New to the Fitz Center is the Community Energy Reduction Group (CERG), formed of students from the renewable and clean energy master’s program and the Department of Mechanical Engineering. Led by Dr. Kevin Hallinan and Ms. Stephenie Ritchey, this group aims to support community energy reduction efforts, particularly in communities that are economically challenged, where energy savings mean cost savings, environmental benefit and even jobs within a community. In the process, the CERG is striving to develop national models for augmenting community energy-reduction projects through tailored energy information for residents, businesses, community organizations, schools and churches. CERG also aims to provide experiential learning for energy engineering students.

Currently, the Community Energy Reduction Group is engaged in a number of ways with multiple communities. CERG has initiated a home energy reduction program in Wilmington, Ohio, a highly economically stressed community due to the departure of shipping company DHL in 2008. Working with partner organization Energize Clinton County (ECC), the group is preparing home energy-reduction community seminars built around use of a web-based residential energy reduction game developed by faculty and staff in the group (dropoly.com).

Closer to home, CERG is supporting the effort of newly formed regional sustainability umbrella organization Dayton Regional Green 3 to gain viability in the region. Faculty and students have helped to create a web-based commercial building energy-effectiveness rating and energy-savings estimator (www.drg3.org/energy). They have also developed commercial building and residential energy-reduction seminars for business districts and neighborhoods respectively. They are now testing these in the community. The May 11 Urban Night event in Dayton was their first public venture in support of DRG3. There, they talked to visitors about residential energy reduction.

The CERG is supporting the Urban Green Initiative, led by the Community Development Corp. Resource Consortium, Inc. (CDCRC), a West Dayton economic development organization. On May 17, they teamed with DRG3 to host a Green Business Forum for more than 20 businesses. The seminar aimed to help businesses take advantage of free energy audits offered by DRG3 and CERG. They have also developed a design for an urban solar farm for the West Dayton Business District — and are helping CDCRC apply for funding to support the development of the farm.

For more information, please email kevin.hallinan@udayton.edu or visit https://sites.google.com/site/kevinhallinanvita/.
Another successful semester has passed for Semester of Service. This semester we had Josh Moran, a senior psychology major working with young adults at Daybreak. Kurt Pedersen, a junior sport management major, and Kara McNamara, a junior English and psychology major, spent their time bouncing between Ruskin Elementary with Miracle Makers and Street Peace and other afterschool programming for children at East End Community Services. Megan Graver, a senior pre-physical therapy major, spent her time at Adventure Central teaching children the art of mummification and science of peanut farming as part of their themed afterschool programming. Hannah Raffoul, a senior biology major, mentored and tutored dozens of children after school at the Dakota Center. And Amira Karim, a senior psychology major, spent her service hours assisting with case management and group therapy at the Volunteers of America pre-release facility for men. All of these students experienced tremendous growth through their more than 450 hours of service learning with these five outstanding community partners.

This summer we are pleased to have 13 University of Dayton students placed at 10 community partners for their summer Semester of Service. They will be serving at our longtime partners Daybreak, Adventure Central, Dayton Christian Center, Dayton Early College Academy (DECA), East End Community Services, Dakota Center, Life Essentials and We Care Arts. We will also add two first-time partners for the summer students: Dayton Gospel Mission and Homefull.

Our student at Dayton Gospel Mission will be serving primarily at Camp Jabez. The Gospel Mission, which opened its doors in Dayton in 1912, is led by the Rev. Kenneth Clarkston. In addition to its central focus of sharing the gospel through Bible teaching, the Gospel Mission feeds the hungry and homeless in its licensed restaurant, The King’s Table, at no charge, provides afterschool programming for children and computer training for adults at its Nehemiah University, and offers a series of summer camps for urban children to experience nature with fun activities such as zipline, bonfires, swimming, and horseback riding at Camp Jabez.

Our student at Homefull will assist with intake and development of special programming for the homeless. Nine hundred and sixty-five Montgomery County people will spend the night homeless. Homefull’s mission is to reduce this number to zero by advocating for those who are homeless or in danger of losing their homes, educating the community on the causes and solutions of homelessness, and developing and operating permanent supportive housing providing a way out of homelessness. Homefull began in 1988 as The Other Place and is led by Executive Director Tina Patterson.
Both upper-class cohorts of Dayton Civic Scholars presented their work and findings from their capstone projects at the Stander Symposium April 18. The Class of 2013 presented interim results from their campus civic engagement campaign, branded “Destination Dayton.” Employing an impressive array of survey tools, the cohort is researching the reasons why University of Dayton students decide to go (or not to go) off campus.

The senior cohort’s Stander Symposium presentation was a heartfelt affair, as the graduating Scholars discussed their capstone project “Your Community, Your Future” and bid farewell to their fellow DCS cohort members. One Scholar, Bernard Jones, reflected that, “DCS has really been like a family for me.” Bernard will be moving to Los Angeles to attend Masters Seminary. Kata Lucas is headed to the opposite coast to attend The New School in Manhattan. Both Katherine Gonzalez and Mike Veselik will be pursuing Master of Public Administration degrees at UD and George Washington respectively. Lisa Ramsey will be staying in Dayton to work for Homefull, along with Lauren Simcic who will be helping Miami Valley Fair Housing. Lauren Maddente is interning with the Department of Justice in Milwaukee, while John McGinnis is venturing back to the Middle East where he recently studied.

Class of 2015

With a record number of applicants this spring, the competition to become a member of the Dayton Civic Scholars Class of 2015 was stiff. The Fitz Center is happy to announce and congratulate its newest class of Scholars from a variety of academic majors. In line with the Dayton Civic Scholars’ new mission statement to prepare civic professionals and citizen leaders through sustained interdisciplinary civic engagement and scholarship, the program welcomes four students from outside the social science disciplines including two business majors, one education major and one biochemistry major. The new class of Dayton Civic Scholars will kick things off with a weeklong orientation and training Aug. 14-19.

2015 Cohort of Dayton Civic Scholars:
Molly Brasure (Business)
Chelsea Buckman (Biochemistry)
Jessalyn Crossman (Psychology)
Lyndsey Diggs (Psychology and Criminal Justice Studies)
Francis Flannelly IV (Business)
Emilie Fose (Human Rights Studies and Spanish)
Michael Franzese (Psychology)
Sara Giuliani (Criminal Justice Studies)
Brigid Kovach (AYA Education)
Sarah Lipinski (International Studies)
Lauren Mooney (International Studies)
Dylan Moore (Political Science)
Danielle Pohlman (Psychology and Spanish)
Noel Ragland (Criminal Justice Studies and Psychology)
The 27th annual CityLinks Neighborhood Conference was held Friday, April 13. This year’s theme — Rebuilding Our Urban Communities — gave citizens a broader view of how to build from the bottom up. They also enjoyed the unparalleled thoughts and comments of keynote speaker David Rusk, a consultant on urban policy. The 14th annual Community Builders Award was presented to Verletta Jackson. An overview of the conference workshops is provided below.

• A hot topic among urbanites the world over, the Urban Gardening workshop exposed participants to the nuts and bolts of why urban gardening is crucial to the development of our cities. Dayton is already home to more than 50 community gardens and has room for many more. These gardens are helping to provide sustainable and nutritious produce in areas with limited access to major grocery stores, fill once-vacant lots and foster a sense of community. The workshop was led by Lucille Beachdell of Five Rivers MetroParks, Adam French of Feed Dayton and Pastor Rill M. Beatty Jr. of Mountain Top Ministries.

• The Protecting our Children in our Neighborhoods workshop discussed strategies that are being implemented to keep kids safe and secure throughout the city of Dayton. Programs like the Panther Patrol at Kiser PK-8 School are working to provide students safe routes to school through a network of local volunteers, while the Dayton Police Department and Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office are partnering with other organizations to reduce neighborhood crime and bullying. The workshop was led by Teresa Wendell of Kiser PK-8 School, Lt. Chris Williams of the Dayton Police Department and Major Daryl Wilson of the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office.

• A growing international population calls for new strategies in building healthy communities in our region. The Building an Immigrant-Friendly Community workshop empowered voices from many immigrant populations while bringing attention to what citizens can be doing to continue building upon the Welcome Dayton Initiative. City Manager Tim Riordan described plans for a “Mini World Cup,” digital signage displaying flags from Dayton’s major international populations at Cox International Airport, and other ideas for building a strong, immigrant-friendly community. The Rev. Francisco J. Palaez-Diaz of College Hill Community Church (Mexico), Jacques Kahindo (Democratic Republic of Congo) and Seyma Sahin of the Ahiska Turkish Community Center (Turkey) gave presentations and engaged in dialogue regarding experiencing life as an immigrant in Dayton.

• Making progress to engage citizens comes down to one key element: neighbors helping neighbors. In How to Engage Citizens, Verletta Jackson and Kathleen Riggs of the City of Dayton Department of Planning and Community Development provided helpful tips on getting involved and highlighted the importance of programs that catered to the beautification and cleanliness of the City of Dayton. David Greer of the Northwest Priority Board encouraged bringing a sense of neighborliness to continue connecting our neighborhoods.
The University of Dayton Rivers Institute and Ohio’s Great Corridor Association (OGCA) co-hosted the fifth annual River Summit March 29. The River Summit is a regional event initiated in 2008 to promote regional cooperation and build enthusiasm in and around the Great Miami River and Mad River corridors.

This year’s summit was held for the first time at the University of Dayton’s River Campus in the 1700 South Patterson Building. The building’s beautiful integration with the grounds’ wooded landscape complemented the themes and activities of the summit and attendees perfectly.

Stan Kegley, president of the OGCA, opened the summit with a special welcome. The microphone was passed to Dayton City Commissioner and OGCA Board Member Nan Whaley to moderate the panel on current river front project developments.

Highlighting this year’s summit were representatives of Chattanooga, Tenn., who served as the event’s keynote speakers: Rick Wood, of the Trust for Public Land, and Rob Taylor of the Lyndhurst Foundation. Wood and Taylor were able to inspire all by reviewing the journey Chattanooga made from an industrial dynamo to a city doomed — labeled “the dirtiest city in America” — to a model for downtown vitality and waterfront redevelopment.

Also at the summit was a series of breakout sessions that allowed participants to further engage in discussion of some of the corridor’s most important themes: farmland and open space preservation, workforce development and retention of young talent, recreation and tourism, and waterfront development.

Overall, the summit was a huge success and the Rivers Institute and its partners look forward to the next OGCA meeting June 21, at which members are to join in on a Great Float.

Floating downstream

River Stewards and members of the Rivers Institute community came together Friday, April 20, to welcome and congratulate the newest group of 18 River Stewards, the 2015 cohort. This annual reception tends to be bittersweet as we also prepare to say farewell to the current seniors; however, the seniors do not say goodbye but rather float downstream to their next role in the community, either in Dayton or wherever their journeys may take them next. So, the sweetness wins and the students’ leadership and impact as River Stewards continue to spread and meander into new rivers, watersheds and communities.

The new cohort of River Stewards, who will follow in the footsteps of all other Stewards while embarking on their own unique journey, are Abigail Spohn, Andrew Bolubasz, Hailey Kwon, Jeanmarie Burdi, Katelyn Rendulic, Kiera Wheeler, Kyle Hill, Lauren Houle, Madison Irwin, Maggie Stemnock, Megan Guy, Michele McDonald, Nick Vallo, Peter Ogonek, Rachel Bachmann, Saehan Lenzen, Sara Vaughan and Tanner Hess.

Congratulations to all of them and welcome to the Fitz Center family!
On Friday, April 13, more than 280 guests [3, 4] celebrated the Fitz Center’s 10th anniversary at UD’s River Campus, where tables were hosted by Fitz Center staff and student leaders [9]. As expressed by Dean Paul Benson [5] of the College of Arts and Sciences, “The Fitz Center is a gift for its ability to attract, mentor, educate, entrust and send forth such talented, creative and civically engaged students. When I think about the students who participate in the Fitz Center programs, my hope for the future of our community and for the cause of social justice everywhere expands.” Speakers also included President Daniel J. Curran [1] and Brother Ray Fitz, S.M. [8], who greeted Fitz Center benefactor and honorary University trustee Jane Haley [7]. Rivers Institute Graduate Assistant Sarah Peterson [2] accepted the Emily M. Klein Student Community Leadership Award from Executive Director Dick Ferguson and Emily Klein McFadden ’09. Senior music major Christopher Rourke [6] closed the evening with his rendition of “Heavenly Grass” by Paul Bowles, with text by Tennessee Williams.
DAYTON CIVIC SCHOLARS OFFER NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL CENTER EGG-SPLOSION

BY MARINA LOCASTO, DAYTON CIVIC SCHOLAR

On Friday, April 30, more than 100 elementary school students and their families participated in a fun evening of activities at Cleveland PK-8 Neighborhood School Center. The junior cohort of the Dayton Civic Scholars program planned and organized the Egg-Splosion event at one of the Fitz Center partner Neighborhood School Centers.

More than 40 University of Dayton students volunteered to assist the junior cohort in this event, including volunteers from the School of Education and Allied Professions honorary fraternity and other campus service organizations.

The junior cohort organized five stations for the participating students. The stations included paper bag decorating for use by the students in the egg hunt, the egg hunt in the cafeteria, an obstacle course and corn hole activity in the gymnasium, egg and cookie decorating in the life-skills room, and reading and pictures with the Easter bunny in the library. There was a constant line with the children eager to get their photos taken with the Easter bunny. In all, there were 1,000 eggs filled with candy for the Easter egg hunt and nearly 130 hard-boiled eggs for decorating by the students.

Cleveland School Principal Aaron Smith was very pleased with the event: “This event was very well planned and conducted by the Fitz Center students. They publicized the event well, and we were very pleased with the size of the turnout, especially the families who came with their children.”

Cleveland School Site Coordinator Cindy Gibson of the YMCA stated, “I was very impressed with the organization of the Dayton Civic Scholars and very pleased with the number of University of Dayton students who came to volunteer to help with the activities. With the response that we had, it was great that we had so many UD students there to help with the event.”

The Dayton Civic Scholars junior cohort includes Kyle Grabowski, Zach Hadaway, Briana Hollis, Kelsey Loughman, Marina Locasto, Katherine Repic, Nicholette Smith and Amy Sullivan, who also serves as a UD student intern at Cleveland Neighborhood School Center.
WARM WELCOME, SERVICE AT SCHOOLS
BY JOANNE TROHA, DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY SERVICE LEARNING

Spring is the season for special projects for UD and our PreK-8 school partners in learning. The following examples feature UD faculty and students from anthropology, music education and engineering illustrating how broad and creative the partnerships have become.

ANTHROPOLOGY: Cityfolk included all five Neighborhood School Centers in lead roles in this year’s Culture Builds Community project. The educational goal was to explore and respect the rich mix of ethnic music and cultures now present across the Dayton area. During seven weeks, 73 children received afterschool lessons from national and local musical artists leading to a joyous combined performance April 22 at the Masonic Temple. There the young performers took turns with professional artists to celebrate dance traditions from Turkey, Mexico, Africa and Appalachia as well as African-American step dancing.

Behind the scenes, a group from UD proudly cheered for the children they had come to know during the project. Anthropology Professor Stephanie Litka, Ph.D., helped create a curriculum to complement the musical experience. She and Rana Peake (Sinclair) and Ellen Jackson (Cityfolk) developed dozens of short lesson plans to help children think about their own and other cultures. Then, invited by the Fitz Center, nine UD students from a variety of majors committed more than 30 hours each to help deliver these lessons and supervise the children during weeks of rehearsals. Special thanks to Dr. Litka and UD students Kelley Moeller, Adie Lewis, Alyssa Bovell, Chelsea Woods, Shalyn Cook, Brenna Frattaroli, Brooke Scollin, Emily Mayer and Annie Blankenship.

Meanwhile, Simanti Dasgupta, Ph.D., chose the Neighborhood School Centers for a service assignment that became a key part of her syllabus for ANT 150-Cultural Anthropology, an honors course. With the Fitz Center coordinating placements, Dr. Dasgupta guided her class of 22 during their experiences as classroom or afterschool assistants at three schools. This helped create a context for studying cultural factors and systems in society. Several students turned these lessons into presentations at UD’s annual Stander Symposium on undergraduate research held on campus in April.

MUSIC EDUCATION: A volunteer team of UD students just completed two years directing a successful music program at Edison PreK-8 School. Every Monday evening, they made the 10-minute drive from UD to teach music fundamentals and give children choral and instrumental experience. Last year, with encouragement from music education Professor Linda Hartley, students Stephanie Jabre and Kristin Mullen-Mahr secured a UD Learn. Lead. Serve. grant that provided new instruments, music and software. The students agree it has been a tremendous opportunity to put teaching theory into practice and to work with Edison Site Coordinator Danielle Dabbs and the Westmont Optimists who take care of logistics, communication with parents and even food every week. Up to 15 children regularly participated, performing for parents twice a year. Other UD students participating were Jessica Teater, Kelli Hickey, Ben Hughes, Laura Carroll, Emma Marsden, Stephanie Kramer, Christina Indriolo and Tim Fulwider.

ENGINEERING: UD’s 11th Annual Wheels for Kids project took place March 29 with Edison PreK-8 School. It became the fifth Neighborhood School Center to participate. Once again, engineering students organized a series of “build days” on Saturdays during the winter. Twenty UD volunteers refurbished donated children’s bikes. The School of Engineering provided promotional and financial support, and engineering majors Hans Buchenroth, Joe Radisek, Emily Toman and Kelvin Freeman led the project. Edison took responsibility for inviting the children, while the Fitz Center recruited and directed 30 UD volunteers for the big event. Fifteen excited children each received a bike, new helmet (from Mead-Westvaco Family Resource Center of Children’s Medical Center), bike lock, T-shirt, pizza and a UD “big buddy” for some safety lessons.
The work of the River Stewards on designing the RiverMobile has continued throughout the spring semester. Many of the students and faculty working with Exhibits Concepts, Inc., last semester were able to continue their efforts with the design firm while a few more students were able to hop on board. Much progress has been made in both the physical design of the trailer and the programming that will occur inside and around the RiverMobile.

Senior River Stewards Bethany Renner and Alex Galluzzo, with the help of employees from Exhibit Concepts, presented the initial renderings of the RiverMobile in February to an audience of community partners and campus leaders all in support of the shared vision and goals of the project. Once designs are finalized, fabrication on the trailer will begin. River Stewards will continue to meet with Exhibits Concepts during the design and fabrication of the trailer. The debut of the RiverMobile is slated for fall 2012.

While the student design team focused on the appearance and functionality of the RiverMobile, the 2014 cohort of River Stewards continued the River Institute’s ongoing educational outreach. The sophomore cohort chose to teach an afterschool program to the students at East End Community Center. The students learned the value of conserving water and the need to keep Dayton’s waterways clean. The middle school students at East End gave the River Stewards a great chance to practice lessons that will be featured in the RiverMobile. Educational outreach will continue through the summer with two graduate assistants and five summer interns working to develop programming for the RiverMobile. Throughout the summer, the Stewards will continue Friday community and campus floats in addition to working with groups of students at Adventure Central and St. Albert the Great youth ministry.

Besides all the work being done on the RiverMobile, the River Stewards have continued their initiatives throughout the community. In April, River Stewards taught basic kayaking and water safety to all of the Trotwood-Madison High School aquatics classes. This partnership will continue into the summer with a group of students from Trotwood-Madison going on a paddling trip down the river. Many of these students have had multiple paddling lessons from the Stewards and expressed an interest in bringing their skills to a local river.

As the senior River Stewards graduate, they leave behind an extremely impressive bike-share program, called RecBikes, that they have developed collaboratively during the last year. In addition to providing bikes for students on campus, the senior cohort helped raise awareness of cycling throughout the UD community and became a catalyst for development of a new adventure recreation program on campus. The up-and-coming senior cohort has already begun implementing its community service project for next year, which is aimed at raising awareness of Dayton’s exceptional drinking water in hopes of ending the use of disposable plastic bottles on campus. Each year, the senior River Stewards’ leadership and passion provide a lasting impact on the campus and larger Dayton community. It is the students’ way of giving back to the place they have come to love — the Great Miami Watershed.
PETERSON PRESENTED THE KLEIN AWARD
BY SUZETTE PICO, SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

The Fitz Center’s Emily M. Klein Student Community Leadership Award is presented each year to the UD student in a Fitz Center leadership program who best exemplifies the passion for Dayton, commitment to strengthening UD student connections to the city, openness to learning and making a lasting impact on the urban community, and leadership excellence demonstrated by Emily Klein from 2005-10 as a student with the Fitz Center for Leadership in Community.

This award is presented each spring to a student active in the Semester of Service, Dayton Civic Scholars, River Stewards, Community Service Learning or Graduate Community Fellows during the past academic year.

The nominees for the 2012 award were AJ Ferguson (River Steward), Alex Galluzzo (River Steward), Lauren Maddente (Dayton Civic Scholar), Bethany Renner (River Steward), Katie Repic (Dayton Civic Scholar), Kevin Zimmerman (Semester of Service) and Sarah Peterson (pictured below), the recipient of this year’s award who was a River Steward and the Rivers Institute graduate assistant. Sarah is recognized on a permanent plaque in the Fitz Center and received a cash prize for her dedication to the University’s challenge: Learn. Lead. Serve.

Graduating seniors
The Fitz Center is proud to announce 47 undergraduate and graduate students from Fitz Center programs graduating this year. Congratulations graduates and good luck in your future endeavors.

Dayton Civic Scholars
Katherine Gonzalez
Bernard Jones
Katarina Lucas
Lauren Maddente
John McGinnis
Lisa Ramsey
Lauren Simcic
Mike Veselik
Briana Hollis

River Stewards
Paul Azzi
Gretchen Berkemeier
Jennifer Biette
Kristen Crum
Molly Daniels
Kristen Diddle
AJ Ferguson
Alex Galluzzo

Dayton Civic Scholars
Katherine Gonzalez
Bernard Jones
Katarina Lucas
Lauren Maddente
John McGinnis
Lisa Ramsey
Lauren Simcic
Mike Veselik
Briana Hollis

Rivers Institute
Graduate Assistant
Sarah Peterson

Graduate Community Fellows
Elizabeth Geiger
Rebecca Olinsky
Anne Steel
Kelsey Ufholz

Fitz Center Student Interns
Kristen Whalen
Patrick Boston

Neighborhood School Centers Interns
Stephanie Bales
Elena Konstantin
Colleen Hoheisel
Sarah Kunkel

Semester of Service
Megan Graver
Bethanie Joseph
Amira Karim
Bonnie King
Joshua Moran
Hannah Raffoul
Seth Richardson
Jacklyn Smith
Kevin Zimmerman
Amanda Zengel

Thomas Hanson
McLean Johnson
Sara McCrate
Laura Mustee
Bethany Renner
Patrick Rowe
Ann Wedell
Kelly Weisenborn
Jason Roland

(From front to back) Graduate Community Fellows Elizabeth Geiger, Anne Steel, Rebecca Olinsky, Kelsey Ufholz with mentor Brother Ray Fitz, S.M.
Students who explored Dayton and beyond as riders of the RecBike program started by senior River Stewards

900

Students, faculty, staff and local citizens who enjoyed 40 bus tours of Dayton’s assets guided by Fitz Center staff

860

UD students serving children and families through Dayton’s five Neighborhood School Centers, 185 with sustained academic support

833

Hours of service by each of 23 students placed for full semesters at 10 Dayton area nonprofits through Semester of Service

450

Graduate and undergraduate students recognized at spring commencement for completing Fitz Center leadership programs

47

Years the University of Dayton has hosted the annual CityLinks Conference

27

Years the Leadership in Building Communities seminar has offered graduate and undergraduate leaders a community-building education

17

Students of Edison PreK-8 who received restored bikes, helmets, pumps and UD buddies through the 11th annual Wheels for Kids

15

Years the Fitz Center has been educating leaders who build communities

10

Years the Fitz Center has hosted the annual River Summit

5