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## University of Dayton Graduates Place Service First

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# featuring UD

Story ideas for print and broadcast media

April 18, 1991  
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## UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON GRADUATES PLACE SERVICE FIRST

The following students, who will graduate from the University of Dayton this month, are part of a new breed of students who are taking time off to serve. Influenced by UD's tradition of service--more than 700 students actively participate in campus ministry service clubs--the graduates demonstrate that service continues beyond graduation.

Commencement exercises will be held at 10 a.m. Sunday, April 28, in UD Arena.

**CALLED TO SERVE** -- Kristi Kerscher, a senior political science major from Toledo, has been offered a job as an elementary school teacher on an Apache Indian reservation in Lumberton, N.M. The population: 1,500. The pay: \$300 a month.

Kerscher, who helped found and served as president of the National Association of Students at Catholic Colleges and Universities (NASCCU), says "NASCCU has prompted me to consider what I want out of a Catholic education. I've learned about the importance of serving and giving to others and how this fits into the tradition of the Catholic faith. It's made me think, 'How am I going to exercise that when I get out of school?'"

Before she heads west, she's off to Poland as one of eight Catholic youth from the United States selected by the U.S. Catholic Conference to participate in a weeklong international Catholic youth forum and rally in August. Organized by the Vatican's Pontifical Council for the Laity, the gathering will attract 250 Catholic youth from around the world, who are expected to be addressed by Pope John Paul II at a rally.

Contact **Kristi Kerscher** at (513) 228-7332 or 229-2047.

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*The University of Dayton*

For further information or assistance in scheduling interviews, contact Office of Public Relations, (513) 229-3241.

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**IN THE LAP OF LUXURY** -- When Dewey Gottlieb graduates from the University of Dayton this month, he will find himself in a house with no running water and an outhouse in the backyard. Gottlieb will participate in a nine-week service project in Eastern Kentucky with nine other UD students.

The University of Dayton Community Action Group runs a children's tutoring center and a teen center, and it visits nursing homes and families in Magoffin County. Gottlieb, a native of Hawaii, participated in the same project three summers ago, and it motivated him to do something meaningful with his life. Gottlieb majored in secondary education, and when he returns from Kentucky it will be to a teaching job, hopefully in the inner city.

Contact **Dewey Gottlieb** at (513) 229-5234.

**INTO AFRICA** -- Mary Harvan, a graduating English major at the University of Dayton, has signed on to spend a year in Africa, beginning in September. She and fellow student John George will work with Sierra Leone's Association for Rural Development, an organization that finds funding for grassroots projects in the country's villages. Harvan has visited the country twice with UD's honors program and knows what the year will bring.

"I'll probably get malaria," she says matter-of-factly, "and I'll miss the support of my friends and the standard things like ice cream and having the water run whenever you turn on the faucet." On the positive side, Harvan hopes that the non-materialistic "people-first" attitude of Sierra Leonians will be a lifelong inspiration for her, and she says she will depend on her faith to help her during the year. Harvan also plans to study West African literature during her stay in preparation for entering graduate school when she returns.

Contact **Mary Harvan** at (513) 299-9352 or **John George** at (513) 229-5354.