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MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2017

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UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON

UD's Vote Everywhere stresses the importance of local elections

EMMA KAPP
Staff Writer

Election season has come and gone, but democracy never takes a break.

Vote Everywhere, the joint initiative between the Fitz Center for Leadership in Community and the department of political science, continues to inform and educate UD students about the importance of staying involved in democracy. It is a non-partisan organization supported by the Andrew Goodman Foundation, a national establishment which promotes voter engagement, public policy and social justice initiatives on college campuses across the country, according to its website.

Senior communication and political science major Katherine Liming said she wanted to be involved with this movement, which came to campus in fall 2016, because of her exposure to politics at home.

"My parents were very politically active, so I had a solid political knowledge base," Liming said. "I didn't have a good grasp on the system of voting, though, and I wanted to learn more."

The constant opportunity to

learn about the history and process of voting is Liming's favorite part of the job. She acknowledges that there is a certain stigma around college students and voting, and while it is hard to change that cultural mindset, she believes Vote Everywhere is helping in that process.

Pat Benn, a senior studying political science and economics, also wanted to work with the Vote Everywhere initiative because of his respect for the American democratic system. He enjoys engaging with other students and educating them about voting.

"I usually get the chance to try and show students they can be part of something bigger than themselves in a substantive way," Benn said.

The idea of being involved in such a large system can be daunting to students and cause them to doubt their effect on change in their governments. It makes students believe their voice will not be heard in the general election.

"During the presidential election last year, we heard a lot of people wondering how their vote would matter," Liming said.

With the most recent elec-



With the challenge of a polling location change, Vote Everywhere members helped UD students by providing shuttle transportation and complimentary donuts. Photo courtesy of Katherine Liming.

tion being a local election, students could have much more of an impact with their votes.

"Local elections are the purest form of democracy," Liming said. "There's no electoral college to go through or anything. It's really important to participate in these elections because these are the issues that will most directly affect us."

Despite the potential to have a significant impact on local government, Liming and Benn said turnout for this past election was low. This dip in participation isn't just specific to Dayton. It's a national trend that unfortunately happens in the years there is no presidential election. Voter turnout was about 30 percent for this past election, according to the Ohio Secretary of State's office. Montgomery County saw just over a 26 percent participation rate.

Another challenge UD student voters faced this year was the change in polling location. Previously, students were able to walk to Holy Angels Catho-

lic Church to cast their ballot. This year, they had to travel to Goodwill Easter Seals, located about seven minutes away from campus. Vote Everywhere provided a shuttle and donuts to students, but still found voter participation to be low.

"College students have limited time and resources, so moving the polling place away from campus certainly impacts turnout," Benn said.

Liming and Benn agreed that the most important issue for students to know about was Issue 2. According to Dayton Daily News, Issue 2 proposed requiring states to pay for prescription drugs at the same or a lower cost than the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. It did not pass.

"Issue 2 was the most complicated to understand because it hadn't really been done before by another state," Liming said. "There wasn't a precedent for it and needed a lot of studying."

Although the election has passed, there are still ways for

students to remain involved. Liming suggests one of the best ways is to simply talk and engage in meaningful, constructive dialogue.

"There are definitely ways to civilly talk about politics and create understanding among ourselves," she said. "College is a diverse environment and it gives us the chance to hear perspectives different from our own."

Benn echoed Liming's sentiment and urged people to stay involved and informed.

"This is a very fascinating time to be involved, or at least paying attention, to politics," he said. "One tip I received from one of my first lectures here at UD was if you disagree with someone, listen harder. Universities have always been places of respectful discussion, and UD students are more than capable of maintaining that reputation."

For more information about Vote Everywhere's upcoming events and initiatives, follow their Twitter page @UDaytonvote.



Vote Everywhere, pictured at their table at Up The Orgs, encourages students to keep engaging in meaningful, constructive political dialogue. Photo courtesy of Katherine Liming.

Homelessness first hand: students participate in sleep-out plunge

SEAN NEWHOUSE
Staff Writer

Hard ground. Freezing air. No privacy.

This is a reality that hundreds of thousands of Americans live in. In Dayton and Montgomery County alone, more than 1,000 people are considered to be on the streets, homeless, every night.

In solidarity with these individuals, UD students participated in Homefull's annual "Sleep-Out" on Nov. 16 to raise awareness about homelessness in the Dayton community.

Homefull, a local nonprofit organization that assists more than 600 individuals daily, sponsors the annual event during National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week, which occurs the week before Thanksgiving.

Plunges, sponsored by UD's Campus Ministry's Center for Social Concern, are day-long immersion experiences targeted to raise awareness about social justice issues and serving the community. Plunges give students the opportunity to fully immerse themselves into situations where social injustices commonly occurs. Students are also exposed to these injustices with hopes they respond through service and advocacy.



Students who participated in the homelessness sleep-out plunge were surrounded by the downtown Dayton skyline. Photo courtesy of Jacob Montgomery.

According to Campus Ministry, approximately 25 students attended the "Sleep-Out" and participated in a poverty simulation,

which together was called the "Homelessness Plunge."

The Cost of Poverty Experience (COPE) simulation was a one-hour immersion where participants acted out living a month under the poverty line.

Sophomore human rights ma-

jor Rebecca Lebouef said the simulation was stressful.

"It was simulating how difficult it was to actually do all those (daily routines) when you're on the poverty line," Lebouef said.

Her assigned role in COPE was Liz, a 65-year-old woman.

Participants were assigned to simulated families. In Lebouef's case, she had a 67-year-old husband. Other participants had simulated children or were a part of an extended family.

In the simulation, every 15 minutes represented each week in the life of a homeless person. There was a set list of tasks each member of the simulation had to accomplish. If the simulated family did not have a car, participants had to spend three of their 15 minutes standing, to represent walking, unable to do any of their pressing tasks.

Some participants were even "evicted" by the end of the immersion experience because they had to pay other bills besides rent.

Following this, student participants spent the night in 30-degree weather in First Baptist Church's parking lot in Downtown Dayton. LeBeouf said it was the first time she had slept outside.

Participants slept in sleeping bags, having access to a bonfire and restroom if necessary. Many students also brought lawn chairs and blankets, and dressed in winter layers.

The experience was filled with reflection from students. The "Sleep Out" participants remained outside until 5 a.m. Some had to go to work or school following the Sleep-Out. A couple students had to attend 9 a.m. classes.

Matt Schubert, a sophomore political science and communication double major, said the experience increased his empathy toward individuals living in poverty.

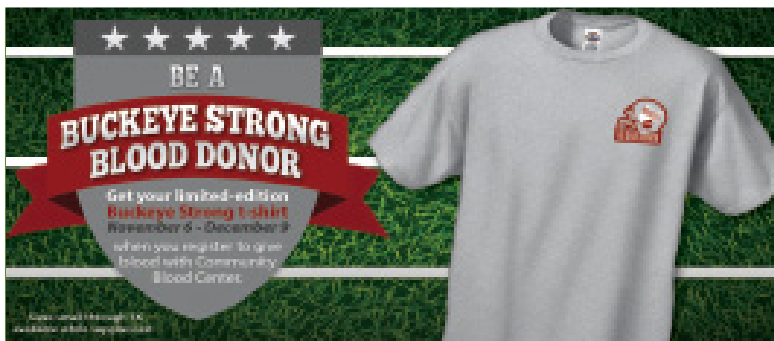
"It's a lot more difficult than you'd expect," Schubert said.

Responding to the question if poor people are lazy, Schubert said they do their fair share.

"I would say some work harder than people who have a lot of money."

I, myself, participated in the "Homelessness Plunge" for Flyer News and because my friend wanted someone to do it with. I had expected the hard ground and the freezing air. However, I was surprised by the incessant noise and light. The glow from Dayton's buildings and the sounds of cars and trains never stop, which made it nearly impossible to sleep. Yet, these are the conditions more than 1,000 Daytonians attempt to sleep in on any given night.

Interested in participating in a future Campus Ministry Plunge? Visit <https://udayton.edu/ministry/csc/plunges.php> for more information.



Blood Drive

Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2017

Noon to 4pm - Virginia Kettering Hall

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THE RESIDENTIAL HOUSING ASSOCIATION

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WINTER & SPRING CAMPUS BLOOD DRIVES

January

January 24, 2018 - Noon to 6pm

UD Recplex

Sponsored By: PHI EPSILON KAPPA & UD CLUB TENNIS

February

February 13, 2018 - Noon to 6pm

UD Recplex

March

March 20, 2018 - Noon to 6pm

UD Recplex

April

April 17, 2018 - Noon to 6pm

UD Recplex

Make an online appointment to donate
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Calendar of Campus Events

Dec. 5-15

Dec. 5

Amnesty International's Write for Rights event in KU Torch Lounge (7 p.m. - 8 p.m.)

Dec. 6

Broken On All Sides film screening and discussion in ArtStreet Studio B (6 p.m. - 8 p.m.)

Making a Killing: Guns, Greed and the NRA film screening and discussion in KU Rooms 310 and 330 (7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.)

Dec. 7

Last day of classes

Faith and Leadership lunch with Annie Joseph in Liberty Hall Room 8 (12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.)

Dec. 8

Christmas on Campus (5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.)
Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Dec. 9

Study Day

Dec. 10

Study Day

Dec. 11

Final Exams begin

Dec. 12

Final Exams

Dec. 13

Final Exams

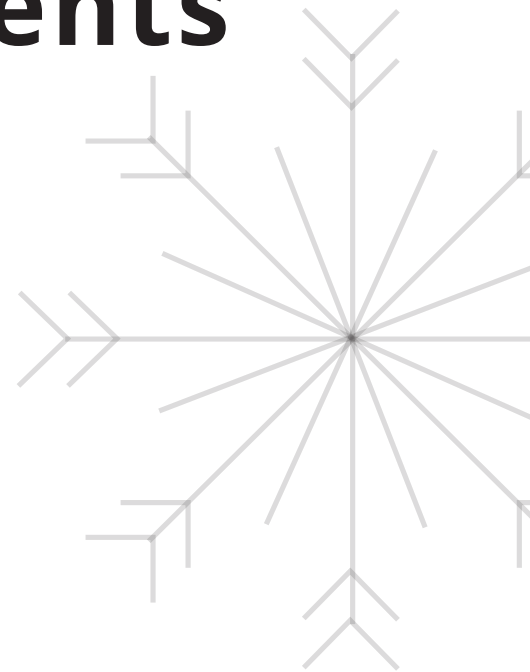
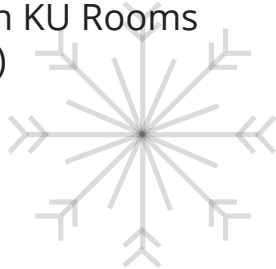
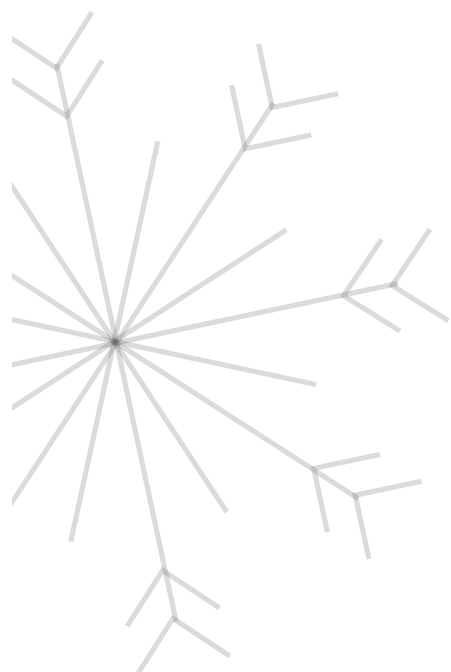
Dec. 14

Final Exams

Fall term ends after final examination

Dec. 15

University housing closes for Christmas break at 6 p.m.



Bonn Climate Change Conference: where do we stand?

LIZ KYLE & JULIA BONFIGLIO

News Editor & Staff Writer

In June 2017, President Donald Trump announced the U.S. will be withdrawing from the Paris agreement by 2020. The announcement was met with mixed reviews of support and damnation, and, additionally, it sparked more conversation about climate change initiatives around the world.

This conversation was continued at the UN Climate Change Conference in Bonn, Germany on Nov. 6-17. The conference, presided over by Fiji's government, was filled with climate related talks, including the future of the Paris agreement and implementing an initiative to limit severe global warming repercussions in future decades. The conditions of the Paris agreement have also been criticised as being vague, so the diplomats' who attended the conference strived to clarify the commitments expected from countries who signed it.

Those countries who signed the Paris agreement have submitted a pledge to limit greenhouse



The Bonn Climate Change Conference was led by members of Fiji's government, pictured above. Main topics of discussion included the Paris agreement and reforming countries' proposals to limit greenhouse gas emissions. Photo courtesy of IISD/Kiara Worth.

gas emissions and volunteered to meet every five years to review their efforts and overall progress. The New York Times reports most countries, including Europe, Japan and the U.S., are not on track to meet these goals. A big focus of the conference was acknowledging these flaws and working to get these countries on track.

Trump's stance on the U.S.' involvement in the Paris agreement, along with recent discussions at the conference, has caught the attention of UD staff and other leaders around the nation. Shortly after Trump's announcement in June, President Eric Spina digitally signed the #WeAreStillIn document, stating UD will continue to pursue initiatives that align with

the goals presented in the Paris agreement. This document also urged Trump and Congress to reassert United States leadership in the global effort to address climate change. 200 other higher educational institutions and almost 1,000 businesses around the nation have also taken on this pledge.

After the #WeAreStillIn movement swept the nation, Flyer News had the opportunity to sit down with Spina to talk more about his decision to include UD in the pledge.

Spina stated, "As a country we may say we are out, but as organizations and institutions- again not commenting on the political aspects of the Paris Accord. We can have that debate, but from my perspective, these are the scientific facts. These are the people being harmed. This is the right thing for us to do as an institution."

With the Hanley Sustainability Institute to the student led Sustainability Week programming, UD has a significant focus on sustainability initiatives. The university is, "committed to making the world a better place—for everyone," according to the university website.

The Hanley Sustainability Institute works towards such goals through numerous and diverse channels of sustainability and environmental initiatives. These avenues include the impressive composting program on campus, and the university's status as a charter participant of STARS, otherwise known as the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating system. The River Stewards program

and other programs like ETHOS also help to bring sustainability to the community within and outside the Dayton area.

The importance of sustainability movements can be seen through the thoughts and opinions of many Dayton students, including sophomore Marcella Domka. Domka is on the executive board of UD's Sustainability Club and highlights the spirit of the university when she states, "In the Dayton community, the idea of sustainability encompasses a variety of practices. It emphasizes green habits, whether on campus or at home, yet also concerns innovative thinking and creative solutions to environmental issues."

Numerous scientific studies have been conducted that indicate that the threats imposed by climate change are real and extremely dangerous. Such reports can be found on the websites of NASA, the EPA, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and others.

According to NASA, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change states, "Taken as a whole, the range of published evidence indicates that the net damage costs of climate change are likely to be significant and to increase over time." As demonstrated by the previous quote, the protection and preservation of the world is crucial. Without a significant effort for change, the problems that the planet faces will only continue to get worse. The Paris agreement is a prime example of individuals and committees that are working to ignite that change and make a difference.

Conversation is an essential tool when it comes to discovering the best possible solution for any problem. The Paris Agreement and its accompanying complication, so to speak, are a perfect example of the power of negotiation and conversation. Whether you support or oppose the place of the United States in the United Nations Climate Change Conference, or Trump's decision to remove the United States from the Paris agreement, the importance of being aware and motivated is unparalleled. The future remains uncertain concerning our political and ecological environment, however, one thing is for certain, a change is coming.

Come join UD Police and various campus stakeholders as we create a safe space to have a healing conversation about gender-based violence, sexual harassment and sexual assault. Beyond #MeToo brings campus resources such as: The Women's Center, LGBTQ+ Support Services, The Counseling Center, Officer of Equity and Compliance and UD Police.

- The event is Jan. 24 at 3 p.m. in the Fitz Hall Police Training room. Light refreshments will be provided. Space is limited, please RSVP to cknight1@udayton.edu

You're invited to an encore presentation of "Beyond Run, Hide, Fight" by Chief Chatman. The presentation covers a topical discussion on active shooter events and concepts of the "Run Hide Fight" video.

- The event is Jan. 25 at 3 p.m. in the Fitz Hall Police Training room. Space is limited, please RSVP to cknight1@udayton.edu

CHATMAN'S REPORT

Graphic by Ria Gordan/Staff Graphic Designer

Engineers conclude their vocational journey with words of wisdom from Dean Rojas

LIZ KYLE

News Editor

This series follows two UD engineering students, Joshua Romo and Tom Tappel, who are on a mission to discover how successful engineering majors found their own vocation, as well as their major fitting in with the University's purpose, "The University For The Common Good." This is the final part of the series. We invite you to read part one and part two on our online platform, flyernews.com.

With their journey coming to a close, Joshua Romo and Tom Tappel are beginning to wrap up their findings in their vocational discovery investigation. To get one final source of insight, the duo sat down with the dean of UD's school of engineering, Dr. Eddy Rojas.

Rojas was named dean of the school of engineering in July 2014 and previously served as director of the Charles W. Durham School of Architectural Engineering and Construction at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Among a vast collection of accomplishments, he received a licentiate, a five-year professional degree, in civil engineering from the University of Costa Rica and three degrees (M.S. in civil engineering, M.A. in economics and a Ph.D. in civil engineering) from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

While growing up in his native country of Costa Rica, Rojas was exposed to engineering and was immediately attracted to the field. His best friend's father was an engineer, and Rojas recalls many memories of tagging along with him on engineering adventures to underground tunnels and a local reservoir. Seeing engineering put into action left Rojas inspired.

"I always knew I was going to be an engineer. It was clear to me," Rojas said. "I was in a developing country. Engineers were looked at as the ones who are really going to make a significant difference in the development of the country. I remember thinking, 'This is what I want to do. I really want to make a difference in the lives of the people in my country.'"

Rojas' interest in engineering grew through his high school career. He attended a Catholic high school in Costa Rica whose strong suit was in physics, chemistry and



With unlimited opportunities at students' fingertips, Dean Rojas hopes students experience those opportunities with an open mind and a consideration for their own community. Photo courtesy of Tom Tappel and Joshua Romo.

math. He expressed that he was thankful he had the opportunity to go to a strong academic high school.

The transition from high school to college was a breeze for Rojas since he viewed his first semester of college at the University of Costa Rica as one big review of material. He took his educational opportunities seriously and found joy in educating others and tutoring his peers. He even ended up getting a job offer post-graduation to teach at the university, which he excitedly accepted. From that point forward, he knew his calling was to be in academia.

"I always loved education. When they offered me the opportunity as an instructor at the university, it was a dream come true to me. I loved engineering. I loved teaching, and this was the perfect way to combine both my passions. When I began teaching, I decided that this was what I was going to do with the rest of my life," Rojas reminisced.

After spending the beginning of his career teaching in Costa Rica, he set his eyes on the U.S. to obtain a higher education. But, he had one small problem: he didn't know how to speak English. Still, Rojas didn't let that obstacle stop him, and enrolled himself in En-

glish classes on Monday through Fridays for three hours a day for a few years. He describes his journey to the U.S. as an adventure and a leap of faith for him and his wife's educational goals.

"Costa Rica is a special place in the sense that education has been valued since the country's beginning. I went to a public university that was top notch, and many of the faculty members got their education from the U.S. or Canada. Being able to see those professors with Ph.D.s made me believe that it was possible—it was something within my reach. We were coming to a foreign country and culture, everything was completely different. To us, it was well worth it to come here for our education."

Ever since Rojas arrived to the U.S., he's taken advantage of every opportunity he could get his hands on. After he joined the UD community, he brought along a notion he always held dear to his heart: making sure to implement "Engineering that Matters." With this phrase, Rojas means not just doing something because it can be done, but because it should be done. He believes it's important for engineers to recognize that their decisions are going to have consequences, and encourages students to look at the broader

impacts of engineers' creations. This principle directly fits into the university's mission of being "The University of the Common Good."

"To be honest, I didn't get into engineering because I wanted to be famous or because I wanted to make a lot of money—that was never my motivation at all," Rojas said. "My motivation was to make a difference. I think it's important for all of our students to understand that when you become an engineer, you have responsibilities that are not only about yourself—they're about your community. Engineers have a special set of skills and a responsibility to make sure those skills are used for the betterment of humanity and for the common good."

The connection between an engineer's responsibilities and being conscious of the community are brought to life through UD's ETHOS (Engineers in Technical Humanitarian Opportunities of Service-Learning) Center. The program, created by a team of engineering students in 2001, gives students the opportunity to participate in immersion trips, student focused activities and hands-on projects around the world for 10 weeks. When Rojas was named dean of the school of engineer-

ing, he transformed the program into its own center to make sure all engineering students have the opportunity to experience engineering that matters.

In terms of the school of engineering's future, Rojas sees the program growing and becoming stronger. Within the next few months, two new staff positions within the school of engineering are set to be established: a community liaison and an industry liaison. The two new liaisons will serve to improve the relationship between the engineering school and UD's industry partners and the surrounding non-profit organizations in the Dayton community. Rojas hopes to create more opportunities for students while giving them that experience necessary to find their true passions.

"The majority of our students want to do more," Rojas said. "As a student, participate in ETHOS, participate in a semester of service, study abroad, open your eyes to the possibilities. Look at all the opportunities you may have to learn about different cultures, to learn from the people who might not be as lucky as we are and to look at society to see what engineering has done over the years."

With Rojas serving as the final piece to Tappel and Romo's vocational puzzle, the duo feels confident with their newly found perspectives. They have learned a lot from this journey and they hope other students can contribute to this new conversation of vocation and being a member of "The University For The Common Good."

"The main reason we got into this was to work with the school of engineering to better engage students with their own vocations," Tappel said. "I think there's two things that I've learned that are important to this process: to reflect and take time out of your day to ask questions about what you're doing, being more intentional when moving through college."

"I hope this series gets people thinking, and, hopefully, it inspires fellow engineers to reach out and contribute to this conversation," Romo said. "I think more than anything, I feel more excited about the future of the school of engineering."

Greta Gerwig's "Lady Bird" soars high in the box office

BRETT SLAUGHENHAUPT
Movie Columnist

Acne. While it may be the bane of every teenager's existence, no teenage experience is complete without it. And yet, almost no "coming of age" films showcase this rough reality. This may have something to do with casting the traditional 20-something actor to play a 15-year-old, but still, we are given film after tv show after film of "high schoolers" with perfect skin and hair.

It creates an unbelievable standard we have come to expect this part of our lives to be like. That is why our first glimpse of leading lady, 17-year-old Christine "Lady Bird" McPherson, is a breath of fresh air. It is the first sign that "Lady Bird" is setting itself apart from the rest.

The traditionally beautiful Saoirse Ronan ("Brooklyn," "The Grand Budapest Hotel") has been given a completely new look: fading red-dyed hair, chopped short, with a natural face covered with some light acne scarring.

It doesn't draw attention to itself, but nothing about this movie really does. This film is going for something real, choosing authenticity over whatever Hollywood's version of real life is. Much like the character of Lady Bird, the film takes control of the coming-of-age genre and "names" itself rather than taking the name prescribed by others.

To expect anything less from Greta Gerwig would be to underesti-



Photo courtesy of Vimeo.

mate the complete control she has over this film.

"Lady Bird" follows graduating senior Christine McPherson as she jumps through all the big hurdles a young woman her age would encounter—her first flings, her relationship with her mother, figuring out college, prom. Growing up in Sacramento and attending an all-girls Catholic school adds a level of flare to Lady Bird as she attempts to figure out who she is and who she wants to be.

The only thing she seems to be sure of is her hatred of staying where she is: "I hate California, I want to go to the east coast. I want to go where culture is like New York, or Connecticut or New

Hampshire."

Although this is Gerwig's directorial debut—she also wrote the screenplay - "Lady Bird" breezes by with such a modest confidence you would never expect it to be from a newcomer. Honing her craft through previous screenwriting and acting credits in films like "Frances Ha" and "Mistress America,"

Gerwig's experience has more or less led her to this moment. There have always been bits and pieces of herself that have shined through the characters she played: slightly kooky but never naïve, a little out of touch but always in the know.

Her growth over the time playing this type, as well as drawing upon semi-autobiographical experiences,

led to the creation of this warmly unique and utterly unforgettable tale.

Deliberate but never slow (the runtime is only 94 minutes), this film relies on us caring about each character that fills the screen. Although Lady Bird is the titular character, Gerwig's script makes a point to delve into the lives of those around her to really shape the world.

We learn about illnesses side characters are suffering from, how the economy is taking hold of various families, and conversations that don't seem important but help create context for the types of people that surround Lady Bird.

As an ensemble, the entire cast

works together with great chemistry. The flow of their interactions captures a naturalism that makes it very easy to forget the big names inhabiting the roles (and there are plenty of them). Especially for the younger characters, Gerwig directs them into the perfect level of awkwardness, so moments like trying to impress the cool girl or guy become a reflection of how we want to be seen versus how we are seen. "Lady Bird" is unafraid to put these moments right in front of our eyes and make us cringe at our own past moments. The realism is ever present, but it is restrained enough to keep it from becoming a Wes Anderson or Judd Apatow-styled flick.

Not enough can be said of Saoirse Ronan and Laurie Metcalf's duo of performances as daughter and mother, respectively. Gerwig describes the film as a "love story between a mother and daughter." It is so easy to tell how much their relationship is central to how both of them begins to interact with others. A testament to both the acting and writing, they feel like a natural continuation off of one another. Throughout the multitudes of fights or trips to go dress shopping or even just the minor conversations they may have with one another, they always manage to find their individual quirks. "Lady Bird" succeeds in understanding just that: life is not about big moments but about how all the small ones add up.

The fine arts of opportunity: the fluctuation of UD's program

ADAM ROMAN
Sophomore, Communication

Pablo Picasso once said, "Every child is an artist. The problem is staying an artist when you grow up."

This dilemma has plagued the innovators and instructors of the world of fine arts, and it continues to do so in 2017. Every day, a music teacher endeavors to find fresh ways to present material, relate to the younger generation and, above all, intrigue new students.

If the state of fine arts at many institutions, including UD, doesn't persevere through this lull in student involvement, significant changes are on the horizon. An avenue of learning and creativity may be blocked, and certain opportunities may be lost.

The more potential artists who do not pursue the arts at UD and other institutions, the more the fine arts programs suffer and sacrifice to make ends meet. Faculty and staff have devoted countless hours to enticing students to major or minor in some area of the arts.

The creative programs at the fingertips of UD students range from design studios to the gamelan room, a space packed with traditional Indonesian musical instruments. These facilities amount to a near embarrassment of riches, and yet administrators in those departments are scratching their heads, trying to save their favorite programs and draw new faces into Fitz Hall, the bustling hub of UD's fine arts towering just across Brown Street. Nonetheless, enrollment numbers in various areas of artistry have been steadily decreasing in recent years.

For the 2016 fall semester, only 206 undergraduate students' majors were part of UD's Fine Arts Department, equaling about 2.6 percent of the total undergraduate population, according to the University's "Fact Book." Comparatively, about 3.6 percent of the undergraduate student body had fine arts majors in 2012.

While a decrease of about one percent in terms of enrollment within the fine arts may not seem like much, it is sufficient to make many sweat over the future of the fine arts at UD

when coupled with the seemingly disinterested mainstream coverage of the arts across the nation.

"We're going through a difficult time. The mainstream opinion seems to be devaluing the fine arts," UD Adjunct Music Professor Fred Bartenstein responded when asked about the framing of creative arts education proliferated by news outlets. Bartenstein has hands-on experience in mass media as a former radio host.

If the average consumer of news sees fine arts education programs depicted in ways that devalue the importance of such curricula, an arts programs become all the more likely to be the first department to suffer when a school needs to make budget cuts. This type of publicity is becoming commonplace, possibly resulting from the rise of technology and resulting decrease in interest toward the fine arts.

"Increasing costs of higher education make people have to think about the return on their investment," Bartenstein said. "Many more people are going to college than ever before, including a lot of first-in-their-family

college students..."

Some of these first-generation university attendees' families dismiss the value of an arts education because other majors, such as business or engineering, have a better job outlook than fine arts majors immediately following graduation. However, picking up a minor in the fine arts or taking a photography class, for example, can be beneficial to students of all academic callings.

Bartenstein cited three main benefits of education in the arts: improving one's ability to think and interact with society using God-given intelligence, creating neurological pathways to help solve problems in a creative, non-linear fashion and providing a great source of practice for one's brain.

These benefits have been well-documented in a multitude of scholarly journals, including "Music in the Early Years: Pathways Into the Social World," an article by Dr. Beatriz Ilari, assistant professor of music education at the University of Southern California. Her piece focuses on some of the positive social, cognitive and linguistic effects of an arts education.

Nico de Leon, a sophomore at UD, took an introductory level dance class titled "Movement for Everyone" during the spring 2017 semester. The 19-year-old business student fully engaged himself in the class, leaving him with a lot to say about his experience in his first fine arts class at UD.

"The course exposed me to a bunch of different dance genres," de Leon said. "I found myself, after taking the class, being interested in learning more about dance genres, groups and individual performers."

Even with all of these benefits, enrollment within fine arts programs throughout the United States has continued to drop. Young people are less frequently taking advantage of the wide array of opportunities to broaden their educational experiences.

UD offers everything from dance classes to instrumental ensembles to design courses and everything in between. Fine arts is a well-equipped department with faculty eager to share their knowledge, allowing students to reap the social, cognitive and recreational benefits that come with a quality education within the fine arts.

PORCH PROFILE

The Men of 222 Stonemill



HILLARY HUNT
Staff Writer

Alex Formosa, Jake Reese, Dan Lenz, Steven Timmrick. Not pictured: Matt Kirwen. Ben Bratton/Staff Photographer.

FN: How did you all meet?

Alex Formosa: Well I transferred here sophomore year, and I asked Peter if I could live with him and he told me no. But that's how we became friends. But then he introduced me to all of these guys.

Peter Hansen: Me, Jacob, and Kirwen were in Sig Ep, but it got kicked off sophomore year that's how we all became friends though and then decided to live together.

Matt Kirwen: Jacob and I went to high school together.

Dan Lenz: My sophomore year I was asked by Peter if I would live with them. For better or for worse, Peter has always been the ringleader of the group.

FN: What is on your bucket list for next semester?

JR: Pig Roast.

DL: We take holidays very seriously around here.

PH: I think we want to do a Spring Break trip.

AF: One last "shebang" before we all never see each other again.

PH: Nothing lame or stupid, like the fountain thing.

AF: Something cool.

ST: I think going to church would be one.

DL: I want to go back to my old dorms.

PH: I want to go find all the teachers from my time here, and thank them.

AF: Not being overwhelmed all the time.

FN: If you could give everyone in your house a superlative, what would it be?

AF: Peter is most emotional. Jacob is best dad.

PH: Steve is our outdoor cat.

AF: Steve is the most mysterious.

PH: Dan is the messiest.

DL: I'm not saying I'm not the

messiest, but is that the only word you have to describe me?

AF: Dan is two-faced.

ST: Dan also doesn't like cheese, and that's the kicker.

PH: Alex is the overachiever, most elaborate and over the top. The one who goes just a little bit too far all the time.

FN: What's your most embarrassing moment at UD?

DL: Peter, you have a lot to sort through.

PH: Consciously peed my pants at a date party one time.

JR: I jumped from the top of the stairs, hit my head on the ceiling, and took quite a tumble. I didn't go through the floor, which was the point of the experiment.

AF: Every time I walk into a class in Miriam just a little bit too early, and everyone stares at you.

FN: What is your favorite part of being a student here?

MK: Community.

PH: Shut up.

DL: The fact that all of my best friends are less than five minutes away from me.

ST: Brown Street. And the people are cool.

PH: I never questioned being a student here. I knew I made the right choice.

ST: Good about networking and helping you find opportunities.

AF: Huge support system, whether it's with the faculty or your peers.

DL: We have an entire day of the week dedicated to being as weird as you want on Saturdays.

AF: Judgement free atmosphere. Authenticity is easy to find.

PH: People want to have genuine relationships.

FN: What advice would you give to underclassmen?

AF: Give it a chance. It's a learning curve. Majority of people don't like their freshman year or first semester.

ST: Get involved.

AF: Don't be shy. Push yourself out of your comfort zone.

DL: People can get stressed about doing well, but it's a very safe place to fail and see who you are and what you like.

PH: My biggest regret is that I didn't change my major as many times as I could have.

AF: I've changed my major six times.

MK: When I switched from civil engineering to education, I didn't think I would graduate on time, and I've had a great support system throughout the process.

AF: You just don't have to have it all figured out. You'll still be learning after college. Be receptive to change.

THE ARTIST

SYLVIA STAHL

CHEY WARD
Staff Writer

Sometimes photographers are the most camera shy, but that is not the case for one UD artist that has dedicated her senior year to creating a body of work centered around herself. Sylvia Stahl wants to put her life on display in a way that focuses on simplicity and contrast. She is constructing a body of work by reflecting on her life, struggles and home.

There are two sides of photography that Stahl explores through her double major in fine arts and photography. She shoots commercially in weddings, UD's magazine and other events, as well as more artistically in the studio. Stylistically the two types are on opposite ends of a spectrum, but Stahl has found that she can bring her creative eye to commercial shoots and produce more interesting images.

"Creativity is my favorite part about both types of photography," Stahl said.

Stahl is a type one diabetic, and she has dealt with the disease throughout her entire life. This year, she is featuring her illness in her most recent body of work by photographing medical items that she interacts with every day. Stahl said, "I'm really trying to investigate my reliance on things that make me who I am, but aren't a part of me."

Her work is poetic in the sense that she is trying to take white, clean, harsh images and make them more personal.

"I have used this medical equipment for twelve years, so I

know exactly what it is and how it works, but when I show my photos to other people I have to explain it in a way they'll understand," Stahl said. This obscurity and general lack of familiarity has presented Stahl with challenges as she continues to perfect her body of work.

While her photographs focus on her diabetes, Stahl also wants to explore the idea of home and how her concept of home relates to her life and disease. Stahl has discovered, "college students find a temporary home at their school, but the home they've grown up in also becomes temporary." She hopes that students can identify with this specific aspect of her photographs.

Sara J. Winston has been Stahl's main inspiration for her recent work. Winston also photographed images in the home that depict a struggle with disease. Stahl also mentioned that she has always been interested in the foundational aspects of William Eggleston and Sally Mann's work; they are both film photographers, but they have a knack for capturing the simplest things in life.

In Stahl's own work she tries to make people, more specifically people's emotions, the focal point. Through her experiences with both commercial and studio photography, she has discovered that the emotions she captures have levels. "If I'm photograph-

ing a wedding I see happy moments in a fixed environment, whereas shooting in the studio brings out different emotions and reactions in people," Stahl said.

As she continues to photograph in different environments, she has noticed how different people act when they know a photographer is present. Stahl described it as emotions that aren't real or fake but composed in a certain way. She has found that being able to interact with her models in the studio negates the inherent artificiality that people display when getting their photograph taken.

Stahl repeatedly referenced the relationship between the two different types of photography with which she deals. Her broad knowledge base allows her to make connections between the two styles, as well as recognize the advantages to having a creative eye in commercial photography. Stahl commented, "there is a cool balance that comes with having my feet in both worlds because in commercial photography I am very reliant on the moment people are in, but in the studio, I can construct my own moment."

The environment that Stahl is shooting in and the style of photography she is working with obviously have a considerable impact on her final images. UD has impacted her work in a variety of ways. The tight-knit community aspect that is prominent on campus provided Stahl with a



Photo courtesy of Sylvia Stahl

marketing platform. In her time here Stahl has learned, "photos are important because after everything is said and done, people look back, and a photograph is all they have, and it is such an honor to give people all of these great memories."

Stahl's most recent work that

was featured in this article is not yet published on her website, but you can find her other work at sylvia.stahl.com and her Instagram page, [@sylvia.stahlphoto](https://www.instagram.com/sylvia.stahlphoto). him@thompsonj17@udayton.edu.

Photos courtesy of Sylvia Stahl

THE ART



Radial gallery displays artwork from UD seniors

FRANCESCA HACKWORTH
Sophomore, Communication

Some of the most creative, inspirational and talented artists come from right here in our very own community. Graduating seniors at the University of Dayton in the department of fine arts and design have an array of artwork on display in the Radial Gallery. The pieces are in an exhibit known as “Continuity.” This exhibit encompasses hand-built sculptures, paintings, photographic art, and more.

One specific piece of art on display is a painting, “Transition to Autumn Part II” by Elizabeth Clement. This painting exerts a sense of connection to the transitions that occur in nature and the environment. It is vibrant and emphasizes the beauty, yet messiness that goes on during this time of transition- life is messy, beautiful, and vibrant much like “Transition to Autumn Part II.”

Other pieces showcased are photo-



Photos by Christian Cubacub/Multimedia Director.

graphic art: “When the kids come to visit” by Sara Frederick and “Home” by Madisson Baron- Galbavi. These magnify the raw elements of people in their natural environment. They spark

something within, about the people in these photographs but also about ourselves.

Home is a place we all have. Home is where we come from and often what makes us who we are. When a piece of artwork like “Home” by Madisson Baron-Galbavi is showcased, it will undeniably spark these feelings and make us wonder, where do I come from and how does that place shape who I am?

“This photography work explores the relationship between living spaces and the way I have constructed them,” Baron-Galbavi said.

“I believe the state and nature of a home is completely decided by those who live within it. There is a stark contrast between the home I grew up in, what it became and what home looks like to me now. Issues of relationship, gender roles, nature and nurture, and my identity come into play through the diptych pieces.

This is an autobiographical piece of

Baron-Galbavi is a fifth year graphic design major who will graduate in December with double minors in photography and art history. She plans to move to Atlanta to pursue a design career and later go back to graduate school concentrating in photography and possibly video.

“Working with two personal spaces over the course of a semester, I created a narrative out of two physical spaces and displayed it as one mental and constructed place,” Baron-Galbavi said. “This led me to exploring video in the recent year to continue the use of constructed visuals, documentary photography and narrative.”

If you want to experience the artwork created by our graduating seniors, Continuity is located in the radial gallery on the second floor



the home through narrative in my childhood and my current university residence. My childhood home is pictured on the right and my university residence from junior and senior year are on the left.”

of Fitz Hall. The gallery welcomes viewers now through December 9th from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. For more information on this exhibit, and the ones coming soon visit the student exhibitions page on www.udayton.edu.

How to Survive Finals

By Amber Del Vento

Step 1: Clear off your desk.



Step 2: Stock up on essentials.



Step 3:



Step 4: Study and keep a positive attitude.



Step 5: Get plenty of sleep.



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Sleep, Sustenance, and Stress Relief

FLYER NEWS ADVISES STUDENTS ON END-OF-THE-SEMESTER STRAINS

Nausea. Nighttime coffee. 2 a.m. study sessions. Finals week can be strenuous: mentally, physically, emotionally. Exhausted, the circumstances are fertile for existential crises: Why am I doing all this work? Why is this test important? I don't even like this class. Can I finish five papers in a week? Am I going to pass? Is this the right major for me? What am I doing with my life? The rabbit hole can lead us into a deep, dark place when our to-do lists seem physically impossible to complete. And, because we are human, we are always questioning.

When it is the middle of night, stress levels are high, and these questions stir in your head, remember that you will be okay. Breathe in. Breathe out. Fill your lungs with the glorious, crisp December air. We have lungs. We have bodies. We have brains. We have

hearts. We are alive. No matter what this end of the semester brings, all the heaviness will not stop your heart from beating or your lungs from functioning. This life is sacred, and your thoughts are important. Life will continue.

School can be stressful, but we have the opportunity to absorb information and create knowledge in an environment that has our back. Look around.

This wonderful place that we call home is full of people. Perhaps many of them are in desperate need for a shower and a hot meal because they've been hunkered down in the library for quite a few hours on end.

However, they are also doing this thing called college, and they are also these people called friends, classmates, roommates, mentors, and co-existors of this world. Anyways, Christmas

break is right around the corner.

Flyer News has a few suggestions for break:

Sleep.

Take the chance to hibernate, catching up on the zzzzzzzs. The sleep deprivation that

FN hopes people do not experience during finals (but most likely will experience) can be cured with sleeping late and pre-midnight bedtimes after those tests are taken and papers submitted. Chill out!

Eat Christmas cookies.

Suggestions include gingerbread, snickerdoodles, white chocolate macadamia nut.

Lay in your bed.

Snuggle up and enjoy just being. Cozy up. Grab some tea or hot choco-

“I just kiss, I don't even wait. And when you're a star they let you do it, *you can do anything.*”

-President Donald J. Trump

late. Read a book

(Some suggestions include “The Westing Game”, “Just Mercy”, “Station Eleven”, and “A Bestiary”).

Play videogames.

Dust off the old Nintendo 64 or Gamecube from the attic and hand your sibling, parent or friend an extra controller. See if you can still master drifting on Rainbow Road in Mario Kart.

READ THE NEWS.

With time to delve into current events, pick up a newspaper. Google. Read, watch, listen.

You will find a lot has been going on: Tax bills, sexual harassment/assault at Capitol Hill and in Hollywood and Media industries, the Russia investigation, 2018 elections, and so, so much more.

Watch a documentary. Listen to a podcast.

Sure. Watching the latest Netflix comedy series or an old favorite sitcom are comforting ways to spend an

afternoon, but exploring the world of documentaries and podcasts can be entertaining and enlightening. (Some suggestion for documentaries are: “13th”, “Chef's Table”, “The Minimalists”, and “The Defiant Ones”. Podcast recommendations include: “Modern Love”, “S-Town”, “More Perfect”, “Radiolab”, “Invisibilia”, and “Ferguson Voices: Disrupting the Frame”).

Explore a metro-park near you.

Go on an adventure. Get some fresh air. Hike. See the wonders of the land that you live

on. Sometimes the air, the exercise, and the company can be renewing.

So, readers, we wish you the best of luck entering finals week, and the happiest of holidays as we embark on our journeys all over the country—and the world for Christmas break. Refresh, refill, renew your bodies, minds, and hearts. All will be well. Merry Christmas.

Handling Delinquency Within Rank and File

NATE SIKORA

Staff Writer

Apathetic responses ensued as Democratic members of Congress performed mental gymnastics to maneuver around answering a straightforward question: should Senator Franken and Representative Conyers resign because of their allegations of sexual harassment?

Currently, six women have said that Senator Franken had groped them in the past, and four women have come forward accusing Conyers of sexual harassment.

Two main responses from Democratic leaders provide interesting context to the angle Democrats took to respond to sexual assault allegations within their own ranks.

Democratic Majority Leader Nancy Pelosi went on Meet the Press to defend Representative Conyers by claiming his long tenure and legislative achievements in the House make him “an icon.”

Additionally, she undercut the legitimacy of the claims by the women accusing Conyers of harassment because they have yet to “come out” publicly with their identities.

New York Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, on the other hand, found herself in hot water for delineating between what former President Bill Clinton should have done in the midst of the Lewinsky scandal and what Al Franken should do now.

When asked if President Clinton should have stepped down when his scandal broke in the 1990s, she stated, “Yes, I think that is the appropriate response.”

Yet, when the same question targeted her

co-worker from Minnesota, Senator Gillibrand simply claimed, “It's his decision,” and that “today people are willing to hold people accountable.” It is ironic, however, that she herself seems to be abstaining from holding her colleagues to account on this issue.

Beneath the tone-deaf rhetoric lies an intense level of hypocrisy. For those like Pelosi and Gillibrand that were indifferent to Franken and Conyers resigning, their answers acknowledged the immorality and inappropriateness of the acts, yet their refusal to definitively say yes or no to resignation sends the message that although the men's actions constituted unacceptable behavior, it is not surprising that it occurred nor should there be legitimate consequences.

When it came to whether Roy Moore should continue his campaign in Alabama for the Senate, however, both lawmakers demanded that he step aside for his alleged actions. Granted, the allegations facing each of the men differ in many ways, but the point is still clear: using one's power to sexually exploit others is objectionable and inexcusable.

The news breaking regarding these allegations against the Democratic legislators presented a definitive fork in the road to take a strong, ethical stand on this issue at a point in our country where it seems ethics are nonexistent—both in politics and in the workplace.

Yet the same Democratic leaders that promised to adopt a stronger platform once again failed to prove to the American people that Democrats have a backbone.

With these incidents in particular, the complicity is more distasteful coming from the party that cheers itself as a partner in empow-

ering women.

Similar to the swift action NBC took with Matt Lauer, Congress should have a zero tolerance policy for such behaviors. In most lights, publicly elected officials should be held to an even higher standard than the rest. This case is no different, and how we as a culture respond to these forthcoming allegations will have a strong impact to whether they continue to pervade as a systemic problem.

Transitioning away from the poor leadership of the Democrats, the allegations contextualize what our expectations should be for elected officials relative to what they are now.

A key component to success as a public official is that those in office must maintain the public trust of their constituency. When public trust erodes, as it is for both Franken and Conyers currently, their effectiveness as a representative disintegrates as well.

Politicians must be people that communities can be proud of; someone who best represents the values of the constituency. With this in mind, those who are elected to high public office have, historically, been key agents to influencing culture and everyday life.

If this cultural influence of politicians is taken as true, then it should be non-negotiable that these two men should resign from Congress.

Our inherently patriarchal society has, over centuries, given the implicit approval for these behaviors to occur and be swiftly swept under the rug. For example, evidence of institutionalized sexism can be seen with Rep. Conyers' possible use of Congress' slush fund to pay for his sexual harassment settlements, which

is just one systematic process that shows how our society protects the perpetrators through institutional means.

And the information about these harassment cases, in which public tax dollars were used, is currently kept confidential too.

Even though the systems of American society inherently work against women and victims, it is no excuse for sexual assault and harassment to continue nor go unanswered.

Thus, if we are to capitalize on the rapid cultural transition which are currently experiencing, members of the House and Senate should take the lead and clean their ranks, for the dignity of the women that came forward to tell their stories outweighs the political careers of the perpetrators.

What is most peculiar is the way in which legislators specifically are getting away almost unscathed from allegations while those in film and media are ousted from their posts.

Of all professions, politicians should be the last group to be treated with leniency in regards to sexual harassment and assault. If these behaviors can end the career of a fictional President in Frank Underwood, then it should definitely spell the same fate for a real President as well as members of Congress.

If public pressure mounts enough to force the men resign in shame, it can be a cultural decision that declares that men who abuse their power to exploit others in inappropriate ways will not be tolerated, representing a historic transition in our notions of women's rights and a safe workplace environment.

Dear Posey,

I am having some roommate trouble. You see, I am living in a freshman year residence hall, and I thought things were going to be great—and they were at first! My roommate and I really got along and she seemed really cool and nice. I would say we even became friends. BUT she returns home from thanksgiving break WITH HER PET HAMSTER FROM HOME. I could not believe my eyes. She thinks that I would be okay with a rodent living in our ROOM? Oh, it is just disgusting. I told her that I am not very comfortable—but she said that if I give the hamster time, I will grow to love it. WHAT DO I DO? I don't want to tattle to my RA—but I know that would solve the problem quickly, but she might never forgive me.

With love and hope that my roommate does not see this,

A Concerned Rodent ear-er



Dear Concerned Rodent Fear-er,

I'm sorry you've found yourself in such a conundrum, especially so close to finals!

Many a creature-friend took up residence in my first-year dorm as well. The intricacies you face in this situation must feel massive. But before you think yourself into a tizzy, know that you have options—let the hamster spin its own wheel.

You could begin to disclose your feelings towards the hamster by commenting on other creatures and how much you appreciate them in their natural habitats.

You could make a case for the glory of squirrels on campus. Marvel at their versatility and adaptability. Sing the praises of their ingenuity. Write an ode to their ability to maintain their wild in the trappings of campus. Your appreciation for them “in their element” has the potential to do wonders in making the case for a hamster-free dorm environment.

Or, if you feel like you need to, you can certainly clue your RA in on your dilemma. Airing that grievance would not be tattling, and it would expedite the process of bidding the hamster adieu. She could probably even handle the situation in a very discreet way. It seems like you and your roommate have a growing friendship, though.

You might consider holding off on involving your RA until you've had a chance to really enter into conversation with your roommate about your hesitancy with the hamster. Read on for ways to think about opening that subject up for discussion.

Say you've built up the gumption to confront your roommate plainly. Perhaps you start by telling her that you believe her dear hamster deserves two devoted, loving parents, and you just aren't equipped to take on that level of commitment at this particular stage in the relationship.

Or maybe you preface the conversation with your objections to the dorm-trapment of animals, and are prepared to contact PETA with your concerns. Maybe you even tell her that you really just are a concerned rodent fear-er, and mean no harm but feel no warmth for the hamster in the context of your room.

It's not new or novel, but people typically suggest “open and honest communication” for the very fact that it usually works.

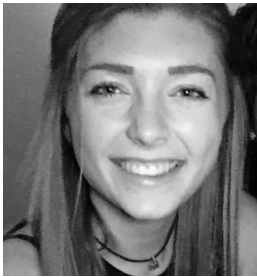
Know that you can have this conversation and share your thoughts in a loving, respectful way. Humor will begin the dialogue and grace will sustain it. You might be nervous, and your heart might hiccup its way through it, but conquering this conversation will be a true feat.

Both you and she will leave better for having had it. You can even end the conversation by telling your roommate that her affection for animals doesn't have to be bound to your dorm room.

Paws 4 Ability and SICSA are just two local agencies that work with pets and look for UD volunteers. Hooray for compromise!

For now, embrace the absurdity. One day, the hamster-ordinal will evolve into a story—these types of things always do. You'll get a giggle out of this later, I promise. Try not to give this any more power over your precious few days left on campus this semester. That way, you can skedaddle on out of campus knowing that you did justice for the poor hamster, your roommate, and yourself.

Love, Posey

KAITLIN
GAWKINSAssistant
Online
Editor

“This is the beginning of my plan to dominate the human race.”

...

“Just kidding.”

These were the words of the artificial-intelligence-powered humanoid robot, Sophia, on The Tonight Show upon winning a game of rock paper scissors against Jimmy Kimmel. Alarming? I’d say so. But maybe not for the reasons you think.

From Siri to smart cars to online banking, artificial intelligence has already permeated our lives in ways most of us aren’t even aware of.

The term “artificial intelligence” itself refers to any time a machine mimics the cognitive functions of learning and problem solving that humans possess.

Though it is growing in complexity with each passing day, this technology is still in the infant stages. A truly intelligent system is one which has the capability to learn completely on its own, constantly improving itself through every interaction. Most “AI” today is not quite there...but were on our way.

Elon Musk, the billionaire co-founder and CEO of Tesla, Paypal and SpaceX, has spoken out on several occasions warning both tech companies and regular civilians alike of the potential dangers of the unregulated development of artificial intelligence. During July of this year, before a meeting of the National Governor’s Association, he went so far as to say that “AI is a fundamental risk to the existence of human civilization.”

Though it may seem dramatic, Musk’s concern doesn’t necessarily stem from the action-packed sci-fi films that we grew up with. Rather, it is centered around real issues like job destabilization and the potential for data wars such as fake news, false press releases and manipulating information.

He also worries that whoever has the most powerful artificial intelligence will likely be the ones to have an edge on everything from industry to weaponry, with these super smart “robots” being the cause of a hypothetical WW3. As Vladimir Putin put it, “Whoever becomes the leader in this sphere will become the ruler of the world.” Kinda spooky, huh?

Musk’s warnings are centered around a hypothetical, but probable, future where artificial intelligence becomes much more complex and independent than it is today. However, the previously mentioned Sophia robot is beginning to open debate about this technology on the global scale, today.

Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Intelligence

Sophia the robot sparks a global debate with the question of what it means to be human

Though Sophia is not the most advanced form of AI we have, she draws extra attention from the news and media due to the life-like features which were given to her by her creators at Hanson Robotics in Hong Kong.

Hanson Robotics’ goal for her was that she could animate a full range of facial expressions, recognize faces, look people in the eye, and hold natural conversations with them. And if you haven’t seen her in action, I suggest you go look her up on Youtube ASAP—she’s pretty convincing.

As a word of warning, I don’t have a whole lot of personal tech-expertise. However, from talking to a few friends in the computer science realm, I learned that Sophia works using a series of neural networks combined with machine learning, a term used to describe the phenomena of allowing a computer to learn from an experience and apply it to future experiences.

many. In the United States government, a system which many of us are familiar with (for better or for worse), we know citizenship to entail rights such as the freedom to reside and work, the freedom to enter and leave the country, freedom to vote, freedom to pursue “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness,” and more.

Though I am no human rights expert by any means, it is my understanding that in Saudi Arabia the definition of citizenship, and the rights that go along with it, are more limited. For one, the 2016 Global Gender Gap Report by the World Economic Forum ranked the kingdom 141 out of 144 countries on gender parity, with only Syria, Pakistan and Yemen trailing behind.

An example of the gender gap which has been reported a lot recently is the fact that, women have just recently gained the right to drive, with the country only now promising

reported for its human rights violations and inequality between persons grant a citizenship to a non-human robot? According to James Vincent, a tech writer for “The Verge”, this is no human rights statement or attempt to redefine citizenship.

Rather, “the Saudi kingdom was using this eye-grabbing headline to promote a tech summit, part of its nationwide policy to transform an oil-based economy into something more forward-thinking.” In other words, it was essentially a publicity stunt for the aforementioned technology conference. However, the situation should not be taken lightly.

Sophia the robot has sparked debate across the globe, asking us to redefine not only our governmental definitions of citizenship and the rights that go along with it, but also, our own definition of personhood. Upon watching video’s of Sophia in action, you may be inclined to re-evaluate for yourself, what makes humans, human?

From the perspective of Catholicism, this has something to do with the concept of the soul and creation in the image and likeness of God. For people of other religious and spiritual traditions, this distinction may be in other areas. And for some, this line is beginning to blur more drastically.

With artificial intelligence growing at the rate that it is today, these questions are going to become more and more important as time goes on. Looking to the future, we must continue to remind ourselves where our values lie, while also being open to the new possibilities that our ever-expanding technology can give us—possibilities for problem solving, curing diseases, peacemaking and more.

However, with these new possibilities, we must keep warnings from people such as Elon Musk in mind. Technology has the power to rapidly reshape the future, we have to just make sure we don’t let it shape us without our control.

As Vladimir Putin put it, “Whoever becomes the leader in this sphere will become the ruler of the world.” Kinda spooky, huh?”

She analyzes conversations and other human interactions, processes the inputs using machine learning algorithms, and then draws from a combination of past experiences and current inputs in order to piece together a response which, usually, makes sense to the second party.

And she is already on the world’s center stage. In addition to the successful completion of numerous press interviews, including CBS “60 Minutes” with Charlie Rose, the “Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon” and “Good Morning Britain,” she has been a keynote and panel speaker at some of the world’s leading conferences.

One of Sophia’s biggest global exposure events was at the Future Investment Initiative in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. This conference, hosted by the Public Investment Fund of Saudi Arabia (PIF), is self-described to be “a pioneering new global investment event that will connect the world’s most powerful investors, business leaders, thought leaders and public officials with the pathbreaking innovations that are defining the future.”

The initiative is hoping to pave the way in Saudi Arabia’s efforts to become a global investment hub connecting three continents. Featured as a speaker at the conference, Sophia was notified during her time there that she has been awarded an honorary citizenship by Saudi Arabia.

You read that right. Sophia is the first humanoid-robot to be awarded citizenship, ever.

This act rubbed a lot of people the wrong way. First off, Saudi Arabia is notorious for its human rights issues. So giving a robot a citizenship seems confusing and unfair to

that they will be able to apply for their own driving license without the permission of their male guardian by June 2018.

In addition to a large gender rights disparity, in 2016, Saudi citizens had visa free or visa on arrival access to 69 countries and territories, ranking the passport 69th in the world, according to the visa restrictions index. And according to Human Rights Watch 2017 world report, this past year, “Saudi Arabia continued to repress pro-reform activists and peaceful dissidents.”

So how can a country which is often

DO YOU HAVE AN OPINION? DO YOU LIKE FOOD? MUSIC? SPORTS? POLITICS? DO YOU THINK SOMETHING IS UNFAIR? UNJUST? NEEDS TO BE HEARD?

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VOLLEYBALL

Fourth time's the charm: Flyers don't repeat as champs



Jane Emmenecker's presence in the middle of the court is a large reason for UD's success over her four years. Photo by Christan Cubacub/Multimedia Editor

CAROLINE FLAHIVE
Staff Writer

Flyer volleyball ended a difficult 2017 season with an almost perfect A-10 record, but fell two points short of their fourth straight A-10 Championship.

The Flyers (23-8) navigated through a tough non-conference schedule, which included matchups against the likes of Ohio State, Cal Poly and Pittsburgh. After starting the season with an 8-6 record, the Flyers opened conference play with 10 straight wins.

"I think we had a tough preseason. I think conference went awesome. Our team fought hard and our team got better," said senior middle blocker Amber Erhahon.

After a slow start and being swept by Illinois State on national television, the Flyers knew they had to wake up if they were going to achieve the success that has become a commonplace in Dayton for the past three seasons.

"In the preseason when we lost to Illinois State, the matches after we just played pissed off," Erhahon said. "We were still figuring out who we were as a team."

After 10 straight conference wins, the Flyers' first conference defeat in 52 matches, came from the likes of the VCU Rams during their regular season matchup on Oct. 29. The Rams would again prove they could handle their strongest A-10 competitor as they defeated the Flyers in five sets to take their first ever A-10 Championship. The two-point loss to VCU in the championship game was a stinger into a great season, but the moment did not prove too much for the players.

"Every point you have to be in moment. You never really think of the outcome," senior setter Jane Emmenecker said of the crucial final set in the A-10 Championship. "When you start thinking about outcomes it never turns out the way you should."

Despite being on the wrong end of the result, the Flyers will take the experience and apply it to bouncing back next season.

"The game is super emotional. If you ask any of our coaches, I think we played really hard," Erhahon said. "VCU is just a better team. We worked really hard. It was just those two points that made the difference."

Emmenecker earned A-10 Setter of the Year for the fourth year in a row, finishing the season with 846 assists. She has dominated the A-10 as her leadership and presence on the court has overwhelmed opponents.

"Earning that title is a cool accomplishment, but it's not a solo act. It includes all of our hitters and passers," Emmenecker said. "I'm happy my teammates were able to put me in that position."

Emmenecker's leadership on the court has not gone unnoticed within the league. Erhahon believes that Emmenecker

changes the dynamic of each game, as outside coaches change their game plan solely because of Emmenecker's ability.

"Jane is such a great leader," Erhahon said of her teammate. "It's her leadership, and how she knows how to talk to players to make you play better."

Emmenecker, a Perrysburg, Ohio native, has seen consistent playing time since arriving at Dayton in the fall of 2014. Over four seasons she has played 443 sets for the Flyers and has recorded 166 kills while scoring 332 points. When Emmenecker recorded a career high of 61 assists in her first NCAA tournament appearance, the Flyers knew they had found someone around whom to build their team. Emmenecker went on to finish her freshman campaign with 1,461 assists.

"As a player, I grew up a lot. Coming in freshman year and playing a lot was awesome—but you kind of grow up quick," Emmenecker said.

Fellow senior Erhahon finished her collegiate career with the Flyers with a .413 hitting percentage and during her sophomore and junior campaigns earned A-10 All Conference First Team. Erhahon became the second Flyer in as many seasons to record 1,000 career kills. She finished with 1,114 during her four years with the Flyers, but her volleyball career may be far from over.

"I plan to play overseas or go to grad school, and then live my life," Erhahon said.

Despite finishing the season just shy of their fourth straight A-10 Championship, the Flyers are optimistic about next season.

"I think our team is going to be really good next year. We have so many people who have grown so much this year," Emmenecker said.

This season brought much needed experience for the sophomore and junior classes, as they will be called upon to take the spots of the five graduating seniors.

"The class under me grew as leaders. The class under them grew as players because a lot of them didn't necessarily play last season," Erhahon said. "I'm excited to see what they do next year."

The NCAA is set to crown a new volleyball champion in a few weeks, and although the Flyers failed to make the tournament they are still looking out for who will take home to title.

"The playing field is super even. A lot of smaller schools are beating bigger schools," Erhahon said. "It's up for grabs right now."

"The field is evening out this year, there's a lot of upperclassmen playing," Emmenecker said. "I'm going to go with Stanford again, even though they are young."

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Auburn ends Flyers' home-court win streak

ETHAN SWIERCZEWSKI
Staff Writer

The Flyers found themselves beleaguered by an Auburn offense that did not quit Wednesday night, and fell to the Tigers 73-60 at UD Arena. The men's squad now sits at 3-3 on the season as their non-conference schedule begins to heat up.

On a night where officials called upwards of 20 fouls on both teams, Dayton men's basketball lost the war of attrition with the Tigers, shooting just over 36 percent from the field and 30 percent from beyond the arc.

A hot-handed Auburn squad made 10 three-pointers on the game and disrupted the upbeat offensive tempo of the Flyers with zone defense. Behind a whopping 13 offensive rebounds, Auburn caused problems for the Flyers on both ends of the floor.

Coach Anthony Grant summed up his team's woes on offense and defense by attributing their struggles to a lack of consistency.

"When you play a team as talented as Auburn, you have to be able to sustain what you're doing for 40 minutes," Grant

said. "At the beginning of the game, we were a little too sloppy, uncharacteristically anxious and blew some opportunities."

But the Flyers were able to battle back in the middle of the first half, riding a 13-0 run that featured speedy transition layups and the only Dayton three-point scores of the half.

After Auburn regained the lead, however, the Tigers never looked back.

"We were able to recover," Grant said. "But at the end of the half, the same situation happened. We just had periods of play that set us back."

Beyond their shooting problems, the men's squad battled a new personal demon: turnovers. The Flyers turned over the ball 19 times during the course of the game, keeping them from capitalizing on big defensive stops and establishing their tempo on offense.

"We need to watch film and see where we're messing up on defense and offense," said senior guard Darrell Davis. "We need to limit turnovers. We had 19 tonight. If we play under 12 turnovers and rebound the ball, we have a great

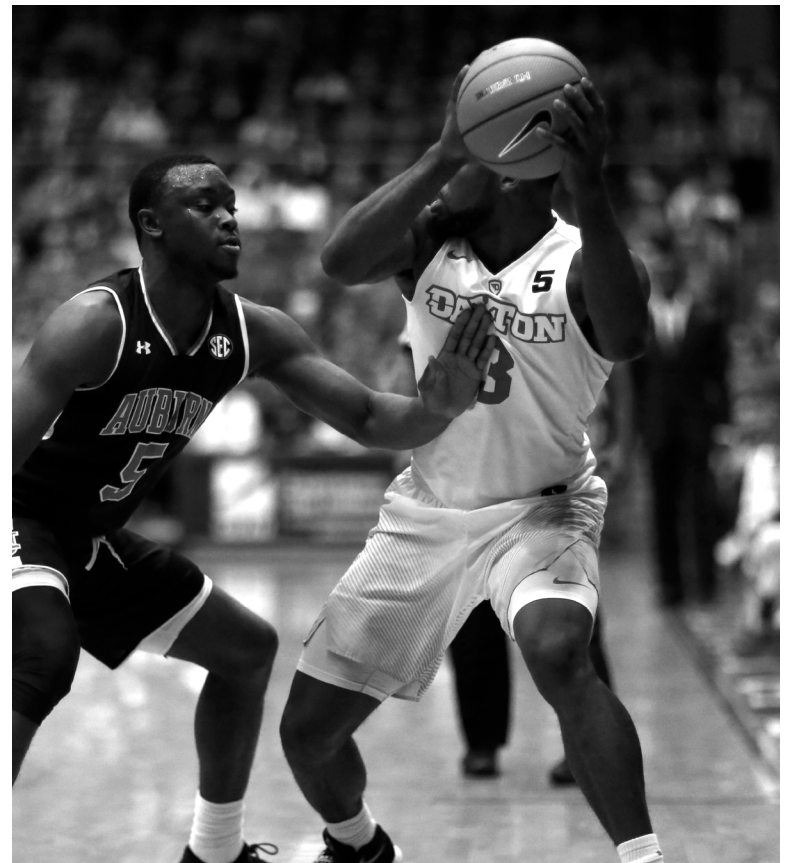
chance to win basketball games."

The game as a whole was a series of unfortunate events. In conjunction with poor shooting and turnovers, redshirt freshman Kostas Antetokounmpo sat out most of the first half after recording two early fouls, and untimely, charge calls against the Flyers' limited their ability to shift the game's momentum.

Their focus moving forward will be getting back to their game plan and playing to their strengths: rebounds and scoring in transition.

"That's the game for us," said Grant when asked about the importance of playing in transition. "I think we're really good in transition and want to play in it as much as possible. From a defensive standpoint, we have to develop some consistency. When we were able to get some defensive stops and get in transition, we had our best offensive success."

By maintaining consistency on both ends of the ball, the Flyers hope to put themselves in the best situation to win basketball games as the season progresses.



Auburn held the Flyers' offense in check right from the get-go. After two early fouls on Kostas Antetokounmpo, Dayton never got control of the game. Photo by Griffin Quinn/Staff Photographer



Above: Redshirt freshman Kostas Antetokounmpo slams home a dunk against Auburn. He was limited by foul trouble to 21 minutes in that game. Photo by Griffin Quinn/Staff Photographer

Top right: Forward Josh Cunningham scored a season-low six points against Auburn, stifled by the Tigers' defense all night. Griffin Quinn/Staff Photographer

Bottom right: Members of the Red Scare eagerly await tip-off of the 2017-18 Dayton basketball season. The Flyers defeated Ball State in the season opener. Joe Miller/Staff Photographer



MEN'S SOCCER

Losing star power, men's squad looks within



STEVE BOLTRI
Staff Writer

A solid season ended in disappointment for the Dayton men's soccer team Nov. 4 when they lost to Fordham 3-2 at Baujan Field in a heartbreaking late-game defeat in the quarterfinals of the Atlantic 10 tournament.

The Flyers finished 6-2 in the A-10, tied with 18 points for second place, but were unlucky to be seeded fourth due to tiebreakers. Eighteen points won Saint Louis sole possession of first place in the A-10 last year. The competition level in the A-10 has markedly increased over the past couple years, and with Dayton losing at least a half dozen impactful seniors, and maybe more if players decide not to use their fifth year, next season will be a real test for the younger players on the team.

"The A-10 was one of the top conferences this year," said Head Coach Dennis Currier. "We had three teams get in [into the NCAA tournament] and the fourth team was on the bubble. It was probably a little unlucky for Rhode Island not getting in. So, the last 13 years being here, I don't know if [the A-10 has] ever been this strong."

With the in-conference competition next year reportedly being some of the toughest in the nation, it will be time for some younger players to take the reins from the well-established graduates like James Haupt, and Nick Hagenkord and Alvaro Navarro if the latter two do not elect to return. Taking those reins, however, will be no easy task.

It's just a fact that highly

skilled, impactful players like Navarro and Haupt are not simply "replaceable."

"You don't replace those guys right away. You gotta get some guys you build up," Currier said. "Alvaro is a special talent. He's a guy that can make a huge difference in a game. It's tough to say if he'll come back. But with the loss, we know we have to do some work and try to do our best to bring in some guys to fill some of their shoes."

No two players are exactly the same, so it makes sense that it can be difficult to fill their shoes, and that's exactly where the best college coaches can shine, figuring out how to adapt when their best players move on and their younger players don't play the same way.

Navarro discussed younger talent filling his shoes, "I think [the coaches] will have to figure out how the new recruits play. Maybe they will have to change the way of playing or their identity. It all depends on the new guys and how they adapt to the team. It's hard."

It is indeed hard, but it's nothing that Currier hasn't experienced before. "It's just part of coaching," Currier stated.

Going into next season, it might be one of the easier transition years that Currier has experienced in his time at Dayton. "Our young guys are very good," said Currier. "Rok [Taneski] had a great season as a sophomore, and then, you got Jonas [Fjeldberg] who turned it on in the second half. And Thor [Helgason] had a good year."

Sophomore Rok Taneski led the Flyers in goals in 2017 with 10, and also contributed seven assists,

which was tied with Navarro for the most on the team. Despite struggling through some injury problems late in the season, sophomore Federico Barrios cemented his role as starting goalkeeper for the second straight season.

Helgason and Fjeldberg were also hugely impactful in their first years with Helgason starting 17 games and scoring eight goals. Fjeldberg started all 19 games of the season, chipping in six assists and tirelessly running the right wing, often dominating that side of the pitch.

It's guys like Taneski, Fjeldberg, and Helgason that are going to have to step up and take on even more important roles next year and beyond. "They're [seniors] gonna leave a big gap in the team, but it's just important for us to step up and do even more than this year," Fjeldberg told Flyer News. "I will try to be more responsible, try to be a bigger part of the team not only on the pitch but also off the pitch."

A great start to filling the gaps left by the seniors is the current young talent on the roster, but Currier is also focused on one other aspect: recruiting. "There's always transition and I think recruiting is gonna be a big piece," he said.

With quite a few roster spots open for next season, there is room to bring in a lot of talent. On paper, the Flyers should have enough raw talent to do well in the A-10, but their potential success will be riding on the team's ability to adapt its style to compliment its best players, rather than by trying to directly replace its past stars.



Top: 11 graduating players were honored for UD men's soccer's senior night. Right top: Thor Helgason (left) and Jonas Fjeldberg (right) were regular starters and offensive catalysts this year for the Flyers. As sophomores next year, they will bring back some of the most experience on offense on the team. Right bottom: Thor (Iceland), Ben Leba (Ghana) and Nick Hagenkord (USA) embrace in an elegant display of international diplomacy not often seen in America since January. Photos by Steve Miller/Sports Editor

FOOTBALL

From walk-ons to winners: Roommates reflect on journey

CONNOR HANSON
Staff Writer

During halftime of Dayton's 36-17 win over Marist Nov. 4, wide receiver Matt Tunnacliffe's career came to fulfillment. The sophomore walk-on-turned senior starter was honored with the Lt. Andy Zulli Memorial Award.

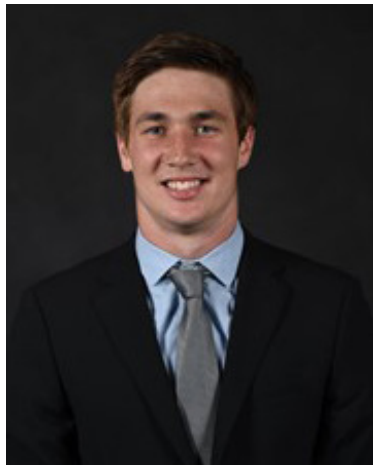
The Andy Zulli Award is considered Dayton football's most prestigious award, and "is given to a senior who best exemplifies the qualities of Zulli, a former UD football player who was killed in a military vehicle accident while serving in the Army in Germany shortly after his graduation in 1954. Zulli's qualities of sportsmanship, scholarship and leadership that were so exceptional that this award was created in his memory shortly after his death," according to Dayton Athletics.

In a class with 20 seniors, most of whom were recruited by Head Coach, Rick Chamberlin, Tunnacliffe stood out the most, exemplifying the qualities above and catching the eye of the coaching staff and the players around him.

"Here is a young man that came into a program where he wasn't recruited, was just added to a team, didn't know many people on the team, but he fit in very well," Chamberlin said in an interview with Flyer News.

"His personality, his character, you could tell he would've been a player that we would've recruited had he been a guy on our list in high school. He fit in very well first of all, he was a typical Dayton football player, and then what he exemplified was his passion for football, for the classroom and for leadership. Some of our expectations here is that he grows in leadership and can take charge, and that's what Tunna has done. Here you go from a guy who was just added to the team in September to a guy that they're looking up to, I mean other players, not just receivers, but also other position players looking up to him for the example that he is leading here on our football program. So, that's where I think he really exemplifies what a Dayton football player is really about."

However, Tunnacliffe wasn't the only sophomore walk-on that year that would end up turning into an impactful player for the Flyers, Tunnacliffe and running back Najm Babatunbe, walked on to Dayton's



Matthew Tunnacliffe (left) and Najm Babatunbe (right) have grown up on Dayton Football together, from walk-ons to senior leaders. Photos courtesy of Dayton Athletics Communications

football team together as sophomores and have been friends since their freshman year. They sat down with Flyer News recently to reflect on their journey together from walk-ons to leaders.

"We first met during our floor meetings, during our little 'ice breaker sessions' you know, typical freshmen stuff," Najm said.

The two of them never really had any intent on playing football at UD, especially Tunnacliffe as he tried walking onto the baseball team prior to trying out for football. However, the pair got together second semester and started to put together a plan to walk-on to football their sophomore year.

"When Tuna brought it up, I kind of realized I was missing the competition itself too, and I kind of just hopped on board and was like 'why not?'" Najm said.

So, after their freshmen year ended, they set their sights on walking-onto the football team coming into sophomore year. As you can probably imagine, walking-onto the football team can also be slightly nerve-wracking due to the physical demands of the sport.

Najm unfortunately fell victim to his nerves after his bench press attempt on his first day.

"Yeah, I got a little nervous," Najm said whilst laughing. "The first day I did not do nearly as well as I wanted to do, I threw up 225, and I could do way more than 225 at that point. I actually did a full workout on the bench before I even started. It was really dumb."

Najm was able to overcome his bench press woes and made the team,

but things did not slow down after that—they actually sped up.

"Those first few days are rough because you don't know what's going on," Najm said. "Everybody's going through camp, so you're just running like a chicken with its head chopped off from end zone to end zone, trying to find where to go."

Tunnacliffe related to Najm's struggle, especially with getting to know all the coaches and players.

"One time when I was trying to throw [center] Shane Toub the ball, so he could hike it to [quarterback Alex] Jeske, and I didn't know who he was, and I yelled 'Hey 5 9, 5 9' to get his attention," Tunnacliffe said. "And that's when Coach [Eric] Evans ripped me a new one because I didn't know his name."

However, after a couple of days and weeks on the team, things settled down and the two of them began learning their roughly 100 new teammates.

"It was definitely easy to build relationships with the freshmen because you're going through the whole phase of being on the scout team together with coaches yelling at you when you read the card wrong," Najm said. "Then, the lifting in the mornings and especially the running, the running was where everyone bonds with everybody suffering together. In the later years you really get to know everybody better, especially come spring ball. Spring ball is when you really get to know some of the older guys on the team."

Now, two years removed from their first year on the team both of them have had ample time to get to know their fellow classmates as they



Matt Tunnacliffe, winner of this year's Zulli Award, caught two touchdowns for 219 yards over his nine games this season. Photos by Griffin Quinn/Staff Photographer

spend most of their waking moments with the football team.

"I think the guys on the team have been really good about wanting to get to know you or being nice to you," Tunnacliffe said. "Even with the walk-ons the years after us, I feel like the guys on the team were pretty cool about getting to know you and showing some interest and not just putting you off. So, I think it was pretty easy to build a relationship with the guys and to get to know them."

With three years on the team and now three years of memories to live on, some of their favorite moments have been a result of traveling to away games.

"When we travel every Friday night before we go to bed, we get ice cream, which is always good and is kind of childish," Najm said. "We then get to do some type of icebreaker for the first-time travelers where we just kind of get to hang out, and guys on the team get to know guys who are who are traveling for the first time ever. They're always kind of funny, most of the team gets along pretty well to be honest."

Not only are those memories important to them, but also their

team, as they were looked up to as leaders during their senior year, even if at one point they were only walk-ons. Their experience serves as wisdom for those below them.

"It's been weird, because at one point we were walk-ons and at the bottom of the totem pole and now we're seniors. I think that's kind of crazy. Just to think about from the time we've been here for three years has put us in a position where guys look up to us, so hopefully we are filling those roles and doing a good job at it. But yeah, it's kind of been an interesting experience, something you don't realize until you take a step back and look at it," Tunnacliffe said.

From then to now, Tunnacliffe and Najm have flipped the script and transformed from want-to-be walk-ons for the Dayton Flyers to bonafide leaders and the Lt. Andy Zulli Memorial Award winner to boot. It has yet to be seen what is in store for these two Flyers as they still have a year of eligibility left, but it is safe to say that they have made a lasting impression on Dayton football and the program has in turn impacted them.