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A Rat Race; Practice Makes Perfect; Trick or Treat

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A RAT RACE -- A study of rats by a University of Dayton professor could lead to clues about delaying the onset of aging in humans. Researchers already have determined that restricting the caloric intake of rats delays aging and increases their life span by up to 40 percent. Madeline Dellwo, assistant professor of human ecology, wants to know why, so she's restricting calories in half of the 40 rats that have taken up residence in her lab. Dellwo is studying such factors as endocrine functions, exercise and the glycation (binding up) of proteins and enzymes with a glucose-type molecule, which limits their effectiveness.

Contact Madeline Dellwo at (513) 229-2711.

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT -- Dennis Turner's students don't have to wait until they pass the bar to join a law firm. They do that on their first day of school. Turner, professor at the University of Dayton School of Law, divides his Legal Profession class into a dozen law firms of about 15 students each. There is no lecture--they get a client on their first day of class. "Students simulate everything lawyers may do, which puts flesh and bones on the learning process," says Turner. First semester, students focus on the client/attorney relationship. Second semester, they go through the entire pre-trial litigation process. By the time they finish Legal Profession III, they've argued a case before a simulated U.S. Supreme Court.

Contact Dennis Turner at (513) 229-2529.

TRICK OR TREAT -- Halloween isn't just for kids. Dressing up in costume can give adults "a chance to pretend to be something they've always wanted to be, to get back--for a short time--to being carefree children again," says the director of the University of Dayton counseling center. Steven Mueller, who counsels students at UD, says college students in particular need such a break. Halloween is a time for them to lighten up and relax after the early autumn rigors and responsibilities of academic life, he says.

Contact Steven Mueller at (513) 229-3141.