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## Creating Dragon Magic; Diverse Experience

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UNIVERSITY of



DAYTON

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## NEWS RELEASE

*(NOTE TO EDITORS: About 486 University of Dayton students will be graduating during winter commencement exercises at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 18, in UD Arena. Of those receiving diplomas, 287 are receiving bachelor's degrees, 183 are receiving master's degrees and 16 are receiving doctoral degrees. Here is a snapshot of a few of the students who will be graduating. For media interviews, feel free to contact the students directly.)*

**CREATING DRAGON MAGIC** — When Jeff Forthofer was a junior mechanical engineering student, he woke up one morning and decided he couldn't bear the thought of going into his co-op engineering job. By 9 a.m. he switched his major to marketing and by 1 p.m. he was in his first business class.

His decision delayed his graduation by one semester, but Forthofer says it was the best decision he ever made. During the past semester, Forthofer has been taking 12 credits of classes and working 30 to 35 hours a week with the Dayton Dragons baseball team. "I love coming to work every day," he said. He started his internship with the team in April and is now the corporate marketing manager. "At the time I started there were just three other employees. Now we're up to 18 or 20," he said. Seven of those employees are UD graduates, including Gary Mayse, a 1990 graduate, who is vice president of stadium and baseball operations.

In Forthofer's job, he meets with business owners in Dayton, Xenia and Fairborn in hopes of helping corporate sponsors develop ways to use the games, the stadium and the players to benefit their own business. For example, some of the companies may have clients who have sons or daughters who would like to be a bat boy or girl for a game, he said. "We're really trying to develop a relationship," he said. His goal is to get sponsors involved in the game day atmosphere.

For media interviews, call Jeff Forthofer at (937) 361-7754.

**DIVERSE EXPERIENCE** — Laura Rivera has sampled a lot of experiences during her college career, from spending a semester on a cruise ship outfitted for education to working for a summer for a Congresswoman from her native Puerto Rico. Rivera will graduate from UD Saturday, Dec. 18, with a bachelor's of arts degree in international studies.

This spring, Rivera enjoyed her "Semester at Sea," which is sponsored by the Institute for Shipboard Education and based at the University of Pittsburgh. "There were 600 college students from all over the United States on the ship, which is used as a cruise ship in the summer and then converted to a campus for fall and spring semesters. We took classes on board while we went around the world and visited 10 countries, including Cuba." She calls the "people connection" with students in other countries the greatest benefit, and she still corresponds with people she met in Malaysia.

In addition to her other activities, Rivera spent this past summer at the University of Michigan, completing a public policy and international affairs fellowship. Her minor at UD is international business. She plans to enter graduate school in fall 2000.

Her parents, expected in Dayton on Thursday, will be joining her for graduation before they all return to Puerto Rico. "My mom is going to freeze. I told her to bundle up," Rivera said.

For media interviews, call Laura Rivera at (937) 285-5103.

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