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Austin Roebke presenting research at the Honors Students Symposium 2015
Dear Honors Alumni, Students and Friends:

Please join me in welcoming our new Associate Director for Student Research, Dr. Nancy Miller. Dr. Miller comes to us from political science. She is now our primary point person for both the honors thesis process and the Berry Summer Thesis Institute. In addition to her experience advising thesis writers, Dr. Miller also brings to the position experience with interning in D.C. and other forms of experiential learning. She is a great asset to our students and the office.

This issue of our newsletter links the Honors Program to the foundation of the University of Dayton itself. UD began its life on July 1, 1850, as St. Mary’s School for Boys. Teaching and teachers have been at the center of the institution ever since, preparing our students for adaptation and change based on the idea that education is an essential pathway to the achievement of peace, justice and the common good. Here we celebrate the role that our Program’s students have played as educators in multiple capacities at different stages of their careers. Whether in Belarus, India or Mozambique, in Covington, Kentucky or Centerville, Ohio, you have all carried on the UD tradition of building community and laying the groundwork for a just society as teachers. While most of you began your UD journey with this intent as students in teacher education, it is pleasing to see that a number of others have also been drawn to the profession, willing to share your intelligence and enthusiasm for a particular subject to provide others with enlightenment and opportunity. On behalf of the University Honors Program, thank you! Your work fills us with pride.

Best regards,

David W. Darrow, Ph.D.

INTRODUCING . . .

Dr. Nancy Martorano Miller has joined the University Honors Program as the associate director for thesis research. She has been a member of the University of Dayton community since 2002 and is an associate professor in the Department of Political Science.

Miller actively advises Honors theses and has been involved in a number of experiential learning programs that are popular with Honors students. Her scholarly focus is on the state legislative process and she is currently exploring how state constitutions impact the policy-making process in the states. Miller is excited about joining the UHP staff and is looking forward to working with Honors students and faculty from across campus.

When not reading old state constitutions, she enjoys spending time with her family — Mike, Aiden and Kelly.
Reflecting on the three years I have spent at the University of Dayton, I feel honored to be a part of this community and have the opportunity to work with our students, staff and faculty. Each year I learn from our passionate students, who dream big, are engaged with the community and are confident in their abilities to create positive change in the world. In addition to my teaching our students about fellowships and how to apply to graduate school, I myself have engaged in several learning opportunities.

This year I was selected as one of 20 staff members to participate in a campus program called Leadership UD. This program introduced me to colleagues from around the campus community that I otherwise would not have had the opportunity to meet. These connections have already proved useful in allowing me to accomplish tasks more efficiently. In addition, the program focused on defining and finding leadership traits within ourselves, and how to become better leaders not only within our departments, but for UD as a whole. Through this program I learned more about UD, our Catholic, Marianist values and our community. I left feeling confident in my growing abilities as a leader at UD.

In addition to this professional development program, I was fortunate enough to travel to the UK with other fellowship advisors throughout the United States. Roughly 30 advisors — all members of the National Association of Fellowships Advisors (NAFA) — traveled to 15 universities in the UK over two weeks in June 2014. Our fearless leader was Ms. Mary Denyer, the assistant secretary and head of scholarship administration for the Marshall Commission. We learned about a number of higher education institutions abroad that not only accept Marshall Scholars but also receive students from Fulbright and other scholarship programs. The tour focused on specific academic programs in institutions, allowing me to better understand graduate school in the UK and how to best mentor students interested in these opportunities.

I appreciate that, in addition to teaching my students and learning from them each year, I am granted the opportunity to explore and learn more about the fellowship advising and graduate school advising worlds. I feel lucky to work with an association that values information sharing for the overall benefit of students applying to prestigious fellowships. Another bonus to being a fellowship advisor was meeting a UD Honors graduate from 2002, Liz Romig, on the NAFA trip. Romig is also a fellowships advisor, working for American University in D.C. The world really is a small place! Go Flyers!

Laura Cotten
Associate Director of Fellowships and Graduate Guidance

Teaching and Learning
A Life-long Relationship

Alumni and students share their joy in educating others and how those experiences affected their lives.
The initial crossing and repeated intersections of the lives of Cassie Brakers ’15 and Stephanie Pugar Sagasser ’12 is too striking to ignore. Both women attended the University of Dayton and, while here, were members of the Honors Program, participated in the Chaminade Scholars program and were student workers within the Honors Program office. And during the spring semester 2015 they taught together in Dayton at Bishop Leibold Catholic School.

Sagasser is currently working at Bishop Leibold as an intervention specialist. She works with children with special needs or learning disabilities in grades four through eight. Her work can take various forms — she co-teaches classes in math, language arts and reading, but she also works with small groups in order to give each child the specialized attention in the specific area of study that he or she may need. Due to the nature of her job, she has to know almost everything that could come up in a grade school curriculum in order to most effectively help the children with whom she works.

Brakers majored in middle childhood education and did her student teaching at Bishop Leibold until she graduated in May 2015. She was primarily teaching seventh and eighth grade math along with one STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) class and one religion class. Beginning in fall 2015, Brakers will be teaching fifth grade math, science and religion at Springfield’s Catholic Central through the two-year Lalanne program, which works to merge service and teaching in an under-resourced Catholic elementary school.

Both Sagasser and Brakers agree that UD’s education department truly helped them to feel prepared for the “real world” of teaching. They mentioned the excellent professors whose doors were always open, ready to answer questions and give candid advice to any student who asked. One major benefit was the early placement in real classrooms. Though there are still, and will always be, nerves on any teacher’s first day of school, both alumni felt that the early introduction to work in a classroom helped to alleviate much of the potential anxiety and helped them in the long run to have confidence and a wide range of experience.

In addition to calling themselves education students, Brakers and Sagasser agree that their involvement with the Honors Program was a major benefit during their years at UD and in their teaching positions. Like many who have been through the Honors Program, their first introduction to the University was the early move-in Honors Student Welcome, where they were able to meet and make friends with other Honors students from the first day. Sagasser mentioned how having classes and being friends with other Honors students was a true motivating factor to get her to continually push herself. The influence of being around other equally motivated teachers has found a secret that helped them to learn and grow. Brakers has found a secret that teachers have kept hidden from students for years — the teacher doesn’t always know best. She has learned the importance of keeping her mind and her syllabus open to the wants and needs of her students and knows that teaching is a collaboration. She is constantly working with other teachers and the students, knowing that they all have valuable input about how she could teach. Sagasser said that as a teacher, you are always learning — if you weren’t, you’d never become a better teacher. She stated, “It is indescribable how much more I know now after three years of working at Bishop Leibold.” And both of them appreciate the Catholic school approach of teaching the whole student and keeping the student’s entire well-being in mind, not just grades.

This is the same mentality that they experienced in the Honors Program at UD. The Honors Program strives to teach in ways that go beyond academics, assisting in the formation of well-rounded professionals. Both Brakers and Sagasser advise each current Honors student to take advantage of every opportunity available to them. They believe that the different activities, intramurals, cultural events and other experiences really contributed to their confidence and preparedness in their work, playing a huge role in who they each are as teachers today.

— Sarah Spech ’16

News and notes from the University of Dayton Honors Program

Teaching and Learning: Honors Students to an Honorable Profession
Teaching and Learning: The Honors Student Perspective

Profiles written by Elizabeth Abrams ’17 and Jim Vogel ’16

Teaching doesn’t have to wait until graduation — many Honors students take advantage of opportunities to help others learn by incorporating teaching moments into their time at UD. Twelve current students shared the teaching or mentoring experiences they have had, including tutoring elementary school students, serving as a Supplemental Instruction leader for a college biology course and helping children learn to swim.

Kathryn Auletto ’15
Early Childhood Education

Kathryn Auletto, an early childhood education graduate had several teaching experiences. She has been involved with Supplemental Instruction and tutoring for three years on campus, participated in College Mentors for Kids for three years and had her student teaching block in a Dayton public school. Working with a variety of students and subjects has given Auletto a broader perspective of teaching. She said, “I have learned how to put myself into the mindset of others.

When you are tutoring or leading an SI session, you have to remember that while you might find this subject easy, other students might find it more challenging or learn differently from you. It is important to really listen to them, understand their thinking and work with them in order to support their learning in the way it makes sense to them. By working with a wide variety of diverse learners, I have opened my mind to new ways of thinking.”

Teresa Bradford ’17
Chemical Engineering

Teresa Bradford spends one evening each week at the Montgomery County (Ohio) Jail, where she tutors inmates studying for the GED exam. As a member of the PAGES club on campus, Bradford works face-to-face with inmates who otherwise would have no other instruction or assistance as they prepare for the GED. “I believe that service to inmates is important and rare in our community,” she said.

Bradford enjoys this unique tutoring experience at UD and feels that more students should consider getting involved as a way to make a difference in the lives of people who may need it most. “A firm education is one of the most important building blocks to a stable and healthy adult life.”

Megan Flaherty ’15
Biology and Psychology

Megan Flaherty committed herself to tutoring in several ways: as a biology and chemistry tutor for student-athletes, a Supplemental Instruction leader in organic chemistry and as a GED tutor in the Prison Action Group for Education and Service (PAGES) program for inmates at the Montgomery County (Ohio) Jail. Over the past three years spent working with students and inmates, Flaherty has been able to express her love for biology and chemistry, as well as a desire to help an underserved population.

While each of her experiences has been personally impactful, Flaherty feels that she has learned the most from her work with PAGES. “Our responsibility as tutors is to teach them content and encourage their desire to obtain their GED with compassion and respect, regardless of their past,” Flaherty said.

Kathryn Hoeper ’17
Arts

An undecided arts major, Kathryn Hoeper helps with an after-school program at St. Paul’s Methodist Church in Dayton for the organization Big Brothers Big Sisters. She spends time with the kids, forming relationships with them as they share a meal, and she helps them with homework.

“I have always loved being around kids, and the idea of being able to share my time and talents with them so that they might have just that much better or easier of a day or time doing homework really appealed to me,” Hoeper said. “It’s a really humbling experience to give of yourself to someone who needs it. Honors students have been blessed with intellectual talents and admirable work ethics; to be able to use those talents to help someone else is undeniably fulfilling.”

William Lawrence ’17
Chemical Engineering

A chemical engineering major, William Lawrence works as a walk-in tutor on campus for mathematics. Lawrence said he was always helping his friends with their classes, so he decided to become a tutor. The experience showed him how much he loves teaching. “I found that I enjoy teaching so much that I changed my major so that it would be more tuned to allow me to teach,” he said.

Lawrence appreciates being able to use his gifts to help individuals, and, by extension, the greater good of all. “The most valuable thing that comes from helping others learn is the creation and development of the University community. Students helping other students succeed builds our community and helps our academic environment.”

Photo courtesy of Kathryn Auletto
Nathan Machel ’18  
Business Economics

Nathan Machel works to bring his love for swimming to others through his position as a swim instructor at the University RecPlex. Machel, a business economics major, teaches swimmers of all ages and abilities not only how to swim, but also how to perfect their technique, form, speed and efficiency. He swam competitively growing up and has enjoyed the opportunity to stay involved with the sport in college. “I learned that a great leader and effective leadership and coaching can bring out the best in other people,” he said.

As an instructor, Machel is required to formulate lesson plans, update parents and swimmers on progress and file reports as necessary.

Kelli Marquardt ’16  
Applied Mathematical Economics

statistics tutor for student-athletes through the Office of Learning Resources, working with clients six to seven times each week. She is also a teaching assistant for a microeconomics class, for which she holds office hours, prepares homework and tests, and leads classes and review sessions.

Marquardt has learned a great deal from her experience: “The most valuable part of helping someone else learn is seeing how excited they get when they finally understand what is going on. Math is a subject that many think they cannot understand. However, it really doesn’t have to be difficult once they understand the reasoning behind it. I really enjoy when I hear someone say, ‘Oh, now I understand it,’ or ‘This makes much more sense than it did in class.’”

Kira Ogburn ’17  
Adolescence to Young Adult Education

During the 2014-15 academic year, Kira Ogburn was one of four sophomore CORE Fellows who worked with first-year CORE students as they attempted to better grasp concepts from their course work and refine their writing skills. “CORE is a daunting program when you first start out, and it really helps to have mentors and other resources to let you know that you can succeed,” Ogburn said.

As an education major, Ogburn feels that it is important to guide students as a way to help them discover the right answer for themselves. Ogburn stated, “It is such a gratifying experience to see the way someone’s face lights up when they finally understand something.”

Nick Rothaar ’16  
Operations Management

Since sophomore year, Nick Rothaar has worked as an appointment tutor for student-athletes through the Office of Learning Resources in areas including accounting, finance, economics and math. Rothaar has enjoyed the chance to give back to the community and be there as his peers have that moment when a concept or problem “clicks” for the first time. And as a tutor he has been challenged to master the material and relearn some of the concepts and problems for himself.

Rothaar feels that students should take any opportunity they can to get involved with tutoring: “Even if it is not through a paid position, explaining something to somebody who is lost in a class can be a big help to that student.”

Sarah Spech ’16  
English

Tutoring has allowed Sarah Spech to experience the diversity of the Dayton Twin Towers neighborhood as she serves as co-president of the El Puente club. Spech tutors Hispanic students from the local El Puente Educational Center, for children and teens in sixth through twelfth grades. What started as a service project for CORE became an ongoing commitment which she has truly grown to love. Additionally, Spech works as an appointment tutor in statistics for athletes on campus.

Spech feels that she has learned what diversity really means through each of her tutoring experiences.

“Diversity doesn’t come from physical differences, but from difference of thought, culture and values. It is important to make sure that each person is valued for who they are and to be sure to entertain every idea that someone else has, even if it is different from your own, because that is how you learn,” Spech said.

Yuan Zhou ’16  
Psychology

Yuan Zhou has taken on a special mentorship role for a refugee from Rwanda currently enrolled in the Dayton Public school system. As a member of the Welcome Dayton initiative, Zhou has been paired with a student and her family since summer 2014 as a way to assist immigrants who have recently entered a new culture. Zhou not only helps her mentee with academics, but also aids her as she becomes acclimated to the Dayton area.

“"It is very inspiring to see how my mentee copes with her transition phases in the American lifestyle and education system. To be able to make life a little easier for my mentee was really rewarding,” Zhou said.
Additionally, Hart sought to emphasize the academic aspect of the program. She and her team created the idea that would become the Honors Student Symposium, the first one taking place in March 2007.

Hart admires the work the current staff in the Honors Program has done in recent years. She especially appreciates the emphasis on experiential learning, such as the DC Flyers and the Hull (study abroad) fellowships. Hart encourages current Honors students to seize these and other opportunities offered by the Honors Program.

Hart was also chair of the teacher education department. “I really enjoyed being a leader in the field of teacher education,” Hart said. “Being a leader to such effective teacher educators was a highlight for me. We have a great group of faculty who care deeply about children.”

Hart first felt called to the field of education during her junior year of high school. She was a leader on a class retreat that took place in a neighborhood of poverty, and she and the other leaders decided to stay committed to supporting that neighborhood through collecting funds, tutoring and working at the community center. She then continued to be a camp counselor for a summer camp in that same area. This experience as a camp counselor deeply affected Hart.

“I loved that program. I could see that it was just a weeklong summer program, but it really made an impact on the children’s lives and so I wanted to do something professionally where I could make a difference in children’s lives.”

Hart retired from UD in May, but plans to continue part-time her life’s work in education.

— Rachel Cain ’16
They had the opportunity to learn while at UD, and now they are paying it forward by teaching. Alumni who are currently teaching or have taught in some way since graduating come from an array of majors and interests. These UD graduates demonstrate the wide range of opportunities available in education, from Dayton to countries all across the globe. Whether they are teaching in a kindergarten classroom, a high school in Haiti or a nonprofit organization in Washington, D.C., these alumni discuss their Flyer roots and their experiences imparting knowledge and ideas throughout their careers.

Erin Connair Fanning ’86

Sometimes the biggest impact can be made right in your own town. Erin Connair Fanning, a UD English graduate, proves this with every life she touches through her many roles at St. Charles Borromeo parish in Kettering, Ohio. Connair Fanning is the coordinator of sacramental preparation, the junior high student CCD class coordinator and the Bible Camp coordinator. Additionally, she plans retreats for high school students through the parish. Regardless of her role, she works every day to pass faith to others, especially to children, by making it a point to have adults and children alike feel wanted, welcomed, important and included by the church.

Connair Fanning said working with the kids is the true highlight of her work and that she loves each of them as if they were her own. She asks herself daily how she can help them to become better people and how to form a community so they are able to experience faith in their own way. Even though she’s the teacher, she finds that her students teach her something new each day.

Connair Fanning strives to help kids express themselves, see their own potential and build their faith. Helping the children at her parish is her calling, and she thanks UD’s Honors Program for helping her find this path. The program helped her find her place as a teacher and played a large role in helping her develop her hands-on approach to learning. It showed her that she could be whatever she wanted to be. Starting at UD with a different major, Connair Fanning feels that the Honors Program helped her realize that sometimes it might take a while to find your calling. She wants current Honors students to know that they don’t have to go across the world to help others — children anywhere can benefit from the wealth of knowledge and faith gained at UD.

Julie Fitz ’14

Completing an Honors thesis is no small task, but the experience can be applied in a variety of situations and a variety of ways. Julie Fitz knows this firsthand.

After completing her degree with a major in biochemistry and minor in philosophy, Fitz took her talents to the Deepali campus in India to assist 20 young Marianist brothers in a scholastic gate community by tutoring English, grading and correcting papers and being an assistant teacher for a course she developed herself centered on the philosophy of science. She attributed a portion of her success as a teacher to her work on her undergraduate thesis for the Honors Program, especially when it came to building her Science Objectivity and Values course. She said her thesis gave her the confidence to take difficult opportunities while setting a high standard of excellence for herself and her work.

Her experience wasn’t exactly the traditional route for a biochemistry student, but Fitz said that made it even more rewarding. Her advice to students interested in teaching mentorship? She recommends students look into the Jesuit Volunteer Corps. She said her number one suggestion is that if you want to pursue it, “Don’t be afraid to take the weird opportunities. Keep yourself open to learning.”

Eric Krissek ’10

Eric Krissek graduated from the University of Dayton with a dual degree in math and secondary math education. He decided to stay in the city of Dayton after graduation and took a position teaching seventh and eighth grade math at Ruskin Elementary School in the Twin Towers neighborhood. After four years of teaching, he is now pursuing a master’s degree at Harvard in order to return to Dayton Public Schools in a leadership position — most likely as an assistant principal.

Krissek’s decision to return to Dayton Public Schools after graduating from his master’s program speaks volumes about his experience teaching at Ruskin. As soon as he began to teach, he knew this was exactly what he wanted to do. The experience of teaching itself was enlightening, but so was the diversity of the school at which he was placed. He participated in the Urban Teacher Academy, which he believes truly helped him see his position for what it was. Through that he learned how to handle the diversity of the students he taught. For Krissek, “it put a lens on teaching in an urban system,” and he learned “how to approach schooling from an equitable standpoint.”

One of Krissek’s challenges — but also one of his fondest memories — stemmed from trying to make math relevant to the students. Krissek described one unforgettable project that included the students’ applying geometrical transformations to fastener systems on pet carriers, such as the ones that rescue dogs use, and then...
Tony Magner ‘07
After graduating from the University of Dayton with majors in English and psychology, Tony Magner began his career at Cincinnati Bell. After five years he felt an overwhelming desire to make a bigger impact on the world. This desire brought him to Teach for America, a nonprofit organization centered on providing education to students in under-served, low-income communities.

Magner was placed at Holmes High School for parents.

Sarah Spech ‘16

Alumna Meghan Tobin made the most of her time at UD, graduating with a double major in international studies (human rights) and Spanish, and participating in both the Honors and CORE programs. After leaving UD, she taught at a school for orphans and troubled youth in Managua, Nicaragua, through the Jesuit Volunteer Corps. There, she led a theater program for teen emotional rehabilitation and created and taught the curriculum for a school for parents.

Following this work, Tobin taught fourth grade at Lincoln International Academy in Managua, a role which allowed her to teach the basic courses, as well as develop a differentiated instruction website and use it as a tool to train traditional teachers in the modern pedagogy. During this time she also worked for the nonprofit organization Fundacion Uno, where she authored a book of math-based lesson plans that is now being used to train public school teachers all across Nicaragua.

Tobin finds the teaching highlights to be the “aha!” moments, ones she never envisioned before becoming a teacher. All of them are unique. She explained, “Be it the parent whose ‘aha!’ moment struck when she realized the importance of creating a safe study space for her son, the teenager’s ‘aha!’ when he realized that there are alternatives to gang life, or the fourth grader whose ‘aha!’ moment arose when she realized the kids begging on the street do so to feed their families, not for fun, each one is a gift from the universe that inspires me to keep fighting for justice through the most fundamental of all human rights: education.”

Meghan Tobin ‘09

Kim Boehm ‘06
Kim Boehm graduated from UD with a double major in adolescence to young adult education and biology. She has been teaching high school biology since she graduated and is currently working at Centerville (Ohio) High School, close to her hometown of Cincinnati. Some of Boehm’s favorite memories with Centerville have come from coaching the Centerville team for the Science Olympiad — in 2009 her students were national champions! Boehm also coaches Centerville's academic team.

Colleen Dailey ‘90
Colleen Dailey, who spent seven years teaching financial literacy to adults through the not-for-profit organization Capital Area Asset Builders (CAAB) in Washington, D.C. She served as a CAAB consultant and executive director, which allowed her to reach numerous impoverished individuals and educate them about saving and investing. She was able to change many minds when it came to money, showing them money doesn’t have to be a stressor. It can be a tool. According to Dailey, educating one adult can change the lives of the entire family and push the family toward financial freedom.

Sonya Bilocerkowycz ‘11
A degree from the University of Dayton can take you anywhere, and alumna Sonya Bilocerkowycz is proof of that. After graduation, Bilocerkowycz, an English major with a sociology minor, found herself in Minsk, Belarus, teaching creative writing at the undergraduate level. The grant supporting her teaching abroad then took her to Western Ukraine, where she continued to teach poetry, fiction and nonfiction. Bilocerkowycz said her experience in Ukraine was fulfilling and eye-opening, as she lived there during the revolution. She also said teaching abroad was a life-changing experience and being a part of her students’ education was “truly a real joy.”

Jeff Bohrer ‘95
After completing a degree in civil engineering, teaching high school students may not seem like the next logical step. However, for UD graduate Jeff Bohrer, an engineering background was the perfect first step in getting kids excited about science. After obtaining his teaching certification, Bohrer began teaching physics at Lebanon (Ohio) High School before eventually heading to Carroll High School in Dayton, where he developed and taught a renewable energy engineering course. Bohrer said being able to teach a subject he loves is one of the favorite parts of his job. However, the true highlight is getting to work with young people and sparking their interest in engineering.

Shannon Driscoll ‘02
Shannon Driscoll, a philosophy graduate, said that the most moving career experience she has had so far was working in New Haven, Connecticut, with a diversion program associated with a local juvenile court. Driscoll worked with a nonprofit organization, providing mediation and conflict resolution training to middle and high school students. She was amazed and inspired by the empathy and compassion she saw in the children with whom she worked. Driscoll is currently a lawyer in New Mexico, mentoring adult law students at the University of New Mexico.

News and notes from the University of Dayton Honors Program

Sonya Bilocerkowycz

Colleen Dailey

Jeff Bohrer

Shannon Driscoll

Teaching and Learning: Alumni at-a-glance
Colleen Federici ‘13
Since graduating from UD with a degree in early childhood education, Colleen Federici has been teaching all the core academic subjects and religion to third grade students at St. Paul Catholic School in Owosso, Michigan. Federici was matched with the school through UD’s Lalanne program, a postgraduate service teaching program that works to revitalize under-resourced Catholic schools and support new Catholic school educators. One aspect of the program is living in community with other new teachers, which Federici described as a highlight of her experience. “It’s nice to come to people that understand what you are up against each day, people that can share in your sorrows and, even more importantly, your joys!” she said.

Lauren Fitzsimons ’10
Colleen Fitzsimons fills many roles as an educator at an all-girls Catholic high school in Pasadena, California, teaching three grade levels of theology courses and preparing student leaders for Masses and theology courses and preparing student leaders for Masses and

Greg Goodhart ’85
After receiving a mathematics degree at UD, Greg Goodhart went on to earn a master’s in math and a doctorate in educational leadership. He taught math for five years at Bishop Ready High School in Columbus, Ohio. For the last 22 years, he has taught at Columbus State (Ohio) Community College and is currently serving as interim chair of the mathematics department there. “By either helping students complete a technical degree or an associate’s degree to transfer to a four-year institution, I feel like we fill a need in the community,” Goodhart said. He has very much enjoyed teaching, especially seeing two former students return to teach at Columbus State. Goodhart appreciates hands-on learning — one memory that stands out in particular is when students used handmade inclinometers to find the height of the Christopher Columbus statue in the campus courtyard.

Lauren Hackmon-Brooks ’09
Lauren Hackmon-Brooks has used her UD experience in diverse ways since graduating. After earning degrees in both psychology and religious studies, she completed a two-year service program with the Jesuit Alumni Volunteers at Cristo Rey Jesuit High School in Chicago. She taught a technology class, worked in campus ministry, coached girls’ volleyball and boys’ basketball, moderated cross country and track. Lemon finds that seeing students improve over time is the most rewarding part of teaching. “What drives me both as a teacher and as a coach is individual student improvement,” he said. “One of my favorite activities is when I get to have a one-on-one with each of my students to discuss their overall gains and ways to continue improving. I strongly believe in communication as the goal of the foreign language classroom.”

Mary Gerstle Lee ’08
Mary Lee has been working as an intervention specialist in the Springboro Community City Schools in Ohio since graduating from UD. She has worked with students in grades one through five with a variety of exceptionalities, and she has also served as a mentor in the Ohio Resident Educator Program. Lee cited relationship building as the highlight of her teaching experience. “As an intervention specialist, I have the unique ability to collaborate with students and their families over more than one school year,” she said. “This is a gift, as I truly get to see the students grow and develop both academically and socially. In addition, I am able to cultivate relationships with many teachers in my building, from first-year teachers to veterans.”

Kaitlin Key Hentz ’12
Kaitlin Key Hentz graduated from UD with a major in psychology. She currently works as a reading instructor through the Ohio Reading Corps, an AmeriCorps program, at Navin Elementary School in Marysville, Ohio. Her job includes taking children out of the classroom in small groups of three and four and providing them with care and attention so they can meet the reading standards for their grade. She is reassured and inspired every day when she gets to know students personally and sees them succeed in small steps. Because of this experience, she has decided she wants to pursue a degree in intervention specialist education.

David King ’08
David King gained a whole new level of respect for teachers when experience taught him the painful art of lesson planning. A chemistry major during his time at UD, King joined the Peace Corps after graduating and working in Mozambique for two academic years, teaching chemistry and English to high school students. In true Flyer fashion, King challenged himself to use creative teaching methods to keep his students engaged and interested. One of his favorite memories was the time he was incorporating English music, which is popular there, into his classes to keep his students involved and to enhance their learning.

Katie Krupowicz LaPaglia ’11
Alum Kate LaPaglia is in her third year teaching at a Catholic high school in Indianapolis, Indiana. She teaches a variety of topics including morality, apologetics, Church history, ecclesiology and Christian vocation to freshmen, sophomores and juniors. LaPaglia sees Christ’s presence vividly in her work. “The highlight of my teaching career is seeing the Holy Spirit taking over in class. It is a very humbling experience, but I learn and grow in those instances as much if not more than my students,” she said. “(Sometimes) the students are asking lots of questions about the faith, and at the end of our class period I think back over the day and realize there is no way my explanations came from my own brain.”

Colleen Haner leading a choir of children.

News and notes from the University of Dayton Honors Program.
Cathy Monteiro ’83
Cathy Monteiro studied political science and law during her time at the University of Dayton and went on to law school after graduating. She started volunteering at a school and discovered her love for kids and desire to work as mentor. She has taught second and third grade and is currently working as a reading interventionist for kindergarten through third grade. She said service learning is one of the most moving and memorable aspects of her job. Monteiro has learned that you can’t assume anything about students — her students at Annheurtert Elementary in Westerville, Ohio, come from all kinds of diverse backgrounds, including extreme poverty. But she is always surprised and touched by the compassion displayed by her students, even those who have very little.

Will Marsh ’12
Following his UD psychology degree, Marsh participated in the Lalanne program for two years. The program works to support beginning Catholic school educators by combining service and teaching through their placement in an under-resourced Catholic school. Marsh was placed in downtown Lansing, Michigan. Teaching science, math and social studies. After completing the program he earned a master’s degree and now works in Troy, Ohio, teaching math and social studies. Marsh finds the best parts of teaching to be any time he works with a student and sees them really “get it” — being a part of the “aha!” moment.

Maura Shanahan ’11
Maura Shanahan was an intervention specialist major. Her mentoring and teaching experience began her first year after graduation, working with Title I services. Shanahan spent time at three different Catholic elementary schools, where she provided resources to students who were performing below grade level. In 2012 she was hired at Brook Park Elementary School, located in a suburb of Chicago. While at Brook Park School, Shanahan has taught second and third grade special education. When asked the highlight of her teaching involvement, she noted the growth of all her students in testing, which had made this a very exciting school year. Shanahan still keeps in touch with several people in her grade teaching class and is proud to be a Flyer. “UD is so great, and it definitely prepared me more than I could ever imagine.”

Claire Shaw ’14
Claire Shaw majored in both English and adolescence to young adult education. She currently teaches seventh grade English at a charter school in Memphis through Teach for America. She trained over the summer and then began teaching her three classes of seventh graders last August. One of Shaw’s favorite teaching memories is an assignment she gave her classes that required a lot of independent work. Groups of students were assigned novels and were to answer questions and analyze the novel of their own. For three weeks, Shaw’s students worked on this assignment with little guidance, and she was very impressed by their abilities. She continues to enjoy teaching at her school and seeing her students grow.

Kimberly Beckman St. Philips ’13
Kimberly St. Philips’ time at UD directly led to her current teaching experience. During her senior year she student taught at Incarnation Catholic Middle and Secondary School in Dayton. After St. Philips graduated, Incarnation hired her right away and she has been happily teaching full-day kindergarten there the past four years. “I enjoy witnessing my students grow each year into independent young readers,” she said. “The progress they make socially, emotionally and academically is astounding.” St. Philips is currently earning her master’s degree in literacy from UD.

Jessica Teater ’12
Alum and biology major Jessica Teater has taken her educational gifts to Haiti through her experience with The Haitian Project, a nonprofit organization that sponsors a Catholic middle and high school boarding school in Haiti. Teater taught biology and English, as well as other subjects like ballet, computers and piano. She loved the community at the school, composed of students, staff and volunteers who were completely dedicated to one another. “When you unite for service, you overcome so many obstacles,” Teater said. The teaching environment was different — chalk and an eraser were the primary classroom resources, and the students were learning English as their third language of the four that they learn to speak fluently. Teater is currently attending Northwestern University earning her doctorate in physical therapy, and she looks back on her year in Haiti fondly. “It changed my view on Haiti and this half of the world so much,” she said. “And now I have something to offer classmates and patients that I wouldn’t have otherwise.”

Michelle Timmerman ’10
Michelle Timmerman graduated with a degree in math and secondary education. After graduation, Timmerman moved to Louisville, Kentucky, and started working with Jefferson County Public Schools. She taught Algebra I and geometry for four years at Central High School, where she was also a Beta Club sponsor, after-school tutor, summer school teacher and softball coach. She then switched to the ESL Newcomer Academy, where all students are newcomers to the United States or Louisville, and she received a master’s degree to teach English as a second language. She is still teaching math, but integrates it with teaching English. Timmerman’s highlighted experience was at Central High School when graduated students returned to visit her. “It showed I had a relationship and made an impact on them,” she said.

Brother Tom Wendorf S.M. ’86
Brother Tom Wendorf has combined his devotion to the Maristians with his passion for teaching in multiple ways since his time as a student at UD. Soon after professing as a Maristian brother, he taught high school English for three years in a Catholic high school in Michigan. One spring day in particular stands out to him, when his students were writing poetry and really shared their experiences. He always recalls thinking to himself that day, “It’s all worth it. These moments make it all worth it.” After leaving Michigan, Wendorf attended graduate school at Washington University in St. Louis while teaching some composition classes before returning to UD as a professor. He taught English literature and composition for 18 years here, including two semesters in Bangalore, India, with young Maristian brothers.

Michela Wintering and class on an adventure Photo courtesy of Michela Wintering

Michelle Wintering ’09
For the first three years after graduation Michelle Wintering, a double major in psychology and public relations, was a job coach before moving to Colorado. She now works as a speech pathologist at a school for the deaf and blind — an environment in which she particularly wanted to work. Wintering had a mentor during her first year at the school who observed her every month and gave her tips. “I am lucky to have had this mentor,” she said, because it made the experience more enjoyable. The highlight of her teaching experience has been coaching the girls basketball team. Wintering loves seeing her students learning as typical, everyday kids, rather than deaf and blind high school students. She loves her students and her job.

On-line issues of Alumni News can be found at
issuu.com/udhonorsonline

ALUMNI Classmates are featured in every January issue so send us your news!

News and notes from the University of Dayton Honors Program

Teaching and Learning: Alumna at-a-glance

Alison Lifka ’12
Alison Lifka is passionate about teaching in low-income areas and public schools. After graduating from UD as a dual major in adolescence to young adult education and history, Lifka worked in Covington, Kentucky, through Teach for America. There, she discovered the fulfillment that comes from teaching students in low-income area schools and felt deeply the rewards of teaching at-risk students’ lives. Though leaving her placement after two years to return to her hometown of Chicago was tough, one of her fondest moments as a teacher was receiving letters from her students relaying how impactful she had been in their lives. She is currently teaching in Chicago and has remained in low-income public schools, making it a priority to teach socio-political issues to her students.

Ellen Schneider ’09
Ellen Schneider majored in art with teacher certification and then earned her master’s in educational administration from St. Louis University. Schneider had experience with student teaching and knew that she was ready to jump right into her current teaches middle school art classes for grades six to eight, where she mentored a student for her past semester. Schneider’s favorite times of her teaching are the small, everyday student “aha” moments, especially when the student has difficulty in the content area. She continues to enjoy her teaching experience and finds it rewarding every day.

Brother Tom Wendorf
Tom Wendorf, S.M. ’86, teaches music at Incarnation Catholic High School in Dayton. After graduation, Von Sas worked as a music education major to its fullest extent in his first year of teaching. He currently works at a small Catholic high school, teaching band to students in grades 5 through 12 and directing the high school choir. In addition, he directs the school musical and several extracurricular programs, including marching band and jazz band. Von Sas loves being able to connect with students, and he appreciates the quality of music they produce. “We have almost 70 percent of the student body involved in music at the school,” he said. A highlight of Von Sas’ teaching experience was when a UD professor came to the school and listened to one of his grad music groups. “All the kids really enjoyed that,” he said. “He was able to bring new life to the group.”
News and notes from the University of Dayton Honors Program

Events: In Photos

HONORS ART EXHIBIT OPEN HOUSE
14 Awardees

HONORS STUDENTS SYMPOSIUM
64 Thesis Presentations

Photos by Christopher Santucci
We wish all the best to our newest Honors Program alumni, the May 2015 graduates!

Sara R. Alaskad, Biochemistry and Finance
Kathryn E. Anderson, Premedicine
Katelyn M. Arnold, Management
Michael T. Ohradzansky, Psychology
Kathryn C. Oehlman, Premedicine and Psychology
Nicole A. Staller, Mathematics and Psychology
Jill M. Smith, Accounting
Clare M. VanHook, English and Theatre
Denton G. Segerman, Mechanical Engineering
Elizabeth A. Yorka, Applied Mathematical Economics
Wujian Zhang, Economics

Events: Graduation 2015
Announcements
Kayla McLaughlin ’18: Second place in the CMM 100 speech competition.
Mary Willard ’15: One of six research assistantships awarded at Washington University to continue research at graduate school for physical therapy.

Prestigious Awards
Cassandra Brakers ’15: Dr. Thomas C. Hunt Award for Outstanding Students Demonstrating Commitment to Catholic Education in the area of Early Childhood Education, Middle Childhood Education and Adolescence to Young Adult Education.
Megan Flaherty ’15: Rev. Raymond A. Roesch, S.M., Award of Excellence to the Outstanding Student in Psychology — recognizing excellence in the study of psychology, as evidenced by academic achievement and by accomplishment in subject matter closely supporting either the understanding of psychological phenomena or the ability to conduct research in psychology.
Grace Hagan ’16: Honored for having the highest GPA on the women’s rowing team.
Anamaria Karrels ’16: Pickering Fellowship Award — funding for her senior year at UD and a year at a graduate program.
Hailey Kwon ’15: Award of Excellence to the First Outstanding Senior (philosophy) donated by Rev. Charles Polichek; awardee of Philosophy in an Inclusive Key Summer Institute for Undergraduates (India) through Penn State University.
Mary List ’15: Honored for having the highest GPA on the women’s cross country team.

Michele McDonald ’15: Awarded a national Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship for Thailand.
Maya Pedersen ’15: Presidential Scholar-Athlete Award for demonstrating academic excellence, qualities of leadership and service to the University of Dayton community.
Maxwell Roeseke ’16: Honored for having the highest GPA on the men’s cross country team.
Dominic Sanfilippo ’16: 30th Annual John E. Riley Award, presented by UD Student Development to a junior student who has exercised sustained leadership through involvement with student initiatives; 2018 Raymond M. Herbenick Award for Excellence in Interdisciplinary Integration to a Student Completing the Core Program; 2015 Co-recipient of the Rev. Charles C. Bloomer Award of Excellence for the Outstanding Junior in Philosophy.
Virginia Saurine ’17: The Brother Walter Klick, S.M., Award, presented to a sophomore or junior student with a major or minor in teacher education who demonstrates strong academic performance and personal characteristics reflecting the Marianist tradition.
Jordan Seitz ’15: Awarded a national Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship for Malaysia.
Jonathan Sens ’16: The Goldwater Scholarship, a national award to college students who intend to pursue research careers in the STEM fields — a monetary award for tuition, books and fees for his senior year at UD.
Chelsea VanHook ’15: Honored for having the highest GPA on the women’s track and field team.
Kevin Wargo ’17: Honored for having the highest GPA on the men’s golf team.

Prestigious Presentations
Krista Bondi ’16: Sixth Annual Riess Colloquium at the Art Academy of Cincinnati, a forum for undergraduate art history research.
Tanner Hess ’15: American Geophysical Union — one of only a few undergraduates presenting among the world’s top earth scientists and graduate and doctoral students.
Genevieve Kocoloski ’16: Experimental Biology Conference in Boston, Massachusetts.
Kiersten Remster ’17: Sixth Annual Riess Colloquium at the Art Academy of Cincinnati, a forum for undergraduate art history research.
Bryan Westerlund ’16: Catholic Social Ministry Gathering in Washington, D.C. for the REAL Dayton program — selected by Campus Ministry as one of six UD students to attend as a leader on campus in faith and social justice.

Research Publications

HONORS PROGRAM
New Cohorts
Creativity
ART EXHIBIT 2015
Julie Bafove ’18
Forrest Broussard ’16 (with Best of Show)
Kieran Campbell ’17
Morgan Carrier ’17
Hannah Gorski ’17
Kara Hoersten ’17
Alicia Mastroinni ’18
Bryn Mays ’18
Bridget McCafferty ’18
Miranda Melone ’17
Kevin Obergefell ’17
Kiersten Remster ’17
Nolan Sroczynski ’18
Nathan Turnwald ’15
Lauren Van Atta ’17

International Study, Leadership and Service
Cordell F. Hull International Fellowship Fund Fellows 2014-15

Research and Scholarship
BERY SUMMER THESIS INSTITUTE 2015
Caroline Goodill
Jessica Grillot
Alexandra Hallagan
Elizabeth Kelsch
Alicia Limmeyer
Tyler Masthay
George Padavick
Kiersten Remster
Virginia Saurine

Exploring a Call to Leadership and Service
Chaminade Scholars 2015
Jessica Bloomer
Lucy Bratton
Mark Bugada
Jaclyn Franz
Nathan Halfferich
Hannah Jackson
Peter Kania
Heather Loer
Joseph Mauch
Ellie Ryan
Anna Schmid
Victoria Schoen
Peter Tierney
Christopher Turley
Elizabeth Turnwald
Erin Winchester

Experiential Learning
DC FLYERS 2015
Michael Brill ’16
Angela Capeley ’17
Veronica Colborn ’16
Julia Court ’17
Ian Edgley ’16
Angela Giaquinto ’16
Anna Hays ’16
Marissa Jama ’17
Emily Keane ’15
Zixi Li ’15
Margaret Maloney ’16
Dominic Sanfilippo ’16
Melissa Siegel ’16
Briar Smith ’17
Nolan Sroczynski ’18
Riley Weber ’16

HONORS STUDENT ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE 2015-16
Officers
Rachel Braun ’16: President
Emma Dorrif ’17: Vice President/President-elect for 2016-17
Jonathan Alessi ’17: Treasurer/Secretary
Chairs
Dania Lopez ’17: Social Chair
Kristine Perez ’18: Cultural and Intellectual Chair
Jennifer Straniero ’18: Service Chair
Dominic Sanfilippo ’16: Professional Development Chair

Leadership
HONORS STUDENT WELCOME 2015 Head Leaders
Erich Auer ’17
Kelly Kolodziej ’17
Luke Kozaal ’17
Matthew Kramer ’18
Kevin Outwater ’18
James Vogel ’16
Riley Weber ’16
Sarah Wood ’17
Taylor Ziecarelli ’18

New Chaminade Scholars, Peter Kane (left) and Christopher Turley (right). (Photo by Christopher Santucci)
The 2015 Palermo Fund awardees are Krista Bondi, Elizabeth Brumleve, Kara Jankowski, Margaret Maloney, Samuel Mullins and Dominic Sanfilippo.

The 2015 Arnold Fund awardees are Claire Konys and Maxwell Roeske.

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

August
21 Honors Students Welcome

September
12 Danny Arnold 5K Run/Walk
TBD Senior Thesis Workshops

October
15 Hull Applications Due (for Winter/Spring 2016 trips)
16 Sophomore Meeting
23 First-Year Meeting
30 DC Flyers Applications Due
TBD Junior Meeting Sessions

November
6 Global Flyers Applications Due

December
1 Art Show Entries Due
10 Thesis Intent Documents Due
18 December Graduation Lunch

2015 Issue 2

News and notes from the University of Dayton Honors Program