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UD Graduation Marks Culmination of a Dream … and the beginning of a Journey; Job Market on Upswing for College Graduates

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UD GRADUATION MARKS CULMINATION OF A DREAM...

Twenty-one years after graduating with a degree in nursing from Mt. Carmel School of Nursing, Marian Harper of Kettering decided to go back to school. After seven years of dividing her time between the University of Dayton and her family, Harper is graduating with honors on Sunday, April 30 with a bachelor's degree in communication.

Harper says that her family has been very helpful and she's seen one of her sons obtain a degree in history from UD during her years of study. "The first time I had a test I was terrified, but my kids had signs all around the house saying, 'Don't worry, Mom, you'll do fine,'" Harper said. She has received an assistantship at UD and will begin pursuing her master's degree in communication in the fall.

For media interviews, contact Marian Harper at (513) 294-1998.

...AND THE BEGINNING OF A JOURNEY

For Jennifer Cameron, joining the Peace Corps after graduation has meant fulfillment of a childhood dream. If everything goes as scheduled, Cameron will be going to West Africa in September where she'll begin teaching elementary school. Cameron, a native of Long Island, N.Y., is graduating with a degree in education. She says her friends and family have been extremely supportive, but it will be hard living so far away for the next two years. "But every time I hear stories about my roommate who is in Costa Rica with the Peace Corps I get very excited about my trip," she said.

For media interviews, contact Jennifer Cameron, call (513) 461-0567.

JOB MARKET ON UPSWING FOR COLLEGE GRADUATES

New college graduates are receiving more job offers this year than last, with the biggest demand from employers for graduates who can fill engineering and accounting positions, according to John Kelly, assistant director in the University of Dayton's Career Placement Center.

"Recent graduates with technically oriented degrees should have no problem entering the job market," Kelly said. "One field in particular that has had a growing demand for graduates is accounting, where the salaries are also on the climb. Students with a geographic preference have more opportunity than in the past, particularly on the west coast and in the northeast and southeast."

Between 250 and 300 companies have contacted UD's Career Placement Center to request interviews with UD's graduating seniors. Starting salaries range from $20,000 for positions that require a degree in the humanities, such as history, language, communication and sociology, to $28,000 for some engineering positions. A graduate with a degree in business can expect to earn an average $23,000, according to Kelly.

For media interviews, contact John Kelly at (513) 229-2076.