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It's the Gospel; At Home with the Homeless; A New Network

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IT'S THE GOSPEL -- At noon on Thursdays, the dining halls draw many University of Dayton students together. But members of the Christian Education Study Circle, led by graduate assistant Keith Kitchen, are drawn together by the Book. Kitchen, whose role is to address the spiritual life of African-American students at UD, helps students understand the meaning of Scriptural texts and discover how the texts apply to their lives. UD's student body is predominantly Catholic, and "most of the African-American students at UD are Protestants," says Kitchen. "They want to develop their own theological understanding of the Protestant background and its implications in terms of their own faith journey."

Contact Keith Kitchen at (513) 229-3634. The group also meets Mondays from 7 to 8 p.m. in O'Reilly Hall 107.

AT HOME WITH THE HOMELESS -- Art students in Terry Hitt's advanced drawing class are sketching a side of life most hope they'll never experience. Since January, the students have been spending their class time at The Other Place, a downtown Dayton shelter, where they're drawing the homeless. Hitt's work with the homeless began last year when he took a sabbatical to hit the shelters and streets of Dayton to capture the faces of homelessness. Says Hitt: "The faces found in shelters and on streets speak a thousand words of the human struggle toward meaningful living."

Contact Terry Hitt, assistant professor of visual arts, at (513) 229-3210. The students will be visiting the shelter from 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. Fridays through March.

A NEW NETWORK -- The changing nature of the global market has forced American industry—particularly small businesses—to develop new manufacturing strategies to compete. Honors students at the University of Dayton spent a semester developing proposals for a "flexible manufacturing network" that would link small metal and machinery manufacturers in the Dayton area. Such a network would enable manufacturers to exchange ideas, resources and technology to enhance each other's competitiveness. Networks work in such countries as Italy, Denmark, Sweden and Germany because there's "cooperation yet fierce competition," says Bob Mott, seminar director. "In the U.S., we still have too many independent entrepreneurs who are afraid of cooperation."

Contact Bob Mott, associate dean of engineering for engineering technology, at (513) 229-2333.