Newest Chaminade Scholars enjoying their St. Meinrad's fall retreat

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Dear Honors Alumni, Students and Friends:

I trust that autumn provided you all with a plentiful harvest, whatever that may be. Here in Alumni Hall the Honors Program staff had a successful fall semester. We began by welcoming over 300 of our 350 incoming first-year students and their families to the University and the Honors Program with our fourth Honors Student Welcome. Associate Director Laura Cotten has completed guiding a record 19 senior students through the application process for Fulbright Awards, and is now on to helping additional students prepare applications for a host of other prestigious fellowships. The call for applications for the next cohort of our DC Flyers program is open (our inaugural cohort had an incredible experience), and we will soon begin recruiting our next group of Chaminade Scholars.

This brings me to the theme of this honorslink issue: our cohorted programs. As we have transitioned toward becoming a larger honors program, we have attempted to model UD’s “large-school opportunities with a small-school feel” within the Honors Program by creating “programs within the program” that offer students an opportunity to build community and develop relationships with peers and faculty on a deeper level. The articles in this issue attempt to provide you all with an overview of these cohorted programs’ recent activities.

Finally, I would like to take a moment to recognize and thank my colleague Dr. Carissa Krane, who stepped down from the Honors Program associate director for thesis research position at the end of December. Over the past three years Dr. Krane’s contributions to the program have been immense. In addition to piloting and mentoring the first three cohorts of the Berry Summer Thesis Institute, Dr. Krane’s passion and commitment to undergraduate research has inspired countless colleagues to “pay it forward” as Honors thesis mentors and a steadily increasing number of students to become active and substantive contributors to the University’s mission of creating new knowledge by completing an Honors thesis. We shall all miss her insights, drive and quick wit. Please join me in thanking her for her extraordinary service and in wishing her all the best.

Peace be with you,

David W. Darrow, Ph.D.
**If you have ever heard of the DC Flyers, you have probably heard of Laura Cotten, too. Cotten’s role in the DC Flyers program is to advertise, recruit students, help make the student selection and organize students’ time in Washington, D.C. She looks out for the students by helping set the schedule, working on details of the program and ensuring no students get lost on the Metro after flying into the city.**

The DC Flyers program developed out of the Dayton2DC Spring BreakOut experience that is led by the political science department. Jason Pierce and David Darrow realized that the students would benefit from experiential learning in our nation’s Capital, working directly with UD alumni who live and work there. Cotten explains, “The wonderful part about D.C. is that any major is able to find a great internship there — everything happens in D.C.!” Cotten says she looks forward to seeing how this happens in D.C. “The DC Flyers truly thrived and grew under the leadership and guidance of full-time politicians and activists — including a few Dayton alumni — in our capital city.

With students working everywhere from Catholic Relief Services and third-world development nonprofits to interning with the Association for Catholic Colleges and Universities and a Super PAC, this summer’s DC Flyers cohort was diverse in their focus of work but collective in their professional growth and successful networking. Josh Tovey, a junior in the Honors Program who majors in political science and philosophy and rocks a sweater vest better than most, worked with Catholic Charities for the first half of the program and in the office of Representative Steve Chabot for the second half. Working with immigrants and migrants for a nonprofit was a powerful hands-on experience that Tovey is grateful to have been a part of, but it’s unquestionable, as he excitedly shared some of his favorite parts about his second internship, where his true passion lies. During the next half of his summer, he was right on the Hill, giving tours and attending hearings with the Judiciary Committee, where he could easily picture himself doing what he saw the committee members doing. Having experience with both helped him to better navigate his own calling and gain a more informed idea for what he might like to do in the future.

In traditional UD fashion, a favorite part of the program, across the board, was the aspect of community. Living with other UD students allowed each DC Flyer to build friendships that may never have happened here on campus. Tovey avidly describes the sense of community in D.C. as a bit of a different experience than the community at UD — to be living and interacting with people professionally and not just socially meant that you were constantly learning and growing as you built relationships with the rest of the members of the cohort.

Other than going to work with the big shots and building friendships with some future big shots, D.C. offered almost as much excitement as our own Dayton, Ohio. Sure, there was no student neighborhood or Cousin Vinny’s Pizza close by, but the cohort found ways to make up for it. Sara Pekar, a senior business economics major who worked with Leadership Africa USA, a nonprofit focused on leadership building and education for youth in postconflict societies, remembers fondly “the day we got our Library of Congress library cards and spent hours in the reading room, just looking at all of the books.” One of Tovey’s favorite memories was simply night-walking the monuments of the beautiful city. And, perhaps the only edible joy that can compete with good ol’ Vinny is the cupcake scene. Pekar loved “cupcake crawling” through Georgetown, since cupcakes are a big thing in D.C. and some of the most well-known shops are in Georgetown.

The 2014 cohort of the DC Flyers enjoyed exposure to professional work experience and the chance to explore one of our country’s most beautiful and historic cities. The program offers courses for the students as well as great networking and friendships to carry on beyond the summer. Pekar offers this piece of advice for those interested in the program: “Make yourself uncomfortable. The most growth comes from stretching beyond where you feel comfortable and forcing yourself to be in situations that help you learn something. It can be tempting to sit in your apartment after work and watch Netflix all night, but do some research and find interesting lectures and presentations that are happening around the city all the time. What you learn in D.C. is predicated upon how much effort you put into it, and how much discomfort you’re comfortable with.”

— Veronica Colborn ’16
Faith and Scholarship

A combination of faith and scholarship that fosters life’s friends — that was exactly what was developed when UD was awarded a grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. in December 2000. The funding was used to develop new courses, programs and activities in which students could explore their life’s work as a call from God and learn about various ways to live out the Christian call to serve. The goal was to identify “academically-talented and ministry-oriented students” and give them opportunities to develop their leadership skills in an intentional, faith-filled setting. And so the Chaminade Scholars program was born.

Originally created by the Program for Christian Leadership, Chaminade Scholars (or Chamis, informally) began in 2003. In 2011 the program was transferred to the University Honors Program and continues to graduate a cohort every year. Each cohort has about 15 students selected through an application and interview process early second semester freshman year. Once the cohort has been selected, students attend an opening retreat with prayer and team-building activities to get to know each other and begin to form their identity as a cohort. They also take part in a minicourse that semester to learn more about how the Chami program is intertwined with the Marianist charism and to continue to foster relationships together.

Joe Oliveri, an adolescent to young adult education major focusing on mathematics and secondary Catholic religious education, and a member of the senior Chami cohort, said he heard about the program through a announcement at Stuart Mass and word of mouth. Lori Claricoates, a fellow senior studying visual communication design and marketing, heard about the program at the Honors Student Welcome. "My two leaders were both Chaminade Scholars," Claricoates said. "They told us about retreats, classes, getting to know their cohort, the Italy trip, how it was a really special thing, and I was pretty much sold."

Each cohort takes three classes together. The sophomore course, The Christian Tradition of Prayer, reflects on personal prayer practices and how prayer is vital in discerning our vocation. As part of that class, the cohort attends a retreat at St. Meinrad Archabbey in Indiana. Students are immersed in the lives of the monks for a weekend, praying the Liturgy of the Hours, hearing a vocation talk and touring the archabbey. The retreat provides opportunities to spend time in silence and reflection and make wonderful memories — Claricoates said her favorite Chami memory is stargazing at St. Meinrad. The retreat encourages students to take time to consider prayer and vocation outside of the traditional class setting.

The junior class, Vocation and the Arts, looks at individuals who lead lives of discernment and discipleship, focusing on St. Francis. The course culminates with a pilgrimage to Italy. Claricoates said it was neat to be in Assisi after learning about St. Francis. "Experiencing the art and getting to understand the life of a saint in a very real way is cool, because we’re all called to be saints." Oliveri agreed. "It was academic, but we weren’t going on a trip. It was a pilgrimage. It was very intentional, we learned about our faith and ourselves," he said.

Some of Oliveri’s and Claricoates’ favorite memories from the trip include the purposeful nature of meals, sometimes lasting a few hours, in which they could share one another’s company and eat delicious Italian food; meeting a member of Vatican Radio; and of course, the tasty gelato. Oliveri’s favorite memory as a Chami was being at the papal audience. "I never thought I’d be able to go to Rome and see the pope, but with Chaminade Scholars I was able to," he said.

The senior class, Christianity, Citizenship and Society, looks at developing strengths in leadership and community-building to help students continue integrating faith and scholarship after graduation. They think about how to continue their engagement in the Church as well as their future communities.

Oliveri and Claricoates agreed that the program experiences have led to lasting friendships. “Coming in as 18 year olds, mostly strangers, and now we’ve had classes, St. Meinrad, Italy — we all come together naturally and always make good connections with teachers. When you make those kinds of connections with people, we can all stay together and connected in some way," he said. Claricoates added, “It’s the kind of relationship you have with your best friends.”

Oliveri also spoke to the way the program has impacted him as he looks toward his career. He said that while much of college involves taking major-specific classes to help you in your profession, the Chaminade Scholars program helps you recognize why you want that career, giving you purpose, confidence and support along the way. Claricoates said her favorite thing about the program is the cohort. "Italy wouldn’t be the same without our group and the relationships. And being able to celebrate things together. Birthdays, engagements, medical school acceptance, everything.”

When asked what advice they have for future Chamis, both students emphasized the importance of making it a priority and really working to grow together. Claricoates said, “Be present and committed to the group. Allow yourself to open up with who you are. "It’s not just another thing to do on the list," Oliveri said. “If you make it a special thing, it will be.

Everyone buys into it together. You do things as a unit. You do it for the community, together.”

— Elizabeth Abrams ’17

WE WELCOME MARIA OLLIER BURKETT to the University Honors Program as the assistant director for program coordination. Burkett previously worked with the Program for Christian Leadership. Her new role will involve working with the Honors Program overall and expanding her role with the Chaminade Scholars program.

Burkett was drawn to the Honors Program by things she loved about her own undergraduate Honors student experience — opportunities to dive into material more deeply and learn from both her professors and her peers. “If I can help facilitate that for others, I want to do that,” she says.

Burkett is excited for her future with the Honors Program and the Chaminade Scholars. She is working to facilitate the integration of Chaminade Scholar classes with the new CAP curriculum. She also is exploring ways to connect the rich tradition of Chami alumni with current cohort members so students can see that the program doesn’t end at graduation. “Being in the Chaminade Scholars program can change people’s lives; it can be deep and transformative,” she says. “The big questions of ‘Who am I?’ and ‘Who is God calling me to be?’ are pretty visible in our alums. It’s happening — we are seeing it lived out.”

Elizabeth Abrams ’17

News and notes from the University of Dayton Honors Program
A Legacy of

Since being founded in 1978, the University of Dayton Honors Program has had a long career of excellence and academic accomplishment. In 2003 the Honors Program expanded to include more students while maintaining a cohort of about 30 students from each class in a specialized program called the Berry Scholars.

The Berry Scholars program was named for John W. Berry Sr., a former member of the board of trustees who established a fund specifically to award scholarships to the members of the cohort. John Berry Jr. met with some friends to discuss his father’s legacy at UD.

Berry wanted to leave a legacy at UD, which is what drove him to fund the Berry Scholars program. The goal of the program was to continue to attract intelligent, driven, high-achieving students and offer them a four-year, full-tuition scholarship in order to maintain the overall distinction of the institution. The Berry Scholars were a group of up to 30 students from any of the four colleges: Arts and Sciences, Business Administration, Education or Engineering. Part of the program was to take six required Scholars Seminars over their years at the University, as well as to complete a final thesis project — a serious undertaking for any undergrad. The seminars and thesis were coupled with requirements such as maintaining a high grade point average and participating in other academic, leadership and service activities.

With the change in the overall University Honors Program mission of inclusion, the Berry Scholars program ended with the final graduates in 2014. However, the legacy from the Berry family continues with the Berry Summer Thesis Institute. This summer program allows a group of rising juniors to stay on campus for a summer in order to begin intensive work on their Honors thesis projects. John Berry Jr. has agreed to sponsor the thesis institute for another year after having had such wonderful experiences with the scholars in years past.

Berry is excited for the Honors Program to continue. And while he himself proposes no changes, he is confident the program directors will continually improve what it offers Honors students. Every few years Berry and his wife visit the University to meet with Berry Scholars or, more recently, with the members of the Berry Summer Thesis Institute. He likes to talk with students over lunch or go to their presentations to hear about their current project work. Berry describes every encounter with the students that he has experienced as having blown him away. He said he found the students “inspiring” and was “taken aback” by their maturity, intelligence and motivation.

His advice to the current students in the Honors Program is to remember that a university experience is not all about the grades. He reminds us that everyone has unique talents, and by using all those different gifts together, something great can be made. “But,” he also added with a smile, “you should keep doing what you’re doing if you are already lucky enough to be called an Honors student at the University of Dayton.”

— Sarah Spech ’16

Although neither John Berry Jr. nor Sr. attended the University of Dayton, the family has roots in Dayton that led to a deep connection between the family and the school. Over the years, Berry Sr. had become friends with people that students and alumni have come to know well, such as Tom Blackburn, Brother Ray Fitz and Thomas J. Friericks, in addition to being on the board of directors.

profiles — The Berry Scholars

Adrienne Niesse Ausdenmoore
Class of 2004

Adrienne Niesse Ausdenmoore was a visual communication design major who decided to stay close to the community upon graduation when she accepted a position with ArtStreet. While she was a student at UD, she was part of the Honors Program, at the time a cohort of about 40 students that eventually evolved into the Berry Scholars, a transition that occurred while Ausdenmoore was attending UD.

She fondly remembers living on Honors floors her first and second year at college. Both in classes and in the living community, she enjoyed learning and interacting with peers from different majors that she might not have been able to meet in any other circumstance. The classes they took together — everything from English and sociology to philosophy and sustainability — were academically challenging in a unique way. Especially within the different class projects, Ausdenmoore remembers really bonding with the other Honors students. One of her favorite memories was the history project when they put “Western civilization on trial.”

Ausdenmoore believes that the challenge from these exclusive classes gave her a more rounded approach to learning and honing many more skills than she would have gotten just from her fine arts studies. Instead of doing primarily hands-on work, she was pushed to continue reading and writing on a critical level. All of the engagement with the work in the classes was primarily discussion-based, and the students were held to a more rigorous academic standard than the other introductory level classes.

In addition to the classes, the Honors students were expected to do an independent thesis project. Ausdenmoore challenged herself in her thesis to help with the development of ArtStreet, even before ArtStreet existed. From this thesis, she was offered her current job on the staff and has maintained her career there, continually drawing from the valuable life lessons and skills she acquired as a member of the Honors Program.
The Berry Scholars (continued)

Patrick Joyce
Class of 2013

Pat Joyce, now a successful project manager, was a member of the University of Dayton class of 2013. He entered and graduated from UD as a mechanical engineering major as well as a Berry Scholar. Joyce claims that being a member of the Berry Scholars program led him to ultimately be successful at his current career because of the underlying skills that were required to become and remain a Berry Scholar.

Joyce says that the main difference in the set-aside Berry Scholars classes from other UD courses was the teaching style, which was mostly seminar-based, as well as the content of the array of Berry Scholar courses, such as philosophy, English and history. In each of these classes he felt pushed to see the bigger picture, to ask more questions and to look deeper for answers. It is this “figuring things out,” creating arguments and counterarguments, and active problem solving that Joyce feels directly influenced his current career in the engineering field.

One class that continues to stick out in his memory is an English class in which he described the teaching style as “almost like a play.” The structure was distinguishable for the apparent lack thereof in comparison to other lectures. Instead, this English class was informal and discussion-based with roundtables and circle formations to facilitate this type of learning environment. Joyce remembers reading not only the usual literary novels typical of an introductory literature course, but also analyzing movies and reading graphic novels that are usually left out of a traditional curriculum.

Joyce is happy that he was given the chance to be a Berry Scholar. Entering college, he felt that it was his hard work paying off, and throughout his university experience, the prestige pushed him to continue the hard work that he found so rewarding. His preconceived notions were challenged and his ability to learn grew, carrying over through his years at UD and following him into his current career.

The Berry Summer Thesis Institute is a 12-week program that opens opportunities for intense research and scholarship. Each student of the Berry Summer Thesis Institute works under a faculty mentor in research, attends leadership workshops and participates in community service. Brian Bates is a junior finance and operations management double major who participated in the summer 2014 cohort. Taylor Kingston is a senior English, psychology and education triple major who participated in the summer 2013 cohort.

Callaghan: What initially drew you to apply for the program?

Bates: The opportunity to delve deeply into a specific subject and gain valuable relationships and knowledge from the Honors Program staff and my thesis mentor.

Callaghan: What did you research? Are you working on a thesis from this research?

Bates: I researched the effect that e-commerce is having on big-box retailers. I looked specifically at the effects on their real estate expansion and financial performance. I am currently working on developing this project into a full thesis project.

Kingston: I theorized that uncanny similarities among the dystopian genre’s great works are caused because writers must appeal to the particular way humans psychologically respond to worst-case scenarios; this creates a genre pattern. I have continued with this research to develop it into a thesis.

C: How has being in the BSTI impacted your experience at UD? How has it impacted your future goals?

B: Free food. Honestly it’s amazing to learn from such a diverse group of people, to hear people’s passions ranging from fruit fly development, to minority literature, to the development of short stories. It was not just academic research, it was a chance to make friends with those you might have never considered, to get out of your comfort zone and broaden your experiences.

C: What advice would you give to future members of the program?

K: Push yourself to transcend the boundaries of your discipline. Do this not only by engaging with your cohort members, but also by choosing a thesis topic that straddles two ways of thinking that others might not envision being compatible.

B: The Honors Program has certainly given me opportunities that would not be available if I had attended another school. I would encourage every Honors student to take advantage of the resources, from fellowships, to internship programs, to the dedicated staff. There is so much more available than I first realized.

— Laura Callaghan ‘18

The Berry Summer Thesis Institute: Q&A

B: The Honors Program is affectionate name for any past or present member of a Berry Summer Thesis Institute cohort. Example: She happily accepted her role as a BSTI and was determined to succeed.

C: Do you feel your UD career would have gone in a different direction if you were not in the Honors Program?

K: Since I embarked on researching for my thesis, my brain has seemed to work in a new way. Also, it has taught me to look for solutions in the most unlikely places. Regarding my future goals, I now would love to someday teach a unit or even a course on dystopian literature.

B: The Honors Program has certainly given me opportunities that would not be available if I had attended another school. I would encourage every Honors student to take advantage of the resources, from fellowships, to internship programs, to the dedicated staff. There is so much more available than I first realized.

— Laura Callaghan ‘18

The Berry Scholars

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University of Dayton

Summer 2014 cohort members (front row left to right) Morgan Pais, Brian Bates, Kristin Bond, Stephanie Loney, Sara Stalder; (back row left to right) Claire Konny, Maxwell Roeske, Genevieve Kocoloski, Joseph Ferber, Luke Bugado, Riley Weber

Photo by Ramone Sperranza


Photo courtesy of the University Honors Program
The Hull Story: Studying Abroad

The Cordell Hull fellowships, established by Cordell W. Hull (see sidebar), are awarded each year to support transformative international learning, leadership and service experiences for Honors students as part of their educational opportunities at the University of Dayton.

Below are some recent stories about how the Hull fellowships have impacted students’ study abroad experiences.

Kathryn Anderson ’15
Spain

Anderson spent spring semester 2014 in Granada, Spain, at the University of Granada. Not only did she take classes at the university as a premed and Spanish major, she also interned at a clinic twice a week. She travelled a great deal around Spain to places such as Málaga and Barcelona, and she was able to visit Africa. Anderson said that the fellowship she received from the Hull fund gave her the opportunity to live with a host family in order to completely immerse herself in Spanish culture.

Kristin Burger ’15
Italy

Burger studied in Rome spring semester 2014 and used her time there to learn more about Italian culture and history. During her time abroad, she was not only able to become deeply familiar with Rome, but also was able to travel to 8 different countries and 16 different cities across Europe. Burger spent time volunteering through a program called “Italy Reads” where she spent time with Italian high school students and discussed novels with them. Studying abroad allows one to gain more confidence, along with a broader and deeper understanding of the world. “This opportunity allowed me to grow as a person and recognize the true strength, confidence, resourcefulness and abilities I possess,” Burger said.

Maggie Maloney ’16
Ireland

Maloney spent spring semester 2014 in Maynooth, Ireland, where she focused her studies on her human rights degree. She travelled to Dublin courts and interacted with Belfast human rights organizations. She inquired about issues facing Irish society, how women play a role in peacekeeping and how different nongovernmental organizations can make a difference in foreign policy. Through this experience, Maloney was able to solidify what career path she would like to take after graduation and now has a thesis subject about which she is very passionate.

Kristin Schmidt ’16
Malawi

Schmidt spent summer 2014 in Malawi, Africa, working to help develop sustainable fuel sources and safer cooking tools for the people there. Although an education major, Schmidt was given the opportunity to run her own tests and report on her results, allowing her to have a sizable impact on the entire project. Additionally, she collected data through personal interviews with the people there, including some that required translators or even nonverbal communication.

Nathan Turnwald ’15
Nicaragua

Turnwald spent his winter break with the University of Dayton Global Brigades in Nicaragua. The service trip involved three days of conducting a medical brigade through which the group provided medical care and three days of a public health brigade through which they helped to those in need in Nicaragua. I feel certain that they taught me much more than I taught them.”

Riley Weber ’16
El Salvador

Weber spent a week with Christians for Peace in El Salvador during her winter 2014 break. She had a unique service experience which consisted of her listening to the social issues in El Salvador in order to communicate to Americans once she returned home. She heard from two different organizations that spoke about different issues El Salvador and Latin America face. ORMUSA dealt with labor and gender rights, while Cofamid advocated for the rights of immigrants. Weber said that because of what she witnessed, she “lives each day with these experiences in mind.”

Cordell W. Hull

Cordell Hull earned his Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering with honors at the University of Dayton in 1956. He was designated a 1994 Distinguished Alumnus of the University. Hull established the Hull Fellowship Fund in response to the vision of Brother Raymond L. Fitz, S.M., then president of the University, who recognized the increasing need for experiential international learning for students at the University of Dayton.

Hull served as senior managing director of Infrastructure World LLC, and as a director, member of the executive committee and a senior officer of the Bechtel Group leading construction, engineering, development and investment activities for major infrastructure undertakings throughout the world. He has served as a director of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, chairman of the advisory board of the Export-Import Bank of the United States and on many corporate boards throughout the world. Hull earned his Master of Science degree in civil engineering from MIT and his J.D. degree, cum laude, from Harvard Law School. He also holds an honorary doctorate from the Dominican University of California where he is a trustee emeritus.

Since 1998 the Hull Fund has awarded more than 350 fellowships to University of Dayton students.
When I arrived at campus in the spring of 2013 as a nonresidential transfer student, I felt separated from the University of Dayton community I had heard so much about. Everyone else seemed to know the campus and other students and were already active in numerous organizations. Not knowing where to turn, I joined the UD Honors Program where the meaning of community became more than apparent. The love of the other students and support of the faculty led me to understand the meaning of community and gave me a desire to help lead others into this wonderful program.

During the Honors Students Welcome, which took place August 21 to 23 for those of us in leadership roles, I was given this opportunity. I was able to help 318 Honors students and their families — with the assistance of 83 other Honors leaders — move into their dorms and show them the meaning of community that is still shown to me daily. Games were played, stories were shared, Ben & Jerry’s ice cream was supplied to the enjoyment of all. It was a weekend that reminded me of what UD and the UHP is all about: community.

The purpose of this event was to welcome these new students to the University of Dayton and the Honors Program while allowing existing Honors students to welcome their new peers to the community, and it was by all means a success. When Dr. David Darrow spoke the final words, the students went out with new friends, a new home and a community that will be there for them even after they graduate. Events like this illustrate the power of community and the heart of the UHP that beats within all of us who have been welcomed into its fold.

— Alexander L. Fred ’15
A Visual Feast!

Answering life’s biggest questions calls us to experiences greater than ourselves. On Sunday, November 2, over 130 Honors students and faculty experienced a combination of art, culture, history, food, music and discussion that collectively made A Visual Feast one of the most successful events in the history of the Honors Program.

I attended A Visual Feast, and it was one of the best programs I’ve attended at UD. Students were given transportation to the Dayton Art Institute, where we passed several unique modern art displays as we walked into a bright room full of tables and various food stations. We took our seats and were introduced to the program by Dr. David Darrow, director of the Honors Program, Dr. Richard Chenoweth, Graul Chair in Arts and Languages, and Dr. Roger Crum of the Department of Art and Design, who had all worked together to leverage talent and resources to develop the event.

Then it was time for the culinary feast — and what an array it was! The food represented many different areas of the world. There were falafel from the Middle East, Asian dishes that included pad Thai and Korean beef kabobs, Latin American chicken empanadas and delicious cucumber-pineapple guacamole, Austrian Wiener schnitzel, German spaetzle and Mediterranean fresh tomato and onion salad, to name only a sample. And last but certainly not least, dessert! Crème brûlée, tiramisu, chocolate-covered cheesecake squares, pumpkin cream pies and mini-tart pastries wrapped up the meal. There was something delicious for everyone. The juxtaposition of foods and the wonderful ways in which they were presented made it a meal to remember.

As we ate, several professors of art history gave presentations. Each of them had previously come to the Dayton Art Institute and chosen a piece to feature in connection with an area of the world and a dish we were enjoying. One professor presented a unique sculpture in connection to our falafel appetizer. Others followed suit, bridging other food with specific works of art in the museum.

After the meal students had time to explore the museum for themselves. This allowed me to really experience the magnificence of the Dayton Art Institute. It is truly a beautiful place, full of light, outstanding art and great historical significance. There was a wide variety of art pieces, from religious paintings, to an outdoor sculpture courtyard, to modern art that utilized technology to draw in the audience.

The last part of the day was a performance by the UD Orchestra. They played an array of music from the 17th to 21st centuries, incorporating the music of everyone from Vivaldi to Lady Gaga. The conductor, Dr. Patrick Reynolds, also connected the music to the visual and culinary aspects of the day. It was a perfect ending to an experience full of art and beauty.

Chenoweth played an integral role in creating the event. In his role as the Graul Chair, Chenoweth is committed to communicating the importance of the arts, languages and culture to the University. He works to collaborate with other faculty and departments on campus to create events that cater to a variety of interests. That collaborative spirit is what led to A Visual Feast. According to Chenoweth, a conversation with Darrow led to the idea of using the Art Institute as the space for the event, and his colleague, Dr. Aili Bresnahan, suggested the name. Collaborations with the University Orchestra led to the performance that ended the day beautifully. Additionally, the use of the Dayton Art Institute for the venue has helped foster a growing partnership with the UD community.

The event was ultimately created under the University’s RITES RIGHTS WRITES theme, which seeks to answer the basic question, “What does it mean to be human?” Chenoweth explained, “One of the greatest manifestations of being human is the ability to replicate our feelings through art, music and more. We try to communicate opportunities for people to illuminate their work through cultural rites, human rights and writing those down over time, and exploring how art fits into all of that.”

Honors student Miranda Melone attended the event and thought the connection to RITES RIGHTS WRITES was perfect. “Carrying on the theme of RITES RIGHTS WRITES is so important to every college student no matter the major. Continuing to reflect on what it means to be human is essential to our humanity itself. The discussions and answers are constantly changing with time, and I appreciate the doors that the Honors Program has opened to these discussions and ultimate paths to self-discovery. A Visual Feast was a great way to spark and perpetuate these conversations with others and within our own selves about who we are as individuals and as members of the human race,” said Melone.

A Visual Feast allowed Honors Program students and faculty alike to experience a combination of art, music and culinary arts with others at UD. We were immersed into something bigger than ourselves. “The University is the same as an orchestra,” Chenoweth said. “The solos are beautiful. All the professors have a great solo voice, but if you combine them all together, you get a beautiful symphony of knowledge.”

The University will continue to explore this theme over the next few years. Next semester, RITES RIGHTS WRITES will present the Dead Man Walking opera and a University-wide presentation by Sister Helen Prejean. For more information on the RITES RIGHTS WRITES theme, visit go.udayton.edu/rrw.

— Elizabeth Abrams ’17
— Photos by Christopher Santucci ’16
Serving as treasurer/secretary her sophomore year, she is now learning her upcoming role as president next year (a rising junior elected VP / president-elect serves for two years for continuity in leadership). When she joined SAC, Braun says she did not know what to expect, but after a short while she found herself inspired by all the great people working within the SAC.

Braun and the rest of the SAC have been hard at work planning events for this school year. SAC will have a team participating in both the spring Dance Marathon and Relay For Life. In addition, Braun says that the SAC wants to plan “something like a Service Saturday to get people excited about that [event] as it didn’t work out [last year],” says Braun.

Thanks to Braun and the other members of the SAC, the fall semester was an exciting time, and we look forward to all it has planned for this upcoming spring.

Gianna Hartwig ’17

The Student Activities Committee

FROM THE DANNY ARNOLD 5K TO THE DANCE MARATHON

scheduled for this spring, the Student Activities Committee (SAC), composed of UD Honors students, creates and organizes events for other Honors students. Rachel Braun, current vice president of SAC, stated that the best part about SAC is meeting new people. She would like to see the start of an Honors tutoring program, saying, “I know a lot of people in the SAC are involved.” She would also like to see the Honors formal happen this year. “We have to think of a way to get people excited about that [event] as if it didn’t work out [last year],” says Braun.

Alexander L. Fred ’14 presented philosophic research in conversation with Carl Sachs at the 2nd Annual Online Undergraduate Philosophy Conference sponsored by the Jackson Family Center for Ethics and Values at Coastal Carolina University, the philosophy department at the University of Massachusetts and Philosophy TV with Carl Sachs. The conversation can be found at philostv.com/oupc-alexander-fred-and-carl-sachs.

Tanner Hess ’15 presented at the annual American Geophysical Union with his adviser, Dr. Umesh Haritashya, in San Francisco.

Anamaria Karcales ’16 wrote an article on the Dayton Peace Accords that was published through the Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training as a part of her DC Flyers internship.

Danielle Kloke ’15 presented at SEVT (Sport Entertainment & Venues Tomorrow) in November and has a paper being published in the International Journal of Sport Management in July.

Hailey J. Kwon ’15 is a co-author of a paper that was accepted for publication in Developmental Biology, a popular biology research journal.

Diana Savastano ’14 was awarded an Outstanding Student Award by the Midwest chapter of the Society for the Advancement of Material and Process Engineering (SAMPE) and then awarded finalist for a technical paper. She also competed at The Composites and Advanced Materials Expo, winning third place in the SAMPE University Research Symposium.

Graduates

Congratulations to the December 2014 Honors graduates:

ALUMNI NEWS

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Senior recipients Megan Flaherty and Nicole Price (photo not available) have experienced this firsthand. Flaherty, a biology and psychology dual major, bought gift cards to incentivize more responses on a survey about factors influencing individuals with high blood pressure. She is especially interested in clinical research and has been able to pursue this interest through her thesis work. Price, who is pursuing degrees in history and secondary social studies education, used Palermo funds to visit archives in Massachusetts, Arizona and New Jersey. Her thesis focuses on racial and ethnic humor in the period 1870 to 1930. Although the two are conducting very different types of research, they both agree — the Palermo Founders Fund has had a very positive impact on their theses.

Congratulations to the December 2014 Honors graduates:

PALERMO FOUNDERS FUND

Twenty-five years after founding the University of Dayton Honors Program, Honors Program alumni generously donated money to establish the Palermo Founders Fund to support current Honors students pursuing theses. The fellowships go toward research expenses students may incur while producing their theses. Palermo is thrilled by the focus of the funds, saying “Students, by doing research, are able to delve deeply into the foundations of their disciplines, and even across disciplines, and by doing that, understand more about scholarship, themselves as students and more about their goals.”

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Class of 1989

**RAFE DONAHUE:** In late August, the last offspring left the nest, so things are quiet at home. Michelle and I follow the adventures of Harry (USMA 2015), Zach (Gonzaga 2016) and Olivia (Samford 2018) via the modern methods of text messages, ooVoo, Instagram and the like. Things are quite quiet at home.

This summer provided the opportunity for Olivia and I to attend a Lego convention in Chicago, and for Olivia and Harry and I to bike from Buffalo to Albany, following the path of the Erie Canal. (Poor Zach and Michelle spent the whole summer working!) The bike ride was 360 miles over 6 days. Olivia and I rode a tandem while Harry provided all his own power. It was really hard but really fun. I’m not sure I’d do it again in exactly the same fashion, but it was a great week with nothing to do but ride.

I’m still doing statistics for BioMimetic Therapeutics in Franklin, Tennessee. In October I had the grand opportunity to deliver the annual Kenneth C. Schraut Memorial Lecture at UD.

Class of 1988

**MIKE PRATT:** My biggest news was that I was named an Academy of Management Fellow (aom.org/fellows.aspx). According to the webpage: “The purpose of the Fellows Group shall be to recognize and honor members of the Academy of Management who have made significant contributions to the science and practice of management, and to provide opportunities for fellowship and a forum for discussion among persons so recognized and honored.” Only about 1 percent of the entire Academy of Management is invited to be in this group.

Class of 1995

**MINA ROTH STRICKLIN:** I was previously working as a patent attorney at Procter & Gamble in Cincinnati for the past 16 years. In June 2013 I accepted an assistant general counsel - intellectual property position with Nike and my family (husband Taft Stricklin and daughters Violet (4) and Lucille (2)) relocated to Portland, Oregon. We are getting settled into our new home in the Dunthorpe neighborhood of Portland and are enjoying every bit of the Pacific Northwest thus far!

I loved working in human resources (thinking of Dr. Dandaneau’s sociology seminar very frequently) until the girls were born, and now I am happily at home with them. I wear Dayton gear fairly frequently and it was a lot of fun this past basketball season for neighbors and friends to realize that the UD I wear was the same UD that had such a great run in the tournament! Hope all of you ’99ers are well and write in with your own updates soon.

Class of 1998

**DARREN NEALY:** I’ve been working as director of student services at The University of Michigan Law School for about a year now, and I’ve been working with the University of Michigan athletics department to help mentor student-athletes interested in going to law school. I was recently appointed to the State Bar of Michigan’s Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee. Also, I have been selected to speak at the Columbus Bar Association’s January 2015 Martin Luther King Day symposium. The topic will be the U.S. Supreme Court case of Loving v. Virginia.

Class of 1999

**CINDY PHIPPS SARINYAMAS:** I am living in Redmond, Washington, with my husband, Chan, and two daughters, Genevieve (born August 2011) and Amelia (October 2013).

**KAITLIN MOREDOCK:** I was honored to be awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award for my work in pediatric neuro-ophthalmology.

Class of 1997

**SEAN DONAHUE:** My biggest news was that I was named an Academy of Management Fellow (aom.org/fellows.aspx). According to the webpage: “The purpose of the Fellows Group shall be to recognize and honor members of the Academy of Management who have made significant contributions to the science and practice of management, and to provide opportunities for fellowship and a forum for discussion among persons so recognized and honored.” Only about 1 percent of the entire Academy of Management is invited to be in this group.

Class of 2000

**HEATHER CORNWELL FOCHT:** My husband, Jeremy Focht ’97, and I are overjoyed to announce the arrival of Sebastian YiDe Allen Focht, born November 28, 2012, and adopted from Taiwan on June 9, 2014. When we picked him up, the one word Sebastian could say was “jie-jie” (“big sister” in Mandarin). His sister Elli (6 years old) decided that this was a sign that he was going to love her more than anyone else in the family, and her prediction has so far been very true. The two kids are having a lot of fun playing together and figuring out how to work together to manipulate their parents. Jeremy continues to work for Dow Chemical and Heather for Procter & Gamble.

Class of 2002

**ERICA CHENOWETH:** Erica was awarded the Alumni Association’s 2014 Special Achievement Award and is ranked among Foreign Policy magazine’s 2013 Top 100 Global Thinkers. She is an associate professor at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver and an associate senior researcher at the Peace Research Institute Oslo.

Class of 2006

**JULIE CORVO BYRNE:** My husband, Matthew, and I welcomed our second daughter, Sophia Marie, on February 6, 2014.

Class of 2007

**KEVIN WALSH:** I am currently engaged in a doctoral program in structural engineering at the University of Auckland in New Zealand, accompanied by my wife, Megan McNichols ’07, who is a social worker managing home-care services for older adults.

Class of 2008

**KAITLIN MOREDOCK DINAPOLI:** I went to law school, met the man of my dreams, graduated law school, moved to Philadelphia, married that man, and now we have our first baby! I’ve been so blessed. I still keep in contact with Tracy Kemme, another Berry Scholar alum, who is a novice with the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati.

Class of 2010

**TRACEY HORAN:** I began postulancy — the first official step of formation — with the Sisters of Providence of St. Mary-of-the-Woods on September 8, 2014!

**ERIC KRISSEK:** Eric has been accepted at Harvard for graduate school and is pursuing a master’s degree in school leadership.
KATIE NORRIS: I have started a full-time position with the City of Dayton Water Department in the division of environmental management as an environmental scientist! This is particularly exciting because it is not only an awesome job in my field, but it is also back here in Dayton! I have lived a couple of other places in the past few years, but I wanted to move back to Dayton and I am thrilled to be able to come back and start a great job.

Class of 2012
ERIN FOREST: I began my master’s in communication studies at the University of Georgia. I received a teaching assistantship and work with one of the assistant professors here to teach public speaking. My undergraduate adviser, Dr. Trollinger, actually pointed me to UGA and has been amazingly supportive through the whole application process, and we’ve emailed throughout these first few weeks.

LARRY FUNK: Since graduation I have been at the University of Notre Dame working toward my doctorate in mechanical engineering. In June I took and passed my candidacy exam. This consisted of writing a 15-page NSF-style proposal of my planned research for my dissertation, putting my doctorate committee together and presenting it orally to them. It went really well and I passed!
This is the second of three steps in earning my doctorate. By passing, I received a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering (MSME). This is important because you need to have at least a master’s in order to be an official instructor of record, which brings me to my next bit of news. I will be teaching a class this fall. The course is AME 40423 Mechanisms and Machines, a required course for all mechanical engineering students. I currently have 106 students signed up for the course. I am very excited for this opportunity since I think I want to be a professor and this will give me a great opportunity to test the waters and see if it is in fact what I want to do. I am a bit nervous about the number of students in the class but excited overall.

In other news, my wife, Liz, is pregnant! Liz (maiden name Belt) also graduated from UD in 2012 from the education department. We are expecting a baby girl, plan to name her Anna Catherine Funke, and we are both really excited!

Class of 2013
KARYEN CHAI: After a year of studying at the University of York in the United Kingdom, I just submitted my master’s thesis for consideration toward an MSc in psychology. I am currently trying to figure out what to do next, so I am taking this time to gain some experience at a mental health care hospital as a support worker here in the UK and traveling a little bit in Europe.

DANIEL MCCORRY: I’m currently a second-year medical student at Georgetown University. This past summer I completed a graduate fellowship in health policy research with The Heritage Foundation, a policy think tank here in D.C. My research focused on a model of health care “direct primary care,” which is a free-market approach to improving access, outcomes and overall physician and patient satisfaction, as well as a way to reduce unnecessary bureaucracy and cost. My research has since been cited or referenced in several places, including articles by Forbes and the National Center for Policy Analysis.

Class of 2014
LAUREN BANFIELD: Lauren’s University of Dayton Honors thesis document design has won silver in the annual UCDA (University and College Designers Association) competition. This is a national competition and only 8 of over 1,000 entries received the silver status.

EILEEN KUH: I am planning on taking a cross country trip focused on sustainable farming and agriculture with two other UD alumni, making a total of four women together embarking on this great journey. We are calling ourselves Present. Pioneer. We have an Instagram, Facebook page, Twitter, crowdfunding page and, most of all, a spirit of adventure as we raise funds and continue to produce art and research based on the earth and its caretaking.
This year’s Arnold Memorial Fund Scholarship recipient is Madison Irwin.

Do you want to make a difference in the lives of other current and future Honors students?

Donate by:
- Visiting udayton.edu/give and designating your gift to the Patrick F. Palermo Founders Fund, Chaminade Scholars Program or Daniel P. Arnold Memorial Fund
- or mailing a check to University of Dayton, 300 College Park, Dayton, Ohio 45469-7056

January
- 10 Summer/Fall Hull Applications Due
- 12 Classes Begin
- 13 Chaminade Scholar Applications Due
- 23 Honors Art Exhibit Open House

February
- 3 Berry Summer Thesis Institute Applications Due
- TBA Junior Thesis Writers Workshops

March
- 20 Honors Students Symposium

April
- 1 Junior Thesis Proposals Due
- 7 May Graduate Theses Due
- 9 Stander Symposium

May
- 2 Honors Graduation Brunch
- 3 May Graduation Commencement
- 11 Berry Summer Thesis Institute Begins
- 26 DC Flyers Program Begins