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Dear Honors Alumni, Students and Friends:

I am pleased to present the latest edition of our award-winning HONORSlink newsletter, featuring Honors alumni and student prestigious fellowship award winners.

Since the beginning of my tenure as director, we have endeavored to increase the academic profile of our Program and the University of Dayton by increasing the number of our highly gifted students who apply and receive prestigious national fellowships. To support this strategic initiative full time, we hired the talented Laura Cotten. We have also worked to create programming that provides students with an opportunity to discern their callings, develop their gifts and flourish as students prepared to lead us all toward a more just society. Our results are impressive. Applications for all awards are up, particularly for Fulbright fellowships, and our application and award numbers have now put our program and university on par with many larger public and private research institutions. Please join me in thanking Laura and our faculty mentors for their hard work and dedication, and in thanking our students for having the courage to apply for these awards.

Please share your updates with us as your lives change. We love hearing from you.

Until next time,

David W. Darrow, Ph.D.

As I complete my first full semester as associate director for research, I am excited about what the future holds. My new role has kept me busy with workshops and meetings, but it has also been a great joy to learn more about the Honors Program and the wonderful students who comprise it. I am enjoying working with the staff in creating valuable programs and opportunities for the benefit of our students.

This semester, I learned about the strong thesis projects the class of 2016 is in the process of completing, and I am looking forward to seeing the culmination of their projects at the Honors Student Symposium in March and the Stander Symposium in April.

More than 80 juniors have expressed an interest in writing a thesis, and I have had the privilege of discussing potential projects with many of them. In addition, for the first time our best junior thesis writers will be selected to participate in the Global Scholar Experience at Oxford University in England. These students will spend an intensive six-week session engaged in thesis research in Oxford’s tutorial system.

The transition into the spring term means it is also time to start planning for the 2016 Berry Summer Thesis Institute. I am looking forward to meeting a new cohort of sophomores who will have the opportunity to start work on their theses at UD this summer.

One of my goals is to introduce and connect students as early as possible to the great research that is conducted by UD faculty. During the fall term, first-year Honors students were invited to learn more about the research and advocacy efforts of the Hanley Sustainability Institute and the Human Rights Center. This spring, I hope to plan events for first-year students in other areas at UD.
WHEN YOU ASK UHP associate director Laura Cotten what a national fellowship award is, she enthusiastically replies, “At the most basic level, it’s free money to do something cool!” If that wasn’t enough to catch someone’s attention, she goes on to explain that national fellowships provide a unique opportunity for students with diverse interests to have distinctive experiences, both domestic and abroad. Fellowships are offered for students of all majors, and they may particularly appeal to those searching for a one-of-a-kind experience that will distinguish them, as well as to students eager to travel. Cotten says there are multitudes of funding options available that many students never hear about, and she is available to help students find the opportunities that fit them best.

Over the last three decades of the Honors Program’s existence, a number of people have applied for and won national fellowships. These opportunities have enhanced their personal lives, and many have enhanced, or perhaps even completely changed, their professional lives. Read on to step into the stories of several successful student and alumni national fellowship experiences.

Alyssa Bovell ’14
Gilman International Scholarship: Malawi

“Be confident” is the advice Alyssa Bovell gives anyone applying for the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. Bovell, a 2014 graduate from the international studies program and political science department, believes that regardless of whether you are selected as a recipient, the application experience is invaluable.

Bovell was fortunate enough to earn a Gilman and spent 10 weeks in the northern region of Malawi along with other University of Dayton students to conduct research on topics such as women’s empowerment, gender mainstreaming and water sanitation. Together with the non-government organization Determined to Develop, along with faculty from the University of Livingstonia, students were granted the opportunity to conduct research on topics prioritized by the local community.

Bovell worked on a project involving evaluating gender mainstreaming techniques and how they can be utilized for women’s empowerment and community-building initiatives. The project used the Nominal Group Technique and conducted eight sessions in Sangilo Village for various age groups. Along with doing research, the group of Dayton students had the opportunity to visit the offices for UNDP, UFPA, UNICEF and other organizations that work with gender mainstreaming.

“Be confident,” Bovell said. “Although the application may be intimidating, the entire experience is invaluable and you can only learn more about yourself and your goals.”
Grace Callahan ‘13
Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship: Malaysia

Grace Callahan’s Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship was not what she expected. The education and mathematics graduate spent 10 months in Sabah, Malaysia, teaching students English. What first surprised her was that she was not in a classroom all day teaching specific lessons, but rather simply engaging students in any way possible to speak English. Not only was the classroom setting different, but her goals continued to change throughout the year. Instead of focusing on ensuring that her students spoke perfect English by the time she left, she began to focus on the impact she would leave behind. “Did we get to know each other? Do we understand each other? What impact am I leaving?”

These were the questions Callahan focused on by the end of her stay in Malaysia.

The first advice Callahan gave to future applicants would be to do things that make them uncomfortable. “If you’re not comfortable, you’re not learning.” The second point focused on by the end of her stay in Malaysia was to be open to a change in your goals. “Your goals will change throughout the year. This Fellowship will push you and it will change your ability to think about things,” she said.

Julia Faeth ‘11
Goldwater Scholarship National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship: University of Michigan

Julia Faeth received incredible news on her birthday several years ago. She had been awarded the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. “That was the best birthday present I could ever ask for,” Faeth said, “especially because the NSF is a notoriously difficult fellowship to actually get.” Although Faeth was already in graduate school when she received the NSF GRFP, she also received the Goldwater Scholarship in 2011 as an undergraduate. She graduated from UD in 2011 with a degree in chemical engineering.

Faeth explained that in addition to boosting her résumé and providing her with excellent talking points during job interviews, the fellowships have helped her gain self-assurance in her academic expertise. “They definitely gave me a lot more confidence with my abilities within my major,” she said. She received the NSF GRFP during her second year of graduate school at the University of Michigan, where she recently earned her Ph.D. while researching biofuel production from algae using high-temperature and high-pressure water.

She advised any students considering applying for a national fellowship to do what she did for the NSF GRFP — read the essays of people who already received the fellowship and ask them to review your application materials. Also, she said not to forget to talk with the Honors Program.

“I would definitely encourage current students who are interested in fellowships to reach out first to all of the Honors office and the resources available there,” Faeth suggested. “Reach out to the resources you have available early, and try to get to work as far in advance as you can.”

Dave Cliffel ‘92
National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship: University of Texas

When Dave Cliffel was a senior at UD, he applied for and won a National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship that had important impact on his future studies and career. In the fall of 1992, Cliffel moved to Austin, Texas, to begin his fellowship with the chemistry department at the University of Texas, where he was the NSF graduate fellow for three years. In his fourth year of graduate school, he applied for and won another fellowship from the division of analytical chemistry of the American Chemical Society. Both fellowships led to his Ph.D. in analytical chemistry and electrochemistry.

After getting his doctorate, Cliffel had a two-year postdoctoral position at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. Currently, he is an assistant professor at Vanderbilt University, where he has been teaching for the past 15 years.

Cliffel believes he was naive about how foundational this fellowship would be to his graduate studies when he was applying as a senior at UD. Speaking to current students who want to apply for national fellowship awards, he encouraged, “The NSF deadlines are the end of October, the application is relatively short, and it is very useful to help you get your ideas together as you apply to graduate schools, so find the time to do it.”

A.J. Ferguson ‘12
Udall Scholarship: Arizona

A.J. Ferguson received the Udall Undergraduate Scholarship, awarded by the Udall Foundation to sophomores and juniors for leadership, public service and commitment to issues related to American Indian nations or to the environment. While at UD, Ferguson studied mechanical engineering (energy systems) with a minor in sustainability, energy and the environment.

In addition to funding, the scholarship provided a four-day conference orientation in Tucson, Arizona, where all Udall scholarship winners met, networked and discussed their ideas and current work. The experience was fruitful for Ferguson: “I think back to my orientation experience probably on a weekly basis, and it is a powerful reminder of our generation’s infinite potential,” he said.

Being able to meet other undergraduate students from around the country who have the same interests, passions and drive was one of the best parts of the experience. They were able to share their stories and have discussions in small groups. “Our table agreed that, for us, the principles and practices categorized under sustainability might better be described simply as the principles and practices of progress — smarter, simpler, more symbiotic, more creative solutions,” Ferguson said.

Timothy Grayson ‘89
National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowships: University of Rochester and Wright Patterson Air Force Base

Timothy Grayson received a National Science Foundation fellowship that covered all graduate school costs, plus a stipend for graduate studies at the University of Rochester. The NSF fellowship allowed Grayson to begin doing research immediately upon graduating from the University of Dayton while still taking graduate classes.

He worked for one of the most respected researchers in the world in the field of quantum optics. “It was a wonderful experience working for him,” Grayson said, “and starting early also helped me to finish pretty quickly.” Upon graduating from the University of Rochester, he received a second fellowship from the National Research Council for a postdoctoral fellowship with the Air Force. At Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, he researched optical sensors and laser design, which completely changed his interests and career path.

Grayson believes that the fellowships were essential to his success in a variety of fields. “I can assess critically where there are risks in programs and make programmatic recommendations for reducing those risks,” Grayson said. “I can also help translate between lay people and the researchers, who sometimes are too close to their work to explain it and its importance clearly to non-experts.”
Grayson continued

Beyond his fellowship opportunities, Grayson cites the well-rounded Honors Program curriculum as a major contributor to his career and success.

Mark Hawkg

Mark Hawk is a National Science Foundation graduate research fellow at the University of Notre Dame. The NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) recognizes and supports outstanding graduate students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Hawk earned his undergraduate degree in biology and mathematics. Hawk earned his science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Hawk’s research aims to discern the therapeutic intervention of cancer, as cells are no longer attached to their ECM when cancer spreads or metastasizes.

Hawk advises fellow applicants to never turn down an opportunity for experiential learning of any kind. He stresses the importance of service work, research and interpersonal skills as important attributes of a NSF GRFP applicant. Hawk credits UD for providing him with the experiences that developed his character and taught him the invaluable skills that allowed him to add his voice to the scientific community.

Emily Jirles ’13

Emily Jirles was a recipient of the Boren Scholarship for her work in Chinese culture and language. Boren scholarships provide highly-motivated undergraduate students with the funding to study less commonly taught languages around the world. Through this scholarship, Emily was able to spend a year abroad in China, where she studied Mandarin Chinese as well as Chinese culture, politics and economics through The Beijing Center for Chinese Studies. Jirles lived with Chinese roommates and a host family and met weekly with a Chinese tutor. Her experience gave her the opportunity to work on her language skills and learn about Chinese family life. She also traveled extensively during her time abroad as she retraced the ancient Silk Road, a trade route through Western China. Jirles made stops in Xi’an, Lanzhou, the Yunnan province, Shanghai, Luoyang, the Fujian province and Taipei.

As an international studies major with a concentration in global peace and security, Jirles considers her experience invaluable preparation for her future career. She encourages all UD students to enrich their lives through exploring new cultures, whether it be through a study abroad opportunity, learning a foreign language or just interacting with international students on campus.

Anamaria Karrels ’16

Anamaria Karrels is a human rights studies and international studies double major who recently won a Thomas Pickering Fellowship. The fellowship is a foreign affairs program that aims to enhance the variety of Americans who go abroad as U.S. Department of State Foreign Service officers. Fellows are committed to five years in the Foreign Service after completing the fellowship. Students must be in relevant academic programs to be accepted and receive financial support, mentoring and professional development as they prepare for future education and careers.

The program started the summer before Karrels’ senior year with an orientation in Washington, D.C. For the two summers following graduation, she will intern in Washington while attending graduate school to earn her master’s degree in an area of international relations. After graduate school, she will be a foreign service officer working internationally at a U.S. embassy, consulate or mission, moving to a new country about every two years.

“"My best advice to future applicants is to be yourself in your application," Karrels said. "Beforehand, figure out why you want to join the Foreign Service and be truthful. The reviewers not only want to see your qualifications, but how you fit within the State Department and the Foreign Service!"
Mike McDonald ‘15
Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship: Thailand

Mike McDonald’s fellowship experience began the morning after her HoosierLink interview with an early morning flight to Thailand to begin her one-year Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship. Her first month would be in Bangkok, where she would have orientation for eight hours each day, learning the language and culture. Then she would travel to a southern province to teach fifth to ninth grade English.

McDonald, a graduate with degrees in social studies education, history, and German, prepared for her experience by reviewing information about Thailand’s history, politics and culture. She also learned about the school where she will teach. “I’m looking forward to learning and growing as a person. I hope to engage in as many conversations with as many people as possible to relate to the students here in the international program.”

McDonald decided to pursue a Fulbright because it will allow her to travel and grow both professionally and personally. She chose Thailand because she has never been to Asia, and the idea of something totally new intrigued her. The country also spoke to her on another level — McDonald practices Muay Thai kickboxing, which is Thailand’s national sport.

McDonald advised students who want to apply for a national fellowship, “Go for it. Even if you don’t think you’ll get it — you don’t know. It might be the best experience of your life.” McDonald will be keeping a blog during her experience: http://macattack511.weebly.com/blog. “It’s exciting and nerve-wracking,” she said, “but I’m ready.”

Emily Nohner ’07
Truman Scholarship: Washington, D.C.

When Emily Nohner became the first University of Dayton student to receive the Harry S. Truman Scholarship, she felt like she “had won the Olympics for the University.” “Being the first Truman Scholar from UD is one of the proudest accomplishments of my life,” she elaborated.

Nohner graduated with a degree in political science and a minor in international studies / human rights. As a recipient of the Truman Scholarship, she was offered the opportunity to participate in a summer internship and leadership program in Washington, D.C. Following graduation, Nohner worked with the Alliance to End Hunger over the summer. The scholarship also provided her monetary assistance to attend graduate school at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. “The scholarship absolutely influenced my life and my professional trajectory,” she said. “The application process forced me to focus my thinking around my passions in life and consider how I might be able to harness that energy into a career. Being awarded the scholarship gave me a boost of confidence that I was on the right track and that my ideas were relevant.”

Nohner said the Honors Program was instrumental in making the Truman Scholarship a reality for her. Additionally, her research for her honors thesis greatly informed her application.

As for future students considering applying for a national fellowship, Nohner offered this advice: “Go for it! What do you have to lose? Nothing! No matter what, the process is sure to focus your thinking about the future and help you reflect on how to make most of your time at UD.”

Milena Pisani ’13
Fulbright Research Grant: Honduras

Winning a research grant to Honduras through the Fulbright Scholarship allowed Milena Pisani to continue the work in sustainable development she began as a University of Dayton student in the ETHOS program.

Pisani graduated from the University of Dayton with a degree in civil engineering. She spent a year in Honduras, where she used the skills she gained from her undergraduate degree to change the lives of the local Hondurans. She worked with the Xenia, Ohio-based non-profit, Heart to Honduras, to improve the infrastructure of local communities.

Pisani worked as a member of the community development team during her year-long experience, where she assisted leaders of various villages. Together, they identified the needs and resources within their communities in order to implement long-term solutions to persistent issues. They tackled a wide array of projects, including building housing, improving water purification systems, providing electricity to the villages and creating programs on health education. Pisani was also able to develop her Spanish skills during her time abroad.

Pisani advises future fellowship applicants to challenge and immerse themselves in the culture and language of the location where they choose to travel. She recommends engaging in as many conversations with as many people as possible to learn and grow as a person.

Suzanne Richardt ’06
Fulbright Fellowship: Morocco

Today Suzanne Richardt is the student support coordinator in the University of Dayton’s Center for International Programs, but she believes she may never have considered this position if not for her Fulbright Fellowship experience.

Richardt graduated with dual majors in international studies and French. Thanks to some guidance from the Honors Program, she received the Fulbright Student Fellowship to Morocco, an experience which lasted from 2006 to 2007. She also received the Critical Language Enhancement Award along with her Fulbright, which added three extra months to her program. This award allowed her to spend more time learning Arabic.

In September 2006, Richardt got her fellowship underway in Fes at a language institute. Then in January she traveled to Tangier to work with Darna, a nonprofit organization that functions as a home and school for children who otherwise would be on the streets. The program also featured a community center with literacy classes. She also volunteered with the American Legation Museum where she worked full time as an English teacher. Over several months, Richard taught lessons in English to women of vastly different proficiency levels — one woman had no familiarity with the Latin alphabet. “It was challenging, but incredibly rewarding,” Richardt said.

After returning from her Fulbright Fellowship trip, Richardt was so moved by her experience teaching English that she pursued a master’s degree in TESOL/applied linguistics. Her time as a Fulbright fellow continues to influence her vocation today.

“It helped me to have the experience of living in a majority-Muslim country,” Richardt said. “It really opened my eyes to another culture. I think that it really helps me to relate to the students here in the international program.”
Fellows

Jonathon Sens ’16
Goldwater Scholarship
Following his first exposure to neuroscience in the lab of the late Dr. Lunte at the University of Kansas, Jonathon Sens knew that his academic journey was going to take a dramatic, yet fulfilling, turn. In the beginning of his junior year, Jonathon learned about the neuropsychopharmacology research conducted in Dr. Pothitos Pitychoutis’s lab in the Biology Department of the University of Dayton and asked to join his research team. With Dr. Pitychoutis’s guidance, Jonathon started his Honors thesis and quickly excelled in his research endeavors, and moreover, he developed an undying passion for neuroscience. As a recognition of his academic quality and research-oriented career goals, Jonathon applied for and was awarded a nationally competitive Barry Goldwater Scholarship in Excellence and Education to provide monetary support for his undergraduate studies and research within the Pitychoutis lab. Jonathon’s research revolves around elucidating the sex-dependent neurochemical effects underlying ketamine with in vivo brain microdialysis in mice.

Jonathon will pursue a Ph.D. in neuroscience with the ultimate goal to launch a career in academia and research. As a competitive national award winner, Sens recommends that you become involved in research early in your academic career to strengthen your application.

Marie-Claire Tuzeneu ’10
Fulbright-Clinton Fellowship: Samoa

Marie-Claire Tuzeneu’s experiences that began at UD have led her around the world. In college she studied abroad in France and Togo, using funds from the Hull Fellowship to work on her Honors thesis research there. After graduating with a dual degree in international studies and French, she went on to earn her master’s degree in international economic policy at the Paris Institute of International Development in France. Tuzeneu then worked at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in France.

The combination of her continued research, a keen interest in public policy and work experience led Tuzeneu to apply and for and receive a Fulbright-Clinton Fellowship. This opportunity involved a 10-month placement with a government ministry, along with the opportunity to conduct research. Tuzeneu was placed in Samoa, where she worked with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, helping review Samoa’s ongoing climate policies and programs and further determining the future of those programs. She also conducted research on community-based climate change adaptation projects.

The entire experience was invaluable. “Having the opportunity to really work for a government ministry is something that is hard to get through any other situation,” she explained. She cited the research she did in her undergraduate years in Togo and the completion of her Honors thesis as being integral in preparing her for her fellowship experience.

To students working on applications, she encouraged getting feedback on application writing submissions, as those suggestions are very effective. Tuzeneu highly recommended the Fulbright-Clinton Fellowship for Honors students who are interested in public policy.

— Elizabeth Abrams ’17
Rachel Cain ’16
Luke Kozal ’17
Sarah Spech ’16
and Brooke Zentmeyer ’19

News and notes from the University of Dayton Honors Program
For 12 weeks in the summer, the Berry Summer Thesis Institute (BSTI) provides a cohort of rising juniors in the Honors Program an opportunity to engage in research and scholarship, prepare a thesis and provide community service. While many universities offer summer thesis programs, UD’s program stands out from the rest.

It is “one of the few (summer thesis programs) that includes a community engagement component,” said Dr. Nancy Miller, who coordinates the BSTI and is the associate director of research for the Honors Program. UD’s Catholic and Marianist values are reflected in this community service aspect of the BSTI. The students are placed into services that best relate to their fields of study and, as explained by Miller, “The hope is they can begin to make connections between how research, and their research in particular, can be used to contribute to the community around them.”

Caroline Goodill ’17, a student from the 2015 cohort, paralleled these connections with her BSTI participation. “By the end of the summer, I was surprised by how much my service and thesis had aligned,” said Goodill. While volunteering at the Refugee Resettlement Office through Catholic Social Services of Miami Valley, Goodill helped young adult refugees by creating supplementary English language practice activities. Meanwhile, the work she did for her thesis focused on international education practices in Finland. “I thought about my work in the Refugee Resettlement Office as I worked on my thesis,” explained Goodill. “Diversity in the classroom is a growing topic of discussion and research, and teaching methods and teachers need to adapt best practices to provide each student with the highest quality of education.” Because of her work during the BSTI, Goodill believes she will look differently at how she constructs her lessons and provides support in the classroom.

Even for the students whose research did not directly correlate with their community involvement, the BSTI provided them with inspiration for how their work could serve others. “My service experience did not directly relate to my thesis, but I found ... subtle connections between the two,” explained Alexandra Hallagan ’17, who also participated in the 2015 BSTI program. The majority of her time was spent in a biology lab, but her volunteer work with Reach Out of the Montgomery County Free Health Clinic gave her the opportunity to interact with and assist people of the Dayton community. While her thesis focuses on genome editing, her volunteer experience allowed her to meet and converse with a number of patients who suffer from genetic diseases and illnesses.

“This service experience ... was complementary to my career and really confirmed what I want to do with the rest of my life,” said Hallagan. “When working in a lab doing bench work all day, it is hard to see the possible clinical benefits of my work, but Reach Out allowed me to see the kinds of people that my research might one day help.”

When asked how their service participation through the BSTI affected their future goals, several members of the 2014 cohort described the significance of their involvement. “The service experience directly related to my future goals because I had the opportunity to work with adults and children with disabilities every week, which is exactly what I will be doing as an intervention specialist teacher,” said Riley Weber ’16. Another student, Krista Bondi ’16, explained that her service experience in museum education was valuable in helping her realize that her interests lay elsewhere.

Sarah Stalder ’16, who volunteered with Five Rivers Metroparks, explained, “This experience showed me the relationship between science and the community and how important it is to engage with those around you. Working in the urban gardens taught me that we are all interconnected, we are called to share our gifts and talents with others, and to live and learn in a community. From this I have decided to continue to work to bring biology to the community through my research with the Monument Avenue dam.”

For some, the contact continued even beyond the BSTI summer. Claire Konys ’16 still volunteers at the Reach Out clinic occasionally, which provides free healthcare to the uninsured in Montgomery County. Maxwell Roeske ’16, who also volunteered at Reach Out, has continued volunteering in the medical field. Morgan Pair ’16 had a service experience at Catholic Social Services Refugee Resettlement, which helped instill in her a passion for refugee rights and issues.

The Community Partners
Dayton community partners in servant leadership have supported the Berry Summer Thesis Institute since its inception. Here are those organizations in which the program’s cohort members have been involved:

Boonshoft Museum of Discovery
Catholic Social Services of the Miami Valley
Catholic Social Services Refugee Resettlement Program
Dayton Center
Dayton Habitat for Humanity
Dayton International Peace Museum
Dayton Visual Arts Center
East End Community Services
Five Rivers Metroparks Community Gardens
Garden Station
Good Neighbor House
Hospice of Dayton
House of Bread
Kettering Health Network NeuroRehab and Balance Center
Mission of Mary Farm
Reach Out
St. Vincent De Paul Dayton
St. Vincent’s Gateway Shelters
United Rehabilitation Services

Background photo: Mission of Mary Farm. Courtesy of Stephen Mackell, Mission of Mary Farm.

Sandra Haddad ’18

These students were members of just two BSTI cohorts. When taking into account all the participants’ experiences, one can be sure that the impact of the service aspect of the program is deeply meaningful to both students and the community.
The pilgrimage headed south where a new adventure awaited them in Rome. They were able to see the bottom level of St. Peter’s Basilica. Bondi explained that it was a very exclusive tour. They saw exhibits that only a certain number of people are allowed to view each day. Reminiscing over the experience, Bondi said her favorite part was seeing the incredible sights and the foundations of Catholicism. “Just thinking about how many people in the entire world over a huge span of time have seen the same things we have … we are all connected to this greater thing,” she said.

So did the transformation work? Bondi said, “You have the whole trip, and we were doing so much that it becomes a lot to absorb. On the last night, however, Sister [Angela Ann] said that she had seen us all change. It’s very cool to see that in our cohort even though we didn’t really realize the change was happening.”

The remaining challenge the Chaminade Scholars face is incorporating the many lessons they learned in Italy into their everyday lives back home.

— Andrea Mott ’18

Photos courtesy of Morgan Draves ’16 and Emma Froelich ’16
HONORS STUDENTS WELCOME
Photographs by Christopher Santucci ’16

DC FLYERS
Photographs by Simon Kim or courtesy of DC Flyers cohort

A VISUAL FEAST
Photographs by Christopher Santucci ’16
I Will Carry Danny’s Legacy by . . .

. . . BECOMING A FORCE FOR GOOD. Sometimes even tragic events have the opportunity to become a force for good. The annual Daniel P. Arnold 5K is one such example, as the family of Danny Arnold, a UD honors student who passed away the summer after his junior year, and the University of Dayton come together to ensure that the values Danny held dear are still represented.

All proceeds from the Danny 5K go to the Daniel P. Arnold Memorial Scholarship Fund so that Danny’s legacy continues through Honors students with similar goals to his. When the two recipients of this year’s scholarship were asked what Danny’s legacy means to them, they had overwhelmingly enthusiastic answers.

Claire Konys ’16 responded, “I am inspired to make the most of my time left at UD and contribute to the community the way Danny did, and his legacy continues to do.”

Maxwell Roeske ’16, the other scholarship recipient, uses Danny as a role model while at UD. As Roeske noted, Danny’s inspiration reaches beyond just him: “As a student who embodied the Marianist mission of our University, [Danny] was committed to physical, academic and spiritual excellence, and was a leader for others in his community. [Danny’s] legacy provides an ideal that I believe all students should strive to reach.”

— Monica Rook ’19

News and notes from the University of Dayton Honors Program
Class of 1984
TED BRANDEWIE: My UD education laid a solid foundation for the rest of my life. I met my wife at UD, worked in engineering for five years while getting a master’s in electrical engineering, and then got my MBA from Harvard. We’ve had five kids, while moving for my career to Boston, back to Ohio, and 18 years ago to Kentucky. I’ve taken my oldest three on tours of UD (the campus looks so different and great!) but they’ve chosen to attend Harvard Medical School and teaching strategy at UK as a faculty in very different industries. The picture is from the trip to Hawaii to celebrate Deb and my 30th wedding anniversary next year. Our oldest year at UD. Our oldest child is a college senior and captain of the field hockey team at Haverford College in Pennsylvania (Go Fighting Squirrels! Seriously, their mascot is a fighting black squirrel). Our second child just started his freshman year at the University of Michigan in the College of Literature, Science and Arts. Our youngest is in 8th grade here in Ann Arbor and is starting cross country for the first time this fall for his school. Marita is working as a fitness manager at a local Curves gym and singing with a local band.

I have been serving as the associate director of the Automotive Research Center, a U.S. Army-funded center of excellence on the simulation of ground vehicle mobility, for the past two years. I have also just been appointed the director of the Walter E. Lay Automotive Laboratory at the University of Michigan.

Class of 1986
ANDRE BOEHMAN: After teaching at Penn State University for 18 years (1994-2012), I moved to the University of Michigan Department of Mechanical Engineering in the fall of 2012. It is hard to believe that I have already been here three years. My wife Marita (’86, management information systems) and I will celebrate our 30th wedding anniversary next summer, the same day we were married during our junior year at UD. Our oldest child is a college senior and captain of the field hockey team at Haverford College in Pennsylvania (Go Fighting Squirrels! Seriously, their mascot is a fighting black squirrel). Our second child just started his freshman year at the University of Michigan in the College of Literature, Science and Arts. Our youngest is in 8th grade here in Ann Arbor and is starting cross country for the first time this fall for his school. Marita is working as a fitness manager at a local Curves gym and singing with a local band.

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Class of 1988
CHARLIE SCHREIER: Following my graduate studies at the University of Dayton in 2008, I [far left in photo to right] was able to participate in a snow carving competition in Frankenmuth, Michigan, as an alternate on a friend’s team. Two years later, along with George Mertz (’85) (far right) and Josh Helse-Howard, we began our annual adventure in the snow. This past year we took second place with Little Red Riding Hood!

Class of 1999
EMILY TELFAIR: I live in Baltimore, Maryland, with my husband Christopher Hadley and practice as a naturopathic doctor. As recent past president of the Maryland Naturopathic Doctors Association, I led a team of colleagues on a 4-year journey to pass legislation allowing for the licensing of naturopathic doctors in Maryland. As of March 2016, Maryland will be the 17 th state to license naturopathic doctors in the country. I was recognized professionally for my leadership in 2014 when I received the President’s Award from the American Association of Naturopathic Physicians.

Class of 2000
KIMBERLY MESSER: I have published my first book, titled Falling for Work: A Story of Death and Determination. For the past 10 years, I have been providing communication and training support for a local engineering company that specializes in fall protection. The book is written as a narrative in an effort to share best practices to protect workers at height. Despite all the information and technology out there, one to two people die every day in this country from falls. I’m hoping that the book will help save lives by using a relatable story to educate people.

Class of 2001
EMILY GEIGER: Since I left UD, I’ve had a world of fun professionally and personally. I married a fellow Flyer Peter Draugelis (law) and now have two rambunctious little boys, Bobby (3) and George (1) and call Cincinnati home. I still get to meet up with my five UD roommates once a year and drink cheap beer. Professionally, I am working as VP of sales and marketing of an exciting start-up venture, Healthcare Asset Network, a sharing economy platform that allows healthcare systems and providers to buy and sell expensive inventory before it goes into landfills.

Class of 2004
PAT ADERHOLD: I have a job as an engineering instructor at Bakersfield College in the southern Central Valley in California. I am loving the sunshine, still adjusting to the heat and working hard to help the burgeoning BC engineers learn the fundamentals of circuits, mechanics, properties of materials and looking just professional enough in a polo shirt from the thrift store. I also bought a really nice blender!

Class of 2005
SHAHYAN AHMAD: Kinza and I are still in California ... it has been over three years now. The Class Notes work update from us is that on June 30 we welcomed our son, Barzaan Ahmad, to our family.

KAREN SETTY: We have a new baby girl. Her name is Gemma Elizabeth Bolognesi and she was born September 14, 2014, joining her mom, dad and big brother Niccolo. We just moved from California to Chapel Hill, North Carolina, so I could begin a Ph.D. program (long last!) in environmental sciences and engineering at UNC Chapel Hill. I will be working with the Water Institute within the Gillings School of Global Public Health, primarily on international water and sanitation research. I received a Royster Fellowship, a UNC award.

News and notes from the University of Dayton Honors Program
Class of 2009
JENNY DIEMUNSCHE: In May, I finished my Ph.D. from the University of Colorado Denver, and began as an assistant professor of mathematics at Saint Vincent College in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, this past fall semester.

JESSICA FENTRESS FARRIEL: My husband, Kenneth Farrell (English and sociology major) and I (education major) just had our first child, Joanna Grace, born July 25, 2015. We currently live in Louisville, Kentucky, where I teach middle school and Ken is an academic advisor.

MEGHANN NAYEAU: Matt (Naveau ’08) and I recently welcomed our first baby into the world! Luke Joseph Naveau was born July 30 and joins us at home in Bellbrook, Ohio. Luke weighed 9 pounds, 10 ounces and was 20 inches long. We’re all doing great and getting to know each other — and already working on teaching Luke to say “Go Flyers!”.

MICHELLE TIMMERMAN HILLS: I married Philip Hills July 11, 2015 in Louisville, Kentucky. Many UD students and alumni were present, including members of the bridal party Krista Versteeg ’10 and Megan Timmerman ’17.

MARIE-CLARE TUZENEU: This past year, I was awarded a Fulbright-Clinton Fellowship to spend 10 months in Samoa working on climate policy and programs at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. As part of my fellowship, I conducted independent research on managing and funding community-based climate change projects. (See A Chance of a Lifetime page 13 for more of Marie-Clare’s story).

Class of 2011
KARL ECKBERT: I married my wife, Mary, in May 2011. We had our first child, Samuel Eckbert, in October 2013. Our second child was born in November 2015.

I recently graduated from the Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine (May 2015). I am now a resident physician in the pediatric residency program at the University of Minnesota. I hope to primarily work with children with chronic or complex medical needs.

My time as an Honors student and as a Chaminade Scholar continues to guide me as I look to serve others who are in need of help.

JULIA FAETH: I (CMC) married Jason Martin (Ohio University 2009, CME) in New Riegel, Ohio, July 25, 2015. Several UD CME alumni attended the celebration, as the photo (below) shows (without the groom). I was also awarded the Barry Goldwater Scholarship while at UD, and have been awarded the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program Fellowship during graduate school at the University of Michigan. (See A Chance of a Lifetime page 6 for more of Julias’s story).

TESS FINNEGAN: I graduated summa cum laude from the University of Louisville School of Medicine in May and have now started a radiology residency at Wake Forest University.

ERIC HARPER: I graduated from UD way back in 2011, and have since been attending graduate school at the University of Michigan. I received my master’s in materials science and engineering in May 2014 and just published my first paper in Soft Matter in June 2015.

NOLAN NICAISE: After graduating from the University of Dayton, I moved to Denver, Colorado, where I lived in an intentional community called the Urban Servant Corps. Twelve volunteers lived in one house and worked at human services agencies across the city. I was positioned at Colorado Youth for a Change, an organization devoted to decreasing the number of students dropping out of Colorado’s public schools. There I worked as a volunteer coordinator and teaching assistant.

Following my year of service, I moved to Arlington, Massachusetts, to begin a master’s degree in urban and environmental policy and planning at Tufts University and completed my thesis, titled Housewife Data: Citizen Science and the Case of Love Cakes. I then took a position now the program administrator at the Tufts Institute of the Environment, directing the Environmental Research Fellowship program and the Water, Systems, Science and Society graduate certificate program, in addition to other programs. In my time off, I dance salsa at a studio in Allston, Massachusetts, and tutor high school students in Winchester, Massachusetts (and survived the Boston snowpocalypse).

NICHOLAS TOTH: In the past year and a half I have finished law school at the University of Cincinnati (don’t worry, UD is still my home), passed the bar exam, been named vice president in a small title company (Buckeye Land Title Company) and named partner in a small law office (Brigham & Brigham). In addition, I have been named the head coach of UD’s university volleyball program at Walnut Hills High School, the assistant coach for the men’s varsity volleyball team at Cincinnati Christian University, and am now the chair of the compliance committee for the National Collegiate Volleyball Federation, overseeing all eligibility and disciplinary issues for more than 500 collegiate club volleyball teams nationwide.

I am kept up to date on all the happenings at UD by my younger sister, Andrea ’17 (chemical engineering). I still miss UD all the time, but I’m glad that my sister (and countless others) are getting to have just as great an experience as I did at the school. Go Flyers!

Class of 2012
CHELSEA KRUG BOCH: Since graduating with my undergraduate degree from UD, I have earned my Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from UD’s Department of Physical Therapy in May 2015. I also left my student supervisor position at Roesh Library after nearly seven years of service. On June 13, 2015, after nearly three years of long-distance dating, I married my best friend, 1st Lt. Jeremy Krug ’12, at Holy Angels Catholic Church in Dayton, Ohio. I have since relocated to Bourbonnais, Illinois, and I am working full-time for Athletico Physical Therapy.

After seven years at UD, I will never forget the profound manner in which its faculty and staff shaped me and the everlasting bonds I developed with friends and fellow dorm dwellers.
KATHERINE EARL: I am now in my fourth year of graduate school at the University of Dayton Department of Finance, and I have completed my Ph.D. in counseling psychology. I am very happy to have been chosen as an academic advisor for the Farmer School of Business at Miami University in Ohio.

KHADIRI SCHARF: I was married on September 19, 2015. This is my second year working at Catholic Central Elementary in Springfield as a City Connects site coordinator, which is a position that has the functions of a school counselor with a lot of parent and community outreach. I am a licensed school counselor.

KRISTEN (HAMMAKER) SCHARF: I was married on September 19, 2015. This is my second year working at Catholic Central Elementary in Springfield as a City Connects site coordinator, which is a position that has the functions of a school counselor with a lot of parent and community outreach. I am a licensed school counselor.

LAUREN HANER: I married Josh Welsh (‘11) this past June 27, 2015. It was a fantastic night, especially with the professors who taught me at UD helping to prepare me not only for good research, but also to teach as the sole instructor of courses such as “Career Theory and Practice” with creativity, passion and understanding.

Aside from research and teaching, I have been able to work as a practicum counselor at the University of Illinois’ Counseling Center, Illinois State’s Counseling Center, and most recently as a counselor of traumatized veterans with Veterans Affairs in Danville, Illinois. My experience as co-president of Active Minds at UD helped me foster community in a new place.

MOLLY HOBBS: I currently live in Washington, D.C., and am in the third year of my financial management program with the United States Navy. I am an active member of the UD Alumni Community here and regularly participate in the November Project DC tribe. I visited UD again this October and ran my first 10K race in downtown Dayton!

JEMIMA HOMAWOO: I completed a two-year program at the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at University of Pittsburgh. I graduated with a master’s degree in international development and an African studies certificate. I had a wonderful experience at GSPA, including an opportunity to study and intern the fall semester of my second year in South Africa.

JOHN McGINNIS: I started graduate school at Georgetown this fall, where I am pursuing a master of science degree in foreign service with a focus in business and finance. I am very much looking forward to the good opportunity and couldn’t have done it without the global opportunities and support of key faculty at UD.

RON ZESZUT: I am currently starting my third year of graduate school at Case Western Reserve University seeking my doctorate in chemical engineering. My UD experience has been so important recently, especially in trying to help me foster community in a new place.

MELANIE HONORS: I graduated from UD with a bachelor’s degree in international economics and finance and am currently working for a proprietary trading firm in Chicago full time. I am very thankful for the time I spent at UD, as I know it had everything to do with the opportunities I am enjoying now.

CAROL HARPER: I recently began working at Ohio State in the Office of Student Life. I took a full-time position as a digital communications coordinator while finishing up my M.P.A. through the John Glenn College of Public Affairs at the University.

Class of 2013

KRISTINA DEMICHELE: I graduated from UD with bachelor’s degrees in English and Spanish. I used to be the head reporter for Honorslink from 2010-2013. I love the newsletter!

In May 2015, I graduated with my master’s degree in publishing and writing from Emerson College. I live in Boston, Massachusetts, and work for America’s Test Kitchen as their email marketing specialist. I have written three newsletters for them so far and facilitate the email production process from start to finish. I love working in digital marketing for publishing, and employees get leftovers from the test kitchen every day!

I also have to say that the Honors Program at UD truly prepared me for my current career. Completing an Honors thesis was an invaluable experience, one that informed how I conducted my master’s thesis work and enriched my job interviews. I love UD!

ZACHARY HADAWAY: I have been working as a proprietary trading firm for a quantitative analyst and trader. This September I started my master’s degree in financial mathematics at the University of Chicago full time. I am very thankful for the time I spent at UD, as I know it had everything to do with the opportunities I am enjoying now.

LAUREN HANER: I married Josh Welsh (‘11) this past June 27, 2015. It was a fantastic night, especially with the professors who taught me at UD helping to prepare me not only for good research, but also to teach as the sole instructor of courses such as “Career Theory and Practice” with creativity, passion and understanding.

Additionally, I started my own summer prayer group to connect with other UIUC graduate students who share my Catholic faith, a group I modeled after the Honors Program’s special summer housing I experienced while living summers at 39 Evanston and 43 Kiefaber. “Learn, Lead, Serve” truly has been a core mission for me even after my years at UD as I research, teach, practice and play. I am hoping to graduate in 2017 or 2018 and become a full-time clinician.

MOLLY HOBBS: I currently live in Washington, D.C., and am in the third year of my financial management program with the United States Navy. I am an active member of the UD Alumni Community here and regularly participate in the November Project DC tribe. I visited UD again this October and ran my first 10K race in downtown Dayton!

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CAROL HARPER: I recently began working at Ohio State in the Office of Student Life. I took a full-time position as a digital communications coordinator while finishing up my M.P.A. through the John Glenn College of Public Affairs at the University.

MEGAN KLEBBA: In May 2015, I graduated from Vanderbilt University at the University of Miami in Ohio. I recently began a position as an academic advisor for the Farmer School of Business at Miami University in Ohio.

MATT KNULSON: I just moved out of my grad housing from Indiana University with my master’s degree in public affairs, having studied economic development and public finance. I’m working for Boaz Allen Hamilton as a consultant for their finance and economic development team. My UD experience has helped me tremendously as I’m getting settled in a new city. I’ve met a number of great alumni out here along the way.

LAUREN KAUFMAN: I graduated with my bachelor’s degree in accounting and entrepreneurship. I am currently in my second year as an experienced associate with PricewaterhouseCoopers in the assurance practice. I truly believe that my experience at UD has molded my experience with my current employer: The University. The University offers so many opportunities and resources for students to get recognized by big firms, and the quality of the curriculum that we are given shows why UD students are some of the most coveted after four years.
This year’s Patrick F. Palermo Founders Fund fellowships were awarded to six thesis candidates.

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, DC Flyers or Daniel P. Arnold Memorial Fund
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contact us

email: honorsinfo@udayton.edu  website: udayton.edu/honors  facebook key words: University-of-Dayton-Honors-Program

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calendar

January

12  Chaminade Scholar Applications Due
19  Classes Begin
29  Honors Art Exhibit

February

9   Berry Summer Thesis Institute Applications Due
TBA  Junior Thesis Candidates Workshops

March

4   Honors Students Symposium
7   Hull Summer/Fall Applications Due

April

1   Junior Thesis Proposals Due
7   May Graduate Theses Due

May

7   Honors Graduation Brunch
8   May Graduation Commencement
16  Berry Summer Thesis Institute Begins
18  Global Flyers: London Program Begins
24  Global Flyers: Oxford Program Begins
28  DC Flyers Program Begins

June

6   Global Flyers: India Program Begins