With the start of a new semester, the River Stewards and the Dayton Civic Scholars have been diligently planning and implementing their senior team projects.

The River Stewards have had their hands full this past year having initiated the RecBikes and the Take Back the Tap water bottle project. According to Emily Wilk, campus recreation assistant director for adventure, RecBikes are popular among UD students, with more than 200 students renting bikes in August. Due to its growing popularity, the RecBikes program is looking to expand to possibly include group ride and workshop offerings, resources on local biking destinations, and the purchase of additional bikes for students.

River Stewards have also begun learning to facilitate lesson plans for the RiverMobile that will take the river to the region’s middle school students. (See pages 6 and 7.)

To showcase all that the city of Dayton has to offer, Dayton Civic Scholars have surveyed the interests of UD students and planned off-campus excursions accordingly. This semester, events include Downtown Dayton’s Urban Nights, Trunk or Treat at Cleveland PreK-8, and trips to the Second Street Market. “The focus of our project, Destination Dayton, is about breaking the UD ‘bubble.’ We’re trying to encourage students to experience life in the city,” said Katie Repic, senior Dayton Civic Scholar. Plans have been made by the Dayton Civic Scholars to share their insights with other UD organizations, such as the Campus Activities Board, who help encourage off campus involvement.

In the words of senior Dayton Civic Scholar Marina LoCasto, “We are the University of Dayton, not the University of Brown Street.” Through the efforts of the River Stewards and Dayton Civic Scholars, UD students are able to explore Dayton and recognize exactly that.

UD’s first-year students raise their water bottles for a class photo during the River Stewards 2013 Cohort presentation at the New Student Orientation.
Before welcoming the River Stewards back to campus in August, the summer team of UD interns wrapped up their programs by taking the President’s Council, including President Dan Curran, down the Mad River and into the fountains of RiverScape. The interns provided an intimate opportunity for the University leaders to experience kayaking along our downtown riverfront while discussing the importance of UD being a riverfront campus. With the help of River Stewards Amy Price, Andrew Kowalski, Jill Pajka, Anthony Whaley, Taylor Pair, and Connie Reda, the Rivers Institute was able to safely bring approximately 500 people to the river this summer through custom programs that combined education and recreation.

The Rivers Institute began the academic year with its annual 17-mile float down the Great Miami River. Summer intern Jill Pajka prepared a five-day orientation bringing together all three cohorts of River Stewards. Together with faculty, staff, and community partners, the Stewards continued to develop their leadership skills and to build community on and around our rivers.

First-year River Stewards immersed themselves in the depth of watershed knowledge of our community and faculty partners. They kayaked and camped, toured RiverScape and downtown Dayton sites including Miami Conservancy District and Five Rivers MetroParks, and learned about fish that inhabit the river. A couple of lucky Stewards got to go fishing as well! Juniors challenged themselves with team building on high ropes courses, and the senior students worked to finalize their senior project, which included giving every new UD student a reusable water bottle at New Student Orientation. The 2013 senior cohort had partnered with the city of Dayton’s Department of Water to educate new UD students about our region’s exceptional water resources and the negative impacts of buying disposable water bottles. It was a special moment when two senior River Stewards, Andrew Kowalski and Nicole Goettemoller, took the NSO stage to present the bottles and play their promotional video. Congratulations to the 2013 cohort!

Basia Irland, international eco-artist and River Steward collaborator, also attended the Rivers Institute orientation. She later returned to Dayton to create her “Ice Book,” which was launched, along with River Stewards’ personal ice pages, down the Great Miami River. This event was very special for the Rivers Institute and symbolized the River Stewards’ contributions to help connect the University of Dayton to the river.

For more information on the River Stewards’ projects, including their new video and their work with Basia Irland, visit the River Steward’s blog at http://riverstews.blogspot.com/.
LEADING THROUGH EXPERIENCE, DETERMINATION

BY JEN HODULIK, FITZ CENTER INTERN

Indifference, conflict and pandemonium can all be caused by fear of the unknown. Such a fear prevents us from choosing to embrace challenges and tribulations that may arise. As a result, copious societal issues exist. How far would you go to make a difference in your community? For the Dayton Civic Scholars, the sky’s the limit.

From Aug. 13 to 17, the Dayton Civic Scholars — accompanied by Program Coordinator Alexandra Robinson, Marina LoCasto, Dayton Civic Scholar intern, and Suzette Pico, senior administrative assistant — had their program orientation. The new cohort of Dayton Civic Scholars took part in a picnic meet and greet, toured the South Park and Ole Dayton View neighborhoods, explored downtown Dayton, watched a Dayton Dragons game, and met with the elder Dayton Civic Scholars for a night of reflection and program discussion. The Dayton Civic Scholars also participated in community cleanup projects as well as challenges at the Joy Outdoor Education Center, known as Camp Joy.

Camp Joy was a favorite among the group. Known for developing synergy within organizations, promoting teamwork, and developing leadership aptitudes, Camp Joy does so through camp activities with an interesting twist. The new Dayton Civic Scholars were forced out of their comfort zones and challenged to embrace adversity by participating in a blindfolded hike, embarking on an obstacle course, climbing a 13-foot wall using one another as props, and venturing on a 40-foot-high ropes course. Each activity called upon the Dayton Civic Scholars to utilize their individual strengths, communicate, and strategize with one another.

By going through such endeavors as a team, the Dayton Civic Scholars learned to trust and cooperate with one another in times of uncertainty and stress. Noel Ragland, Dayton Civic Scholar Class of 2015, believed his orientation experience was very beneficial. He claimed, “We were successfully taught how to work together and are more prepared to do so. I believe that when we start our community service projects, we’ll be able to get a lot accomplished.”

The Dayton Civic Scholars program not only teaches students how to work together, but how to become effective leaders within their communities. Danielle Pohlman, Dayton Civic Scholar Class of 2015, reflected, “This experience has helped me realize when it’s appropriate to take charge and when you should go with the flow. I’ve learned that in order to function as a unified group, each person must be recognized as valuable; even the weakest member is part of a group.” Learning to deal with differences is an important leadership aptitude.

The Dayton Civic Scholar orientation is designed to teach the skills that will serve these students over the next three years and in a lifetime of leadership and service. Teaching students how to effectively communicate with one another and lead through cooperation enables students to develop a shared vision in aspiring to make a difference.
HONORS PROGRAM AWARDS CREDIT TO DAYTON CIVIC SCHOLARS

BY ALEXANDRA ROBINSON, GRADUATE ASSISTANT, DAYTON CIVIC SCHOLARS

In a move to acknowledge and reward the civic engagement and scholarship of students committed to the local community, the University’s Honors Program will award up to nine honors credits to the Dayton Civic Scholars for the successful completion of the Dayton Civic Scholar program requirements. Not surprisingly, the majority of students who join the Dayton Civic Scholars are also in the Honors Program.

To graduate with honors, a student must amass at least 15 honors credits, a sizable feat for students who are often juggling two to three majors and are civically engaged off campus. Students now have the opportunity to earn more than half of the credits required to graduate with honors through their participation in Dayton Civic Scholars. For the Dayton Civic Scholars, this news comes as a validation of their academic success and hard work and involvement in community engagement.

For more information about receiving honors credit as a Dayton Civic Scholar, please visit the Honors Program website at http://www.udayton.edu/honors/.

Above: Noel Ragland and fellow Dayton Civic Scholars huddle together in a team-building exercise.

Far left: A student bravely embarks on the ropes course at the Joy Outdoor Education Center.

Left: Dayton Civic Scholars help spot Sarah Lipinski as she conquers climbing the 13-foot wall at Camp Joy.
COMMUNITY LEADER

RIVERMOBILE UNVEILING

Months of student-led planning leads to successful development of the University of Dayton’s own mobile learning studio.

RiverMobile school visits will begin this winter. According to Rivers Institute Graduate Assistants Bethany Renner and Alex Galluzzo, “The focus of these lessons is to develop pride in place.” Lessons concentrate on explaining why the rivers and aquifer are so important and why they make the region a special place to live.

[1] The RiverMobile’s exterior showcases a map of the Great Miami River Watershed and challenges participants to become stewards of our rivers. The map will provide an outdoor teaching space allowing students to gain a regional perspective and sense of place.

[2] Inside the RiverMobile, students will take a historical journey of the Miami Valley, the 1913 flood and our flood protection system. Arthur Morgan and Colonel Deeds deliver the content through a playful, entertaining and even comical animation.

[3] Participants may sit in a canoe, see animals and plants native to our area and listen to the sounds of the rivers. This is an opportunity to bring the river to students who may not see it often.

[4] The aquifer lesson, which explains our abundant water supply, is portrayed through four short videos using Morgan and Deeds as the main characters. Dayton’s municipal water system is visually represented through six steps that are easily identifiable.

[5] The entrance and exit doors will prompt participants to think about their responsibilities for protecting our rivers and taking a stewardship role in their community.
Nearly 600 UD students have participated in one-time Neighborhood School Center community events alongside the 200 UD students already actively involved in Dayton’s Neighborhood School Centers.

For the fall 2012 semester, all five of the Neighborhood School Centers have been planning literacy events, math and science nights, dinners at the family cafés, and the crowd pleaser, “trunk-or-treat” jamborees. Amy Sullivan, a UD intern at the Cleveland PreK-8 Neighborhood School Center, spoke about the importance of volunteer contributions to aid these events, stating, “A successful event takes heavy planning and ultimately relies on the dedication of the volunteers to help build community.”

The programs offered by the Neighborhood School Centers are often connected to academic initiatives at the schools while providing opportunities to enhance community activity, increase parent involvement and broaden access to resources in their surrounding neighborhoods. At most events, UD students work the registration tables, serve dinner to families, and plan or staff games and activities. Danielle Dabbs, site coordinator at the Edison Neighborhood School Center, remarked, “UD students always come to these events really excited and ready to be involved. They make a huge difference, not just in doing their work, but in doing it with a lot of energy!”

With the help of UD students, Dayton’s Neighborhood School Centers are able to fulfill their mission of reconnecting elementary schools with their neighborhoods and strengthening the schools themselves.

Site coordinator brings new energy

By Jen Hodulik, Fitz Center Intern

The Cleveland PreK-8 Neighborhood School Center has a new site coordinator who is eager to take on her role in the Walnut Hills neighborhood east of the UD campus. Wright State graduate Mary Case began work this past August and immediately began her duties delegating volunteer assignments, orchestrating Cleveland’s afterschool programs, and establishing connections among the community’s many organizations on behalf of the program and the school’s nonprofit partner, the YMCA of Greater Dayton.

One of the major goals of the Neighborhood School Centers is to promote neighborhood pride for their school. “When I meet with representatives from organizations, they sometimes feel discouraged. They want to help but they just don’t feel they have a place. I try to remind them that a fresh face is a good face,” Case said. Encouraging community involvement is a crucial step toward making Cleveland PreK-8 the center of its community.

Community support helps encourage the development of new school programs. Examples include the YMCA soccer program, an art and literacy club, and a Girl Empowerment club; however, these programs aren’t the end of the line. Case is eager to implement an English as a Second Language program, which would not only help non-English speaking students and parents, but would reduce the expense of having to pay for translators by having Cleveland volunteers and UD interns facilitate discussions. “I have the best interns,” Case said. “They like to be in charge of things and are excited to be a part of what I do.” Case further commented that interns are a great way for her to gain an outside perspective.

Coincidentally, UD interns prove to be valuable on more than one account. Case had been introduced to her position through connections with Sarah Hrabik, a family friend, Dayton Civic Scholar alumna, and a three-year UD intern at Cleveland. Upon hearing about the position from Hrabik, Case was immediately enthralled. As a site coordinator, Case plays a unique role as an educator. “The kind of work I do focuses on balancing learning and helping students enjoy school. Lessons might be an activity rather than a lecture and learning doesn’t revolve around a test score.”

Promoting new methods of education and nurturing the minds of Cleveland PreK-8’s youth are exciting tasks Mary Case has enjoyed taking on. With the enthusiasm and diligence of such a devoted new staff member, the Cleveland PreK-8 link to the neighborhood’s future seems promising.
FITZ CENTER EXPERIENCES ENLIGHTEN GRADUATE STUDENT

BY KRISTEN HAMMAKER, GRADUATE COMMUNITY FELLOW

My name is Kristen Hammaker, and I am the Graduate Community Fellow working at Ruskin PK-8 School. I graduated from the University of Dayton in May 2011 with a degree in psychology and Spanish and minors in sociology and family development. While at UD, the experiences I had through the Fitz Center were some of the best I’d ever had. As an undergrad, I interned through the Neighborhood School Centers, participated in a Semester of Service, and took service-learning courses. These experiences allowed me to grow both intellectually and emotionally and have helped me better discern my life calling.

As a Graduate Community Fellow, I study in the graduate counseling program and work 20 hours per week tutoring first and second-grade Spanish-speaking children. As a tutor, I strive to strengthen my students’ self-esteem and work efficiency while encouraging them to realize that nothing is impossible. This positive mind-set is one that students will be able to carry on with them throughout their educational endeavors and beyond.

To help students in my line of work, I am always looking for volunteers. Last year, I had six UD volunteers that worked with students between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Volunteers thoroughly enjoyed their experiences, especially in developing rapport with the students. If you’re interested in volunteering, send an email to me at hammakko@gmail.com. It truly is a rewarding experience.

Below: Kristen Hammaker (left) happily poses with a Ruskin student.

CHANGING LIVES, CREATING FUTURES AT DAYBREAK

BY HAYLEE DELUCA, GRADUATE COMMUNITY FELLOW

My name is Haylee DeLuca, and I am currently pursuing my Master in Psychology degree while working for Daybreak as a Graduate Community Fellow. Daybreak is an emergency shelter and housing program for homeless youth and young adults. At Daybreak, I work 20 hours a week with individuals ages 18 to 22 in the transitional and community living programs.

Within the community living program, I meet with individuals biweekly to review their monthly income and expenses. Based on this, I can help Daybreak members assess and develop plans that coincide with meeting their goals of education, employment, and independence.

Working in the transitional living program, my primary duties consist of meeting with newcomers when they move in and monitoring their progress throughout their stay. I am also in charge of the token economy, “Daybreak Dollars.” Daybreak Dollars serve as part of individuals’ rental subsidies designed to aid them in reaching their goals. Members in the transitional living program earn Daybreak Dollars by submitting verifications of attending class, submitting job applications or going to work, and attending both group and individual counseling sessions.

For more information, visit the Daybreak website at http://www.daybreak-dayton.org/. Embrace your ability to make a difference.
Community Leader

Semester of Service had a record-breaking number of participants take part in service opportunities this summer.

Summer participants Julie Benedetto, Tessa Terrell, Paige Singleton, Lizzie Gleason, Adrianne Lewis, Meaghan Crowley, Liz Mitchell, Grace Callahan, Amanda Newlove, Liz Melena, Ryan Tuohy, Hillary Cook, and Fred Cox were able to complete more than 5,000 service hours at 10 of the program’s local nonprofit partner organizations. Efforts were focused on helping the work of Adventure Central, Dayton Christian Center, East End Community Services, Homefull, the Dayton Early College Academy, Daybreak, the Dakota Center, We Care Arts, Life Essentials, and the Gospel Mission of Dayton.

In addition to the group’s outstanding service to the Dayton community, Semester of Service students excelled in creating intentional community with one another as well. Students were able to make lasting relationships and unforgettable memories with each other by going polka dancing, taking field trips to Dayton’s Second Street Market, and spending weekends supporting the UD Summer Appalachia Program.

The last official community building activity took place during the fall Semester of Service orientation week. Summer Semester of Service students welcomed the new fall class over pizza, sharing with them their insights and passing along the torch of service.

This fall, five new students have been welcomed into the Fitz Center’s Semester of Service program and are eager to help promote the Semester of Service mission, to expand the worldview of participants through experimental education and service while empowering them to become advocates for social change. The Semester of Service program is happy to announce its newest members: Michael Trick, junior finance and entrepreneurship major serving at Daybreak; Olivia Farrell, junior psychology major serving at East End Community Services; Thomas DeCastra, sophomore operations management major serving at Life Essentials; Laura Janosko, junior psychology major serving at Adventure Central, and Brittany Sanders, sophomore religious studies major serving at the Dakota Center.

Summer Semester of Service participants include, from left, Julie Benedetto (religious studies), Amanda Newlove (sociology), Tessa Terrell (psychology), Adrianne Lewis (human rights studies and psychology); second row, from left: Liz Mitchell (human rights), Hillary Cook (political science and communication management), Fred Cox (sociology); third row, from left: Liz Melena (psychology), Meaghan Crowley (visual arts education), Paige Singleton (human rights and international studies), Ryan Tuohy (psychology), Grace Callahan (math and education) and Lizzie Gleason (pre-medicine.)
WELCOMING THE CHINA INSTITUTE
BY BRENDA DONNELLY, PH.D., DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH

This past summer, UD faculty and students attended the grand opening of the University of Dayton China Institute. The China Institute, located in the city of Suzhou, is the newest addition to UD’s study abroad program, enabling students to establish connections with one of the largest global innovation centers. While in Suzhou, UD faculty and staff experienced some of China’s most impressive cities, visited prestigious academic institutions, and explored some of China’s cultural wonders, such as the Great Wall of China. Faculty and students were excited to walk on the Great Wall of China. Built in 555 A.D. and renovated during the Ming Dynasty, the section of the wall they explored is said to “go along the mountain ridge like a flying dragon.” Pictured (from left) are Brenda Donnelly, Sharon Gratto, Pat Donnelly, Ro Nita Hawes-Saunders, Mike Kurtz, Devon Schreiber, Riad Alakkad, a tourist who joined the group, Paul Bobrowski, Teri Rizvi, Ted Bucaro, Zafar Rizvi, Eric Street, and Bob Taft.

BOOK BUDDY PROJECT BIGGER, BETTER
BY JOANNE TROHA, DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY SERVICE LEARNING

A group of UD students is eagerly sharing its own love of reading through a number of book-related projects with the Edison Neighborhood School Center. The UD students are affiliated with the Social Justice Learning-Living Community. In their studies and activities, they are defining literacy as an issue of social justice. Activities so far have included pairing 100 first-year students as pen pals with children from grades four and five and those involved in special education programs, a sophomore-led book drive on campus, working with Project Read to sort and provide books at Edison’s family night on Oct. 26, and volunteering in Edison’s 10-week “Reading Buddies” tutoring program. In November, pen pals will get to meet with one another and each child will receive a specially chosen book and reading gift bag from their University of Dayton pal.

New bike partnership emerges
BY JOANNE TROHA, DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY SERVICE LEARNING

Over the summer, Fitz Center staff saw parallel paths emerge after meeting two new partners. UD athletics sought a service project as part of their first UD Flyer CommUniversity celebration before the football game Oct. 13. Meanwhile, Dayton’s Life Enrichment Center approached the Fitz Center to see if UD would be interested in partnering with them. Like UD’s Wheels for Kids, the Life Enrichment Center collects donated bikes, repairs them, and distributes them across the community. The Life Enrichment Center also has brand new bikes donated by Huffy. Al Tomlinson, assistant director of corporate relations for UD athletics, coordinated the pre-game festival, including the recruitment of Flyer fans and athletes to help build bikes. As a result, five Neighborhood School Centers are each receiving four new bikes to use in ongoing safety lessons.
The name of Brother Raymond L. Fitz, S.M., is now etched in stone in the city he has worked tirelessly to serve.

Fitz, the longest-serving president in University of Dayton history and the Ferree Professor of Social Justice, was inducted into the Dayton Walk of Fame Sept. 20.

UD President Daniel J. Curran nominated him for the honor for his “extraordinary blend of strength, compassion, and faith” and for working tirelessly to address issues of poverty, child protection, urban education reform, and neighborhood development in the Dayton region.

Fitz, a 1964 alumnus and University president from 1979 to 2002, said he was grateful for the recognition. “I am very humbled to be listed among so many people that have made a difference in Dayton,” he said.

The Walk of Fame is located on the sidewalks along West Third Street in the historic Wright-Dunbar Business District — home of the Wright brothers and Paul Laurence Dunbar.