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Beyond Ohio

08.21.2009 | Students, Campus and Community The UD community saw a lot of out-of-state license plates when first-year students began moving into campus residences Saturday, Aug. 22.

About 45 percent of the incoming class hails from outside Ohio — a 6 percent jump in just two years, said Sundar Kumarasamy, vice president of enrollment management.

The class is one of the most diverse in the University's history with increased enrollment from Hispanic, Asian and international students. More than 10 percent of the class comes from an ethnically diverse background.

The incoming class of more than 1,700 students is also the best academically prepared class in the University's history, with an increase in college entrance test scores, high school GPAs and high school rankings.

The number of students transferring into the University from other schools has increased 24 percent.

"While it has been a challenging year for many private schools, we have had tremendous success in balancing all the goals we have for a first-year class," Kumarasamy said. "The University of Dayton's growing national reputation makes it an attractive option for students from around the world."

Classes started Wednesday, Aug. 26, for all students.

Among the changes students saw on campus were \$15.2 million in improvements to Stuart and Virginia W. Kettering residence halls. These two halls, which house 1,268 students, are in the midst of a universitywide, five-year, \$42.5 million renovation.

Curriculum changes include new foreign language requirements for students in the global management systems engineering technology program, designed to prepare engineering students for work in international settings. Those students must have a study-abroad experience, an international service learning experience, or an internship or co-op with an international company or division of a company.

Students in a new interdisciplinary course, The Archaeology of a Neighborhood, will examine the history of the south student neighborhood and its transition from farmland to urban neighborhood to student housing.

Students will study the water and power systems of the neighborhood, as well as its social history and create a documentary of the area's history. The course is taught by physics professor Bob Brecha and ArtStreet artist-in-residence Dennie Eagleson.