Dear Reader:

NEW. The word can sometimes imply refreshment, sometimes challenge, but always seems to bring excitement and change.

The University of Dayton has experienced new in many ways over the last few years — the president, the provost, the chapel, the campus itself and more. The University Honors Program, too, is experiencing changes this year, and you’ll read about them in this issue.

We welcome our new director, Dr. John McCombe, who some of you may remember from Honors English classes. In addition, the LINK is transitioning its content management from the talented and creative Elizabeth Abrams as she moves towards graduation, to our new manager-in-training, Monica Rook. We are also introducing the newest signature program, Global Flyers, in which students spent the summer interning in London, learning about food sustainability in India, or continuing Honors thesis research at Oxford.

Finally, we have some great stories from our Honors alumni who discuss their own major transitions in careers and life, as well as the yearly class notes to catch up on alumni news.

As always, thank you for any and all past, present and future contributions to the link — the Honors news magazine wouldn’t be the same without you.

Warm regards,

Ramona R. Speranza
Managing Editor
THIS PAST YEAR the University Honors Program introduced Dr. John McCombe as the new Program director. Although he has been an English professor at UD since 2001, McCombe had a less than traditional start to his university teaching career — rather than taking the direct route, he started by working as a clinical chemist. After receiving his undergraduate degree in secondary education from the University of Pittsburgh, McCombe was professionally certified to teach high school chemistry. However, he soon realized that he was called towards literature more than science.

“I was good at chemistry, but I don’t think I ever really loved being in a lab,” McCombe said. “So I took classes in areas that I did like, (such as) film studies, English and art history, while working at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.”

After completing graduate studies in English, he came to the University of Dayton. There, he offered Honors courses and served as associate director of the Honors Program for five years. “At times I’ve considered [other] leadership positions on campus, but I have only ever applied for two,” McCombe said. “They were both in the Honors Program.”

McCombe repeatedly spoke of the students studying in the Honors Program with great admiration. He has taught classes ranging from British Literature surveys to more specialized classes on Bob Dylan and 1980’s film. Often, he teaches the 200H English CAP class to first-year students. As is customary with the 200H course, McCombe has the latitude to select a theme of his own choosing each semester.

“I’ve had some really unique themes,” McCombe said. “One semester we focused on the construction of Dodger Stadium in southern California. It was really interesting because there a social justice component to it since many Mexican-Americans were displaced from their homes in the Chavez Ravine neighborhood … it wasn’t a course that related much to baseball.”

Having had so much experience working with students in the classroom, McCombe has a clear understanding of what students want and need — and he is incredibly determined to exceed the standards.

McCombe recognizes that each student’s definition of extraordinary is different. To address this, he highlighted multiple avenues students may take to achieve their academic goals. Among those are participation in internship opportunities (such as the DC Flyers), the Chaminade Scholars Program and study abroad, particularly within the Global Flyers Program.

“When I came to UD, the Honors Program was very small — just a few hundred students — and when I became associate director, we restructured things,” McCombe said. “It’s much larger now and that was one of the reasons that I wanted to come back. I was part of a team that did this and I wanted to finish that work.”

To him, the work is worth the effort. McCombe genuinely enjoys working with his Honors students, finding them to be some of the most engaging, active learners in the classroom.

“With Honors students there is a little bit more motivation — people are willing to do more work,” he said. “They’re just interesting and energetic and creative. I kind of wanted more of that.”

McCombe himself has been energetic and creative in his work at UD and has plans to continue fundraising within the Honors Program, eventually expanding the curriculum to which students have access by adding specialized Honors sections in upper-level classes.

As an educator, McCombe has drawn upon his own experiences from his past college years. He described how his teaching experience showed him that as a 20-year-old he didn’t take advantage of the same opportunities that UD Honors students do today.

“A lot of our students seize opportunities in a way that I didn’t,” he said. “They’re driven to learn in service of others which is really amazing. I wish I had done more of that myself as a student. So it’s my job now to encourage them to take advantage of those opportunities.”

When asked what advice he would give to today’s Honors students, McCombe laughed and gave a somewhat unexpected response, saying, “I want to continue to feel bad about my own undergraduate experience.” He hopes to see students continue to have a high level of achievement and to take advantage of any opportunities that he has to the power to give them.

The Honors Program welcomes Dr. McCombe as the new program director and looks forward to what is to come!
Rachel Bloom-Pojar
English

One of the newer faculty members supporting the Honors Program is Dr. Rachel Bloom-Pojar, an assistant professor in the English department. She attended the University of Kansas to earn her Ph.D. in rhetoric and composition, beginning her career teaching general writing and composition classes. Her research has focused on the context of health in a temporary health program in the Dominican Republic. This sparked her interest in health literacy. Starting her career at UD in fall of 2015, she has taught a number of classes including ENG 366 and ENG 373.

Anne Crecelius
Health and Sport Science

Health and Sport Science assistant professor Anne Crecelius has experienced the Honors Program from many directions: first as a student, then as a thesis advisor and now as an instructor of an Honors research course. A 2007 alum, Crecelius went on to receive a Ph.D. before returning to UD in 2013 to teach and to conduct research on cardiovascular blood flow. She mentored a Berry Summer Thesis Institute student in her second year as a professor before teaching her first Honors courses in fall 2016. She credits her undergraduate Honors experience as being influential in her work as a professor: “My experience doing an Honors thesis as an undergraduate set me on a path toward graduate school which set me on a path to my current career.” In turn, she said, she wants to be able to facilitate the same thing for her students. “There is a lot of joy, pride and satisfaction that comes from seeing undergrads feel like experts in something,” Crecelius said.

Anne Crecelius' numerous experiences with Honors students have allowed her to walk with students as they become more specialized in their academic and career plans and in the process may have to learn to say no to things. “It’s a constant struggle,” said Crecelius, “but often people who are Honors students (or were in my case) are driven and motivated to do a lot of good. That drive just has to be focused. If everyone can do that, great work will still get done, it just may not always get done by one person. And that’s okay.”

Elizabeth Abrams '17

The values of the University Honors Program are rooted in the characteristics of a Marianist education. Like Farnsworth, UD’s Honors Program strives to connect students with opportunities to serve the community. The zeal Farnsworth possesses for successfully teaching in a Marianist manner is admirable.
Nancy Haskell
Economics
Entering her third year at UD, Dr. Nancy Haskell excels as an assistant professor of economics. She began her education at Davidson College and taught as a graduate assistant at the Ohio State University. Haskell teaches classes ranging from principles of microeconomics to labor economics, and she enjoys teaching Honors courses. “The smaller class sizes are more enjoyable than lecture halls, and I think the students, on average, are more open to discussion, tend to ask more questions and are more conscientious,” Haskell said.

In addition to teaching, Haskell is working as a thesis advisor and enjoys working one-on-one with students in their areas of expertise. She sees involving students in research as a great opportunity, especially since UD does not have a graduate program in economics. For Honors students writing a thesis, she advises them to “approach your advisor on a regular basis when you struggle with concepts and don’t be afraid to admit that you need guidance. Keep yourself organized and maintain a weekly schedule.” She also notices that Honors students are cautious with taking chances on different ideas and are more concerned about maintaining an A. She advises students to not be so concerned with grades and “to work towards getting the GPA alongside learning the material and being fully engaged.”

Kristine Perez ‘17

Masha Kisel
English
The thematic approach to University of Dayton’s Honors writing seminars allows instructors to share knowledge and interest related to a specific topic in English.

The students in Dr. Masha Kisel’s writing seminars benefit from her expansive knowledge of censorship and life in the Soviet Union. Having grown up there, Kisel is able to couple her Ph.D. in Russian literature with childhood memories of the Soviet Union and experiences in modern-day Russia and Ukraine. Students in Kisel’s Honors English seminar are reading The Master and Margarita, a novel written from 1928-1940 in the Soviet Union that focuses on themes of totalitarianism. The course includes readings in cultural history to contextualize the novel, and the last few weeks of class are spent drawing connections to artistic censorship in Russia today. These connections focus on the case of Pussy Riot, a feminist punk group whose members served two years in prison for performing a two-minute protest song in a church.

Kisel finds that Honors students are up to the challenge, bringing an intellectual curiosity that facilitates learning.

Kisel uses The Master and Margarita as a framework to introduce first-year Honors students to the practices of intensive writing and rhetorical analysis. This is no easy feat for a single-semester course, but Kisel finds that Honors students are up to the challenge, bringing an intellectual curiosity that facilitates learning. She finds that students show high interest in the novel, regardless of their majors. The students’ curiosity about Russian culture allows them to engage in the complex and nuanced analysis Kisel sees in their writing and class discussions.

Sarah Feldkamp ‘17

The University Honors Program has implemented three additional signature programs to the many opportunities available to Honors students — Global Flyers: Oxford, Global Flyers: London and Global Flyers: India/Dayton. These international opportunities allow students to further develop the “UD Habits of Inquiry and Student Learning Outcomes.” Specifically, students are able to develop a better understanding of scholarship, diversity, community, practical wisdom, critical evaluation of our times and vocation through international experiential learning opportunities. Below is an overview of the three programs and perspectives from some of the students who experienced them.

Kisel at Russian Orthodox Church, St. Petersburg. Photograph courtesy of M. Kisel 2016.

Sarah Feldkamp ‘17

Photographs courtesy of Meg Maloney 2016.

AROUND THE WORLD AND BACK AGAIN

Global Flyers

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Beginning in the summer of 2016, six Honors students participated in the Global Flyers: London program. Partnering with CAPA, a third-party organization and leader in international internship opportunities, students were placed in various internships throughout London that aligned with their majors and areas of interest. In addition to interning 20 hours per week, the students engaged in an academic course and a seminar about the experience.

Borman, Brown, Court, Doroff, Haynes and Thomakos were housed together in a flat and encouraged to interact directly with the clientele she hopes to aid.

Civil engineering student Brian Borman was placed with Parsons Brinkerhoff, a global leader in developing and operating infrastructure around the world. Intervention specialist education major Renee Brown worked with Reach Academy, a nonprofit group designed to help at-risk youth attain higher education. Adolescence to young adult education and English major Olivia Thomakos gained experience at Youth Music Theater, an organization providing theater training for young people ages 11 to 21. International business management major Emma Doroff performed human resources and administrative tasks at St. Pancras Renaissance Hotel London. Political science and human rights major Julia Court interned with Hibiscus, a female prisoners’ welfare project that works with the special needs of migrant women imprisoned in the UK (see Court’s Profile). History and women’s and gender studies major Emily Haynes spent her summer with Forward UK, an international non-profit that works to enhance the well-being and protect the dignity of African girls and women globally.

The most memorable part of Court’s experience was shadowing a colleague at Peterborough Prison and meeting women assisted by Hibiscus’s work. After her time in London, Court knows she wants to be able to interact directly with the clients she hopes to aid.

Kaleigh Jurcisek, environmental studies major Olivia Grondalski, sociology and human rights major Emily Haynes spent her summer in Sikkim, India, for three weeks. Maloney was able to use her environmental biology major and sustainability, energy and environment minor to learn about nutritional security in an international context. She lived with a host family in Sikkim, India, for three weeks and was able to immerse herself in their day-to-day lives. She also took classes, which helped her apply what she has learned about globalization, climate change and gender studies.

Maloney was inspired by growing everything she ate and by appreciating how community members in this region have such a beautiful relationship with food. One of her favorite experiences was trying unique foods and keeping an open mind throughout the experience. Maloney’s time in India affirmed that she is in the right field, and it reignited her passion about the environment and sustainability. In the future, she wants to spark more conversations about the future of food and ways to sustain the world’s growing population. Maloney and her Global Flyers cohort are planning their follow-up project, taking what they learned in India and applying it to the Dayton area, hoping to share their knowledge in a meaningful way.

During the experience, Campbell also observed that the learning style at Oxford gave students much more freedom to drive their own education than students are given in the U.S. His relationship with Dr. Andrew Teal, his Anglican priest tutor, was very influential in guiding Campbell’s research and overall experience. His time abroad affirmed his plan for the future, which is to become a theology professor. This was the first time he had done independent research and the fact that he enjoyed it gave him confidence in his future plans.

Maloney, Borman, Brown, Court, Doroff, Haynes and Thomakos were housed together in a flat and encouraged to interact directly with the clientele she hopes to aid.

The students experienced unique homestay experiences in rural India, learned from diverse backgrounds and critically reflected on the similarities and differences between food issues in Sikkim and the Dayton region. Grondalski, Jurcisek, Maloney and Racchi have continued to work to understand sustainable development, food security and nutrition in both regions through work with both community partners and the Hanley Sustainability Institute.

London

Julia Court experienced England this past summer. As a political science and human rights major, Court was afforded the opportunity to intern for Hibiscus Initiatives in London, a non-profit organization in the UK that works to secure aid for marginalized and vulnerable women in the prison system. A typical day at work for Court involved researching and contacting other organizations in London and Peterborough that might be interested in partnering to offer housing opportunities, food, clothes and other necessities for clients. In addition to the internship, Court took a class called Global Cities London. In this class, she went on excursions to parts of London not visited by the average tourist and she gained a deeper understanding of London’s history, gentrification and development.

The region is located in the foothills of the Himalayan mountains, where students learned about global nutrition and sustainable agriculture. Additionally, several of these students will incorporate their time in Sikkim into their Honors thesis research.

India

Four Honors students participated in the Global Flyers: India program with a confirmed interest in sustainable development, food security and nutrition. Pre-medicine major Olivia Grondalski, sociology and criminal justice studies major Kaleigh Jurcisek, environmental biology major Meg Maloney and biochemistry major Nicholas Racchi spent four weeks in Sikkim, India.

The Berry Summer Thesis Institute, the UHP supported three thesis writers in pursuing their thesis research at the University of Oxford, England, through the Oxford Study Abroad Programme (OSAP). Kieran Campbell, religious studies and philosophy; Tyler Masthay, mathematics and computer science; and Kiersten Remster, art history, spent six weeks completing a tutorial with an Oxford faculty member. All three students returned with glowing accounts of Oxford—with equally good reports from their tutors—strongly supporting their thesis work to be completed spring 2017. The UHP is looking forward to sending another talented cohort of thesis writers to Oxford in 2017.

Profilling Kieran Campbell '17

Kieran Campbell had the opportunity to focus on his thesis at the University of Oxford, Pembroke College. Campbell spent his time at Oxford researching and meeting with a tutor about his thesis on the historical reception of angels and how the conceptions of angels have changed over time. Campbell's focus was fomented by his observation that people today don't regard the angelic in the same way as have people throughout history.

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Anne Whalen '18
Adeline (Addie) Bodart ’13

After graduating from UD in 2013 with degrees in accounting and finance, Addie Bodart landed a position in public accounting at a Big Four firm. However, she was soon seeking a change. “I wanted my work to feel more meaningful,” she said. Thus, Bodart shifted gears and began working in the non-profit industry at Shelterhouse, the largest homeless shelter in Southwest Ohio.

Bodart has always missed her years at UD and the sense of community on campus, but she is now experiencing a similar feeling in her new position. She said, “Although the UD experience cannot be replicated, I have found a new sense of community in Shelterhouse.”

Elizabeth Pedrotti ’17

André L. Boehman ’86

André Boehman, UD graduate and former Honors student, said, “It was the Honors Program that motivated me to dive into my own independent research activities and fully exploit the opportunities that my parents and advisors had created for me.” As an undergrad entering the Honors Program, Boehman was eager to take advantage of every opportunity presented to him. With the aid of helpful instructors and a wonderful opportunity at a Wright Patterson Air Force Base lab, he was able to rapidly complete his Honors thesis by junior year.

Today, Boehman is a faculty member at the University of Michigan in the Department of Mechanical Engineering and he works at the Walter E. Lay Automotive Laboratory. He said, “To this day, with my own students, I like to take risks, push boundaries and pursue interesting questions that don’t always have easy answers. I am grateful for the role the Honors Program played in helping me find such a great path to follow in my career. And best of all, I have been able to walk this path with my UD sweetheart and wife of 30 years, Marita.”

Josie Sprague ’18

Jeff Bohrer ’95

Many people face major career changes and Jeff Bohrer is no exception. He graduated from UD in 1995 majoring in civil engineering. He then earned a master’s of civil engineering from Colorado State University and worked as a dam engineer for seven years.

Bohrer went back to school at UD and received his teaching certificate to teach high school physics. This led him to teach one year at Lebanon High School and ten years at Carroll High School before switching to his current position as Director of Property Management for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

In deciding his career changes, Bohrer “switched from engineering to teaching because I felt somewhat unfulfilled. I wanted to make a difference on a personal level and that led me into the field of teaching.” Reflecting back on his time at UD, Bohrer claims that the academic challenges in the Honors Program led to an attitude of enjoying growth experiences. He was able to meet other talented students from different disciplines, helping him see the diverse ways people think and work. As a result of his career changes, Bohrer feels he has been able to grow not only as an engineering professional but also as a person who has learned to work with and teach people.

Kristine Perez ’17

Ann Hannan ’98

Ann Hannan majored in music therapy as an Honors student at the University of Dayton, graduating in 1998. She now has a director position at a children’s hospital in a hospital auxiliary that funds music therapy and other special programs. When approached for this job she was told, “You are passionate about the work you do and you are committed to excellence with the patients and families at the hospital. Considering the director position of this organization will give you a chance to have a greater impact on services being provided to the hospital and to the community. We believe you are passionate about both.”

Hannan attributes some of this passion to the UD Honors Program. She said, “The Honors Program at UD taught me to approach my career with a focus on the details and the big picture. I learned to articulate my thoughts with clarity and to listen carefully to ideas presented by all members of the team. I learned to approach challenges with an open mind. I learned to place the value of service above all other variables. This has led to the creation of a lifelong vocation. Learn, Lead and Serve: the life of a UD music therapist!”

Josie Sprague ’18

Aubrey Hartnett ’11

Aubrey Hartnett graduated from UD in 2011, having majored in international studies with a focus on human rights and Spanish. After teaching English in Spain for five months, Hartnett started working with the International Patient Center at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital/Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Teaching abroad and then working within the healthcare industry was a significant transition, but Hartnett cited her recent promotion to a senior team member as an even more exciting life change.

“As the program has grown, so has my role within the hospital,” Hartnett said. Through her involvement with Partners Healthcare’s leadership training, as well as professional and program development training, she became a qualified and suitable candidate for promotion. She now collaborates with the hospital’s business development team and works with individual patients and clinical teams. Hartnett said that her “unconventional experience of UD,” thanks to the Honors Program, has “undoubtedly contributed to my effectiveness in my position.”

Elizabeth Pedrotti ’17
Today, McKamey and her husband, Jon, are empty-nesters as their daughter, Claire, is now 21. They plan to live life to the fullest and make memories now instead of waiting until later; they have travelled to Paris and participated in a pilgrimage to Italy in fall 2016.

Josie Sprague ‘18

Garrett Prom ‘01

Garrett Prom, a 2001 UD graduate, recognizes that he is “not the first person to leave corporate America to find their own business in a completely different industry.”

With an electrical engineering degree from UD, Prom began his career in technical sales working for large corporations such as Medtronic, Boston Scientific and GE. However, he soon realized his passion for personal finance and investing, and founded his own financial planning firm called Prominent Financial Planning. Prom now serves over 50 Generation X and Y clients with unbiased financial advice and an online educational course he developed, DIY Financial Future.

Prom was inspired to pursue a self-motivated career in personal finance by the highly specialized physicians he worked with in technical sales. He said they “exuded passion for what they did.” He knew that hard work and faith would be necessary to start a business of his own and the Honors Program and UD helped to instill both in him. The Marianist influence, emphasized through Campus Ministry retreats and Father Ken’s Sunday night Masses, strengthened Prom’s faith.

In pursuing his Honors thesis and working with other Honors students to find solutions to Dayton’s lead poisoning issue, Prom learned valuable lessons about perseverance. He explained, “All we had was a problem, and it was up to us to find the solution, implement it and then sustain it — not much different than starting a business.”

Elizabeth Pedrotti ’17

Tim Vogt ’92

Vogt’s experience in the Honors Program provided a strong foundation he has been able to build upon throughout his life and career. “I really appreciated the Honors Program’s emphasis on a well-rounded education and a cooperative rather than competitive learning environment,” he said. “It has served as a reminder that you can excel in collaboration even in a highly competitive environment.”

Elizabeth Abrams ’17

In Her Own Words

Bethany Yager Houze ’05

Last April, I sent a picture to the UD Magazine of me with two of my UD roommates after completing the Kentucky Derby Half Marathon in Louisville. It was our first half, and we were pretty stoked. We remain the best of friends even though one of them lives in Toledo, Ohio. It was pretty cool to make it into the magazine! In May 2015, I also sent an awesome picture into Class Notes from my wedding with a giant UD flag and all of my Dayton friends that could make it down to Louisville. Needless to say, I am a very lucky alum to still keep in such close contact with so many other alumni!

This year, I had different kind of picture to send, and I am not sure you’ve ever gotten one like this. It speaks to the true friendships Dayton creates and how they last a lifetime — thick and thin, far and near. This year’s picture is of me and those two roommates I ran with, plus an additional one who was out of town last year. We didn’t run this year, though, because I was diagnosed with breast cancer in January. I am the second person from our class that I know of to have to deal with this disease. But, like my classmate, I kicked its … well, you know.
One of my chemo appointments happened to fall on my birthday. My Toledo roommate was scheduled to come down to be my chemo buddy, so we turned that day’s infusion into a mini Dayton reunion and birthday party! I also received the Dayton Magazine the day before she got here. It was a divine coincidence, if you will.

When I got an email from the Honors Program asking “how your UD experience has contributed to your quality of life,” well, it’s all summed up in a chemo infusion room in Louisville, Kentucky. I couldn’t ask for a better life, cancer and all. I didn’t know anyone when I went to UD, and as a Berry Scholar I chose to stay on the Honors floor my freshman year. Emily was my next-door neighbor on 7 Middle in Marycrest, and Amy lived across the hall. Laura, my roommate Sarah Mercadante Kruger ‘05 and I, (as well as another Louisville floor mate, Maggie Mangino, who transferred to pharmacy school after her first year), became fast friends. We lived together for the rest of our time at UD, and I lived with both Amy and Laura back in Louisville after graduation. Laura, Maggie, Amy and I hang out on a regular basis in Louisville. Emily and I see each other multiple times a year, and I am her daughter’s godmother. Amy was my maid of honor and they were all in my wedding. As I said, we’ve stayed close.

Back to cancer, I am doing awesome, which is why I am sending this. I have a ridiculous support group and so many of those are Flyer Faithful. Not just my close roommates, but, thanks to Facebook, all the people I knew from Dayton have sent well wishes, presents, food, hugs and much, much more. Many of these people are those I connected with through the Honors Program. With the support of my amazing husband and family, many UD alumni I still call best friends and the rest of my posse, I finished preventative fertility treatments and 16 rounds of chemo and surgery over the past nine months. I am now done with treatment, almost done with surgeries and have an awesome prognosis.

I also finished my master’s of science in nursing during all this, as I was in my last semester of school when I was diagnosed. I only missed one day of work as a pediatric trauma ER nurse during chemo. I passed my boards and am now a pediatric nurse practitioner who has accepted a position in Pediatric Emergency Medicine.

It is overwhelming to know that even though you don’t see everyone from college on a daily basis, they keep you in their thoughts and prayers. It’s not even a question as to whether being a UD alum improved my quality of life — it’s possibly the best thing that ever happened to me.

If a few Flyers remember to schedule their mammogram, do a breast self-exam or donate to breast cancer research as result of this article, we’ve hopefully helped one fewer person from our Flyer Family to have to deal with this.

All photos courtesy of Bethany Yager Houze.

The Quality of Life: Changing Perspectives

2017 Introducing the Clare Boothe Luce Signature Program

The University of Dayton applied for and was awarded a $201,600 grant from the Clare Boothe Luce Program of the Henry Luce Foundation. This grant will support the research endeavors of eight undergraduate women in underrepresented STEM fields.

The program will be housed in and managed by the University of Dayton Honors Program. It also will provide support programming, including faculty and professional mentorship, in the hopes of preparing these women for graduate school and careers in research and academia. I am excited about the opportunities that this new program will bring to the University and the Honors Program.
THE ART OF BEING: VOCATION CONFERENCE
Photographs by Jaclyn Franz, Hannah Jackson and Christopher Santucci.

HONORS STUDENT WELCOME
Photographs by Christopher Santucci

DANNY ARNOLD 5K: FIVE-YEAR CELEBRATION
Photographs by Christopher Santucci
Class of 1984  
LAURA ELOE: After 29 years at Chaminade-Julienne High School in Dayton, I have returned to UD to teach in the Department of Religious Studies while I pursue a doctorate in theology.

Class of 1987  
GINNY JUDGE HORAN: I was elected academic chair of the department of communication and the arts at Suffolk County Community College on Long Island. I first began teaching here in 1991 and left to raise my three children, Ryan, Timmy and Kylie. I returned in 2008 and had to reapply and interview but was incredibly blessed to get another position, which ultimately led to this latest position. It is certainly interesting to switch over to administration and I have a great appreciation for ALL the wonderful teachers I had at UD. My husband Jim is a Villanova grad (1985) and this year we celebrated our 23rd anniversary.

I will be co-chairing our 30th Reunion this coming June 2017 and would LOVE to see more members of our class. Perhaps if we have enough RSVPs we could put together a little Honors meet-up at some point during the weekend. Interested alumni should check out our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/ud1987/.

Class of 1990  
VICKI KLOCKE: My husband Dennis (Honors ’90) and I celebrated 25 amazing years of marriage this past year. To celebrate, we traveled to Italy, making a pilgrimage to Rome during the Jubilee Year of Mercy and visiting other areas of Italy. I currently work part-time as the coordinator of adult faith formation and RCIA at St. Joseph Parish in Cold Spring, Kentucky. I also serve as the chairperson of the Diocese of Covington RCIA advisory committee and as managing editor of the Diocese of Covington RCIA Policies and Guidelines Manual (promulgated by Roger J. Foys, DD, Bishop of Covington). We have four children: Kristin, 21, Ross, 19, Maria, 14 and Amy, 11. We will welcome a son-in-law, Craig, when our oldest child, Kristin, is married. I am not doing anything flashy with my Honors degree from UD. I have not published any recent articles, pursued any advanced degrees or risen to the top of the academic or corporate world. However, I am very happy with the talents God gave me to serve Him in my marriage, raising my children and helping others to know, love and serve Christ in His Church in my part-time position at my parish and my service to the Diocese.

Class of 1992  
LAURA LUEHRMANN (international studies) was recently promoted to full professor in the department of political science at Wright State University. At Wright State, Laura also serves as the director of the M.A. program in international and comparative politics. She and her colleague, December Green, recently published Contentious Politics in Brazil and China: Beyond Regime (Westview Press). The fourth edition of their textbook, Comparative Politics of the Global South: Linking Concepts and Cases (Lynne Rienner Publishers) will come out in 2017. Laura and her husband Joe live in Beavercreek with their three kids, Jakob (13) and Andrew (10). In addition to all things political science, she enjoys coaching her sons in CYO basketball.

Class of 1993  
CARRIE ROHMAN: I’m now a tenured associate professor of English at Lafayette College specializing in British literature, animal studies and performance studies. I am about to publish my second scholarly book with Oxford University Press and am still doing choreography and dance in professional settings as well.

Class of 1994  
JULIE HAGEDORN ZUDE, M.D., has been living in Davenport, Iowa, for the last seven years with her husband of 13 years and four children, Noah, Noel, Isaac and Mary, who are now in 2nd, 4th, 5th and 7th grades. Julie works at a community mental health center as a child psychiatrist across the Mississippi River in Moline, Illinois. Her husband Randall stays home and served as Isaac’s teacher for his second half of 3rd grade as he was diagnosed with leukemia in February 2015. Isaac returned to regular school by the fall. His treatment is less intense now but will last for two more years. Prayer, faith and the loving care of others has kept us strong.

Class of 1998  
PARRI J. BIMONTE: I am a Class of 1998 Honors Program graduate with a bachelor’s (’98) and master’s (’00) in electrical engineering. I currently live in Naples, Florida, with my 10-year-old son Daniel, where I am a project manager in the Global Information Services department for Arthrex, a fast-growing, Naples-based medical device manufacturing company in Florida. I serve on my church’s Charitable Committee, I am the event lead for the 2017 Naples Area Relay for Life and I run a few half-marathons and sprint triathlons a year.

As a native Floridian, the transition to UF was a major lifestyle change, but looking back, it is something I would make 100 times over if I had to make again. As the saying goes, I would like to go back to 1994, not to change anything but to relive it! UD’s mission to learn, lead and serve is something that has stuck with me since I first stepped foot on campus and has guided me since then.

Class of 1999  
BILL KNIGHT: I am currently working as an associate professor of emergency medicine and neurosurgery at the University of Cincinnati (UC). I split my time clinically between the UC Emergency Department, the Neuro ICU, the Surgical ICU and taking call for the UC Stroke Team. In the fall, I work as the unaffiliated neurotrauma consultant for the NFL on the sideline of the Bengals games, as well as their independent neuro specialist for players that sustain concussions. I ran my sixth marathon at the Flying Pig in May and set a PR under four hours. I currently live in Loveland, Ohio, with my wife Annis (Poirier ’99) and my two kids, Reina, 9 and Liam, 7.

Class of 2000  
JENNY SPRY VILLIER: Jenny and her husband, Andy, announce the birth of Alice Catherine (2-10-16), who joins big siblings James (8), Nathan (6) and Charlotte (2) at home in Denver, Colorado.

Class of 2001  
NICOLE BROWN (biochemistry) graduated from University of Cincinnati College of Medicine in 2006. She married Nicholas Ferreri (biology ’00) in 2011. Nicole is now a cardiologist specializing in adult congenital heart disease at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center. Nicole and Nicholas welcomed their first child, Hugo Alexander Ferreri, on April 13, 2016.

Class of 2005  
GREG RAFFO (’05 and ’07) and ALICIA DEMARCO (’05) just celebrated one year of having Leonard DiMarco Raffo as part of their family. He is happy, mischievous, healthy and has non-stop energy. Greg is also a partner at Go Sustainable Energy, an independent renewable energy efficiency consulting firm headquartered in Columbus, Ohio, which just celebrated a decade of being in business. Many of Go’s employees and partners are UD alumni.

Class of 2006  
KATIE CUNNINGHAM BLADES: I went to law school after Dayton and now live in Phoenix. After 4 years at the Attorney General’s Office, I have recently taken the position of deputy general counsel and legislative liaison with the Department of Child Safety. In the past year, I was also licensed to be a foster parent. I have had two placements since then, and I currently have a 13-month-old who I have had for 10 months.
Graduated in Psychology in 2017 from the University of Dayton, where my Honors thesis was accepted for publication in the Journal of Biomechanics. I am currently working in a cancer biology laboratory in the Department of Oncology of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Mercy Health Pittsburgh. This research is helping me gain experience and a professional network that helped in my doctoral defense this past fall as well as in starting a career in science diplomacy.

**Class of 2011**

**AUBREY HARTNETT:** In March of 2016, Jason Haynes and I welcomed our baby boy, Leo. Thankfully, he is a very happy and healthy boy and was baptized at Saint Cecilia Parish (home to another UD alumna) in September.

**CATHERINE GLYNN KLESHINSKI:** My experience at UD and the Honors Program impacted my life in three main ways. First, I met my now-husband Ryan Kleshinski (CS) at UD my first year — we started dating the knot just months after graduation in 2011! Second, the classes I took (marketing and international business double major) and connections I made allowed me to pursue a digital and e-commerce analytics career in Cincinnati for a few years after graduation. Finally, during my junior and senior years at UD, I worked with my advisor on an Honors thesis, which we eventually published. This experience with academic research led me to where I am today — a 2nd year doctoral student at Purdue in the Kranzberg School of Management, where I am studying relationships at work, work-life balance issues and justice in organizations. I am very thankful for UD contributing to these life blessings!

**JIM SAYWELL:** I am getting married to Alexandra LoPresti, University of Dayton Class of 2012! I will be clerking for Justice Samuel Alito at the Supreme Court of the United States during the October term 2017.

**KRISTIN HAMMAKER SCARF:** Correction to Class Notes originally published in August 2015. Dr. John Hammaker Scharf earned his bachelor’s degree from UD in 2011 and her master’s from UD in 2013. In her September 2015 wedding her sister, Katherine Hammaker Gonzalez, another Honors Program graduate, was her matron of honor. Her brother Scott Carroll was a bridesmaid.

**Class of 2012**

**GLENNA KNAPE:** I just returned from a two-and-a-half month research project with Partners in Health, an international NGO I have dreamed of working for since my second year at UD. They apply medicine using the idea of accommodation from liberation theology. Altogether, I’m currently in medical school.

**Class of 2013**

**MATT KNUTSON:** This summer I accepted and started a position as a presidential management fellow at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. I am serving as a financial analyst in the Research, Markets and Regulations Division within the Small Business, Lending Markets office on the rulemaking for Section 1071 of the Dodd-Frank Act, which seeks to collect lending data on small, women- and minority-owned businesses to ensure they have access to credit in order to promote community development and fair lending practices. I went to graduate school after UD at Indiana University’s School of Public and Environmental Affairs, where I studied economic development and public finance. I definitely wouldn’t have gotten where I am today without my education from Dayton, and I still stay in touch with several professors at UD who helped me with the application process and selecting a position for my fellowship.

**ELIZABETH WETZEL:** My life update is that I have a new job working for BayCare, a Tampa-based Pediatric AIDS Initiative (PBIAP) in Lilingwe, Malawi. I am transitioning from a role at Digitalis International in Zomba, Malawi, which is an organization that provides medical care and community outreach programs to enhance the quality of pediatric HIV care in Malawi. My new position is a research fellow. I am involved in monitoring and evaluation, operations research and programs within Baylor. My time at UD influenced my career path to work in the health care field and sparked my passion for health equity. My UD experience also fostered my love for Malawi through a student organization called Determined 2 Develop (D2D).

**Class of 2014**

**KELSEY DIACHUIN:** I graduated from the Engineer technology program in December 2015. I am now a member of the Edison Engineering Development Program at Applied Solutions Systems in Grand Rapids, Michigan. In this program, I’ll be doing three rotations within the company. My first is systems safety engineer. My job is essentially to ensure that the design and testing engineers develop avionics products which are safe for flight and prevent the plane from falling out of the sky. I’m also taking classes towards a master’s degree in computing from the University of Marquette in Wisconsin.

**LIBBY DURNWALD:** I am in a new position with Openpath as a software engineer. I have traveled to six countries and completed 15 international programs in the last year and a half!

**HAILEY KWN:** I started my doctorate program in philosophy this past fall at University of California, San Diego.

**NOLAN MCNULTY:** Through my work as a management consultant, I have found a small window for viewing community in the workplace. My organization creates a common connection between businesses and their people, bringing people under the tent of the business and not looking at them as a resource. I have the pleasure to give employees a sense of significance and dignity in their daily lives, which is related to the spirit of the Marianists.

**EMILY KEANE:** I am doing the Peace Corps in Ukraine for the next two years!

**CRISTINA SANTIGAHO:** I have recently moved to Mexico and am studying medicine here. It has been a big change but it’s been pretty amazing. The people are really kind and the food is fantastic. Apart from that, I have been doing a lot of service trips traveling the country with my medical school.
January
27 Honors Art Exhibit

February
1/7 Thesis Advisors Forum Sessions
9/17 Junior Thesis Workshop Sessions
15 DC Flyers Workshop
22 Networking Session

March
24 Honors Student Symposium

April
5 Stander Symposium

May
6 Honors Graduation Brunch
7 May Graduation Commencement
8 Chaminade Scholar Pilgrimage Begins
15 Berry Summer Thesis Institute Begins
17 Global Flyers: London Program Begins
23 Global Flyers: Oxford Program Begins
30 DC Flyers Program Begins

June
12 Global Flyers: India Program Begins

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