a champ. We got to get everybody on the same page to do that and we will.”

Dayton plays the University of Alabama – ranked No. 12 in the country as of Nov. 28 – at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 7, at UD Arena.