A SPACE FOR RELIGION
A veil of white dogwood covers St. Joseph Hall.

Photograph by KRISTIN DAVIS '18
At the table
No one should go hungry
Reflections on Iraq and faith

DENNIS TURNER, professor emeritus of the School of Law, joined the faculty in 1974. He has served the school as assistant dean, acting dean, director of the law clinic and director of the legal profession program in addition to winning the school’s highest teaching award. He shares inspiration from his new book in this issue’s Perceptions.

Sylvia Stahl is a senior photography major, minoring in English and art history. She writes, “As both a photographer and writer, I have always enjoyed the art of storytelling. From studio portraits — with both animals and people — to event coverage, I have been given amazing opportunities to grow within my role as a photographer for the University of Dayton Magazine.”
Courageous conversations

As free-speech battles play out on college campuses, in the public square and on social media, some may view engaging in respectful, civil dialogue and carefully listening to opposing viewpoints as a lost art.

I would say we’re reclaiming it at the University of Dayton, but, truthfully, it’s always been part of our fabric. It’s certainly a skill graduates need in today’s complex world.

The Marianists, many of whom live among the students in the neighborhoods, know that better than anyone else. They teach us daily how to value the dignity of every person.

Our communication professors who teach a nationally significant Communication 100 course to all undergraduates know that, too. (See story, Page 36.) In the class, students learn how to have meaningful conversations with others who hold different perspectives — all with the goal of understanding each other better.

Alumnus Timothy Shaffer ‘06, who is assistant director of the Institute for Civic Discourse and Democracy at Kansas State and recently edited a book about the use of dialogue and deliberation, also knows that.

As a UD graduate student, he created a class in deliberation that found its way to the program at the Stander Symposium and helped launch his life’s work.

And I know that. When I read this issue’s “Let’s Talk” feature story, I’m heartened by the myriad ways we bring our students together to converse (which implies both speaking and listening) and build bridges across differences. We’re even considering developing a dialogue landing zone in Roesch Library, providing space for conversations on tough issues.

Last year, when a controversy erupted on campus over a student art project, the Student Government Association immediately organized a discussion. As I sat in the back of the room and listened to the challenging but respectful conversation, I grew more proud of our students by the minute. Rather than talking at each other, they engaged in dialogue — with respect, thoughtfulness and a desire to understand another person’s point of view. As a campus community, we didn’t shy away from having a difficult conversation.

The Marianists call that “staying at the table.” I call it courageous conversations. It’s just what our world needs.
I really appreciate the work done in the magazine and value every issue. The winter issue cover, however, made me a little sad — in that only eight women are among the distinguished graduates featured. It seems to underline UD’s history as a male-serving institution. 2018 marks the celebration of 40 years of the Women and Gender Studies Program. I hope the next time an article like this appears, we’ll see more balance!

SISTER LAURA M. LEMING, F.M.I., ’87
DAYTON

With respect to the cover story of the Winter 2017-18 UD Magazine, it appears that only eight women and one African-American man have received the Distinguished Alumni Award during the last 50 years. Isn’t there another story here?

JEAN KELLY ’82
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

The Winter 2017-18 edition just arrived. How ironic that President Eric Spina comments about the need to build a diverse community at the fairgrounds property when the cover of the issue could hardly be less diverse. A mere handful of women and one African-American male among the distinguished alumni? The optics could not be worse. I hope President Spina’s plans begin with a building dedicated to the youth down the street across the Stewart Street bridge with modern transportation to and from the neglected neighborhood and some serious outreach to vastly increase the number of students from similar areas to change the cover photo of the magazine in the near future.

D.K. RUDY WEHNER ’73
DAYTON

In your Winter 2017-18 UD Magazine, you feature “In Distinguished Company” with alumni who embody “the University's goal to participate in the quest for a more perfect human society.” What struck me was that the scholars profiled were largely white males. Of the 76 featured, only nine (12 percent) were women and even fewer minorities (5 percent). In the magazine, you do not indicate how these scholars were selected to be “In Distinguished Company.” Were they selected based on receipt of a previous University award? Were they chosen based on a poll that was conducted? Were they selected based on some in-house decision? It is important for the reader to know your criteria for inclusion.

We live in a society in which minority members’ accomplishments are routinely ignored or otherwise dismissed in favor of spotlighting the accomplishments of white men. This renders the contributions of women and other disadvantaged groups invisible. As an alumnus of UD, I am puzzled (to say the least) to see such a profile featured in your magazine. Without evidence as to how this prestigious group was gathered, I am left wondering whether there was clear selection bias.

However this data was ob-
tained, it seems to provide an opportunity for us to reflect on just who we exclude when we showcase those who, as you write, “learn, lead and serve society with distinction.” Women, blacks, Hispanics and other disadvantaged groups in our society need greater recognition for their contributions in making “a more perfect human society.”

JAN E. STETS ’80
RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA

In the spirit of gratitude and love, I am surprised at the distinguished alumni cover of the magazine. I cannot imagine any other U.S. co-educational university doing the same, not in the 21st century. Hopefully it won’t take another 50 years for a prominent visual to celebrate the accomplishments of women and people of color.

KATHY MCEUEN HARMON
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

Editor’s note: We received many letters and comments regarding the cover feature for the winter issue highlighting 50 years of recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Award, the highest award given by UD’s Alumni Association. While the cover does not show all Distinguished Alumni Award recipients (photos were not available for all recipients), as observed, the number of female and minority recipients are small.

Each year, a volunteer committee of alumni evaluates nominations received from alumni, friends or community members for all of its awards. For the Distinguished Alumni Award, nominees are evaluated on these criteria: graduated from UD more than 25 years ago; sustained record of accomplishment; reputation that is widespread; special distinction in the field; and reflects honor on UD. The committee recommends awardees, who are approved by the president’s office. Nominations are accepted through the calendar year for the ceremony to be held the following fall. Nominations are considered through three award cycles before alumni must be re-nominated for consideration.

There is indeed a larger story here, one this magazine is telling as it unfolds. The institution recognizes its history of attracting, and as a result recognizing, a mostly white constituent base. We acknowledge our historical roots as a boys’ school founded by white men. Our history means we have to try harder. The University and its new president have made a strong commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion at all levels of the institution; it is a foundational priority in our vision for UD. In this issue, you’ll find stories on constructive, inclusive conversations; the work of the president’s diversity and inclusion assessment task force; and on the Global Voices symposium. These are but a few of the actions happening on campus to increase diversity among and improve the climate for all students and members of the staff, faculty and board. For more details, visit the website for the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, udayton.edu/diversity and note in particular the president’s statement on diversity.

While we, as an institution, continue work in this area, we also request the help of our readers. For the 2018 awards, the Alumni Association received eight nominations for distinguished alumni and 18 nominations total in all five award categories. You are invited to nominate alumni for the 2019 awards. You may submit your nomination on the envelope found at Page 48 or through the website at udayton.edu/advancement/alumni-awards/nomination.php.

GOOD MEMORIES

It was such a joy to read Dr. James Farrelly’s Stephen King recollections in the Winter 2017-18 issue [“Stephen King Haunts My Classroom”]. It brought back such good memories of his Literature of the Occult course in the spring of 1984.

But just as important, it brought back such good memories of Dr. Farrelly’s role as adviser to those of us at the Flyer News. To this day, 33 years later, I still rely every day on the lessons he taught. I’m grateful for this opportunity to tell him thank you.

KEITH ELCHEHT ‘84
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

REMEMBERING BERNARD RICE

It is with sadness that I learned of the recent passing of Bernard J. Rice, longtime professor of mathematics at UD. Professor Rice was an optimistic, enthusiastic and caring educator who made an impression on me well beyond the classroom. I remember him coaching me through some struggles in calculus class (which had me questioning whether I should continue with engineering). He convinced me that I didn’t need to be great at calculus to be a great engineer. Thank you, Professor Rice, and God bless.

MIKE MAHOTA ’84
MINNETRISTA, MINNESOTA

CONTINUING COMMUNITY

Regarding “Community Close to Home” [Autumn 2017 UD Magazine], UD took flight in the early ’70s with Project Interface, a program to put students in meaningful internships in the community.

PETER MCGEE
POSTED TO LINKEDIN

GOD BLESS EDWARD

Congratulations on an outstanding Winter 2017-18 edition of the UD Magazine. I read the “In Distinguished Company” article and recognized many names. I met Jim Spotila my freshman year at UD; he was impressive from the day I met him. I knew Jim would be successful when he married my roommate Laurie Dietrich ’67.

In the alumni section I read about my classmate Edward Romond (“Curing cancer one trial at a time.”). Fifty years after our graduation he is helping to save my life. I have stage 4 HER-positive breast cancer. I am so grateful for Edward’s work. I am “progression free” and should live a normal life span. God bless Edward Romond and all the researchers who are working so hard to find solutions to the many medical mysteries today.

KAREN JANS GAGEL ’67
DUBLIN, OHIO

GIVING BACK

Regarding “Philanthropy in the Classroom” [UDQuickly 11-30-17]. Very inspiring. I look back on my college years and not sure I would have had the wisdom and philanthropic mindset for such a generous action.

M. RUTHMEYER
POSTED TO UDQUICKLY

WISDOM FROM BROTHER PHIL

Regarding “A Boat, a Horse, a Man” [Autumn 2017 UD Magazine]. Thank you, Brother Phil, for encouraging me to wander.
My life is more beautiful and my world is much bigger because of your support along the way!

**KATIE EBERHARD MULEMBE**
POSTED TO UDQUICKLY

Great to read one of your teaching stories from real life again, Brother Phil! Your own openness to learning from what you experienced (even if it challenged what you knew) is one of the things I have always admired about you. That, and your kindness:-)

**JOHN GIORGIO**
POSTED TO UDQUICKLY

**NEW COMMUNITY**
Regarding “Community Close to Home” [Autumn 2017 UD Magazine]. Back in our day — the ’60s — Brown Street was no-man’s land. Townies didn’t like our being there, and so we stayed away. Much has changed, obviously, for the better. When UD bought the NCR campus, that opened up a whole new world for the University. Keep it going.

**DICK MORAN**
POSTED TO UDQUICKLY

**DIXIELAND TRADITIONS**
Compliments to Bob Ashman, fellow UD grad, for continuing the Dixieland tradition [“It’s the Jazz, Man,” Autumn 2017 UD Magazine]. Our Dixie Dynamos at UD from the late ’50s had our share of Dixie fun at the Stockyard and later, after Carl Halen and Gene Mayl warmed-up downtown, we continued at the Hitching Post. Many fond Dixieland memories remain as the old remaining Dynamos continue to communicate and share our embellished stories. Best of luck to Bob Ashman.

**GERRY LONSWAY**
POSTED TO UDQUICKLY

**CLASS OF 1970, WHERE ARE YOU?**
I wish to complain about the lack of alumni news from people of the Class of 1970 in the UD Magazine. I realize that as the years go by there is understandably less emphasis on the earlier classes, but there must be people from the Class of 1970 doing something noteworthy. The Classes of 1969 and 1971 are almost always represented in the class notes, but not 1970. Please find something to write about the alumni of ’70.

**THOMAS J. “TUNA” NEIHENGEN ’70**
BARTLETT, ILLINOIS

“We all need to be more intentional and reflective regarding the impact technology is having and will have on being human.”

—SISTER ANGELA ANN ZUKOWSKI, M.H.S.H., DIRECTOR OF INSTITUTE FOR PASTORAL INITIATIVES, IN GLOBAL SISTERS REPORT ON HER MORE THAN 45 YEARS IN TECHNOLOGY-FACILITATED FAITH FORMATION

“You don’t have to be Catholic to respond to the affirmation, affection and security that she offers.”

—FATHER JOHANN ROTEN, S.M., UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES, ABOUT THE POPULARITY OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CELEBRATIONS IN THE U.S., ON NBC NEWS

“There’s also a culture of violence that as a society we need to phase out.”

—BINOD KUMAR, VISITING RESEARCH FELLOW IN HUMAN RIGHTS, IN “A HEARTS AND MINDS APPROACH TO GUN VIOLENCE” IN THE DAYTON DAILY NEWS

“Historically, mental health care and assessing for mental wellness has held a stigma in our society.”

—SCOTT HALL, PROFESSOR OF CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING, IN AN NBC NEWS STORY ON THE NEED FOR MENTAL HEALTH SCREENINGS

“While all violators on Instagram need not be prosecuted, making an example of a small handful will send a powerful message to others.”

—THADDEUS HOFFMEISTER, PROFESSOR OF LAW, AND LAW STUDENT JESSICA BERNARD IN A FORTUNE COMMENTARY ON THE KAYNE WEST #YEEZYSEASON6 CAMPAIGN

“It refers to spinning in the opposite direction from the way you’re traveling down the halfpipe.”

—ZACHARY SANFORD, ADJUNCT PROFESSOR IN HEALTH AND SPORT SCIENCE, DECODING THE LINGO OF OLYMPIC SNOWBOARDING (“ALLEY-OOP”), IN SMITHSONIAN MAGAZINE

“The state should not adopt a process that requires someone without the proper training and expertise to perform a medical procedure.”

—LORI SHAW, ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR THE SCHOOL OF LAW, IN A CHICAGO TRIBUNE STORY ON FAILED EXECUTION ATTEMPTS
“Let’s be a spectacle of saints, show how it’s practical to build a community of faith.”
—LYRICS BY NICK CARDILINO FOR SPECTACLE, A MUSICAL HONORING MARIANIST FOUNDER BLESSED WILLIAM JOSEPH CHAMINADE, TO BE PERFORMED APRIL 20-22

“The world isn’t as big as we think, yet there is so much left to explore.”
—SENIOR MADDIE COLLINS, WHO SPENT WINTER BREAK AT THE UD CHINA INSTITUTE TAKING THE COURSE DOING BUSINESS IN CHINA

“[It’s] critical that people realize the power of religious resources.”
—FATHER JIM HEFT, S.M. ’66, WHO HOSTED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA A MEETING OF FAITH LEADERS TO RESPOND TO THE HOMELESSNESS CRISIS IN LOS ANGELES

“It’s a tradition for the current pilot to choose the next.”
—JOHN BROWN, SENIOR SPORT MANAGEMENT MAJOR, CHOSEN BY THE LAST PILOT OF RED SCARE TO HELP CAPTAIN THE STUDENT FANS

“Getting new, top-of-the-line equipment and being able to just run wild with it is really exciting.”
—GRADUATE STUDENT CAMERON DICKENS, A RESEARCH ASSISTANT IN THE RECENTLY NAMED DAVE AND NORMA MCCARTHY INTEGRATIVE HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY LABORATORY

Fruit fly eyes
Understanding human birth defects
Associate professor of biology Amit Singh is studying early eye development in fruit flies to understand the molecular basis of retinal disease and birth defects in the human eye under a new $439,499 grant from the National Institutes of Health. Singh, interim director of UD’s Center for Tissue Regeneration and Engineering at Dayton, is using the fruit fly eye model to determine how genes regulate the process of transforming a single layer of cells into a three-dimensional organ.

Battling addiction
Brain control through neurofeedback
UD Research Institute received $10,000 from the Ohio Opioid Technology Challenge for a program that will teach people with opioid addiction how to reduce their cravings. The program will use an external neurosensory headset to display brain activity graphically, like a simple video game. By performing tasks, volunteers will learn to “recover control of their minds and bodies and accelerate the path to recovery,” said software engineer Kelly Cashion, who is leading the program team. The neurofeedback program is designed to supplement current addiction therapies.
‘The Common Good’

Thank a public servant

“If you can read this, thank a teacher.” This quotation, by U.S. President Harry Truman, is one of 13 now etched into a granite monument that stands 8 feet high in Dayton’s Cooper Park. Two UD grads, Tim Riordan ’68 and Paul Woodie ’65, are among those who commissioned and funded the work titled “The Common Good” by Ohio sculptor Jon Barlow Hudson. Riordan, former Dayton city manager, said the monument is dedicated to those who commit themselves to public service: arrest dangerous people, run into burning buildings, inspect elevators, vaccinate babies. “Our communities abound with public servants who have chosen essential careers, working selflessly, anonymously, diligently and often heroically, day in and day out,” Riordan said.

Hats off
Invention with a surprise inside

This spring, junior Danielle Ruffolo is helping spread the UD love to some future Flyers with her invention, the Handy Hat. “What’s cool about this baseball hat is the inside has this little pocket pouch. You can put your student ID, credit card, cash, even your room key in the hat,” said Ruffolo, a marketing and entrepreneurship major whose hats are being sent to some of the Class of 2022 accepted students in those majors. The hat was born in her sophomore entrepreneurship experience class, and Ruffalo is now working with attorneys to secure a patent and trademark. “It’s the best kind of learning,” she said.

Mixed reviews
Government in film

“Films are subtle in the way they inform and provoke thinking in their audiences,” said Michelle Pautz, associate professor of political science, whose book Civil Servants on the Silver Screen explores how movies influence our opinions of government. Pautz examined hundreds of government workers in films released from 2000 to 2015 — from the fictional Ministry of Magic in Harry Potter to the pilots in the dramatization of Pearl Harbor. While nearly half the films portrayed government in a negative way, most individual characters were shown positively, Pautz writes. She also found moviegoers report more trust in government after watching movies like Argo, about the CIA rescue of Americans from Tehran in 1979. “Most Americans have a love-hate relationship with the government, and we see that complexity extends to film,” she said.

Waste not
Vernicomposting

Eight stories above Brown Street on the roof of Fitz Hall, worms dubbed “Rudy’s red wigglers” are munching their way into campus sustainability initiatives. Steve Kendig, executive director of energy utilization and environmental sustainability, recently initiated a new composting program that takes food waste — such as fruit and vegetable scraps, coffee grounds and eggshells — from Fitz Hall’s sandwich shop, the Brown Street Bistro, and distributes it into a worm bed located on the roof of the building. Kendig and two students from the Hanley Sustainability Institute will use the worm waste, called castings, as a sustainable fertilizer for campus flowerbeds.
Research on the rise

The University of Dayton set another research record in fiscal year 2017 and rose in the latest National Science Foundation rankings for fiscal year 2016 higher education research expenditures. UD ranks in the top 25 of all U.S. colleges and universities in eight categories, including second place for the amount of sponsored materials engineering research and development.

The University performed $135.9 million in sponsored research in fiscal year 2017, eclipsing the previous record of $117.6 million set in fiscal year 2016.

Among the highlights from the NSF rankings are:

- The University reclaimed the top spot for federally sponsored materials engineering research.
- The biggest climbs were to 10th from 17th in federally sponsored engineering research and to 23rd from 30th in all sponsored engineering research.
- In Ohio, UD ranks No. 1 among all colleges and universities for all sponsored materials engineering research and development, federally sponsored engineering research and development, and Department of Defense research and development.
- Among the nation's Catholic universities, UD maintained its first-place rankings for all sponsored engineering research and development and all sponsored materials engineering research and development.

The University of Dayton Research Institute employs approximately 550 full-time and part-time, benefits-eligible professional researchers, technicians and administrative staff. Nearly 100 faculty and 300 students also engage in sponsored research.

—Shawn Robinson
Welcome to Curran Place

The University has renamed the 1700 South Patterson Building, which once housed the NCR Corp. world headquarters, as Daniel J. Curran Place in honor of the past president who presided over one of the most consequential eras of growth in the University’s history.

Through the vision and leadership of Curran, who stepped down as president in 2016 after serving 14 years, investments and initiatives doubled the University’s physical footprint and strategically positioned it as a leader in higher education nationally and globally.

During Curran’s tenure, the University purchased in 2005 and 2009 a total of 164 acres of land from NCR and turned it into the hottest economic development area in the region, attracting the $51 million GE Aviation EPISCenter and the $35 million Emerson Helix Innovation Center. Those facilities created high-value jobs for the region and exceptional opportunities for academic and research collaborations for UD’s faculty, staff and students.

The acquisition from NCR included buildings with a total of roughly 1 million square feet of space. The University of Dayton Research Institute found room to grow in the former NCR world headquarters. Fitz Hall — named after former president Brother Raymond L. Fitz, S.M., ’64 — became home to the School of Education and Health Sciences; academic departments with coursework in art, design, theater, dance, performance technology, music, electro-optics and photonics; the Hanley Sustainability Institute; the innovative Dayton Early College Academy; facilities management; and public safety. It also houses the archives and artwork of the Marian Library’s world-class collection.

Curran currently serves as University president emeritus and is executive-in-residence for Asian affairs for the University of Dayton China Institute in Suzhou, China. He also continues to teach. The University will formally dedicate the building as Daniel J. Curran Place in May.

—Cilla Shindell

A new neighborhood

A 24-hour place where people live, work, learn and play. A walkable neighborhood that integrates sustainability, advanced technology and unique amenities. An innovation platform, where creative ideas for health care, energy, education, housing, business creation and thriving neighborhoods can be demonstrated and tested.

All this and more is part of the preliminary vision for the 38-acre site of the former Montgomery County fairgrounds. The University of Dayton and Premier Health shared the vision for a new kind of neighborhood that builds on Dayton’s history of innovation and entrepreneurship during a Jan. 25 public meeting. The neighborhood is designed to propel the region’s next wave of jobs and opportunity, said Jamie Greene, principal of planning at NEXT, the urban design firm working to develop a master plan for the area.

Said UD President Eric F. Spina, “There is a great deal of excitement about where we are. The overall direction and thrust identified by planning NEXT feel authentic and right for the site and for Dayton. We’re beginning to see the shape of a place that’s like no other in the region.”

Right on the money

Two recent rankings place the University of Dayton among the best for your buck.

In the February issue of Kiplinger’s Personal Finance, UD appears as a “best value” for exceptional academic quality and affordability. The magazine examined the cost and quality of 1,200 institutions, including data on the admission, graduation and retention rates; the faculty-to-student ratio; average student debt; and graduates’ median earnings after 10 years. The magazine included UD among its top 300 best-value schools.

The Princeton Review named UD among the top “Colleges That Pay You Back” in its 2018 book by the same name, based on academics, affordability and graduates’ career prospects. Editors developed a return on investment rating based on data including graduation rates, student debt, financial aid, and alumni salaries and job satisfaction. Among 200 schools profiled, the University ranked 17th in the nation for internship opportunities.

UD has a 15-to-1 student-faculty ratio, a 96 percent graduate success rate within six months of graduation and an undergraduate tuition guarantee that helped reduce the loan debt of the Class of 2017 by $6 million.
Speakers who shared with us their words,

“I say to the bad people, the bad actors in this country, to those that support the Nazi movement and the white supremacy movement, I say to them, we are coming. ... We are coming to stop you because we got Rosa Parks at our back. We are coming to stop you because we have Trayvon Martin at our back. ... We will meet you at the barricades. We will meet you on the highways. We will meet you on the roadways. We will meet you in the alleys. This is a two-party government, a two-party political system. We win at the ballot box, not by violence. We're not like them.”

WIL HAYGOOD,
New York Times bestselling author and reporter whose 2008 Washington Post story became the basis for the film The Butler, during his address at the annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Breakfast

2018 Lackner Awards

A love of science led Margaret Pinnell ’88 to a career in engineering. Using her skills to help others transformed that career into a vocation to benefit her students, UD and the global community.

Pinnell is one of two recipients of the 2018 Lackner Awards, among the highest awards given annually to faculty and staff. The rector’s office names recipients who have made noteworthy contributions to the Catholic, Marianist character of the University.

A three-time UD engineering graduate, Pinnell started teaching at UD full time in 2001. She developed an interest in the intersection of engineering and community engagement after learning about the ETHOS (Engineers in Technical Humanitarian Opportunities of Service-learning) program. Pinnell was involved for 10 years and served as acting director.

“It was something I was incredibly passionate about,” said Pinnell, an associate professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering. “ETHOS has very Marianist roots.”

Paul Vanderburgh, associate provost for graduate academic affairs, has brought a Marianist sensibility to his recent work growing UD’s graduate programs.

A professor in the field of applied physiology since 1995, Vanderburgh oversaw as chair of the Department of Health and Sport Science the addition of the Doctor of Physical Therapy degree program. Most recently, Vanderburgh has fostered partnerships with 2U, an education technology company, to offer online degrees that remain true to the University’s hallmark of learning in community.

“There’s a special sauce at UD that sometimes is hard to put your finger on,” said Vanderburgh. “But the way we approach our work, the way we interact and the opportunities that we have to really think about our mission and identity and spend time with others talking about it, that’s really a blessing.”

—Shannon Shelton Miller

New online offerings in education

Educators seeking skills and licensure needed to move into leadership and administrative positions in the education field now have a new distance education choice with a Marianist feel.

The inaugural cohort for the online Master of Science in Education in Educational Leadership will begin meeting in May. Application deadline for the May start is April 6.

Students will attend live, weekly online courses taught by School of Education and Health Sciences faculty and engage with interactive course content that will also be available on a mobile platform, extending the community learning environment so valued on campus. Additional coursework is available for students also seeking principal licensure.

The online graduate program was developed in partnership with 2U, an education technology company that also developed UD’s online MBA program and is working on future offerings in education.

“The online MSE will prepare education professionals to become extraordinary leaders ready to take on today’s complex challenges in service to their students, their communities and beyond,” said Dean Kevin Kelly.
“We put an incredible amount of federal, state and local resources into segregation. And when we talk about desegregation, we spend nearly none.”

NIKOLE HANNAH-JONES, 2017 MacArthur Fellow and journalist who covers racial injustice, during a conversation at the School of Law on school segregation; Hannah-Jones delivered the annual Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. address Jan. 23

“Personalization makes website visitors feel more special. ... It is that one-to-one relationship that makes people feel like the brand knows them.”

NEIL ROBLE, digital marketing manager at Huffy Corp., speaking to students in marketing courses taught by lecturer Irene Dickey

“Finding similarities can be one of the most powerful things you can do to connect with other people who are different.”

MELISSA SNOZA spoke on listening to voices unlike our own during a lecture in Sears Recital Hall that also included a performance on flute from this founding member of Fifth House Ensemble contemporary chamber group

“Engineers can help bring order to chaos, and we have unique technical skills that apply to disaster response needs.”

ROD BEADLE, executive director of Engineers in Action; during Engineers Week, he discussed service-learning opportunities and shared his disaster response work, including after the 2010 earthquake in Haiti and 2017 hurricanes in Dominica.
Global voices

“Asking what it means to be human, not what it means to be a white or black human, is one of the most fundamental questions asked on the University of Dayton campus,” said Julius Amin, Alumni Chair in Humanities. “Human nature transcends race and national boundaries, and globalization forces us to become informed and adjust to the world we live in.”

In April, President Eric F. Spina announced the vision to be The University for the Common Good. With this objective in mind, Amin organized the Global Voices Symposium in January, which used stories to spark conversation about the characteristics that unite rather than divide us.

As a Catholic, Marianist university, UD has a “sacred obligation” to be an inclusive community that prepares students for the globalized world, Amin said: “Globalization is here; there is no going back.”

Among those featured on the symposium’s panels were faculty from the Center for Social Concern and the Office of Study Abroad; international students from China, Saudi Arabia and Congo; and domestic students who have traveled to nontraditional destinations like Ghana, Ecuador and India.

“These conversations ensure UD continues to develop to be the University we will always be proud of,” Amin said. “Just the physical presence of people from different backgrounds sparks change.”

As an immigrant from Cameroon and a history faculty member for more than 20 years, Amin said he has found conversation is the beginning of integrating voices on campus.

“This is our university,” Amin said. “Let us always celebrate achievement, but let us know the University can always do better.”

—Danielle Damon ’18

Stories of struggle, belonging

The Global Voices Symposium concluded with a keynote address by award-winning author and Cameroonian immigrant Imbolo Mbue.

“America gives immigrants a lot, but also takes a lot out of them,” said Mbue, whose book Behold the Dreamers explores the themes of race, immigration and class through the stories of two families and their pursuit of the American Dream.

Mbue shared how immigrants, even after becoming U.S. citizens, can struggle to feel at home. She named two of those who made her feel especially welcome: the clergy member who invited her over for Easter, and a friend from class whose family hosted Thanksgiving dinner.

It was those who listened to her story without judgement, and those who shared their own stories with her, that let her know she belonged, she said: “All people have stories that should be listened to.”
Megan Shoda Saksa ‘07 writes, “Andy and I got married June 17 and traveled around Scandinavia for our honeymoon, visiting Copenhagen, Stockholm and Abisko National Park in northern Sweden, where we enjoyed reading the UD Magazine 120 miles north of the Arctic Circle. In Stockholm, we also visited the Vasa Museum, home to the world’s only preserved 17th century ship, which sank on its maiden voyage in 1628.”

Kristina Ivas ‘15 took her UD Magazine with her on a recent trip to Cuba.

Mary Hymans Riordan ‘69 joined six other UD alumni in Los Angeles in September and visited Serra Cross Park in Ventura, California. Pictured from left are: Patricia Mayer, Barbara Pier White, Margaret Boucard Matthews, Elaine Jelly, Mary, Chris Carpenter Cannon and Chris Schweickart Garnes.

Steve Merz ‘73 and his wife, Elaine, recently took a trip to Hawaii, visiting the islands of Kauai and Oahu. Steve writes that the “highlight of our trip was from the Pearl Harbor tour on Oahu where we saw the USS Missouri and the USS Arizona. This must-see tour will, no doubt, leave indelible patriotic memories of a historic moment in our nation’s history. Having UD Magazine and a UD hat with me made for an even more special event.”

Katie Webb Blank ‘87, Tom Blank ‘88 and daughter Natalie Blank (Class of 2020) took their UD Magazine with them to Plaza Mayor in Spain. Natalie is studying this semester in Madrid with UD’s SAIL intercultural leadership program.

Emily Steelman Overturf ‘04 took her family and UD Magazine to the “Most Magical Place on Earth” to visit Mickey Mouse and some of his friends at Walt Disney World in Florida.

Kate Quirk Goggin ’69 and Elaine Shivok Diamond ’69 volunteered by helping feed Thailand’s revered elephant community. They also traveled to Cambodia to help teach English in an outreach school. They completed their journey by touring Hanoi, Vietnam. The experience, Kate said, was magical.

Karen Wurmser ’74 writes, “Alumni from the Classes of 1974 and 1975 went to Utah in October to hike in two of the national parks. We visited Bryce Canyon and Zion National Park. The picture shows us almost to the top of Angel’s Landing in Zion National Park.” Pictured: (back row) Bill Bianco, Karen Wurmser, Joe Waymeyer and Steve Tomassi; (front) Ann Bianco, Mike Miller, Joe Fink and Larry Fitzpatrick.

Meg Davis Edwards ’98 and Keith Edwards ’99 enjoyed a Mediterranean cruise with their family in June. They write, “Our trip included stops in Spain, Italy and France. We took a side trip to Monaco and showed our UD spirit at the Monte Carlo Casino with our three daughters, Abby, 11, Kate, 11, and Olivia, 9.”

Jo Balsamo Wood ’79 writes, “Members of the Class of ’79 were reading UD Magazine in Selbyville, Delaware, at a 60th birthday reunion of UD friends. Pictured are: (back row) Nancy Roach, Jo Balsamo Wood, Jean Donegan Vrabel, Sue Shaw Poland and Karen Meaney; (front) Judy Eberle Rettinger and Debbie Krzemien Keenan.

Carol Stechsulchte Jahn ’98 and Matt Jahn ’01 took a cruise to the bottom of Niagara Falls. She writes, “We were soaked and our UD Magazine didn’t survive. But the pure awesomeness of the falls made for an amazing ride.” The couple lives in Kettering, Ohio, and Carol is looking forward to celebrating her 20th reunion this summer.

Steve Shiparski ’88 pulled up his UD Magazine on his phone while visiting Bath, England, with his wife for their 27th wedding anniversary.
Data to steer diversity, inclusion plan

In 2018, the University of Dayton is ramping up efforts to foster a more diverse, equitable and inclusive campus by launching a comprehensive assessment to guide the development of a universitywide strategic plan.

Halualani & Associates will conduct a two-part assessment of the campus climate covering a five-year period from Jan. 1, 2013, to May 1, 2018.

“These diversity mapping and surveying processes will provide the campus community with an opportunity to identify strengths, challenges and opportunities in our efforts to advance our Catholic, Marianist mission and our commitment to inclusive excellence,” said Lawrence Burnley, vice president for diversity and inclusion. “The data we collect will help inform the development of a comprehensive strategic plan for diversity, equity and inclusion.”

The first part of the assessment is a data-driven, diversity mapping initiative and includes an evaluation of all diversity, inclusion, and inclusive excellence efforts and programs during the last five years. The second piece, a campus experience study, will launch in August.

The President’s Diversity and Inclusion Assessment Task Force will use the data collected to develop a framework that will inform a comprehensive strategic plan for the University’s diversity, equity and inclusion efforts.

Take a Break With … Khadeja Farahmand

Her dream was to be a lawyer in Afghanistan. Instead, Khadeja Farahmand found herself having to flee her country. With a law degree earned in India and the help of the Asylee Women Enterprise organization in Baltimore, she regrouped and discovered a new road to her future through the Master of Laws program at UD, from which she’ll graduate in May.

Who introduced you to UD?

While I was at Asylee Women Enterprise, I was invited to a conference with the Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart in Baltimore. That’s where I met Sister Angela Ann Zukowski, M.H.S.H., from UD. Sister Angela saw that I was studying law books and asked me my goals and if I was applying to law schools. For the entire three days of the conference, I kept talking to her. I told her about how I ended up in Baltimore after fleeing Afghanistan from death threats and persecution. A week later I received an email from Sister Angela connecting me to Tan Boston, director of the LL.M. program at the University of Dayton School of Law.

Why did you receive death threats?

After studying law in India, I taught leadership courses in Kabul, Afghanistan, to around 600 women who were both courageous and intelligent. The program was designed to enable women to become the future leaders in government, business and civil society. I was committed to positive social change and advocating for women’s rights in all aspects of society in Afghanistan, but the Taliban doesn’t believe in educating women, so I ended up seeking asylum in the United States.

What about your students back home?

When I left, I was worried about my students, and I didn’t want them to feel disappointed. So, I constantly was thinking, “How can I help and keep in touch with them?” I created an online group and started sending them photos just to give them a broader view of the world and to remind them that we can all change our communities. I shared photos of courageous American women — from Lady Gaga to bus drivers to members of Congress.

Did you feel courageous when you reached the United States?

Actually, I felt really hopeless. I was alone. I left everyone I knew in Afghanistan. I had no money for school. It wasn’t until I met Sister Angela that I allowed myself to dream that things could still change. Within three weeks of her connecting me with Ms. Boston, I was accepted into the LL.M. program. It was unbelievable. I can’t put in words how happy I was that day. And it wasn’t just me. It provided hope to all of the women who were with me in Baltimore. The other women started applying to schools immediately.

What’s next for you?

I’m looking forward to getting a job in government, at the United Nations or any private firm. Ultimately, I want to find work through which I can support the deprived section of Afghan society as much as possible. I want to pave the way for women in Afghanistan to learn and earn more, to know their rights and become independent in society. I want to make them feel and understand that women are not less than men in every aspect of life. Rather, we are much stronger.

—Michael Dunekacke
Cross our heart
$1.5M funds Flyer Promise

William Tweed ’70 and his wife, Jan, have donated $1.5 million to endow a Flyer Promise scholarship as part of a new program that removes financial barriers for high-achieving underrepresented students at partner high schools.

The Flyer Promise Scholars program launched this year with 42 students from the Dayton Early College Academy, Chaminade Julienne High School in Dayton and the Colegio San José, a high school in Puerto Rico.

Tweed said he chose the program for his gift because he wants to make a difference for students like himself. Born and raised in Cleveland, Tweed said he was a first-generation college student from a low-income family.

“I had the chance to come to campus and meet the Flyer Promise Scholars,” he said. “Before this program, these students were continually told they couldn’t and they wouldn’t — they faced long odds and difficult circumstances. I went through that same thing when I was young. I was told I couldn’t.”

Tweed said he received important help to pay for his education. He had grants and loans, and he worked two jobs each summer to earn money for tuition. But he also points to the help of generous people, such as the mother of one of his fraternity brothers in Alpha Phi Alpha, who loaned him $500 in 1968 when his student loan fell through, and also his six fraternity brothers who paid his room and board at the fraternity house for him for which he assisted in house duties.

“I’m thankful for all the support I received. Now I want to pay all that back as much as I can, especially for students who don’t have the ability to pay the high cost of college today,” he said. “I think the impact of this program is going to be far greater than any of us can imagine.”

—Meagan Pant

Making our difference

From Dayton-area teachers to an entertainment-industry titan, supporters with a collective passion for UD helped make a difference this past year — a difference valued at $162 million in University scholarships and grants awarded to deserving students in 2017.

The Division of Advancement’s annual impact report explores the many ways donors make a difference in the lives of current and future Flyers. To see how students’ lives are changed through gifts, visit your.udayton.edu/impact-2017.

Connecting engineers

With a $2 million award from the Kern Family Foundation, the School of Engineering will strengthen its ties to industry and the community while continuing to work toward graduating engineers with entrepreneurial mindsets.

Since 2008, more than 4,000 UD students have benefited from the School of Engineering’s partnership in the Kern Entrepreneurial Engineering Network. KEEN is a national coalition of universities with the mission of graduating engineers with entrepreneurial mindsets and tools to create personal, economic and societal value through their work. This latest support will allow the school to:

- Hire industry and community liaisons
- Engage at least 20 industry and community partners and 30 engineering faculty
- Impact 50 courses
- Arrange more opportunities for students to visit companies
- Facilitate three faculty workshops on bringing industry and community experiences to the classroom
- Develop a digital toolkit for KEEN partners

Said School of Engineering Dean Eddy Rojas, “By providing students a broader understanding of the corporate and community enterprises, they can learn how their knowledge can be impactful beyond just engineering.”
Jenna Lakes  
@Jenna_Lakes15

Yesterday in the @univofdayton mailroom we post marked and shipped out acceptance letters and it made me so giddy and happy remembering when I got mine. Eek I can’t wait for the new lil flyers to join the family 🙏❤️📚❤️

Dr. Holly Hatcher-Frazier  
@dancemomholly

FBF – My first Flyers basketball game last week!! @universityofdayton

Eric F. Spina  
@DaytonPrezSpina

Congrats to the fabulous researchers @univofdayton and its @UDRI_1 who have enabled UD to set a record for sponsored research. Take a look at the magnitude of funded research going on...you will be impressed! (and the impact is real!) udayton.co/Exo

Alex Burchfield  
@alexburchfield

Typing this over a monster cookie in the building Matt and I met in 5 years ago. Tonight we had our engagement photos taken here as well. Life is crazy. And I am crazy thankful 🖤❤️ flyerstofiances

Emily Denlinger  
@eujdayton

Legos? Hot Wheels? Nerf? Nah. He spent most of the afternoon drawing up plays. Future coach? @DaytonMBB @tlanders_03 @DavidPJablonski @DaytonRudyFlyer @univofdayton

Addie Rumer  
@addierumer

Missing my roomies and this place ❤️

Univ of Dayton Mag  
@daymag

Ready and waiting for 1,000 snow angels. photo by Kristin Davis ’18 #FlyerEye

University of Dayton: ACCEPTED ✅

Brayden Stegemiller  
@stegemillerb

Love what I’m hearing these ESPN announcers say about UD. Makes me proud I go there @univofdayton

Cara Rasmussen  
@cara_rasmussen

Got accepted to the UD China Institute today!! @univofdayton

UD Alumni  
@UDaytonAlumni

Life is better with #foreverflyers by your side!

marybethmccabe  
@marybethmccabe

@daymag loved the Paying it Forward story on Bill Stankey. UD gave me a chance, too. They invested in life. Many thanks.

Kathy Weisenbach  
@WeisenbachKathy

A true blessing to work at UDRI!

Rachel.  
@h_achel

Sooooo ready to be back at @univofdayton
Safe landing

Once graduates take off from UD, they are finding safe landings in professions within their fields of study. Those are the results of the 2016-17 Flyer First Destination Survey, conducted by UD career services.

Ninety-five percent of recent University of Dayton alumni receiving undergraduate degrees — those who graduated in August 2016, December 2016 and May 2017 — reported success within six months of graduation in employment, service in military, volunteer positions, graduate school or post-graduate internships. Of those employed, 96 percent report working full time, and 88 percent report working in their field of study.

In the first six years of the survey, from 2011 to 2017, first destination success rates have met or exceeded the 95 percent mark.

Just because they flew doesn’t mean they all went far. The largest destination in the past year was the University of Dayton, where 141 graduates enrolled in graduate school and 15 were hired by UD or the UD Research Institute. Nearly half of graduates found employment.

Other top destinations demonstrate the diversity of opportunities available to UD graduates; General Electric, the Society of Mary and the U.S. Army each welcomed 17 Flyers from the graduating cohort.

2016-17 post-graduation success by school

- **94%** College of Arts and Sciences
- **95%** School of Business Administration
- **96%** School of Engineering
- **97%** School of Education & Health Sciences

Success destinations

2016-17 graduates

- **21.3%** Graduate school
- **2.4%** Volunteer or service
- **1.5%** Post-graduation internship
- **1.3%** Military service
- **68.3%** Employed

For love and laughter

“I imagine there’s a grand reunion going on right now.”

The words of daughter Betsy Bombeck brought a smile to those gathered Jan. 28 at a Phoenix chapel to celebrate the life of Bill Bombeck ’50.

Dayton-born educator and widower of the celebrated humorist Erma Fiste Bombeck ’49, Bill Bombeck died Jan. 12 after a bout with pneumonia. He was 90.

Family and friends spoke of Bill Bombeck’s selflessness, humor, generosity, humility, love for family and passion for education.

“Stories that my mom liked to tell about him always revolved around my dad’s honesty and his integrity,” said son Matt Bombeck, remembering when his dad stopped during a snowstorm to help people stranded on the side of the road or called a family the next day to check on a student he had disciplined in the principal’s office.

Son Andy Bombeck called his dad “a very funny guy” who “gave my mom plenty of material and, contrary to what you might think, he loved it.”

A high school social studies and English teacher who later served as a principal, Bill Bombeck began a second career in volunteerism and philanthropy upon retirement.

As national chair of disaster services for the American Red Cross, he aided victims of disasters. When Erma Bombeck died from complications following a kidney transplant in 1996, he started the Erma Bombeck Organ Donor Awareness Project through the Arizona Kidney Foundation. He co-chaired the University of Dayton’s Call to Lead Campaign in the 1990s, donating $1 million to transform the campus child care center into the Bombeck Family Learning Center, an early childhood demonstration school. And he helped launch the Erma Bombeck Writers’ Workshop at UD in 2000.

The family held a private graveside service in March. The April Writers’ Workshop will be dedicated to Bill Bombeck.

—Teri Rizvi
Dream(era) to teach

They are Dreamers, refugees and other men and women who have returned to their native countries or been deported from the U.S. Today, while their futures may seem uncertain, they have a new opportunity: to earn a certificate from the University of Dayton that will allow them to teach English as a foreign language and create a pathway to a new life.

Fifteen people are enrolled in the inaugural Dreamers Program, a partnership based in Mexico between the University; Grupo SM, a publishing company based in Spain; and its foundation, Fundación SM. The program was created to help meet the demand for English teachers in Mexico, where the government now requires children to begin learning the language in preschool, and to provide opportunities for people who face challenges because of changing U.S. immigration laws.

The six-month program, which includes in-person instruction in Mexico City as well as online coursework, will prepare the students to teach children and adults. Each person received a scholarship from Fundación SM.

Raul Becerril spent most of his childhood in California. His parents brought him to the United States when he was 2 years old, but the family returned to Mexico when he was 15 to pursue job opportunities.

Becerril began teaching English after high school and instantly knew he found his calling when one of his students hugged him and said, “I love learning English.” Though he has the language skills to teach, he lacks the instructional credential many schools desire.

“With this certificate, I will be better prepared as an English teacher,” Becerril said.

While students like Becerril have previous experience in the classroom, most have been employed outside education or hold degrees in other areas.

“There is a real strength in these students’ binational, bicultural experience, and we know it will be highly valuable to the young people who study under them,” said Brenna Seifried, program coordinator for the UD English Language Institute, which was established in partnership with Grupo SM.

After the first program ends in July, the partner organizations plan to build on its success with future classes for displaced students. More information on the University’s Teaching English as a Foreign Language Certificate is available at udayton.edu/international/connect/udel.

—Meagan Pant

Fast track to a legal career

Students can now achieve a bachelor’s degree and law degree in as little as five years, rather than the usual seven years, through the School of Law’s 3+2 program. It is believed to be just one of two such programs in the nation.

“This will shave a year of tuition and two years of living expenses for students, plus allow them to enter the workforce and start their earning clocks two years sooner,” said School of Law Dean Andrew Strauss.

The School of Law has inked an agreement with the University of Dayton department of communication, capitalizing on synergies in faculty research and student preparation in media law and the First Amendment. UD also has agreements with the University of St. Francis in Fort Wayne, Indiana; Walsh University in North Canton, Ohio; and Mount St. Joseph University in Cincinnati.

Accepted students first apply to their undergraduate institution and earn provisional acceptance to the UD School of Law. The first three years will be at the students’ originating schools. The fourth and fifth years will be in Dayton where students will complete their bachelor’s degrees by satisfying undergraduate electives with credits from the first year of law school.
By Thomas M. Columbus

The shipyard, auto plant and steel mill are gone. But Lorain remains Ohio’s 10th-largest city.

In Louisville, the largest city in Kentucky, college basketball is king — and queen.

Coolville, Ohio, does not have a stop sign.

The hometowns of Alex Harris, JaVonna Layfield and Jenna Burdette are very different. But, according to head coach Shauna Green, the three seniors on the Flyers women’s basketball team have one thing in common: “You know what you are going to get out of them every single night.”

And what that is has been very, very good.

Though the backgrounds of the three have many differences, the common factor of basketball has drawn them together.

Harris has always loved basketball.

“Even before kindergarten, a basketball hoop was her favorite toy,” her mother, Sandra Wright, said.

Harris’ first day of kindergarten was the first day of high school for her sister, Shayla Wright. The two were very close, partially because their mother worked two jobs. Kindergarten for Harris marked not only the beginning of school but the beginning of intensely following her sister’s basketball career.

Harris rode the team bus to games. As her sister recalled, Harris “sat on the end of the bench. Our coach called her our ‘little mascot.’” Later playing for the same high school, Harris — who, unlike her sister, grew to be 6-foot-3 — would pull in more than 1,000 rebounds.

“She’s so intense on the court,” Linda Bradshaw, her partner and longtime friend, said, “but not off. She’s the nicest person I know.”

That opinion is apparently shared by her niece. “Alex is her favorite person in the world,” Shayla Wright said. “When Alex is around, no one else exists.”

Harris is shy, her sister said. And quiet, according to her mother, who said that Penn State, where Harris went to school for two
years, “was too big, considering where she’s from. She doesn’t show much emotion, but she did get homesick.”

Transferring to Dayton brought her closer to home and, her sister said, “brought out her full potential.”

At Dayton she would join the outgoing Layfield and the taciturn Burdette, two players whose freshman homesickness was the subject of a Dayton Daily News article in 2015 by Tom Archdeacon ’72. He described the first time that the roommates Burdette and Layfield caught each other crying. They hugged each other.

Layfield was born in Louisville, Kentucky, with basketball in her blood. Athletes run on both sides of her family; one uncle played for Louisville.

High-spirited and energetic, Layfield was always doing some activity. Her mother, Shan neca O’Bannon, said, “We told her, ‘You have to do something, whether it’s sport or debate. You don’t come home and sit on the couch.’”

“We were trying to tire her out,” her grandmother, Gail O’Bannon, said.

Like Harris, Layfield “was a big kid,” her mother said. “Through grade school and
middle school she played with her back to the basket." Then she stopped growing, prompting her AAU coach to work with her on playing facing the basket.

She learned that well, her senior year being named by the Louisville Courier-Journal First Team All-State. But having lived her whole life in Louisville, “she wasn’t sure about leaving,” her mother said. She considered staying in town and attending Bellarmine University, an NCAA Division II school.

Freshman year at Dayton was a struggle for her, her mother said, adding, “I struggled, too, but I didn’t let her see it. When she became fine, I did, too.

“But someone here in Louisville still has to hear her voice every day.”

Often that someone is her grandmother who, when they talk, makes sure Layfield is going to church.

“My mom,” Layfield’s mother said, “would live in the dorm with JaVonna if she could.”

And grandmother did make a lot of trips to Dayton that freshman year.

As did members of the Burdette family. Coolville may be a lot different from Louisville, but one thing they do have in common — four years ago each had a future Flyer star who was not eager to leave her hometown.

Coolville, according to Jonathan Burdette, Jenna’s older brother, “is in the middle of nowhere.” More precisely it is in southeast Ohio, 30 miles from Ohio University in Athens, where Jonathan attends school.

And it is, as Jill Burdette, Jenna’s mother, said, “half an hour from any store.”

Growing up, Jenna and Jonathan would show cattle from their grandfather’s farm. “Jenna would always take animals to the county fair,” Jonathan said.

By Shannon Shelton Miller

For a few days in March, UD Arena becomes more than just another venue hosting a major national sporting event. It turns into a 13,000-seat classroom.

During the First Four, the opening round of the NCAA Division I men’s basketball tournament, UD students work behind the scenes with the Division of Athletics to assist with communications, facilities management, ticketing, athletic training and other functions necessary for successful event execution. Student journalists from University of Dayton Magazine also attend to cover the event for the alumni audience.

And, during the last three years, the First Four has given one class an opportunity to integrate the NCAA tournament into its regular course work. Students from a sports media class spend an afternoon at the Arena attending press conferences, observing reporters at work and taking in the pregame buzz before that night’s First Four games.

The students, mostly juniors and seniors, are sport management majors in the Department of Health and Sport Science in the School of Education and Health Sciences. Their class helps students understand the role of media and communications in the sports and recreation industry and prepares them for careers in the field.

“This is a great opportunity for students to take a look behind the scenes at a major sporting event,” said JoAn Scott, managing director of the NCAA Division I men’s basketball championship. “The University of Dayton does a great job in organizing and hosting the First Four games, and these students get a first-hand look at what it takes to conduct such a huge event.”

Doug Hauschild, director of athletics communications, works with the NCAA to secure short-term passes for the 10 to 15 students who attend the media availability. They arrive shortly after
And the two would play basketball.

For AAU ball, Jenna traveled 80 miles to Huntington, West Virginia, to play for the West Virginia Thunder; while she was playing for the team, it won its first national championship.

At Reedsville Eastern High School (enrollment about 200), Jenna's coach was her dad, John. Jenna was four times first-team All-Ohio. In her senior year, she was Division IV Player of the Year, and Reedsville won the state championship.

When the time for college came, her mother said, Jenna made lists of what she wanted and did not want. She was looking for a relatively small Division I school. Dayton was within a three-hour drive; she liked the coaches; and the team needed a point guard.

She did for a while think, her mother said, that she'd be the only member of her class on the team. Then she had a roommate and teammate named Layfield — and two years later another teammate named Harris.

Their junior year, Harris' first on the court, saw the Flyers, for the first time in program history, win both the A-10 regular season and championship titles. This year, as seniors, they went on a 16-game winning streak to again grab the A-10 regular season title, only to lose in the tournament semifinals to George Washington, 58-53. The seniors then turned their eyes toward a possible at-large bid in the NCAA tournament, in hopes of another day to play, together.

noon on Tuesday and attend the press conferences for the teams scheduled to play on Wednesday. The passes give students access to the media workroom, the press conference area, locker rooms and courtside media seating, where they can observe open practices and talk to professional communicators at work.

In 2017, students chatted with CBS/ Turner Sports broadcaster and former NBA/college basketball star Steve Smith, who shared stories about his broadcast career and his pregame prep routine.

Since 2001, UD Arena has hosted at least one game in the NCAA men's basketball tournament, from the play-in game that ran 2001-10 to the First Four, which started in 2011 and is guaranteed to take place in Dayton until 2022. The facility has also hosted first- and second-round games in the men's tournament and regional games in the women's tournament. Because of the Arena's prolific record as a tournament venue, UD students have been able to list NCAA tournament experience on their résumés in the relevant experience category, sometimes for four consecutive years.

“March Madness is a three-week run of tremendous college basketball, with many eyes of the nation and the world focused on the games,” Scott said. “We are happy to extend the students this opportunity, and who knows, one or more of them might be interested enough to someday work in event or media operations and maybe even on this tournament.”

Shannon Shelton Miller has served as the instructor for HSS 353: Sports Media and launched the student site visit during the 2016 First Four.

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Barnes, Rolfe, Whilding named new Flyer Hall of Famers

Two-time track and field All-American Mallory Barnes ’11, soccer All-American Chris Rolfe ’17 and longtime assistant football coach Dave Whilding are the newest members of the University of Dayton Athletic Hall of Fame.

Barnes, who finished sixth in the weight throw at both the 2010 and 2011 NCAA Indoor Championships, led the Flyers to Atlantic 10 Indoor Track and Field championships in each of those years. She was five times (three indoor, two outdoor) Most Outstanding Field Performer at Atlantic 10 Championships.

Despite a series of injuries during his 2002-05 UD playing career, Rolfe remains the UD career record holder in assists with 25; his 10 assists in 2004 are the single season record. He is also sixth in career goals with 31. As a professional, he was twice named his MLS team’s Most Valuable Player — in 2012 with the Chicago Fire and in 2015 with D.C. United.

From 1977 to 2011, Dave Whilding was a UD assistant football coach. For 31 years, he coached quarterbacks; for 29, he was offensive coordinator. During his 35 seasons, Dayton was never shut out. During those years the Flyers won 11 Pioneer League titles and were four times national champions (NCAA Division III in 1980 and 1989 and NCAA I-AA Mid-Major in 2002 and 2007).

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- Tyler Adgalanis, a senior on the men’s cross country team, and Sarah Sepanski, a senior on the track and field team, won the 2018 UD Presidential Scholar-Athlete Awards, given each year to two student-athletes who demonstrate academic excellence, qualities of leadership and service to the University of Dayton community.
- Riley Tirotta, Flyer baseball third baseman, was named by Baseball America as the A-10’s Preseason Freshman of the Year.
- During the men’s cross country indoor season, sophomore J.P. Flavin set a new school record in the 5000 meters (14:35.10), and junior Chris Negri set the mile record (4:07.53).
- Senior Jenni Rossi was named Most Outstanding Field Performer of the Atlantic 10 Women’s Indoor Track and Field Championships, finishing first in the weight throw and shot put. Overall, the Flyers placed third.

For more Flyers sports information, visit DaytonFlyers.com.
God in the chaos: Reflections on Iraq and faith

By Jesse Bowman '06

The bullet left a small entry wound, but when the man was turned over, I realized he was missing a large part of the back of his head — an empty void where his hair, flesh, skull and brain should have been. The force of the bullet must have been terrific. I remember the blood that poured onto the concrete when he was pulled from the pickup truck. I knew my mind was unraveling when I sat and stared at the trail of blood long after he was carried away. I do not know why this particular murder affected me so deeply because I had seen much worse. After all, it was just another discarded body from the streets of Baghdad. I was a 23-year-old platoon leader far removed from Dayton.

It was 2007, and the level of sectarian bloodletting in Iraq was beyond crisis level. The killing between Shiite and Sunni factions was accentuated with bullets, car bombs and improvised explosive devices directed at American forces. Four years had passed since the initial invasion of Iraq, and the United States was struggling to hand over control of the country to the Iraqi government. The military response at the time was a "surge" of 20,000 soldiers. I was one of those soldiers, a paratrooper with the Second Brigade Combat Team of the 82nd Airborne Division.

Just a few months before, I was finishing my senior year at UD and completing the last steps to become a commissioned officer through our University’s Army R.O.T.C. program. I had entered the program a year after the attacks of Sept. 11,
2001. Like many, I remember that day well. I was a senior in high school. My teacher turned on our classroom television, and the reception alternated between wavy black-and-white images and fully scrambled dots. Although distorted, I recognized the Twin Towers engulfed in smoke and flames. For me and for many future soldiers, it was the day Graham Greene's novel *The Power and the Glory* describes: There is always one moment in childhood when the door opens and lets the future in. As the smoke cleared, the day's images, far from distorted, were played on an endless high-definition loop. I felt anger, even hatred.

When I started at UD, the United States was already fighting in Afghanistan and the case for an invasion of Iraq, with its “weapons of mass destruction,” was being built. I knew little about the history of either country but did know the talking points for why we were fighting a “global war on terrorism.” I did not spend a lot of time thinking through the justification for either conflict. It did not matter. I was ready, even eager, to fight. I was naïve.

The purpose of the troop surge was to bring U.S. soldiers together with Iraqi forces to quell the violence in Baghdad and regain control of the city. Up to this point in the war, U.S. soldiers largely lived on massive bases far removed from the battlefield. These bases, replete with gyms, cafeterias, coffee shops, convenience stores, and Pizza Huts, were small-town America dropped into the desert. With the troop surge, we moved off these bases and into accommodations side-by-side with Iraqi forces in the same neighborhoods we were charged to protect and bring order to. Only razor wire and barriers several feet wide separated us from the outside. We referred to it as the Wild West, but it felt more like an island.

Our base was an active Iraqi police station, with an Iraqi army unit next door. Inside the front door, once past the police chief’s office, was the building’s only jail cell. I never went in, but at times I would peer through the iron bars at the top of the door. The smell would always strike me first. My eyes would then slowly adjust to the darkened, dirty, bare cell. Disheveled prisoners sat on the floor with bowls of leftover food and what I can only presume was human waste.

Past the cell, through an iron door, sat an American soldier as the gatekeeper between the Iraqi and American sides of the building. Once I was past the soldier, the conference room was on my left. Inside of this room with blue peeling paint we would plan patrols and keep each other apprised of what was happening outside. The reports I heard were often horrific; I had trouble believing that God could be working in this chaos. Eventually, I stopped thinking about God altogether.

In addition to patrolling and conducting raids in our assigned area of operations, our focus was training our partnered Iraqi forces. This was a daily challenge because Iraqi forces, to completely understate the divide, operated differently than we did. Take, for example, dealing with unexploded bombs. As a general rule of thumb, American forces, unless highly trained and knowing what they are doing, do not touch them. More than once, an Iraqi police officer or soldier attempted to hand me a grenade or part of a bomb that they had taken it upon themselves to pick up off the street. By the grace of God, I am still alive.

I remember the day I realized we were fighting an unwinnable war. Shortly after arriving, our brigade conducted a massive operation to capture or kill a known bomb maker in the city. This operation involved hundreds of soldiers, with the most technologically advanced equipment available, coupled with air support and drones. Our brigade fanned out across Baghdad to find this person. Despite our impressive manpower, despite our superior equipment and despite our tactical advantages, the mission was a failure. That day I saw firsthand the absurdity of the very notion of a “global war on terrorism.” We did not have the ability to find this single bomb maker, let alone capture or kill all people in the world who use terror to impose their ideology and will upon others.

In the days and months that followed, I came face-to-face with war. The reality of war is not something to be celebrated or romanticized. There are no adequate words to describe it; cruel, brutal, evil — they all fall short. Descriptions of the human cost are the only way to begin to articulate and understand its horror. War is
Our son in a single faith, and we began to explore different church and from the beginning of our relationship she held out hope that I and that their knowledge was compatible with their faith.

I found kind, decent men. I respected that they were highly educated ist brothers who taught several of my classes. With these brothers, I what I remember, and what planted a seed in me, were the Marian ment where God cast a spotlight on me and I saw the light. Rather, the Catholic faith. While in school, I never had an epiphanic mo power beyond my own to heal me. UD was my first introduction to I had buried. I realized I needed a erything for myself.

H ope. Where did I find hope in all this? At the time, my faith was nonexistent. I was raised Methodist, but I rarely at tended church. In Iraq, I felt completely separated from God. I witnessed death and tragedy, and without faith, I had no way to process it. I had to bury it within me knowing full well that such sights, sounds and memories would not stay hidden. No matter how much I wanted to, I could not dig a hole in the sand and leave all of this pain in Iraq.

After a deployment of 15 months, I returned home — and brought the pain and memories back with me. Death was part of it, but some memories hurt much more than others. A memory that haunts me is a young girl who came to the police station a short time after she was burned. She was in the wrong place, at the wrong time, and near the wrong vehicle when it exploded. The scars covered most of her body and face, but I knew from her eyes that underneath it all was a beautiful child, a victim of a war she did not choose.

It was a simple request — she needed advanced medical care. I wrote several reports and pressed my superiors to intervene, but we never helped her. She came to me for help, and I failed her. She would be 18 years old now, and sometimes I wonder what became of her life. My heart wants to believe she obtained the care she needed and is thriving, but in my head I know that she is probably dead. Such memories, coupled with the knowledge of the level of depravity we are capable of inflicting upon one another, led to my struggles with depression and post-traumatic stress. Instead of turning toward God, my solution was to turn inward and try to make sense of everything for myself.

Three years after the surge, I left the military. With the passage of time, I was able to face the pain I had buried. I realized I needed a power beyond my own to heal me. UD was my first introduction to the Catholic faith. While in school, I never had an epiphanic moment where God cast a spotlight on me and I saw the light. Rather, what I remember, and what planted a seed in me, were the Marian ist brothers who taught several of my classes. With these brothers, I found kind, decent men. I respected that they were highly educated and that their knowledge was compatible with their faith.

UD was also where I met my wife, Michelle. She is Catholic, and from the beginning of our relationship she held out hope that I would convert. It was not until the birth of our first child that I seriously considered the possibility. We knew that we wanted to raise our son in a single faith, and we began to explore different church es to find a compromise. We started with the Methodist Church, sought middle ground in the Lutheran Church and finally found our home in the Catholic Church. Within the Catholic Church, my heart was drawn to the traditions, to the beauty of the sacraments and to the voice of moral authority in a world of relativism and indifference toward life-and-death decisions like going to war. I will be confirmed at this year’s Easter liturgy, and already Catholicism has led me to a closer relationship with God and has helped heal my brokenness from the war.

After witnessing the horror of war while serving as a chaplain on the Western Front in the First World War, Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy penned the poem “Waste” that captures the true essence of all wars, both just and unjust:

In Iraq, I felt completely separated from God. I witnessed death and tragedy, and without faith, I had no way to process it.

Waste of Muscle, waste of Brain
Waste of Patience, waste of Pain
Waste of Manhood, waste of Health
Waste of Beauty, waste of Wealth,

Waste of Blood, and waste of Tears,
Waste of Youth’s most precious years,
Waste of ways the Saints have trod,
Waste of Glory, waste of God,—
War!

Waste. Why did we wreck a country with no clear plan to fix it? What did my fellow soldiers, both Americans and Iraqis, die for? I still do not know. The surge was initially viewed as a success. The level of violence and killing in Baghdad decreased, and the country moved toward stability. But the longer the war dragged on with no satisfactory end in sight, the more public opinion turned against it. Now the war itself is either forgotten or dismissed as a “mistake.” The flag-draped coffins of 4,424 U.S. service members and the lost lives of hundreds of thousands of Iraqis are simply a “mistake.” I do not know how or why we silently acquiesced to this dismissal.

I played my part in this mistake. Ten years ago, I placed country over God and blind patriotism over truth. Today, I have discovered two truths that sustain my hope in the face of my own and my country’s brokenness. The first is that the world that Jesus walked is the same world we live in today. Both were and are violent, sinful and fallen. But God loved us enough to send his son for our redemption so that we may live a life in full communion with him. We are not so fallen that we are out of reach.

The second truth is that we participate in the body of Christ. I have always been awestruck that God became man, but before I committed to Catholicism I thought God’s physical presence ended with Jesus’ ascension into heaven. In the Catholic Church, I discovered a living, breathing presence in the people around me and within myself. With Jesus as the head, infused and energized with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Church is a force for good and love in the world that will not be extinguished by any military, bullet or bomb.

Jesse Bowman is an attorney who lives in Liberty Township, Ohio, with his wife, Michelle Carroll Bowman ’06, and their two children. This essay is adapted from his article “After the Surge,” published in the Nov. 27, 2017, issue of America.
When James Revels wants to buy broccoli, he takes a 20-minute bus ride to a Kroger grocery store and then repeats to get home. He can’t buy anything in bulk — well, he can’t buy much at all since he has to carry it home.

If Revels wants to grab groceries within walking distance, he can find such processed items as Ramen noodles, canned tuna and frozen pizza at a dollar store. It would be challenging for even the best cook to make a healthy meal from the limited selection.

Stacks of six-packs of beer, candy and soda are among the first things displayed in the dollar store’s grocery section. The healthiest things in the few aisles are bags of dry beans, jars of unsweetened apple sauce and canned turnip greens. The store doesn’t stock fresh produce.

“I try to eat healthy, but it’s not easy to access healthy food,” Revels said. “The time investment to get basic foods others could drive around the corner for is so hefty. It

No one should go hungry. Partners from campus and the community have joined together to help ensure those in Dayton and beyond can fill their plates with fresh, healthy food.

BY KRISTEN WICKER ’98
Etana Jacobi, Amaha Selassie and Lela Klein are among those planning the Gem City Market.

keeps you from your home, from your family. And it’s very hard to function if you’re not getting your daily vitamins.”

Revels lives in Dayton’s Jane Reece neighborhood, located near downtown. For Revels and so many others in the Dayton area, a pharmacy, dollar store or corner mini market are the only convenient places where they can buy food. Revels describes his choices as often expensive, usually limited — and frequently unhealthy.

This experience is known as food insecurity, a lack of access to adequate, quality food — and it’s a tremendous concern in Montgomery County and Dayton. The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s food desert finder shows many residents in Dayton and urban centers throughout Montgomery and surrounding counties don’t have access to a full-service grocery store within 1 mile of home, which is considered walking distance, or within 10 miles in rural areas. The 2017 report from Feeding America states one in six Miami Valley residents don’t know where their next meal is coming from. And Dayton ranks as the second worst city in the nation for food hardship in households with children, according to the Food Research and Action Center.

It’s a complicated problem that requires a multifaceted solution. From The Foodbank to social service agencies to community gardens, many organizations in the Dayton area are working to eradicate food insecurity and hunger — and an increasing number of UD students, faculty and staff are joining them.

The Fitz Center for Leadership in Community is coordinating the once-scattered campus projects to craft a more cohesive effort, one that will allow the University to have a more effective, lasting role in helping local efforts to take a bite out of food insecurity.

“There’s been this bubbling of interest on food and sustainability issues for years, and it’s coming out on top because of our UD focus on human dignity and care for God’s creation,” said Kelly Bohrer, director of community engaged learning at the Fitz Center. Her work includes helping faculty build partnerships related to food issues and teaching a sustainability course that engages students with community partners on such topics as food justice.

“It comes down to the core of who we are at UD: Our mission is very much about community, Catholic social teaching, hearing the voice of the poor and vulnerable, and responding in reciprocal ways,” she added. “Students, faculty and staff are coming together with the Dayton community to imagine a more hopeful future of no hunger and to mobilize assets and people to realize this future.”

ON A SNOWY WINTER DAY AT THE dollar store near Revels’ home, two teenage girls are grocery shopping. Their arms are loaded with bags of chips, packets of Kool-Aid mix, a box of cookies and a bag of Butterfinger mini candy bars. They spend $20.90, noting the food has to last them a couple of days.

An antidote for this diet of sugar and fat is the Gem City Market. GCM will be a full-service grocery store cooperative planned for a site down the street. Revels is excited: He’ll be able to walk there to shop for healthy food, attend cooking demos and take classes on a variety of health-related topics.
“This represents the community taking charge of its needs instead of waiting for outside people or politicians to come save them,” Revels said. “I find that remarkable.”

Before GCM even finishes its fundraising, UD faculty, staff and students — working in disciplines ranging from art to business, engineering to dietetics — are involved. For example, Richard Stock, director of UD’s Business Research Group, conducted research that formed the backbone of GCM’s business plan and fundraising pitch.

At a meeting Bohrer convened in fall 2017, faculty, staff and students sat around tables in Roesch Library eating fruit and homemade muffins. They were learning more about GCM from Lela Klein, executive director of the Greater Dayton Union Co-op Initiative, which is developing the market, and Etana Jacobi of the Hall Hunger Initiative.

Klein was quick to reply when asked how UD can help: fundraising and marketing, developing programming such as cooking demos, designing a new building that’s energy efficient, creating the physical space inside and out to promote healthy lifestyles, crafting a vision for health services, establishing a way to measure success and a method for engaging and tracking co-op members — and ensuring the store is a community-driven space. The 20 or so folks in the room were just as quick to reply with ideas for how they can offer support. Students from Flyer Consulting, for example, noted they can help with technology and data systems thanks to their experience assisting with member drives for nonprofit clients.

“To have UD sign on as a partner gives GCM a lot of credibility and support,” Klein said. “That support is always growing. If you ask me next week, there will probably be another partnership with UD.”

Indeed, GCM illustrates the increasingly coordinated efforts surrounding food issues at UD, as well as its multidisciplinary, community-based approach.

Food-related issues have long been present on campus and in student life, including Campus Ministry’s Thanksgiving food drive. Brother Ed Zamierowski, S.M., and Joanne Troha, both now retired, fostered connections between UD and Edgemont Solar Gardens, addressing food insecurity back in the 1980s. The University’s Hanley Sustainability Institute, established in 2014, includes food insecurity as one of its three areas of focus and expertise.

Lincoln Hill Gardens was the institute’s first high-profile project, located in a Dayton neighborhood with low income and low vehicle access. UD partnered with Mission of Mary Cooperative and East End Community Services to transform part of a previously vacant 5-acre site into garden plots and an urban farm. In its first year, 2016-17, Lincoln Hill Gardens produced nearly 2 tons of produce for 80 families, plus more to be sold at local markets. More than 50 students from nearly a dozen disciplines are assisting with the site while getting hands-on learning.

More community organizations are also reaching out to the University. For example, when former Ambassador to the U.N. Agen-encies for Food and Water Tony Hall wanted to do something in Dayton, he approached UD as a key partner that would help build community with a shared vision that no one
A food desert in the Miami Valley

The USDA considers a food desert a low-income census tract where at least 33 percent of residents have low access to a supermarket or large grocery store within 1 mile for urban areas, 10 miles for rural.

Source: www.ers.usda.gov/data/fooddesert
Low-income and low-supermarket access census tracts, 2010-15
should go hungry, Jacobi said. “UD is a phenomenal anchor institution and has a lot of intellectual and community resources, along with the passion of the students and faculty,” Jacobi added. “Under President Eric Spina’s leadership, the University has made a clear commitment that what is good for Dayton is good for UD.”

IN A FORMER WAREHOUSE TURNED artists’ hub just east of downtown Dayton, UD students from a variety of majors, faculty and members of the public are eating dinner on ceramic plates, collecting food donations and admiring the displayed artwork. They’re gathered for the second annual Dinner in the Desert Kitchen, held Dec. 1, 2017.

“Food is a common denominator and a way to talk about issues of race, class and privilege,” said assistant professor of art and design Glenna Jennings, one of three faculty members who organized the event with students. “It provides an opportunity to start longer-term community partnerships because food insecurity is such a big issue in Dayton. We have a tendency to locate problems elsewhere, and now it’s time to focus on what’s close to home.”

What started with four students and as a downtown installation piece for UD’s annual Celebration of the Arts has grown every year since, Jennings added. Another thing she’s noticed growing: the number of people in the UD community who are working for food security, the connections being made on campus and off, and the numerous ways the issue is being folded into interdisciplinary courses.

Jeanne Holcomb, associate professor of sociology, and Diana Cuy Castellanos, assistant professor of dietetics, teach one of those courses. They first taught their food justice course in spring 2015.

“Allowing interdisciplinarity hopefully helps students develop a fuller understanding of the complexities surrounding food insecurity and food justice,” Holcomb said. “Such issues are complex and have many factors. We need to look at these issues from multiple lenses and disciplines to identify lasting solutions. We hope students leave with the ability to look at issues with a holistic perspective.”

UD staff also are getting involved in tackling food insecurity. Dining Services is working with three clubs on campus — the Food Recovery Network, Student Dietetic Association and Center for Social Concern — to launch an initiative to prepare 300 meals a week, which will be delivered to partner organizations.

“What’s great is that UD is not examining this issue in [only] one way,” Bohrer said. “Faculty and staff are providing curriculum that integrates food justice issues in so many different ways and impacting the ways people are practicing sustainability and solidarity on campus and in their daily lives.”

Students explore themes of sustainability and food systems in the annual art exhibit Dinner in the Desert Kitchen.

SOPHOMORE SARAH RICHARD SPENT last summer watering, pulling weeds, composting and tending to plants at the urban farm operated by Homefull, a nonprofit organization working to end homelessness in Montgomery County. One of the things that struck her most was the dichotomy: The Homefull MicroFarm, located at the men’s emergency gateway shelter, follows organic practices and provides job opportunities to clients. It’s in a facility that includes another shelter and two correctional institutes, surrounded by barbed wire fences. And this facility is surrounded by a food desert.
“I was very interested in this juxtaposition of the growth and freshness in the garden surrounded by such harsh circumstances,” Richard said. Her experience was part of the Fitz Center’s Semester of Service program, in partnership with the ETHOS Center in the School of Engineering. Among the projects the mechanical engineering major designed was a trellising system for vining plants, such as tomatoes, that’s being used in new hoop houses at the garden.

Richard said she used to think Americans ate poorly because it was easy or because they thought junk food tastes better. In her work with Homefull, she learned that access and affordability are barriers to good nutrition for her neighbors in Dayton.

“We think of hunger as an issue in other worlds,” Richards said. “Every person deserves to have food on their table.”

Jess Kerr ’16 became interested in food insecurity issues after seeing a 3,000-pound pile of sweet potatoes rescued from a grocery store by Cincinnati nonprofit La Soupe.

“I won the business plan competition my senior year, so I thought I’d work at a tech start-up and have my own start-up eventually,” Kerr said. “But after graduation, I took a step back to focus on the nonprofit side, and that’s when I decided what I’m supposed to be doing is helping people use technology to solve social problems.”

Today, Kerr is the director of development for La Soupe. Each week, the organization’s network of 300 volunteers rescues 5,000 pounds of perishables and feeds up to 2,000 children through 47 partner agencies.

“My goal is for people to know this is an issue and be aware of it,” Kerr said. “We can also help in small ways: Be a conscious grocery shopper and only buy what you know you’ll eat.”

George Mertz ’05 first became aware of issues of social justice during his undergraduate years.

“I had some really great professors who opened my eyes to the social side of things,” he said.

Shortly after Mertz received his master’s degree in engineering from UD in 2007, he bought a 12-acre weed-filled vacant lot in Trotwood just west of Dayton, with the goal of growing healthy produce. Patchwork Gardens, which is located in a USDA-identified rural food desert, now has 24 acres. It supplies produce during summers to more than 250 members of its community supported agriculture (CSA) program. Most have their weekly boxes of fresh produce delivered to their doorstep or a nearby pickup location.

“One of the big reasons I wanted to do this was to do something good for other people, and growing healthy, chemical-free produce can have a big impact on the health of the people eating it,” Mertz said.

IN 2016 THE CHOICE FOOD PANTRY, located in a west Dayton food desert, served 6,163 families. This includes 16,168 individuals who visited the pantry at least once during the year. Catholic Social Services of the Miami Valley runs its food pantry using a choice model, which means clients are able to shop the pantry, selecting food suitable for their household size that also meets
their family’s preferences.

Students in majors from dietetics to English have helped CSSMV serve its clients, said Mary Reid, manager of mission services. Perhaps most notably, students in a business operations course improved the organization and efficiency of the pantry, the way volunteers are used, and the logistics of its food distribution ticket system.

“The students had a different perspective, so mutual learning occurred,” Reid said. “They learned about some of the constraints faced by nonprofits in funding and service delivery, and we were able to incorporate business and customer service practices.

“The students really thought about the clients’ perspective, and I think the process of shopping is now more respectful,” Reid added. “Now, the clients are navigating the pantry themselves so they have more freedom in the shopping process and feel more empowered.”

As the UD community further coordinates and grows its efforts toward food security, care is being taken to build on such longstanding community partnerships as the one with CSSMV.

“I hope we always keep in mind the importance of reciprocal and mutually beneficial relationships,” dietetics professor Cuy Castellanos said. “There are a lot of assets in the Dayton area related to food justice. We don’t need our faculty or students to sweep in with all the answers; we need to listen to community members and to think intentionally about the best ways to develop long-lasting relationships and meaningful change. UD certainly has a place at the table, but we are one among many.”

Work also has started to coordinate UD’s efforts with the Dayton area’s higher education community to ensure projects are not duplicative and are asset-focused, Bohrer said. A group representing other colleges and universities in the Dayton region met at the Montgomery County Food Summit for the first time in fall 2017, and follow-up meetings are taking place this year. Bohrer said the group will be examining ideas for collaboration and scholarship.

One thing is certain: Work will continue on campus to ensure the UD community can help address food insecurity in Dayton.

“The hope is that students, learning from the Marianist perspective on civic engagement, will be active in their future communities to address critical social issues such as this,” Bohrer said. “President Spina said UD’s vision is to work for the common good and engage with the community on solving these big, wicked problems — food insecurity being one of them in Dayton.

“This is not something we do in our spare time but part of what, how and why we educate students and who students are. Being involved in this issue helps students grow in servant-leadership skills and learn how to come to the table with many people, building on community assets to address problems — and hopefully make things better for all.”

Jess Kerr ’16 is combating Ohio food deserts in her work with Cincinnati’s La Soupe.

On campus and off, the UD community is engaged in projects, events and collaborations to address food insecurity. Below are a few of our Dayton-area partners.

- Arthur Morgan Institute for Community Solutions
- Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm
- Catholic Social Services of the Miami Valley
- East End Community Services
- Edgemont Solar Gardens
- Five Rivers MetroParks
- Greater Dayton Union Co-op Initiative and Gem City Market
- Hall Hunger Initiative
- Homefull
- House of Bread
- Mission of Mary Cooperative
- The Foodbank
- St. Vincent de Paul
Let’s Talk

Some people are putting aside talking just to vent their feelings, to rally the like-minded, to persuade others they must agree with them.

Others are still talking. But they are also listening. And they are trying to understand.

We offer on these pages four conversations on dialogue. It is more than talk. It is more than being nice. And it is hard.

By Thomas M. Columbus
The 1960s brought us fashion fads: bell bottom pants and paisley shirts and go-go boots. Many of the fads faded.

The same time also saw us as a divided nation on issues including the Vietnam War, race relations and women’s rights. Many people proposed replacing strife in the streets with nonviolent interaction. They “began to see dialogue as a means by which we should communicate with each other,” according to a chapter in the UD textbook now used in Communication 100: Principles of Oral Communication.

Dialogue has existed as long as language. But in the 1960s it took on a new dimension.

“Dialogue wasn’t just seen as a technique for communication,” reads the UD book chapter written by Jon Hess, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. “It was seen as an ethical requirement.”

But within a decade or so, such interest passed like just another fad. Perhaps too much was expected. Some momentous laws were passed. Some people bonded. But an age of peace and love did not come upon us. Maybe dialogue became viewed as just so much holding hands, singing “Kumbaya” and hoping for the best.

Whatever the case, when UD’s new generation entered the College of Arts and Sciences, they “began to see dialogue as a means by which we should communicate with each other,” according to a chapter in the UD textbook now used in Communication 100: Principles of Oral Communication.

Dialogue has existed as long as language. But in the 1960s it took on a new dimension.

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But within a decade or so, such interest passed like just another fad. Perhaps too much was expected. Some momentous laws were passed. Some people bonded. But an age of peace and love did not come upon us. Maybe dialogue became viewed as just so much holding hands, singing “Kumbaya” and hoping for the best.

Whatever the case, when UD’s new general education curriculum, the Common Academic Program, was introduced, the courses in the Faith Traditions element of it required students to enter into dialogue.

Kelly Johnson, associate professor in the Department of Religious Studies, was not impressed.

“I thought it soft intellectually,” she said. “I saw its focus being on niceness and acceptance and protecting feelings, not on the pursuit of truth.”

Her approach in class had been structured debate.

“I told my students,” she said, “I don’t want to hear you say that both sides made good points. I want to know which author wins.”

“We had a lot of fun.”

To her, a great value of debate is that debate is active learning and thus promotes retention.

And her academic training used critique and debate. Given that background, she said, “I had no idea how to do dialogue.”

So she went to see Joe Valenzano, now chair of the Department of Communication. Valenzano was the first director of the revised Communication 100 course, which has dialogue as one of its components.

The revision of the first-year communication course had not occurred in a vacuum. Hess recalls that, when in 2008 he came to UD to be chair of the communication department, “the University did not want to continue the traditional oral communication course.”

So a group of communication faculty members talked to departments across campus, asking them what their students needed. They found three results, according to Hess. The STEM areas wanted students to be able to explain complex ideas to others. Humanities and business departments wanted students to be able to make a persuasive argument as well as be able to critique one — skills learned in debate.

And, universitywide, faculty wanted students to be able to engage in dialogue with people whose perspectives are different from their own.

The course, in its third full year, is now directed by Jason Combs, a lecturer in the communication department. The course includes among its goals developing in students the abilities that other departments had desired:

- Explaining material to non-experts.
  “Learning how,” Combs said, “to build a bridge between a person with expert knowledge and a person without it.”
- Advocating, persuading. “How to get someone to adopt your ideas. The traditional way of doing this was speaking to an audience.”
- Dialoguing. “How to engage in communication with people with different ideas — with the goal, not of convincing them, but of understanding each other.”
- And, important in the developing of all these abilities, is listening.
  “Students must learn,” Combs said, “how to engage in critical analysis, how to think quickly.”

This past term, Combs’ students returned from Thanksgiving full of turkey, cold viruses, upcoming exam anxiety and the Communication 100 unit on dialogue.

Earlier in the term students in the class learned how to persuade others; they had made speeches advocating a position. The first class after Thanksgiving, students began to prepare for engaging in dialogue.

The following week, they broke into groups of six. Each member of a group chose a persuasive speech a classmate had given and delivered a three-minute response to it. The other five took notes. This process prepared them for a 15-minute dialogue that followed.

During the students’ three-minute responses, Combs said, professors want to see nonverbal behaviors such as looking at one’s audience consistently and directly and expressing conviction in one’s face and gestures. They look at how well the students summarize the arguments to which they are responding, how well they organize their responses, how well they support their own arguments with evidence from credible sources and how civilly they present their material.

During the 15-minute discussions, professors want to hear students build a supportive climate, ask good questions (including ones to clarify others’ views), paraphrase their peers’ positions before responding to them, assert their own views
clearly and interact civilly with the other students. They also look, Combs said, “for nonverbal behaviors that can build a supportive climate and engage in effective listening, for example, consistent and direct eye contact with the others who are speaking, facial expressions, head nods to suggest attentiveness, smiling to create empathy.”

Watching one group begin its dialogue, one could see how the students dutifully used the techniques necessary to achieve the course’s objectives. As they talked and listened to others talk about speeches related to social media, they became more engaged. A tangential reference to net neutrality moved the discussion into a new area. The students became curious. They asked each other questions. They weren’t trying to win anything. And they were doing more than getting a grade; they were learning.

After talking to Valenzano, Johnson had also learned the value of dialogue for her religious studies classes.

“I got won over gradually,” she said. “I came to realize that a lot more was involved than respect for the other person.”

That included speaking and listening, but a specific kind of speaking and listening. “You have to speak so people can understand you,” she said. “You need to formulate what you think in a way that is clear to others.”

Listening is more than just hearing. “You ask questions,” she said, “not trying to trip up opponents as in a debate, but so that you understand. The aim is to understand each other. If you don’t understand what the other is saying, you keep asking questions.”

She tells her students working in group dialogue that they are teammates, not competitors. That involves a certain amount of respect.

But, Johnson said, “it is more than being nice. And it is hard.”

One reason it’s hard, she thinks, is that UD students really are nice people.

“Whether it’s UD or the Midwest or whatever, most students here want to be nice,” she said. “They don’t want to offend anyone or stir up a heated disagreement. If you let them follow that instinct, what they are speaking may not be the truth and they may not understand what they are hearing.”

Before her conversion to dialogue as a method, Johnson had thought that dialogue avoided conflict. “But,” she said, “you can’t have good dialogue if you avoid conflict. If you avoid it, you can’t pursue truth.”

She had been attracted to debate because it could lead to truth.

“In debate, you want students to step up to the plate, not to sidestep conflict by
saying, ‘We all have good points.’ You want them to make hard judgments, to pick a winner. The subjects we debated in class weren’t ones on which the student already had positions. They became engaged. They learned.”

But she also recognized a downside to competitive debate.

“Sometimes they would massage their positions in order to win.”

Her use of dialogue differs from her previous use of debate in that students often present their own views. And the concept of winning is different.

In dialogue, she said, “Winning is understanding someone else and having them understand you.”

Dialogue may not bring peace and love to the world, but a little understanding might make it a little better.

Johnson recalls a class that was looking at contemporary moral questions related to slavery. Some people read Pope Francis’ speech about human trafficking; some read about laws that would improve our ability to trace whether slavery was used in a supply chain.

Each student wrote a response to a controversial article. They then broke into groups, determined by the paper each had picked.

Two members of one group were bright, white, male undergrads who wrote about the issue of whether there should be a national conversation about reparations.

“Each of their papers,” Johnson said, “said that race is over and talk of reparations would just stir up trouble.”

The other student was an African-American woman.

“It was one of the most transformative moments of dialogue I’ve ever seen,” Johnson said.

The men listened to the woman tell of her experience with racism, to her saying it was not over. Each student spoke. Each student listened. They did not try to change each other’s minds. They tried to understand.

A modicum of civility, perhaps?

“University of Dayton is rethinking its classes,” said Timothy Shaffer ’06, “asking how do we engage each other, then moving into more substantive deliberation, asking questions like, ‘What if we do this? What happens to that?’”

Shaffer, with masters’ degrees from UD in 2008 in religious studies and public administration as well as a doctoral degree from Cornell, teaches communication at Kansas State and is assistant director of that university’s Institute for Civic Discourse and Democracy.

“Higher education,” he said, “is doing interesting things in many disciplines such as communication, political science and education. It’s looking at how we talk to each other in a way that is not just putting something into a class, not just developing something that is pedagogically useful for the moment but is useful for the long run.”


At Kansas State and elsewhere, he said, “We are wrestling with the question of how do we engage each other when we exist in enclaves, live in bubbles.”

He observed that after most elections, divisions in the country dissipate a bit. But the United States still has a deep division, he noted, adding, “We are not engaging and understanding each other.”

As we have less face-to-face communication, he asked, “How do we engage each other? Who are we? What do we value?”

Shaffer does an exercise in class, beginning with telling students to shut off their cell phones. He described the looks on their faces as asking, “What are you asking me to do? You mean turn it off? I do that only when it’s updating.”

Later he has them turn the phones back on. And turn up the volume.

“The first time they do that,” he said. “They think it’s funny.”

Then they notice the cacophony. And they discuss the phenomenon.

“I’m not a Luddite,” Shaffer says. “Smart phones are an asset. But we now live in a world in which on a comment board we can detest another human being whom we don’t even know.”

While at UD, Shaffer worked at the Fitz Center for Leadership in Community. To put in practice what he was studying, he created a class in deliberation, which participated in the Stander Symposium.

He recalled one discussion of higher education cost and access. The class had a variety of students. “Some,” he observed, “said they didn’t think much about it; they realized they were fortunate. Others had loans and multiple jobs.”

Shaffer sees it as important for higher education to not just convene discussions but to have conversations that move beyond the abstract to deal with the real world.”

He likes the University’s emphasis on the common good. “If you want to talk about the common good,” he said, “you need to really talk, to frame questions, to take time to grapple with possible answers.”
Developing capacity

"Diversity. Equality. Inclusion."

Those words are something of a mantra for Lawrence Burnley, who in 2016 became the first University of Dayton vice president for diversity and inclusion.

Burnley sees it as imperative that the University develop a capacity for the members of the UD community to engage with each other in constructive ways on numerous issues.

People today, he said, “are not very good at developing spaces that are inclusive. Social spaces are often homogenous, which privileges people based upon particular real or perceived identities. The ways we perceive groups who are different from us is not formed by direct contact but through other ways such as social media, TV, family, religion, education.”

Given the divisiveness in today’s society and the Marianist tradition of inclusion, the University, Burnley said, “is trying to create intentionally common, diverse and inclusive spaces to bring together our God-given gifts such as our notions of the common good, beauty, truth — as well as spaces that are safe in which to express our fears, concerns and anxieties.”

He is aware, he said, that in doing so, “tension and conflict will result.” He adds that “our job as a University for the common good is to develop the capacity to leverage such tension to achieve constructive outcomes as opposed to destructive outcomes for our campus community and our world.”

So UD is going through a process of discovering how faculty and staff can develop a capacity to leverage its diversity so that it not push members of the community apart but rather bring them together.

Dialogue is one of the skills, Burnley noted, that are important to developing that capacity.

“We need to help individual members of the faculty and staff,” Burnley said, “engage others by seeking to understand them, not to impose a view of the world upon them. There needs to be an authentic desire to understand.”

Such efforts are going on in several places across campus. Burnley’s office is working on coordinating what already exists and on developing further capacity.

A number of faculty have traveled to other campuses to examine various approaches.

The senior leadership of the University has been having as a group what have been labeled “courageous conversations,” efforts at using dialogue to examine assumptions and to understand each other and other members of the community.

And, as Roesch Library is being remodeled, discussions are being held on developing a dialogue landing zone that will provide space for anyone in the UD community to engage in serious dialogue on difficult issues.

The ultimate block party

The Great Miami River bisects Dayton. In times of racial turmoil, some saw it as one of the barriers dividing the city.

Now the river is bringing the city together. Each fall, the Third Street Bridge hosts the Longest Table, an event where hundreds of people come together to eat and to talk.

The event was the brainchild of Bryan Stewart, a legislative aid for the city of Dayton and now a UD Master of Public Administration student.

He had heard of a similar event held in Tallahassee, Florida; its origin sprung from the mayor realizing that affluent people in the city could come together for one cause or another at expensive dinners but other people could not. Coming out of that realization was the creation of a big, free dinner open to everyone.

“I pitched the idea at an UpDayton Summit,” Stewart said. “I won $1,000. We raised $7,000. Within five months we had a dinner for 300 people.”

Local restaurants donate the food for the annual event; and a community kitchen, the House of Bread, provides the staff.

The current director of UpDayton, an organization founded to stem Dayton’s brain drain by connecting young people with the area’s opportunities, is A.J. Ferguson ’12. He sees the Longest Table as a way of bringing people together that is distinct, he said, from some traditional methods “such as convening a group to solve something or having a highly facilitated conversation about our differences.”

“The Longest Table simplifies it,” he said. “It’s like a picnic or block party. You eat at a table and talk with someone you don’t know. A facilitator doesn’t stretch you. You do it yourself.”

This past fall’s event drew 600 people who sat at tables running from one end of the bridge to the other. Similar events, with shorter tables, are held in neighborhoods throughout the year. Last spring, one was held on campus.

The events are like a Marianist conversation, Ferguson said. “They focus not on conversion but on community.”
How our religious lives could impact humanity’s future in space — and the very survival of our species

By JOSHUA AMBROSIUS
Assistant Professor, Political Science

Picture the expanse of outer space. You are flying through it, with views of asteroids, planets, stars, galaxies and nebulae swirling around you. As you are absorbing these images, I want you to recall the words of St. Paul to the Roman Church, that God’s nature is revealed through this created order, not just here on Earth, but beyond.

The 10 trillion galaxies reveal God to us. The septillion stars display divine energy, and the countless planets tell us of God’s creativity and love. As the psalmists wrote, it is these heavens that declare the glory of God, the skies that proclaim the work of God’s hands.

Ponder the power that was necessary to mold this universe. And then this same God populated the universe with solar systems, that gave rise to planets, some with liquid water, where every 10 drops of that water holds more molecules than the known universe has stars. And in this water on at least one world, but undoubtedly on many others, life arose and slowly adapted to the water and the weather and the environment, and in due course gave rise to us, to you, to me, giving us abilities to learn and think and speak and write and dream and travel to places eventually beyond the Earth.

For me, outer space and religion are
I intertwine — inseparable in their magnificence and wonder.

But not everyone sees it this way.

I am not an astronomer, nor an astronaut, nor even a theologian. I am a social scientist, a professor of political science. My job is to ask questions and answer them with public opinion data, wherein we learn of the multiplicity of views on topics as seemingly diverse as religion and space. When I asked the question “Does religion influence public support of U.S. space policy?” I was as curious about my own faith tradition as the nation as a whole. My findings demonstrate that we have vast opportunities to improve space education to religious constituencies. But public opinion also shows that our failure to act could imperil not only our nation but also the very existence of our species.

My own faith tradition often perplexes my students, who are majority Catholic. I was raised as an evangelical Protestant — Pentecostal to be specific. It is a tradition that is at best skeptical of biological science, if not science and higher education overall. I grew up reading books critical of evolutionary theory — and even defended creation science in a class assignment on persuasive public speaking. But I always had this other side, a part of me that saw science and space as exciting opportunities for exploration and adventure. I read books by astronomer and atheist Carl Sagan, who asserted alien civilizations undoubtedly flourished among the cosmos. My favorite TV series was the X-Files, and I loved the dystopian future world of the Alien movies.

Despite warnings from some family members that college would make me give up everything I believed in, I went. Once or twice I had crises of faith. But I came out on the other side, making adjustments within my faith to make it intellectually compatible with what we know about the world around us. I now see no problem with any findings of science, and politically I think and act very differently than when I was young. I now consider myself an ecumenical evangelical.

As a social scientist and an evangelical, I am interested in the role religion plays in public life. I began my graduate studies in public policy at Johns Hopkins, where I taught an undergraduate course on faith-based social policy. I even worked on the national Faith-Based and Community Initiative at the U.S. Department of Labor. In my doctoral dissertation for the Urban and Public Affairs program at the University of Louisville, I evaluated how religious participation might affect your support of city-county government consolidation.

Given my side interest in outer space, and the experiences of my religious upbringing, I was curious if my own tradition lags behind others when it comes to support for space policy. I began analyzing public opinion data from four publicly available, nationally random surveys that asked U.S. adults questions about space and religion. But I set the project aside to focus on teaching and other research, until I read a 2014 blog post by creationist Ken Ham criticizing NASA efforts to find alien life. Ham’s post rekindled my desire to examine whether his views holding that Earth life is special and preeminent in the created order were widespread and associated with
less support for space policy. I saw the film *Interstellar* later that year, in which Matthew McConaughey portrays an astronaut in search of an off-world home to save our species from extinction by environmental collapse. Inspired to complete the project, I returned from the movie theater and wrote into the morning.

I wanted to know the influence of religion, in its many forms, on public support for U.S. space policy. Would there be a difference based on religious belonging, beliefs, and behaviors when it came to knowledge of and support for space exploration? I would discover the answer was yes, and religious elements seemed to have the greatest influence in my own tradition — a negative influence.

Religion in general does not stand in the way of support for space exploration, but some traditions holding less knowledge of space give lower support to space exploration. Results indicate that evangelicals, or non-Catholic Christians with a born-again conversion experience, ranked consistently lower than the rest of the population on five of seven space measures: knowledge of space, funding support of space exploration, space benefits both general and national, and optimism about the future of space exploration.

Some of my findings include:

- Hindus, Buddhists, those of other Eastern traditions, and Jews represent strong advocates for space policy.
- Mainline Protestants, Jews, Eastern traditions and those with no religion scored significantly higher on space knowledge.
- Jews, Eastern traditions and religious “nones” all stand out positively on perceptions of general space benefits.
- Eastern traditions and the none also rate higher on support for space funding.
- Eastern traditions are most interested in space.
- Catholics are higher than other religions on space nationalism, the belief that the U.S. should lead the way in exploration.

Evangelicals express a sort of “space pessimism.” This means that evangelicals hold higher expectations that an asteroid will hit the Earth during the next four decades, but lower expectations of the discovery of life away from Earth over the same period. In perhaps the most interesting finding on expectation, evangelicals are surer that Jesus will return to Earth before mid-century than they are about any of four space events occurring: an asteroid hitting Earth, scientists finding evidence of life elsewhere, ordinary people traveling to space, or astronauts landing on Mars.

In an interesting twist, support of one’s clergy member(s) for science makes a significant difference among this most skeptical religious group. If an evangelical’s pastor speaks negatively about science, the probability of agreeing with the statement “space exploration does more good than harm” is 47 percent. When a pastor speaks positively, the probability is 97 percent. While I do not remember ever hearing a sermon on space from the pulpit of my churches, the findings indicate a clear opportunity for inroads in both the understanding of space science and the support of space exploration.

As we dream of our cosmic future, we begin to wonder if further exploration of the cosmos is motivated by a practical desire to improve human conditions or an innate desire for discovery. The latter, while a powerful drive for scientific advancement, is a more difficult justification for public or private funding. The reality is that, despite private programs like SpaceX and visionaries like Elon Musk, we need public investment to make progress in space. We also need a sustained national, and likely international, effort. This will require a very long-term vision and funding model that transcends political cycles. Political science can, and should, help chart the way forward.

I taught, for the first time, an interdisciplinary course on the social, political and economic aspects of space exploration during the fall of 2017. We discussed the U.S. political cycle — how the party in power pursues its agenda, often by overturning the work of the previous power holders. Then we have an election, power shifts, and it all starts again. Take recent U.S. policy on returning to the moon. In 2004, President George W. Bush announced an effort to build a moon base as a steppingstone for deeper space exploration to Mars and beyond. President Barack Obama canceled the moon base in 2010, citing underfunding and delays that would make a return to the moon unrealistic until at least 2028. And in December, President Donald Trump ordered NASA to focus on getting back to the moon: “We will establish a foundation for an eventual mission to Mars and, perhaps, someday, to many worlds beyond,” he said.

We also must contend with politicians from both parties who believe the problems down here, from health care to potholes, are more deserving of funding than space exploration. Granted, billions are currently going toward space science. While this sounds like a lot of money, it is less than one-half of 1 percent of the federal budget.

So why should we go to space? Beyond the general benefit arguments that space science creates jobs and leads to innovations that improve our lives on Earth, there is the question of the survival of humankind. Theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking, as well as NASA administrators, have stated that a one-planet species will not last long in the universe. “We are running out of space, and the only places to go to are other worlds,” Hawking stated during a 2017 lecture. As time goes on, the likelihood increases that disasters, either natural or manmade, could end life on Earth. From a purely survivalist point of view, funding off-world travel makes a lot of sense.

In political science, we talk about focusing events. These serve as motivating
problems that demand attention that could lead to action. For example, when there is a mass shooting, gun policy gets closer to the agenda. Thus far, climate change and its threat to our species has not galvanized our response. So what will be our space exploration focusing event? It could be the near miss of an asteroid, or the discovery of life in outer space, or even a private venture that colonizes Mars.

We cannot talk about funding space science, or of public action for imminent threats, without bringing back into the conversation my findings about religious groups. Evangelicals are not just isolated space pessimists — they are, by some measures, up to a quarter of the U.S. electorate and an even greater share of the Republican Party’s base. So how can we ensure they are part of the space policy conversation?

One tactic is to embrace the opportunities identified in the research. NASA, as well as organizations and businesses involved in space contracts in general, should participate in outreach and education to all religious constituencies, and to evangelicals in particular. In other words, they need to try harder. For too long, some of the most outspoken proponents of space exploration have been dismissive of if not antagonistic toward organized religion. Opportunities to inform clergy are especially important, as their sermons evidently influence the perceived benefit of space exploration.

Individuals who have resolved conflicts between their faith and their work as scientists can enhance the conversation and increase public knowledge. One such evangelical is Francis Collins, former director of the Human Genome Project and current director of the National Institutes of Health. His organization BioLogos, which he left to lead the NIH, promotes harmony between biological science and biblical faith in its evolutionary understanding of God’s creation. It also strives for dialogue with those who hold other views and could be a model of how to have such conversations in other areas of science.

Evangelicals can also look to the Catholic Church as one example of a healthy marriage between church and space. The Vatican, with its own observatory and meteorite collection, also has a Jesuit brother as its chief astronomer, who not only explores extraterrestrial geology but also expounds on the relation between our earthly selves and the whole of God’s creation. Brother Guy Consolmagno, S.J., wrote in his Vatican Observatory blog, “The intimate study of God’s creation, the act we call science, is thus an act of worship. Astronomy is not only an appropriate activity for a church to support, it is also something that’s right for individual humans to spend our whole lives doing, given the chance.”

As you may surmise, I advocate for increasing current spending and not waiting for the disaster of a focusing event to move our nation and our species closer to an off-world future. I believe religious actors and institutions should support humanity’s expansion into outer space because their future survival depends on it, and the space community should engage with religious publics so that they do not present obstacles to humanity’s cosmic future.

My evangelical community does not need to embrace a new theology, but simply bask in the glory of the cosmos. At a minimum, I argue that the church not stand in the way of space science, and that it contributes to a healthy dialogue between religious believers and the space community. It will require us to build on the attentive publics in many of the great world religions and work together as we embark on the greatest project humanity has ever pursued. UD

CONTINUED CONVERSATIONS

Interested in popular culture connecting space and religion? Professor Joshua Ambrosius recommends that you:

- Watch the film Contact (1997), adapted from the novel by Carl Sagan, about a scientist’s struggles with faith as she seeks to represent humanity as an interstellar ambassador.
- Read the novel The Sparrow (1996) by Ohio author Mary Doria Russell about Jesuits leading a mission of first contact with an alien civilization.
- Watch the new Amazon pilot for Oasis (2017), based on Dutch writer Michel Faber’s The Book of Strange New Things (2014), about a pastor asked to serve as chaplain to the colonists of a remote exoplanet.

Out of this world, and in this classroom

By Joshua Ambrosius

In fall 2017, I offered a new interdisciplinary course taught from three perspectives: political science, sociology and economics. Forty-four students enrolled in two sections of SSC 400, Space Exploration: Toward a Space-Faring Society, in which they learned about space policy and how to research problems in space exploration.

Students enrolled in the course were, for the most part, genuinely interested in space exploration — hardly a surprise. But they also became more supportive of space policy as the course went on. About two-thirds came into the course believing that our government should spend more on space exploration than it currently does. After exposure to the actual space budget, which constitutes less than one-half of 1 percent of the federal budget, more than nine out of 10 students now believe we should increase space funding — a view shared by just one-fifth of U.S. adults, according to the 2016 General Social Survey.

What arguments could help get more of the public on board with space funding? When the students ranked what they believed would best convince space skeptics, they chose economic motivations:

- creation of spin-off companies and products
- new forms of energy
- job creation

These “utilitarian” justifications contrast with exploration for the sake of exploration — including the search for answers to questions about universal origins and the proliferation of life in the universe. They also contrast with some of the students’ top personal motivations, including peace that could develop out of international cooperation.

I plan to teach the course again in upcoming semesters. It allows me to share my research on religion and space and also help implement one of my research conclusions: that those who believe in space exploration need to reach out to religious constituencies as potential allies in our quest for the stars.
“We still feel like ‘crazy off-campus UD students ...’”

She believes we’re not in a moment, but rather a movement. See Page 56.

A trip to the Holy Land See Page 54.

A presidential reunion on the greens. See Page 53.

Father-son hike in the mountains See Page 58.
ALUMNI IN ACTION

LYNTON SCOTLAND ’84 was named by Savoy Magazine to its 2018 list of Most Influential Blacks in Corporate America, which recognizes achievers, influencers and executives facilitating global change through their leadership. Scotland is chief procurement officer for W.L. Gore & Associates and a member of the UD board of trustees.


KATHY FITZPATRICK ’78 is the 23rd U.S. ambassador to Timor-Leste (East Timor). Fitzpatrick has been a member of the Foreign Service since 1983.

ROBERT KOHORST ’76 was confirmed in November 2017 as the U.S. ambassador to Croatia and assumed his role in January.

FORMER MARIANISTS are gathering on campus July 26-29, 2018, for the Common Bond reunion, held every three years. Family members are invited, as are current Marianists, to reconnect and reminisce. Scheduled events include an opening social, Mass, banquet and service at Queen of Peace cemetery at Mount Saint John. For information, contact Mike Mahoney at deac20@woh.rr.com.

Discover more: alumnicommunity.udayton.edu

First ETHOS alumni breakout trip

This winter, 12 alumni participated in the first ETHOS alumni breakout trip to Antigua, Guatemala, as part of an effort to provide School of Engineering alumni service-based projects to participate in after graduation.

The group, from Dec. 30 to Jan. 7, worked on the installation of an aquaponics system for two communities in the area. They also created prototypes of an activated carbon water filter for use in the greater Antigua area.

The aquaponics system helps communities grow and maintain vegetables, such as lettuce, in a self-sufficient container that requires no soil. The system works by attaching a fish tank to the plant beds and allowing fish waste to fertilize and maintain the plant bed.

Alyssa Jenkins Ramsey ’15 helped organize the trip and said she hopes next year more alumni are able to participate.

“It was really inspiring to see how the values of ETHOS and the University are still very central to the lives of all the alumni participants. All were eager to learn, lead and serve,” Ramsey said.

“...To have a group of strangers come together for a week of meaningful work and leave as friends just shows how much the value of community has impacted our lives. This trip was a great reminder that even though we have moved on from UD, the University is still very much a central part of our lives.”

To learn more information on how to join the next trip, or to volunteer, please contact the ETHOS Center at ETHOS@udayton.edu or 937-229-2306.

—Gita Balakrishnan

Theses, dissertations going digital

The University of Dayton Libraries have undertaken a major project to digitize theses and dissertations to make them available online and to preserve them in multiple formats.

“This is a great opportunity to showcase our graduate programs’ research over the decades,” said Kathleen Webb, dean of University Libraries. “Putting this work online will make it much more discoverable, accessible and useful for advancing knowledge in the digital age.”

Though UD has been digitally archiving new theses and dissertations since 2012, those written before 2012 have been accessible only in person at Roesch Library. Scanning and data entry began in January for upload to eCommons, the University’s online institutional repository; the project will be completed in several phases.

The author remains the copyright holder, and writers using UD theses and dissertations in their work must cite the UD author. The repository automatically generates a citation and cover sheet for each paper.

Those who wish not to make their work available for download can enable a renewable five-year embargo by emailing ecommons@udayton.edu with their name, graduation year and thesis title.

To browse the collection, see ecommons.udayton.edu/theses.
Reunion Weekend 2018 June 8-10

Get out your UD gear and email, call or text your classmates. It's time to start planning for Reunion Weekend. Registration is now open for on-campus housing and events.

New this year are open house sessions for various University centers on Friday and Saturday afternoon. Also new is the President's Reception, which will offer Golden Flyers and the members of the Classes of 1968 and 1974 the opportunity to meet and talk with University President Eric F. Spina.


From porch parties to simply walking around your old stomping grounds again, there is something for everyone. Come back to campus and reunite with fellow Flyers.

Reunion details can be found at your.udayton.edu/reunion.

Judge can barely conceive of a better program

For the past 17 years, Richmond County, New York, Surrogate Court Judge Robert J. Gigante '69 has been collecting teddy bears to distribute at Christmas to children in the greater Staten Island area to bring a smile to the face of a child battling illness.

Growing from a few hundred bears at the start, the Teddy Bear Drive last year delivered more than 1,500 stuffed animals to children's hospitals, hospices, Head Start programs and the Ronald McDonald House of New York, to name a few. Taking it a step further, the latest drive included Staten Island Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops who visited the Build-A-Bear Workshop store and created bears to donate. Even store patrons who heard what the scouts were doing got in on the act and donated bears.

While the Teddy Bear Drive may have been conceived by the big-hearted jurist, his group of volunteers has grown every year to include courthouse staff and community members. "It really involves everyone, which makes it all the more wonderful," Gigante said. "They never cease to amaze me with their kindness and love."

They may not have had a large porch to gather on, but it didn't matter.

Living at 1514 Brown St. had a special advantage. And that's what you could see from the front door.

Tom Fiegl '86 lived at the home for three years and remembers fondly its convenience to local hangouts.

"From our front door, we could walk out and see if there was a line forming at Flanagan's. This was especially helpful on Thursday nights when it could get really busy there."

In the other direction on Brown Street, Fiegl said, Milano's was just a short walk, which made the home "a really central location where everything was easy to get to."

The home, adorned with big white pillars outside, was unique because it had four separate apartments on the inside. Fiegl and the three roommates he lived with occupied the bottom right apartment.

Because of the setup, Fiegl said that strong friendships were created between separate apartments of the home.

"We were able to make some great friends. We'd do all kinds of stuff together. We were friends with all of them," Fiegl recalled.

But, whenever any of them needed a little privacy, underneath the stairs leading to the upstairs apartment was a small closet with just enough space for someone to sneak away.

"We'd use that space to be able to talk on the phone in private — back when there were no cellphones around," Fiegl said.

A special memory that stands out was the time Fiegl and the others got their families together the day before graduation for a celebration. Having spent three years together in the home, it was “cool to finally get to see the families of the friends I had gotten to know,” Fiegl said.

And though Fiegl can't recall anything crazy ever happening during his time at 1514 Brown St., he's certain of this fact: "We all had a good time together and were good friends back then."

And, that is all that does matter.

—Gita Balakrishnan

Suggest we take a tour of your old house.
Email us at magazine@udayton.edu.
Our readers have spoken, and we are listening. In October, we sent out our annual magazine survey to a randomly selected group of readers to learn what we’re doing right and where we can improve. Thanks for telling us we’re doing a good job on the magazine’s content, layout and design, photography and writing. We try our best to put out a magazine you will enjoy. But, there is always room for improvement. Sixty-one percent of respondents wanted more multimedia material, such as slideshows and videos, on the magazine’s blog. We also learned our readers aren’t aware the magazine has a Twitter account — follow us @daymag. Below, we share some of the results from the survey. A big thank you to all who participated, and we will continue to improve and create a magazine that the Flyer family can be proud of.

**SOURCE:** 387 responses; 95% statistically significant, ± 5%

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**How do you primarily read UD Magazine?**

- **In print**: 87.3%
- **Very much so**: 80.1%

**Total respondents:** 369

**Other responses:**
- Digital magazine: 7.9%
- Individual stories on the web: 4.9%

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**Does the magazine highlight the ways the University follows its mission and call to “Learn. Lead. Serve.”?**

- **Very much so**: 67.6%

**Total respondents:** 352

**Other responses:**
- A little bit: 15.6%
- Not at all: 6%
- No opinion: 3.7%

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**Do the stories in the magazine help you to understand the impact the University has on the local, national, international community?**

- **Very much so**: 45.9%

**Total respondents:** 352

**Other responses:**
- A little bit: 27%
- Not at all: 1.4%
- No opinion: 4%

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**Rate how much you agree with this statement: “University of Dayton Magazine content strengthens the reputation of the University of Dayton.”**

- **Strongly agree**: 55.6%
- **Agree**: 46.5%

**Total respondents:** 353

**Other responses:**
- Disagree: 2%
- Strongly disagree: 3%
- No opinion: 5.4%

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**Rate how much you agree with this statement: “University of Dayton Magazine strengthens my personal connection to the University of Dayton.”**

- **Strongly agree**: 32.8%

**Total respondents:** 351

**Other responses:**
- Disagree: 3.4%
- Strongly disagree: 1.1%
- No opinion: 7.1%

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**What multimedia extras would you like more of?**

- **Photos/Slide shows**: 61.5%
- **More related stories**: 38.5%
- **Videos**: 45.9%
- **Links/resources**: 31%
- **Audio/podcasts**: 11.5%
- **Interactive graphics**: 11.5%

**Total respondents:** 26

**Other responses:**
- A little bit: 34.6%
- Not at all: 31%
- More related stories: 11.5%
- No opinion: 11.5%
When one semester lasts a lifetime

Each year since 2002, 20 students are chosen to take part in Semester of Service (SOS), a program through the Fitz Center for Leadership in Community, where they provide 450 hours of service around the Dayton community. Students partner with organizations such as Daybreak, DECA Prep, We Care Arts! and Adventure Central. The partnership is beneficial to the community and students; while organizations gain volunteers for tutoring, family outreach and childcare, students create meaningful relationships with clients and service providers, allowing them to learn professional skills and the value of incorporating social action into their daily lives.

—Cari Zahn ’18

### How did your SOS experience play a part in your career choice?

**Erin Sylvester Nichting ’90:** SOS completely changed what I had planned to do with the rest of my life. After working at the Booth House with men experiencing homelessness, I wanted to work with individuals involved in the legal system, who were diagnosed with a serious mental illness, or who had significant drug and alcohol problems. I wanted to use my education and career to help those who often felt misunderstood or underrepresented.

**Tonica Johnson ’12:** My SOS experience influences me as a teacher because I saw how much of a need there is for people to help at-risk children. I use the lessons I learned to remind me how important my role is as I try to be a source of comfort for my students and make them feel cared about each and every day.

**Karen Lehan ’14:** At Adventure Central, I worked both with and for a diverse group of people through its outdoor children’s program. It helped me realize the population I hope to serve as a practicing physician and helped me recognize the beauty, grace and dignity within each child and family unit. That personal experience and connection can mean everything for patient care.

### How did the experience help determine and shape your personal values?

**Cassidy Lekan ’09:** Service work, giving back and treating others with compassion and kindness are values that have always been important to me. SOS increased the intensity of these values, along with my patience, understanding and belief in the human spirit.

**Nichting:** My personal values were shaped into realizing that I wanted to make giving back to others in my community a priority. I also wanted to use my education and spend my life serving others and advocating for change.

**Lauren Maddente ’12:** I was fortunate enough to work with many driven individuals at Daybreak who have dedicated their lives to helping disadvantaged youth and young adults realize their self-worth and attain stability. I learned the value and importance of education, kindness, open-mindedness and patience. I saw firsthand how education is the gateway to mobility and confidence.

**Johnson:** This experience reinforced my personal values rather than determined them. I have always been interested in service and volunteering, and showing love and compassion to those in my community will always be a priority of mine.

### What did the experience teach you about yourself?

**Lehan:** Semester of Service taught me that working with children was my calling.

**Maddente:** I was reminded how fortunate I have been. I was blessed with a family that helped me receive a great education, and I have always had someone to turn to for advice when faced with difficult decisions. I learned that it is not always easy for me to be outside of my comfort zone, and sometimes empathy is more important and useful than logic.

**Nichting:** I was given and allowed opportunities that many people were not — creating the groundwork for me to be able to work hard to create the future that I wanted for myself. This realization made me uncomfortable as I had never been forced to think about it before. It also brought me to a crossroads — I could return to being passive about this privilege or become active and attempt to use the power I have to help others and better the community in which I live.

**Maddente:** My experience reminded me that you truly never know what another person has been through. I worked with many clients who had been through immense trauma but still managed to smile, laugh at my corny jokes and work diligently toward their goals despite not having the resources that so many of us have.

**Johnson:** We really are all the same in the end. Everyone is fighting some kind of battle, even if nothing seems wrong on the surface. Everyone needs respect and love, and something so simple can really turn someone’s day around.

**Lehan:** Semester of Service taught me the importance of “walking a mile in someone else’s shoes.” There is no room for judgment in caring for people, and I have carried that with me throughout my time learning to practice medicine.

### What did the experience teach you about others?

**Lehan:** My experience taught me the incredible strength and spirit in human beings to overcome adverse life experiences. People are resilient despite all odds against them.

**Maddente:** My experience reminded me that you truly never know what another person has been through. I worked with many clients who had been through immense trauma but still managed to smile, laugh at my corny jokes and work diligently toward their goals despite not having the resources that so many of us have.

**Johnson:** We really are all the same in the end. Everyone is fighting some kind of battle, even if nothing seems wrong on the surface. Everyone needs respect and love, and something so simple can really turn someone’s day around.

**Lehan:** Semester of Service taught me the importance of “walking a mile in someone else’s shoes.” There is no room for judgment in caring for people, and I have carried that with me throughout my time learning to practice medicine.
Alumni living in southwest Florida enjoy some of the best beaches this country has to offer. Boating trips to Key West are common, and baseball fans can enjoy the fact that the Boston Red Sox and the Minnesota Twins hold spring training in that region. With hundreds of public golf courses and dozens of marinas, alumni are rarely indoors. As a group, the Southwest Florida Alumni Community volunteered at the Harry Chapin Food Bank to distribute meals to the community after Hurricane Irma and are planning to do a beach cleanup this spring or volunteer at the Manatee Reserve Park.

Question: What makes southwest Florida such a great place for UD alumni to live?

“People living in this area love to be outdoor folks. We get to enjoy the milder temperatures of Florida in this area, which is great. We have a lot of recreational activities that you can take part in because of the weather afforded to us here. We love the water and enjoy going out on boat rides. There’s a lot of alumni in the area so there are a lot of friendly faces around.” —Rick Granite ’88

“With an average year-round temperature of 75 degrees, southwest Florida is paradise! There are miles of beaches, rivers and bay for fun outdoor activities. We are a short drive away from Tampa, Naples, Captiva and Sanibel Islands, Miami and Key West. You can be a part of the city life or find an escape from it.” —Emily Spicer ’08

“With endless outdoor activities available year round, you are never without a fun activity to try. The cities in the area offer great culture, restaurants, craft breweries and bars. It’s easy to see how this area was voted one of the happiest and healthiest places to live in the U.S.” —Jennifer Graul Granite ’12

A CHRONOLOGICAL COMMENTARY OF REVELATION
Barry Dysert ’85

Many people find the book of Revelation to be the most mysterious in the Bible. A Chronological Commentary of Revelation reorganizes the biblical text and makes it easy to read from beginning to end, almost like a story. “I’ve been studying and teaching Revelation for most of my life,” Dysert said. “I came up with the idea of teaching it in chronological order as a tool to use during the classes I teach.” Approached from a literal point of view, the book abounds with Scriptural references so that the reader can look up for himself or herself how Revelation can be interpreted. The book was published in April 2017 by CreateSpace Independent Publishing.

THE UNBEATEN PATH
Sean Sechrist ’12

When minoring in entrepreneurship at UD, Sechrist knew he eventually wanted to apply what he’d learned and strike out on his own. A post-graduation move to Chicago after landing a dream job in the corporate world deferred that plan. The work wasn’t fulfilling, and Sechrist decided to make a change. Last October he started an online podcast business called the Unbeaten Path. The site features interviews with individuals who have created the life they want on their own terms. “This includes dream chasers, entrepreneurs, people pursuing a life of personal fulfillment and success over status or money, and everything in between,” Sechrist said. “It is based on my belief that if you desire to experience personal success and true fulfillment in your life, then take action toward the life you want and not the life others expect you to live is key.” The show debuted in the top 20 on the careers chart and top 50 in the overall business chart on iTunes. Check it out at www.ubpath.com.

A BAREFOOT BOY IN THE MANGO TREE: A MEMOIR OF MAUI AND ME
Wayne Moniz ’68

Barefoot Boy is the memoir of Maui-born author and playwright Wayne Moniz from 1945 to the present. Moniz takes readers on a sentimental journey as his idyllic home transforms from a simple, uncomplicated island to the tourist mecca that it is today. It mirrors the transformation of how an unsuspecting island boy morphed into a complex and respected author, playwright and teacher. Moniz is a holder of the Cades Award, Hawaii’s most honored writing prize, for his body of work. Barefoot Boy was self-published in May 2017.

—Jeaneen Parsons
Golden Flyers

EDNA ERNEYKENNEY ’58 (GER) lives in Dayton. She writes, “I’d like to say hello to my fellow alumni from the Class of 1958. We’ll celebrate our 60th reunion this year during Reunion Weekend, and I hope to see you there June 8-10 to celebrate.”

HELEN LAMPKE ’63 (EDS) and her husband, Bob, live in New Smyrna Beach, Fla. Helen writes, “We enjoyed our 50th wedding anniversary with the University of Dayton Magazine at the Acropolis in Greece.”

DAVID DRYDEN ’65 (CIE) and his wife, Rita, live in Lancaster, Ohio. He writes, “I retired after nearly 50 years in the construction industry, many in partnership with classmate Thomas Gehrlich ’65. Rita and I are enjoying our four children and 10 grandchildren, as well as 51 years of marital bliss. Go Flyers!”

STANLEY KUMOR ’66 (CME) and RENEE DIPIERO KUMOR ’66 (PSY) live in Hendersonville, N.C. They write, “We recently returned from a transatlantic cruise that included stops in Boston, New York City, Miami and Bermuda, as well as the Bahamas.”

JOSEPH “JOE” SOMMERS ’66 (MKT) lives in Hilton Head Island, S.C. He writes, “In October, I met with old classmates at the 2017 Delta Tau Nu President’s Cup. Joining me were Ken Pompilio, Chuck Whitney, Jack Schrader, Ken Fischer, Phil Warth, John Brennan, Tim Thurin, Rich Miskewicz, Jimmy Dee, John Geraghty, Joe Vandura, Bob Jones, and more.”

BERNARD KOKENGE ’61

Pioneer to the planets

For 30 years, the Pioneer 10 spacecraft-toward then past Jupiter, sending Earth information about what lies in and beyond our solar system. It could only do so because of the plutonium-238 nuclear battery powering its scientific instruments.

Bernard Kokenge received his bachelor's degree in chemistry from UD in 1961 and his doctorate in chemistry from Ohio University in 1966. He then began his career as a research chemist with Monsanto Research Corp. at Mound Laboratory in Miamisburg, Ohio.

He began work on improving plutonium nuclear fuels for space application and received a patent on an improved plutonium-238 fuel form in 1972. That fuel has been used in nuclear batteries for several NASA missions including the Galileo mission to Jupiter and the Cassini mission to Saturn.

“These nuclear heat source batteries were an integral part of many spacecrafts. Think of them as an on-board electrical utility — kind of like a mini DP&L in space,” Kokenge said, referring to Dayton's local power company.

Kokenge worked at Mound for more than 20 years in high-level management positions in charge of the research, fabrication and delivery of these nuclear heat source packages to the U.S. Department of Energy and NASA. He left in 1986 as the associate director of Mound Laboratory.

He now works as a consultant for the U.S. Department of Labor on classifying chemicals used by workers at the various U.S. government nuclear sites from the early 1940s to the present.

Kokenge said he appreciates the solid education he received at UD, the encouragement of its professors and the support of his wife, Joy, throughout his career.

Somewhere, an estimated 10 billion miles away, Pioneer 10 is still floating, heading out of our solar system. And inside is a capsule that holds the names of all the people, including Kokenge, involved with its mission.

Proof that a Flyer’s impact can truly be out of this world.

—Gita Balakrishnan
Writers’ Workshop in her name. Cele was an avid reader, a published author and a devoted Flyer fan. She was special to her UD friends, who met at Marycrest Hall, lived together off campus on Kiefaber Street, and shared lives and families after graduating from UD. Cele’s warm sense of humor and fun-loving spirit were contagious. Her housemates and friends have treasured memories of great times shared with her and her husband, Jim Thomas ’71. We were lucky to have known her. She will be missed but lives on in our hearts.” To make a donation, visit givenow.udayton.edu (endowment fund No. 47995) or use the envelope included in this magazine.

KATHLEEN TODARELLO TOIA (EDE) and ROBERT “BOB” TOIA JR. ’69 (BIO) live in Centerville, Ohio.

PATTY SPITLER ’76

From records to Rottweilers

Since her days as a disc jockey at WVUD while a student, Patty Spitler has been in the communication business. After graduation, she broke the “vinyl ceiling” as one of the first female morning DJs in the country at a time when that coveted time slot was dominated by men.

The communication major eventually moved from radio to TV, anchoring news and entertainment programs at WISH-TV in Indianapolis. In 2005, a severe hearing loss caused Spitler to change her career path.

“I was depressed when I lost my hearing but decided to take what I knew and learn to adapt,” she said.

After that, her career literally went to the dogs. Actually, pets of all kinds. As host and producer of the nationally syndicated PetPals TV, she reaches 8 million animal-loving households weekly with programming that promotes responsible pet ownership, tells heartwarming stories and offers advice from experts on animal-related topics. As the boss, she selects the co-hosts—like her dogs Mabel and Stewie, her constant companions.

Spitler’s new lifestyle program, “Great Day TV with Patty Spitler,” airs in Indiana markets including Indianapolis and Fort Wayne, with plans for the show to be more widely distributed. As an independent producer, Spitler has control over content and can advocate for issues close to her heart.

“Hearing loss and mental distress—I’ve suffered from both and had to hide that doing the news,” Spitler said. “Now I can offer hope and support. I don’t have to hide my disability, and it’s a great stress reliever to be open.”

Spitler sits on the board of the National Alliance on Mental Illness and is an advocate and spokesperson for Hearing Indiana, an organization that focuses primarily on children’s auditory health.

Over the years, Spitler has developed a philosophy to deal with setbacks and loss: “I’m busy. I’m relevant. I’m happy. You don’t have to be like everyone else—you make yourself happy by doing what you love.”

We’ll bark to that.
—Jeaneen Parsons
IN MEMORIAM

ALUMNI
1943
Alfred W. Bagot — Dec. 18, 2016
1947
Donald J. Pinciotti — Oct. 3, 2017
1948
Alfred F. Rampone Jr. — Nov. 9, 2017
1949
Ernest A. Avellan — Dec. 7, 2017
1950
William L. “Bill” Bombeck — Jan. 12, 2018
Thomas S. Sheetz — Nov. 7, 2017
Norman F. von der Embse — Nov. 16, 2017
1951
Elmer J. Helmkaup — Oct. 12, 2017
Thomas P. Lechner — Sept. 21, 2017
1953
Ronald D. Goenner — Oct. 6, 2017
Francis J. “Fran” Schubert Jr. — Nov. 10, 2017
Elton D. Whitehair — Nov. 8, 2017
1954
Donald C. Ekberg — Nov. 6, 2017
Harold E. Holmes — Aug. 5, 2017
1955
Donald J. DuScheid — June 20, 2015
Sister M. Angela Tiencken, M.S.C. — Oct. 31, 2017
1956
Russell H. Nicely — Oct. 23, 2017
John C. Weldon — Oct. 19, 2017
1957
Bernard J. Liddy — Nov. 30, 2017
1958
Charles R. Castleman — March 8, 2004
Robert L. Heidenreich — Dec. 11, 2017
Robert E. Tamaska — Nov. 16, 2017
1959
Brother James P. Fitzgibbons, S.M. — June 6, 2017
Phillip G. Masten — Nov. 23, 2017
1960
Barbara S. Leff King — Nov. 13, 2017
Richard E. Nonelle — Nov. 1, 2017
Vincent F. Riccio — Nov. 5, 2017
1961
Roy S. “Stan” Browning Jr. — Nov. 2, 2017
John J. LaBryuyere — Oct. 13, 2017
Joseph C. Santo — Sept. 22, 2017
Donald L. Wohlrab — Sept. 28, 2017
Judy A. Hagen Woods — June 8, 2011
1962
George H. Delingner — Oct. 27, 2017
Hubert T. “Derry” Derivan Jr. — Nov. 10, 2017
Kenneth E. Gels — Nov. 25, 2017
Gerald L. “Jerry” Gillotti — Nov. 23, 2017
W. Patrick “Pat” Murray — Nov. 10, 2017
1963
Mary R. Davin Dunn — Oct. 3, 2017
Paul O’Brien — Aug. 9, 2013
James R. “Jim” Reinhart — Nov. 19, 2017
David A. Shadoan — Oct. 22, 2017
James J. Cleary Jr. — Nov. 26, 1964
Michael T. Sutherland — Oct. 1, 2017
1965
William A. “Bill” Gels — Sept. 7, 2017
Ralph J. Malozzi — Aug. 28, 1966
Anita M. Post Arsenneau — Nov. 21, 2017
William F. Duffy — Oct. 14, 2017
1967
Donald L. Fritsch — Dec. 4, 2017
Shiv K. Gupta — Nov. 4, 2017
Maureen A. Jones Wieser — Nov. 15, 2017
1968
Thomas “Tom” Burke — Sept. 29, 2017
Anthony W. Pappano — Oct. 14, 2017
1969
Frances A. Arnold Valentine — April 27, 2017
Kathleen Barkmeyer Wallace — Sept. 22, 2017
1970
Larry J. Porter — Oct. 4, 2017
Eugene A. Suchma — Nov. 21, 1971
1971
1972
Sister Mary Ellen Dow, S.N.D. — Oct. 4, 2017
Stephen D. King Jr. — Nov. 27, 2017
Cecilia C. Goad Thomas — Oct. 31, 2017
1973
Edward L. “Ed” Blinn — Dec. 11, 2017
1974
Father Gil J. Wohler, O.F.M. — June 2, 2015
1975
Derek Bradstreet — Nov. 4, 2016
Wanda M. “Madge” Grimm Dieringer — Sept. 22, 2017
Richard G. “Rick” Kremer — Oct. 12, 2017
Barry M. Murphy — Jan. 2, 1976
1977
Joseph D. Farone — May 9, 2017
James M. Planet — Oct. 2, 2017
Joseph P. Reiling — Oct. 7, 2017
1978
William E. Thorne — Aug. 25, 2017
1979
Michael E. Benedum — June 28, 2017
1980
Stanley J. “Stan” Krutwick Jr. — Nov. 30, 2017
Sister Mary Brigid Quinn, R.S.M. — Oct. 12, 2017
1981
David R. Berry — Oct. 21, 2017
1982
Charlotte D. Cutrary — Oct. 21, 2017
1983
1984
David L. Hamilton — Oct. 18, 2017
1985
John F. “Ty” Williams — Jan. 11, 2018
1986
1987
Gail R. Snyder Latham — Nov. 15, 2017
Suzanne K. Randall — Dec. 2, 2017
1988
Mary J. Jones Colter — July 17, 2017
1989
Terrence P. Florie — Oct. 17, 2017
Patrick J. “Pat” Lawler — Oct. 4, 2017
1990
Roy L. Cassidy — Oct. 9, 2017
Sister Barbara L. Wanner, S.S.J. — Nov. 23, 2017
1991
Sister M. Angela Tiencken, M.S.C. — Oct. 12, 2017
Sister Barbara L. Wanner, S.S.J. — Nov. 23, 2017
1992
Suzan E. Zink Flora — Dec. 2, 2017
1993
Sarah E. Gross — Nov. 16, 2017
1994
Eric B. Flory — Nov. 1, 2017
Dwight D. “David” Stuckey — Nov. 26, 2017
2003
Karen L. Drexler — Dec. 12, 2017
Kimberly L. Bruce Vernekar — Sept. 22, 2017
2006
Joseph F. Price — Oct. 4, 2017
2007
Claire M. Adams — Aug. 15, 2017
survived by children Kathleen Adams Hall ’79, Patricia Adams Kelly ’82, Stephen Adams ’90 and Daniel Adams ’90
Louise Man — Oct. 15, 2017; retired University dietary services employee.
Jerry L. Neff — Oct. 15, 2017; former math and education adjunct professor.
Steven T. Paton — Nov. 22, 2017; former physicist and tribologist at the University of Dayton Research Institute.
Stephen R. Rice — Oct. 21, 2017; retired psychologist and associate director at the University of Dayton Counseling Center.
Ival O. Sally — Oct. 15, 2017; former researcher at the University of Dayton Research Institute.
Beverly Beaty Wassenich — Nov. 15, 2017; former University employee.

FRIENDS

Prayer intentions are collected online through the Marianist Mission at bit.ly/Marianist_Mission.
“Unbeknownst to either of us until recently, former roommates Patti Rupp Liszakay and I each published our first books in summer 2017. My memoir, At Home on a Horse in the Woods, chronicles my quest to connect with horses. Patti, who teaches piano, wrote a romantic comedy, Equal and Opposite Reactions, that tells the story of a modern working-class damsel in distress who finds her prince charming in a kindhearted plumber. I retired after teaching science for 30 years and now braid custom horse hair jewelry. James and I own Highlander, the horse on the cover of my book, and have adopted several stray dogs and cats since we married in 1995. Learn more by reading my blog at swishtails.wordpress.com.”

KAREN HIGGINS GARCIA (MET) and her husband, Ray, live in Vista, Calif. She writes, “I retired two years ago and have no idea how I ever had time to work. I’m enjoying life, taking dance lessons with Ray, piano lessons with three of my granddaughters, serving on the board of directors of the pro-life organization Birth Choice, and spending more time at the gym and lots of time traveling with friends and family. In 2017, Ray and I celebrated 25 years of marriage and the birth of our ninth grandchild. God is good.”

GALEN GASSON (BT) lives in Versailles, Ohio. He writes, “In October 2017, at the Versailles Fire Department, I attended a talk about a local tax levy to support a new radio system in Darke County, Ohio. Afterward, I gave a talk about how radios work, including trivia on the subject.”

1974

OSCAR ALVAREZ (MED) and LYNN FITZGERALD ALVAREZ (EDE) write, “We live in Spring Lake, N.J., and East Brunswick, N.J. We became grandparents when Cora Jean Alvarez was born in July 2016. We still feel like ‘crazy off-campus’ UD students, and it seems a bit weird to be referred to as ‘Nana’ and ‘Papa.’ However, we thrive during weekends on the Jersey shore beach with our family and especially our active, beautiful and funny granddaughter. In September 2017, we hosted a beach house weekend reunion with Class of 1974 grads Rick Carpini, Tina Arnold Allen, Patrick Sheeran and Robin Keenan Wichter. We send a big hello to our other Class of 1974 friends.”

STEVE MUeller (PSY) and CINDY PRASNIKAR MUELLER (ACC) live in Dayton. They write, “We both retired from UD in summer 2017; Steve after 41 years in student development and Cindy after 24 years in enrollment management. We had good careers and built ever better relationships. As a retirement gift to us, our children and grandchildren gave us their time and spent a day on campus with us, visiting memorable sites. It was a great family time at UD. We’re enjoying our transition into retirement. The Marianist charism certainly has influenced our family.”

KENNETH POLKE (CHA) lives in Ashtabula, Ohio. He writes, “I moved back to Ohio from Colorado to promote my new book, Conquering Your Adversities: From Mafia-Controlled Streets to the NFL to Ultimately Becoming a Successful Doctor. The memoir is the sequel to the true story and mobster movie Kill the Irishman, which depictsmobster Danny Greene’s war with the Italian mob to control the Cleveland mafia. My book lays out my plans for escaping this neighborhood and gives advice to others seeking to conquer their surroundings. The book includes several chapters devoted to my time at UD, including my days playing for the Flyers football squad, and talks fondly about the University. Leaving nothing censored, the book also depicts some college antics and pranks.”

1975

DAVID WISE (POL) lives in Baltimore. He writes, “I recently became the first director of the University System of Maryland Momentum Fund, a venture capital fund to finance early-stage companies associated with the 12 institutions of the University System of Maryland. Previously, I was the venture adviser to the president of the Abel Foundation on its direct investment program.”

1976

DAVID BITONTE (MED) lives in Uniontown, Ohio. He writes, “I had my University of Dayton Magazine with me at the Ferrari Factory in Maranello, Italy, during a trip I took in September 2017.”

1977

MICHAEL “MIKE” HOYING (CHM) lives in Coldwater, Ohio. He writes, “My daughter, Rachel Hoying ’11, and I recently made a trip to Italy with several family members. After visiting Rome, Pompeii, Florence and Venice, we couldn’t pass up the opportunity to get a picture at the Leaning Tower of Pisa.”
Can UDentify us?

To the victors go the intramural championship T-shirts. But who are these players who posed for the 1978 Daytonian? Toss out a few names and see if you can score a hit in the summer UD

From our last issue

In our UDentify photo from the winter issue, Gina Gottfried Chiappetta '91 saw faces from a Christmas past: Chris Tichy Landry '91 (left) and Heidi Seward '91 (center). And for the autumn magazine’s UDentify, band alumni under the direction of Tom Harruff ’80 crowdsourced the names of the remaining musicians. From left, the drummers are Don Avery, Kim Kelly, Kevin Kohne and Brian Newbury, with tuba player Kevin McCarthy marching in the background. Writes Harruff, “Kim Kelly fronts the Kim Kelly Orchestra, which plays frequently around the Dayton area to this day.”

SUSAN PELINO LICATA (MKT) and MIKE LICATA ’79 (CRJ) live in Williamsville, N.Y.

1978

MIKE LICATA (CRJ) and SUSAN PELINO LICATA ’77 (MKT) live in Williamsville, N.Y. Mike is a director and coordinator at the Erie County Sheriff’s Department.

1979

MATTHEW KORONA (LAW) and MARY JO SALMON KORONA ’83 (LAW) live in Penfield, N.Y.

1980

MAUREEN DOLAN MCNAIR (ENG) lives in Chicago. She writes, “UD alumnus garbage gathered in Atlanta for a mini-reunion in late September 2017 and enjoyed lunch at an Atlanta institution: The Varsity. Joining me were Mary Rohrkenper ’80, Eileen Dolan ’79, Patty Reusser Hawkins ’80 and Amy Cole Tritt ’78.”

1981

DANA LAWLOR DUNLEVY (COM) and her husband, John, live in Florham Park, N.J. She writes, “Four UD Class of 1981 alumni celebrated our 40th high school reunion together Nov. 11, 2017. Joining me were Richard Storey, Elizabeth O’Brien and Patricia Fressola Idrobo. We all graduated from Hanover Park High School, East Hanover, N.J.”

1983

MARK DAPORE (EET) and his wife, Michelle, live in Mason, Ohio. He writes, “I’m the vice president and general manager of CE Space Avionics in Mason. While my passion is supplying avionics to enable missions in space, I also enjoy bicycling and backpacking. This summer, I had the pleasure of backpacking Mount Whitney, which is as close to space as you can get in the continental United States. We have three grown children: Alex, Marissa and Cory ’11, who is a UD graduate.”

MARY JO SALMON KORONA (LAW) and MATTHEW KORONA ’79 (LAW) live in Penfield, N.Y. She writes, “I’m proud to have been selected by my peers as a 2018 Best Lawyer in the areas of commercial litigation and bankruptcy/creditors rights. Matthew and I have been married 35 years. I love to travel and my favorite destinations include Geneva, N.Y., and Loma, Colo., homes to our daughter Katharine Korona and daughter and son-in-law Stephanie and Erik Ebbeisen.” Mary Jo is a founding partner of Leclair Korona Vahey Cole LLP, formed in 2007. She was recognized with a Leader in Law award in 2016, has written articles on a variety of litigation topics and is active in numerous professional organizations.

GARY MAZZOLA (EDE) and his wife, Joyce, live in Acton, Mass. He writes, “My wife and I took the University of Dayton Magazine to Napa, Calif., to celebrate the wedding of Matthew Spencer, son of Susan MacArthur Spencer ’83, at Los Carneros Resort and Spa on Oct. 7, 2017. Joining the fun were John MacArthur ’84, Maureen MacArthur Rockhill ’88 and Ernie Rockhill III ’88.”

1984

CIFERINO CATA (MED) and ANNE CHARTERS CATA (CHA) live in Dayton. They write, “We enjoyed time and wine together in France last summer with fellow 1984 classmates Terry Brown and Rita Schenkel Brown.”

SUSAN DOVISHAW-HENRY (COM) and her husband, Loren, live in Chagrin Falls, Ohio. She writes, “After many years of staying home to raise my family, my newest adventure is a new job and career that’s taken me full circle back to UD. In August 2017, I was hired as the Ohio sales representative for SOCKSMITH, a novelty sock company based in Santa Cruz, Calif. The UD Bookstore was my first account, and UD has once again provided me a steppingstone in my new career and adventure. I will always hold a special place in my heart for the University of Dayton, not only for the degree I earned, but for the lifelong friends I made. Cheers to new adventures and UD.”

LISA PAYNE WANSLEY (POL) and her husband, Terrance, live in Pawling, N.Y. She writes, “I was appointed vice president of environmental justice and sustainability at the New York Power Authority (NYP) in May 2016. I’m responsible for NYP’s statewide environmental justice program, which is designed to improve the quality of life for families living in marginalized communities surrounding NYP’s projects. I’m also responsible for educational and community outreach initiatives, as well as implementing a comprehensive sustainability program at NYP.” Before she joined NYP, Lisa was with the Bronx County District Attorney’s office for 21 years.
Learning your options

As the opioid epidemic sweeps across the nation, estate attorney Kelli E. Brown sees the anxiety of clients who have children addicted to drugs or alcohol.

As Brown continues to see the number of clients with this problem increasing, she’s realized that parents struggle with knowing how to responsibly divide their estate since an addicted child may not handle a large amount of wealth appropriately.

“More and more, middle and wealthy families have adult children that are struggling with addiction issues. They come to me and tell me there are so many things they can do,” Brown said. However, it’s the ones who do not have estate planning who Brown worries about.

In 2017, Brown wrote Estate Planning When You Have an Addicted Child to help explain to parents how they could decide in a responsible way to keep addicted children in the will or to exclude them.

Some of those options include placing assets in a trust, designating early on who gets personal property and finding a responsible person to be in charge even if he/she is not a relative.

After taking a media law class with Judge James Brogan while at UD, Brown knew she wanted to go to law school. Brown attended Chase Law School at Northern Kentucky University followed by the University of Miami, Coral Gables, where she earned a Master of Laws in estate planning.

Brown has been practicing trusts and estate law for 21 years. She is currently a partner at Goldberg Simpson LLC, a law firm in Louisville, Kentucky, where she is the chair of the trusts and estates department.

“The purpose of my book is to provide information to the average person who may have a loved one struggling with addiction. I want them to have the resources they need to make good decisions. They need to know there are many options,” Brown said.

—Erin Frey ’18
KATHARINE CONWAY ’01

A refuge from illness

Katharine Conway doesn’t wear a white physician’s coat or scrubs when she treats patients at Wright State Physicians Health Center in Fairborn, Ohio. She said she wants them to feel at ease and “have space to tell their story without feeling intimidated.”

After all, many of the men, women and children she works with are refugees from Africa, Iraq and Afghanistan and are facing what Conway calls “the trifecta of illnesses.” These include chronic conditions like diabetes, infectious diseases and mental illness.

The patients have fled their home countries and yet they bring incredible resilience and deep culture to Ohio cities according to Conway. She admits, however, that treating refugees is a challenge for the U.S. health care system and health care workers. That’s why, at Wright State University where Conway teaches and oversees the Global Health curriculum program, medical students spend several weeks studying and working in places like Swaziland, Peru and Malawi.

By training medical students in global health care initiatives, Conway said, “I’m trying to connect the dots with training abroad and how to use that knowledge to improve health care.”

“We need to make global health care local,” said Conway, who believes that by meeting refugees’ health care needs more effectively, health care professionals will help refugees become “our newest neighbors, to work and live independently in the community.”

Conway graduated with a degree in biology and was one of the first UD students to graduate with a minor in human rights. Conway said she didn’t want to go to UD. She only agreed, while on the area college tour circuit, to stop and visit the campus to appease her mother.

When they arrived on campus, “It was classic UD,” Conway said. “I fell in love.

“I really learned how to build a valuable life and serve my community too.”

—Molly Blake ’96

High School in Beaver, Pa., from 1998 to 2002 and totaled 190 career victories. I continue to teach English at Hopewell High School.” During a trip to Washington, D.C., Martin met a fellow Flyer also interested in soccer, Chris Roiffe, who played for the DC United professional soccer team.

KIMBERLY “PEDI” BREWER RUSCIO (EVT) lives in Lima, Ohio. She writes, “I moved out of Ohio after graduation but am now back in my home state. The great thing about being back home is visiting all of my UD friends. My roommate Patti Maher ’95 and I traveled to Cleveland for a quick visit with another roommate, Sue Lester Ramming ’95. Then we journeyed to Rochester, N.Y., for a weekend with Meghan McNall ’95, John McNall ’68 and their family. We love 4 North.”

1997

SHAWN BEEM (FRN)/(NS) married Michael Jones July 14, 2017, in Columbus, Ohio, where the couple lives. He writes, “After 13 years together, Michael and I married in a private ceremony in The Topiary Park of Columbus and then gathered in our home with family and friends to celebrate our marriage. It was a wonderful weekend, celebrating love and equality. I’m the assistant dean for professional development at Capital University Law School.”

1998

TIM BERINGER (MGT) and MEGHAN GEIGER BERINGER (FIN) live in Akron, Ohio. They write, “Hope to see you all at Reunion Weekend June 8-10.”

2001

JOHN GLENSKI (ELE) and AMANDA MELLO GLENSKI (VCA) announce the birth of Isaac (4-21-2017), who joins sisters Sophie (2008), Lydia (2010) and Bridget (2013) at home in Loveland, Ohio.

KAREN ROWLEY HOGAN (EVB) and her husband, Dennis, live in Philadelphia. She writes, “I was named a Philadelphia Woman Scientist of the Year at Philly Tech Week, where I presented in fall 2017. I also was a presenter at the TEDMED conference last fall. I’m a founder of Biorealize and the teaching laboratory coordinator in the department of biology at the School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania.”

JOSHUA RAMMEL (REL) lives in Wilmington, N.C. He writes, “I’m proud to announce my new position as campus director at the Basilica Shrine of St. Mary and St. Mary School in Wilmington, N.C. My wife and I have two children.”

LISA RECHTSTEINER YERIAN (ACC) and ERIC YERIAN ’02 (CIE) live in West Chester, Ohio. They write, “We met in Founders Hall in 1997. Now, 20 years later, we’re still having a blast. Eric and Mike Yerian ’02 mastered the stand-up paddleboard in Akumal, Mexico, with me. Go Flyers!”

2002

MICHELLE RIVIELLO (PUB) married Patrick Norris June 17, 2017, in the Finger Lakes, N.Y. She writes, “My roommate from UD, Bridget Bushman ’02, served as bridesmaid, and seven alumni from three states attended the celebration.” The couple lives in Boston.

ERIC YERIAN (CIE) and LISA RECHTSTEINER YERIAN ’01 (ACC) live in West Chester, Ohio. They write, “We met in Founders Hall in 1997. Now, 20 years later, we’re still having a blast. Mike Yerian ’02 and I mastered the stand-up paddleboard in Akumal, Mexico, with Lisa. Go Flyers!”

2003

AARON GARMAN (EYA) and JILL HARWELL GARMAN (EMS) write that they are looking forward to Reunion Weekend. “We hope to see all of our classmates and friends at reunion in June.” Aaron and Jill live in Brunswick, Ohio.

KATE BROWN RECHTSTEINER (MKT) and BRIAN RECHTSTEINER (MS) live in Blue Ash, Ohio. They write, “We are making plans to attend Reunion Weekend June 8-10 and hope that all of you from the Class of 2003 will join us. Go Flyers!”

2004

KRISTIN OBERLANDER (RTV) (CMM) lives in Arlington, Va. She writes, “I recently transitioned into the computer science field, which has quickly embraced me as the manager of technology and web development at the Washington, D.C., nonprofit where I now happily work.”

2005

JAMES SANDY (CMT) lives in Fairlawn, Ohio. James has been named a “Rising Star” in the 2018 edition of Ohio Super Lawyers for his work in such areas as business litigation, appellate, consumer law, creditor/debtor rights and civil litigation defense.

2006

SARAH BARBO (BIO) married Greg Nielsen July 2017 in Holland, Mich. She writes, “Several UD alumni attended the wedding, including Lynn Waterhouse ’07, Ben Smith ’06 and Shauna McGinty Smith ’06, Zach Staudter ’05 and Mary Hicks Staudter ’06, and...”
2007
LINDSEY WATERS COLEY (LAW) lives in Bedford, Va. Lindsey was named a “Rising Star” in the 2017 edition of Virginia Super Lawyers in the areas of employment and labor law. Lindsey was also named to the Virginia Lawyers Weekly’s 2017 class of Up & Coming Lawyers. Lindsey is a partner with the firm Gentry Locke.

SAM SKUBAK (POL) and ASHLEY MAYER SKUBAK ’09 (EMS) announce the birth of Sidney Mayer (10-12-2017), who joins brother Sawyer (9-9-15) at home in Brunswick, Ohio. They write, “Our second son weighed 9 pounds and 9 ounces.”

JOHN ZIMMERMAN
Woodward Theater surrounded by family and friends. “At the wedding ceremony, we were surrounded by many fellow graduates and one golden alumnus, Brad’s grandfather, Gerard Lonsway ’60.”

WINSTON IMWALLE (ENT) (FIN) and ALEXA GREEN IMWALLE (ECE) announce the birth of twins Caroline and Paige (10-30-17), who join them at home in Bethesda, Md. Proud grandparents are Todd Imwalle ’84 and his wife, Linda.

2008
MICHAEL ESHLEMAN (LAW) lives in Alamogordo, N.M. The Otero County Commissioners have hired him to be Otero County attorney, handling its civil work.

ELIZABETH KELLEY (MKT) married Chris Sutton Nov. 3, 2017, in Cincinnati, where the couple lives. She writes, “Chris and I were married at Woodward Theater surrounded by family and friends.”

JOHN ZIMMERMAN (MKT) and RACHEL O’CONNOR ZIMMERMAN (EHA) live in Indianapolis. They write, “John completed the 2017 Louisville Ironman, a 2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bike ride and 26.2-mile run.”

2009
ASHLEY MAYER SKUBAK (EMS) and SAM SKUBAK ’07 (POL) announce the birth of Sidney Mayer (10-12-2017), who joins brother Sawyer (9-9-15) at home in Brunswick, Ohio. They write, “Our second son weighed 9 pounds and 9 ounces.”

JENNIFER SZINK (CMM) married Steve Mariani May 20, 2017, at UD’s Chapel of the Immaculate Conception. Jennie writes, “Alumni in attendance included my parents Rick Szink ’82 and Judy Johnson Szink ’82, my sister Emily Szink ’91, my grandfather Richard Szink ’59, roommates from 139 Evanston and 308 Kiefaber, and many other family and friends who are fellow Flyers.” The couple lives in Chicago, where they work at communications and advertising agencies.

2010
GRACE STRZELCZYK BILLS (POL) and BRENT BILLS ’11 (CME) announce the birth of Audrey Marie (11-2-2017), who joins sister Brynn at home in Naperville, Ill.

PHILIP STAMPER-HALPIN (MUS) and his husband, Jonathan, live in Brooklyn, N.Y. Philip writes, “In the years after graduating from UD, I started writing young adult fiction. Bloomsbury Children’s Books recently acquired my debut novel, The Gravity of Us. The story follows two teenage boys who find love amid the drama of a NASA mission to Mars. Publication is scheduled for winter 2020, and I invite classmates to follow me on Twitter @stamepek to learn more.”

2011
BRENT BILLS (CME) and GRACE STRZELCZYK BILLS ’10 (POL) announce the birth of Audrey Marie (11-2-2017), who joins sister Brynn at home in Naperville, Ill.

2012
MARGARET “MEG” FRANKLIN (MKT) married ELLIOTT JOHNSON (FIN) July 29, 2017, at St. Cecilia Church in Cincinnati, with the reception held at Drees Pavilion. They write, “We met freshman year in the UD student neighborhood.” The couple lives in Cincinnati.

2013
CLARE DREHER (GEO) married WILLIAM LUCAS (FIN) Oct. 7, 2017, in Cleveland. They write, “We met on a snow day at Bargos in 2011 when we were sophomores at UD, and the rest is history.” The couple lives in St. Louis.

2015
RYAN BURDINE (UBU) married MEGAN DAUSE (MKT) Sept. 9, 2017, in Birmingham, Mich. They write, “Four members of the wedding party were UD alumni: Katie Goetemoeller ’14, Grace Tilgmetier ’15, Dan Ratterman ’15 and Stephen Gannon ’16. Another 13 UD alumni were in attendance. Go Flyers!” The couple lives in Piqua, Ohio.

2016
JOSEPH ARMSTRONG (MKT) married Lindsay Hoeffling Sept. 30, 2017, at the Dayton Art Institute. He writes, “A host of proud UD graduates celebrated the wedding, their friendship and their deep love of UD, including Trace Bradley ’15, Joe Armstrong ’16, Nick Wicher ’16, Andrew Harbach ’16, Kara Jankowski ’16, Chrsissi Haskell ’16, Brian Cain ’17, Lori Young ’17, Anthony Diggs ’17 and Katie Willard ’17. I’m a counselor at Talbert House in Cincinnati, a nonprofit network of social services focusing on mental health, drug rehabilitation and community corrections.” The couple lives in Cincinnati.

FREDERICK “RICK” FARRIS II (EDL) lives in Charleston, W.Va. He writes, “I was recently awarded the Cecil I. Walker Chair of Management at the University of Charleston, where I serve as an assistant professor of business and as the MBA program director. I’m heavily engaged with business leaders and our alumni.”

2017
NICHOLE RUSTAD (CMM) and her husband, Eric, live in Kettering, Ohio, with their children Emma, 14, and Cameron, 11. Nichole writes, “Eric surprised me with a new Jeep Wrangler and a trip to Florida to celebrate graduation.” Nichole works in the UD marketing office and is pursuing her master’s degree in communication.
Music for Mary

By Sarah Burke Cahalan

Libraries are meant to be used.

I came to my vocation as a librarian while working as an undergraduate in one of the most secure, off-limits parts of Harvard’s libraries. I produced boxes for daguerreotypes and other historical photographs, washed 20th-century adhesive from Colonial-era currency and learned the difference between conservation and preservation from my supervisor.

These artifacts on their own fall apart. Changes in temperature and humidity have often warped pages of books from the Middle Ages, causing paint to flake off. The acid in the wood pulp used for 19th-century newspapers makes them vulnerable to deterioration. Artwork presents a plethora of concerns.

Caring for these materials is an act of faith in the future, that people tomorrow or a century from now will benefit from having access to these items. The Marian Library holds treasures; but the collection’s real value is in how it is used.

So, as we looked at how to celebrate in 2018 the library’s 75th birthday, we looked at how we could use the collection to celebrate. Music related to Mary has a long tradition; but the library’s holdings may not be known as well as they could be.

For part of its birthday celebration, the library, in collaboration with UD’s ArtsLIVE, organized two concerts. One was in January; the other will be in October.

One of the most popular digital collections of the Marian Library is that of sheet music (ecommons.udayton.edu/imri_sheetmusic). During 2017, the centennial year of the apparitions at Fatima, the “Hymn to Our Lady of Fatima” was particularly popular.

The library’s holdings include CDs and audiotapes. And it has many older items such as 17th-century sacred music composed to be performed at the Cathedral of Milan and a 1718 book of songs for pilgrims to Santiago de Compostela.

That the Marian Library was founded in 1943 is a tribute to Marianist foresight and planning. The Marianists at UD wanted to be sure that the library was operating in time for the centennials of the founding of the Marianists and the founding of the University in 1949 and 1950, respectively. So they allowed six years for preparation.

Much of the music being performed this year at our concerts is from our collection (in no small part thanks to the musical expertise of my predecessor in the library director role, Father Thomas Thompson, S.M.)

Personally, I am thankful that, rather than building a monument or erecting a statue, the Society of Mary created a living, working library collection. And I am grateful for the students and faculty, the theologians and other scholars, and the volunteers who have kept it vibrant.

“Storm Series VI”

Janet Jennings ’72
janetjenningsart.com

Coincidence or miracle?

By Dennis Turner

I don’t believe in miracles, but some might consider it a minor miracle that a 72-year-old, retired, agnostic law professor would write a piece of imaginative nonfiction about Belgian nuns taking on the Nazi occupiers of Belgium during World War II.

The first of coincidences that led to my book occurred during a conversation with Sister Kim Dalgarn, SNDdeN, archivist for the Cincinnati Province of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. She mentioned she had discovered letters written by Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur in Belgium and Italy during the Nazi occupation of those countries.

The letters described how the sisters coped with, and resisted, the German occupation. I offered to read the letters to assess whether they could be turned into a book. Then, uncharacteristically, I hinted I might write the book myself.

After reading a few of the letters and other archival documents, I was hooked, inspired to create a fictional order of nuns and a fictional
Homecoming

By Teri Rizvi ’90

At dawn, I awaken to the familiar crow of the rooster and the soulful call to prayer by the muezzin from a nearby mosque. Around the corner, a street vendor sets up a cart laden with oranges along the dusty road that will soon be clogged with every imaginable form of transportation — cars, rickshaws, motorcycles, buses and horse-drawn tongs.

In some ways, little has changed in Lahore, Pakistan, since I first traveled here more than 35 years ago to marry my husband, Zafar, in a small ceremony in the family home. In other ways, this sun-drenched city of 11 million near the Indian border is vastly different, the calm of everyday life punctuated periodically by random suicide bombings.

Life, I realize more than ever, is about having the courage to take a leap of faith in the face of the unknown.

In 1982, marrying outside the faith flew in the face of tradition in this deeply Islamic country. Parents arranged marriages, and their sons rarely lived outside the family home. The reaction of Afa still rings in my ears: “You are no longer my son,” she responded when Zafar phoned her from London with the news he wanted to marry me. The reaction of Apa still rings in my ears: “You are no longer my son,” she responded.

The next coincidence occurred during a UD School of Law dinner party. A guest suggested I interview her friend, Andrée, who had been in occupied Belgium during the War. Two weeks later, during a fascinating lunch with Andrée, she suggested that while we were in Belgium that we should talk to her two sisters. How they and their parents traversed the width of Belgium on their bikes to escape the German invaders became part of my book.

Another coincidence popped up in front of me during a class I was teaching. The Tricks Lawyers Play in the Courtroom, for the UD Osher Life Long Learning Institute. The coincidence, named Sam, told me he was one of the Jewish children who had been hidden in a Belgian convent during the German occupation. I added Sam’s story to the book.

In Saint-Hubert, Belgium, where many of the events described in my book take place, I was taking photos of the Sisters of Notre Dame convent when I saw a man pushing an envelope through the convent’s mail slot. After I told him why I was taking photos of the convent, Guy informed me how his grandfather was the contractor who had rebuilt part of the convent destroyed by American bombs. Guy also said he had photos of his grandfather, Gaston, helping to lay the cornerstone of the reconstructed Oratoire, and he would send the photos to me via email. So Gaston’s story became part of the book.

A book is only as good as its copy editor. What are the odds in meeting an outstanding editor while rowing a shell on Lake Leelanau in Michigan? Chris’ boat was stored next to mine. After a couple of après-row coffees, Chris offered to do a detailed edit on my manuscript for free; the only cost would be my bruised ego from his rigorous proofreading.

The last in the series of improbable events happened shortly before my book was going to press. Cheryl, an alumna of the University of Dayton law school, saw my Facebook page and emailed me about an anecdote her father, a World War II bomber pilot, told her. He described how a fellow pilot had been shot down in Europe and was hidden in a convent where the nuns taught him how to play bridge. I included her father’s tale in the book.

Have I changed my mind about miracles? No. But I am a much stronger believer in how coincidences can change lives.

Dennis Turner will present What Did You Do in the War, Sister? How Belgian Nuns Defied and Deceived the Nazis in World War II, at 5:30 p.m. April 3 at Daniel J. Curran Place, 1700 South Patterson Blvd.
Website: dennisjturner.com
I was tired, very hungry and quite muddy from a misstep I took on the rocky, wet trail. After a three-hour hike to one of Ireland’s tallest peaks, I stood at the summit, looked around and saw nothing. Literally. My hand, outstretched 2 feet from my face, was lost in the clouds. What should have been a cinematic view of the North Atlantic was instead only a ghostly outline of Saint Brendan’s cross, planted at the peak. Somewhere nearby, I could only assume, was my Flyer husband, also standing muddy in the mist.

I’d travel anywhere with a Flyer. With Flyers, I’ve camped in forests, walked through jungles and toured great cities.

Those last two, I didn’t get to do in person. But as editor of this magazine, alumni take me — and you — on adventures through their words and photos. We love the stories they send with their Where Are You Reading pictures.

When we redesigned our quarterly tabloid into the University Dayton Magazine nine years ago, we figured it would take nearly a decade to profile every Flyer alumni community, one issue at a time and accompanied by a Rudy cartoon painted by our art director, Frank Pauer (his illustration for Tampa Bay, pictured here, is one of my favorites). With this issue’s trip to Southwest Florida, we have accomplished that goal.

Some communities have memorable events — bat-watching boat cruise in Austin, Texas, anyone? — but with most, there is much of the same: Game watches. Networking events. Christmas off Campus. Friendships old and new.

Repetition. Reliability. Our student journalists love it.

We don’t write the magazine with them in mind, these 18- to 22-year-olds immersed daily in the UD community. But it’s because they are immersed, they say, that they need these stories of Flyers flown afar. “One day you’ll make us leave,” they say. And that’s scary.

In stories of alumni gathering in communities, students see their future selves, away from campus and doing just fine.

One of those was our own Michaela Eames ’15, who upon graduation worked as the University’s social media strategist. Early this year, she accepted a position with TED Talks in New York City. It was a tip from alumna CC Hutten ’15 that led her to the job posting. Jack Raisch ’15 offered his parents’ NYC home as a temporary abode. Katie Christoff ’15 is now her colleague and Parks and Rec bingo buddy.

Michaela left Dayton, but she didn’t leave UD. Life has many steps, most of which you don’t see coming. Knowing there’s a Flyer to offer a hand when you slip sure helps. All you have to do is reach out.

—Michelle Tedford ’94
Editor, University of Dayton Magazine
magazine@udayton.edu
A song in their hearts

They come to campus as music majors or simply music lovers, looking for a place to fit. Sometimes, it’s as a vocal percussionist, or perhaps part of a soprano trio. Five years ago, the first a cappella group of the recent era formed on campus following the success of TV’s The Sing-Off. Today, four groups share their love of music with the campus and wider community. In February, the coed nine-member group Remedy received third place in the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella Midwest quarterfinal.

Students also graduate — before they even graduate — to the pros. Holly Gyenes ‘17 and Joe Schlangen ‘20 went from Remedy to the community a cappella group Vocalight, which sang at Carnegie Hall and opened for Grammy-winning artist Daya. “When the audience is having a good time, it’s so much fun,” said Schlangen, a mechanical engineering major. Plans are in the works for all four UD groups — Remedy, Audio Pilots, Flying Solos and Underscore — to share the stage for a night of music this spring in perfect harmony with their UD community.

“It’s their music, what they’re listening to on their headphones as they’re walking down the street.” — Joe Whatley, faculty adviser

“Sixteen-member all-female Flying Solos founded in fall 2017”

“We wanted to bring in people who had a passion for music.” — Eileen Mulroe, sophomore early childhood education major

Sophomore Sam Gyenes, outstanding vocal percussionist, 2018 ICCA Midwest quarterfinal

Holly Gyenes ’17, bachelor’s in vocal studies

Recently hired for Disney’s D Cappella touring company

“My biggest challenge will be building up the endurance to perform every night.”
OUR VOLUME OF RESEARCH SPEAKS VOLUMES ABOUT US.

$135.9 MILLION in sponsored research in fiscal year 2017

No. 1 nationally for federally sponsored materials R&D

No. 10 nationally for federally sponsored engineering R&D

No. 1 Catholic university for sponsored engineering R&D

NEARLY 1000 researchers, faculty, staff and students work on sponsored research programs.

No. 3 Catholic university for sponsored R&D in all categories

$1 BILLION in Ohio for sponsored materials R&D

Total value of all sponsored research contracts currently underway.

No. 1 in Ohio for sponsored physical S/TEM R&D

No. 2 in Ohio for sponsored physical S/TEM R&D

RANKINGS ARE BASED ON NSF STATISTICS REPORTED NOV. 2017, USING FISCAL YEAR 2016 DATA.

UNIVERSITY of DAYTON

go.udayton.edu/momentum
It's a pleasant day for a stroll in the fields between campus and Brown Street. In this undated photo, men and boys pause to pose under a tree near where Caldwell Street Apartments now stands. St. Joseph Hall can be seen in the background.

Photo courtesy of UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES