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Herbert Woodward Martin, professor emeritus of English, is being featured in an Ohio Humanities Council documentary. Martin, a poet, dramatist, librettist and literary critic, is perhaps best known for his portrayal of acclaimed Dayton poet Paul Laurence Dunbar in his colorful performances of Dunbar's work.

In May, law professor Vernellia Randall discussed racial disparities in public health in a question-and-answer forum in The St. Petersburg Times. Randall, author of Dying While Black: An In-Depth Look at a Crisis in the American Healthcare System (Seven Principles Press, 2006), said that while there have been improvements in the health gap between blacks and whites, "improvements have come in the improvement in the general health issues related to society, not because anybody has done anything in eliminating the disparity." Disparities are being addressed as a class-based issue, not as a racial disparity issue, she said. More on the forum.

Nicholas J. Miller, a lab manager for UD's Ladar and Optical Communications Institute and a doctoral student in electro-optics, has received an honorable mention in the Midwest Association of Graduate Schools' Distinguished Master's Thesis competition. His thesis, "Optical Sparse Aperture Imaging," was among the top five in the competition, which drew theses from more than 50 universities.

English professor Jim Farrelly has been awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to participate in "W.B. Yeats: A Reassessment," a four-week NEH Institute in Ireland, July 7-Aug 1. Members of the Institute will work for three weeks in Galway with international Yeats scholars. They then spend a long weekend in Dublin, where a major exhibition of Yeats editions in manuscript, richly contextualized in various media format, is on display at the National Library of Ireland. They spend their final week in "Yeats country" at the Yeats International Summer School in Sligo, where they will interact with the school's distinguished scholars and students.

Nicola Genco, a graduate student in aerospace engineering, won the American Institute for Aeronautics and Astronautics' regional graduate paper and presentation competition in April. In revisiting what most expected to be a tired old problem, Genco performed a study on the geometric parameters influencing the performance of biplanes joined at the wing tips. To the surprise of all who read his paper and heard his talk, he made several important discoveries. First, the lift behavior with change in angle of attack—the angle of the wing relative to the wind—was not linear in a traditional sense or curved as would be expected with flow separation. In fact, the lift curve had one linear slope for part of the curve and another entirely separate slope for the second part of the curve. In contrast to Munk's theorem, he found strong dependence on the direction of stagger—forward or backward—of the two wings relative to each other.

Jonathan Rausch, a graduate student in aerospace engineering, won the American Institute for Aeronautics and Astronautics' regional graduate presentation-only competition in April. Rausch's research seeks a better model for determining the optimal level of circulation for a vortex for optimal lift force in complex flow situations. Although seemingly esoteric in nature, successful results from this study could have profound implications for the reduction of wasted energy in the generation of lift, which could reduce fuel consumption and air vehicle emissions.

English professor Jim Farrelly presented "There's No Place Like Home: Insiders and Outsiders in Brian Friel's Ballybeg" at the annual meeting of the American Conference on Irish Studies April 16-20 at St. Ambrose College in Davenport, Iowa.

Music professor and soprano Linda J. Snyder presented the invited lecture-recital "Women Composers on Broadway: Lucy Simon and Beyond" at the Festival of Women Composers International March 28 at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. As part of her program, she involved IUP musical theater students.
• Music professor and soprano Linda J. Snyder was featured in recital at the Dayton Art Institute March 2.

Professional service

• Music professor and soprano Linda J. Snyder was an external reviewer and consultant for the Santa Clara University music department April 7-8.

• In May, engineering technology professors Scott Schneider and Scott Segalewitz traveled to Shanghai, China, to teach students enrolled in the joint UD-Shanghai Normal University program. Schneider taught several microprocessor classes and labs for two weeks, while Segalewitz taught analog and digital electronics and accompanying labs for four weeks. Segalewitz writes that his family — wife Caryl and children Pamela, 12, and Joshua, 10 — accompanied him for two weeks, seeing the sights around Shanghai and journeying to Beijing and Hangzhou. See their blog (url: mailto:// blog).

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