



FLYER NEWS

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FLYER MEDIA SITS DOWN WITH ADMINISTRATION



President Eric Spina and Title IX/Section 504 Coordinator and Equity Compliance Officer, Amy Zavadil sat down with representatives of Flyer Media to discuss issues of sexual violence on campus. Photo courtesy of Flyer Media.

News Editor, Sean Newhouse, provides a list of takeaways from the recent interview with President Spina and Amy Zavadil on **page 4**.

Arts and Entertainment:

STUDENTS SELLING ARTWORK TO AID LOCAL COMMUNITY

Melody Conrad highlights the the upcoming third annual Dinner in the Desert Kitchen: From Borders to Bridges on **page 8**.

Sports:

YINGER RUNS INTO THE RECORD BOOKS

The senior running back accumulated 3,757 rushing yards and 4,468 all-purpose yards during his collegiate career. Learn more about his historic years at UD in a feature by Atticus Hughes on **page 13**.

Opinions:

RESPONSE TO THE END OF UD'S CHINA INSTITUTE

Over 100 students and faculty have signed a letter that stands against the recent decision to terminate UDCI. Read this letter, written by Sean Newhouse, on **page 10**.

DISSECTING OHIO'S NEW ABORTION BILL

Claudia Jackert shares the pitfalls of the fetal heartbeat bill and the threats it poses to the lives of young women on **page 12**.

Junior hosts family's Thanksgiving dinner on campus

GRACE JAMES

Contributing Writer

For most college students, Thanksgiving is a time to go back to their hometown, enjoy the comforts of home and, of course, enjoy a delicious Thanksgiving dinner. For one Flyer, however, she decided to bring Thanksgiving to UD.

Tess Sweeney is a junior human rights major from Albany, NY. Instead of traveling back to New York over the break, she decided to bring her family to Ohio, hosting Thanksgiving in her on-campus house.

This is not the first time Sweeney's family has had an unconventional Thanksgiving. In 2016, Tess' sister Sara, who graduated from Xavier University, hosted Thanksgiving for the whole family in her apartment in Cincinnati.

"She [Sara] gave them

a grand tour of Xavier," Sweeney said. "I wanted to show off Dayton."

Due to the long distance between UD and her hometown, Sweeney's parents hadn't been on campus since July when Sweeney moved in. Thanksgiving was a perfect time to show her family around when the campus was peaceful and quiet.

"I think they definitely understand UD better," Sweeney said.

On the big day, Sweeney's mother cooked a traditional Thanksgiving meal using what was on hand, but not without hitting a few snags along the way.

"College kids don't have the same utensils as parents do," Sweeney said.

Nonetheless, the family made do with what Sweeney had, complete with red solo

cups for their wine. They enjoyed a mixture of foods from Dayton, as well as New York, enjoying the best of both worlds.

The day after Thanksgiving, Sweeney took her parents and sister on a tour of campus using the Link bikes, which are part of Dayton's bike sharing program. Sweeney also commented that the weather was better in Dayton than in Albany, which was a pleasant surprise everyone enjoyed.

"It was so pretty," she said. "Everything lined up perfectly."

Right. Junior Tess Sweeney (left) and her sister Sara tour Dayton following their family's Thanksgiving festivities



UD inducted 10 new members to its Board of Trustees on Oct. 17. Visit flyernews.com for an in depth article featuring short bios of the new members, an explanation of what the board does and interviews with individuals connected to the process for selecting new members.

First Marine injured in Iraq War gives 'Community Means Everyone Week' keynote address



Eric Alva (center), the first Marine injured in the Iraq War who came out in 2007 and advocated for the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell," takes a photo with UD's Gay-Straight Alliance, Spectrum, after his speech. Photo courtesy of Chloe Massie-Costales.

SEAN NEWHOUSE

News Editor

Staff Sergeant Eric Alva ended his speech by showing the audience his prosthetic leg. It has Bluetooth, he said. The Bluetooth connection gives Alva greater control over his leg. For instance, he can set his stride depending on whether he's walking leisurely or climbing stairs.

He lost his right leg due to a land mine three hours after entering Iraq in March 2003. Alva also lost his right index finger and sustained nerve damage in his right hand. While the loss of a finger might seem small compared to the loss of a leg, Alva told the audience he can no longer pinch with his right hand, an action we thoughtlessly perform countless times every hour.

Alva was the first American injured in the Iraq War. In 2007, he publicly came out and advocated against "don't ask, don't tell," a 1993 law banning openly gay individuals from serving in the U.S. military. He stood behind President Barack Obama when he signed its repeal in 2010.

He delivered the keynote speech for "Community Means Everyone Week," an LGBTQ+ Support Services initiative, on Nov. 13 in Sears Auditorium.

"Don't ask, don't tell was a law that forced people to go to work every day, like myself, who were LGBT and lie about who they were," Alva said in

an interview with Flyer News.

He enlisted in the Marines in 1990, before "don't ask, don't tell," when LGBT individuals, open or not, were barred from serving in the military. Alva, who already had come out to some friends in high school, lied when asked about his sexual orientation by the recruiter.

Despite the 1993 law requiring service members not to ask about an individual's sexual orientation, some of Alva's fellow Marines inevitably did. The question was usually preceded by a comment about Alva attending military balls alone or regarding his ownership of the movies "Beaches" and "Terms of Endearment."

Alva said when he would come out, they'd react by either saying they already knew or the disclosure would bring them closer.

"I broke that law [don't ask, don't tell] too many times that I can't even remember," Alva said.

But he noted every service member he told also broke the law by not reporting him. Alva said he believes he wasn't reported because he was "a good Marine."

His decision to come out nationally in 2007 was not made lightly. Prior to doing so, he got the support of his family.

Alva's mother, who was worried when her 5'1", 102-pound 19-year-old son enlisted in the Marines in 1990, was apprehensive about his decision to come out publicly, but she still supported him.

In the interview, Alva said his mother, an elementary school teacher, told him a coworker said, in a way that implied disapproval, she would pray for him. His mother retorted she would pray for her colleague.

Following his public coming out, Alva also said his twin sister called him crying after an internet commenter wrote: "Too bad he didn't get his head blown off with his leg."

"It [coming out] was a sacrifice, but it was a sacrifice on my family's part too," Alva said.

Alva's struggles were not limited to his injury in the Marines or coming out. After 13 years in service, at the age of 34, he went to college. He said going back to school was difficult.

"After you experience the military...the transition is always a little uneasy," Alva said.

As a nontraditional student, he felt anger toward younger students who seemed to "take life for granted" and who, from Alva's perspective, were ambivalent to the fact that the U.S. was fighting two wars.

cont. on pp. 6

FM interviews administration about sexual misconduct



Flyer TV station manager Taylor Alexander (left) and Flyer News online editor Kaitlin Gawkins (right) interviewed President Eric Spina and Title IX/Section 504 Coordinator and Equity Compliance Officer Amy Zavakil about the issue of sexual misconduct on UD's campus

SEAN NEWHOUSE
News Editor

Flyer Media (FM) interviewed President Eric Spina and Title IX/Section 504 Coordinator and Equity Compliance Officer Amy Zavakil to discuss Spina's letter sent in October titled "On My Mind" regarding sexual misconduct on UD's campus.

The interview can be viewed on Flyer News' Facebook page.

Here are a few highlights from the interview:

1. Spina wrote the letter due to an increase in on-campus dialogue about the topic

The university president told FM that he wrote this letter in response to many students who expressed concerns to him about sexual misconduct on campus and how the university handles it. Spina wanted to bring greater attention to the issue.

"This isn't just something that happens elsewhere...it happens here on our campus and is important for all of us to pay attention to," he said.

2. The Title IX/Section 504 Coordinator and Equity Compliance Officer provides resources for victims of misconduct

Zavakil explained that her job entails providing support to anyone who experiences "discrimination, harassment or gender-based misconduct" at UD, as well as promoting educational resources meant to prevent these incidents.

3. Sexual Violence Trends are Reflected at UD

Zavakil explained gathering statistics about sexual violence is difficult because it is underreported. However, in a survey sent to enrolled students last fall, 26 percent of respondents said they experienced sexual misconduct, which ranged from inappropriate touching to sexual assault. Zavakil said this is consistent with national statistics on sexual violence at U.S. college campuses.

4. More students are reporting sexual violence, which is a good thing

The Equity Compliance Officer told FM there has been an increase in students reporting instances of sexual violence. She said this is a promising phenomenon because the university is then able to connect more individuals to the help they need.

"What I've seen in my time here is an increase in individuals who are coming forward to get help," she said.

Zavakil noted the number of instances of sexual violence has remained consistent throughout her career, but the increase in reports is a hopeful sign and is reflective of the changing climate surrounding power-based violence.

5. How will the Education Department's proposed reforms to Title IX affect UD?

Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos officially announced the proposed changes to Title IX after this interview took place. However, the plans were leaked in August.

Zavakil said her office monitors the developments in the proposed federal changes. While her job does involve complying with government rules, she stressed UD still can create policy specific to its campus.

6. How Does One Report Sexual Misconduct?

Zavakil emphasized that victims of sexual assault, domestic and dating violence and stalking have a right to seek medical and mental health support, assistance from the university and the ability to report [or not report] the incident to law enforcement.

Individuals can submit a report themselves at go.udation.edu/nondiscrimination. Zavakil's office also gets reports from RAs, faculty and public safety. As employees of the university, they are required to file a report.

cont. on pp. 6

First Marine injured in Iraq War gives keynote address

cont. from pp. 3

When students would talk over a professor, Alva, who lived an extremely disciplined lifestyle for more than a decade, became even more infuriated.

Today, Alva teaches social work at The University of Texas at San Antonio.

At the end of his speech, Alva – who is Hispanic, Native American, disabled, a veteran, gay and suffers from PTSD – encouraged the audience to not let prejudices impact their perception of others.

"Don't let labels and titles identify someone," he said.

As an example, Alva noted some of his LGBT friends support President Donald Trump.

Alva continues to advocate on behalf of LGBT and veteran causes. He's spoken against Trump's ban on transgender people from serving in the military. Alva also is working to retroactively change the discharge terminology of LGBT individuals who were removed from military service prior to the repeal of "don't

ask, don't tell."

He urged the young people in the audience to support the rights of everyone, even if it doesn't directly affect them, and that we cannot be complacent.

Alva said his decision to come out was grounded in the oath he took to become a Marine, when he swore to treat everyone equally. Through his activism, it's clear he continues to live out that oath to this day.



Eric Alva delivers the keynote speech for 'Community Means Everyone Week.' Photo courtesy of Laura Gentner

FM interviews administration about sexual misconduct

"If we truly respect the dignity of all people, then it's up to all of us to create a campus culture that consistently reflects that, or what we say and feel about ourselves is meaningless." - Eric Spina

cont. from pp. 4

After a report is filed, the Equity Compliance Office sends an email to the student with the rights and resources available to them so that they can make an informed decision about what course of action to take.

If students wish to seek confidential help, they can reach out to the counseling or health center. While those employees will not file a report, they still do provide information regarding victim rights and available resources.

7. A Call to Action

Both Spina and Zavakil highlighted that con-

tinued discussion about this issue is integral to eliminate sexual violence on UD's campus. They also said the way sexual misconduct has been talked about nationally has improved.

"I think we have progressed as a society to talk about sexual violence," Zavakil said "[It's] not about sexual activity; it's about power and control over another human being."

Spina wrote in his October letter that every member of the community must work to combat these occurrences that conflict with the university's values.

"If we truly respect the dignity of all people, then it's up to all of us to create a campus culture that consistently reflects that, or what we say and feel about ourselves is meaningless."

"[Sexual violence is] not about sexual activity; it's about power and control over another human being." - Amy Zavakil

INTERNATIONAL COLUMN: Big Trouble in Little China - A Threat to Hong Kong's Democracy

DOMINIC ORTENZO
International Affairs Columnist

Hong Kong, a south central Chinese city home to 7.4 million people, has been the subject of political conversations for more than one hundred years. The area of the island city and adjacent territories were ceded from China to the United Kingdom in the mid-1800s after the first and second Opium Wars.

By 1898, the United Kingdom leased the land called “New Territories” for 99 years, promising the return of the land to China. In just short of a century, the metropolitan developed a higher-education system, avoided economic downturns and became one of the four Asian Tiger Economies, which were rapidly industrializing nations through the 1950s and 60s. During the Chinese Civil War, Hong Kong even took in refugees despite its already dense population.

After 156 years of British rule, Hong Kong was returned to China in 1997. Because of China’s one-party authoritarian government, many citizens of Hong Kong emigrated, fearing the loss of their civil liberties. An agreement was reached during the Sino-British negotiations to preserve Hong Kong’s civil liberties until 2047.

Hong Kong already was vastly different from the rest of China; the most striking difference being their economies. The key principle of the 1997 agreement was for China to rule Hong Kong under “one country, with two systems.” Hong Kong, which had a free market economy, was given time to transition into a controlled one, rather than jumping directly into it. Hong Kong remains financially independent of mainland China; it even uses a different currency.

Beijing has other plans though. Hong Kong

holds many privileges such as its own judicial and legislative branches and rights including free speech, which is severely limited in the rest of China.

The government in Beijing is compelled to make Hong Kong equal with the rest of China, according to the French publication le Journal International. Beijing fears that differences in autonomy would undoubtedly lead to other Chinese provinces demanding equal rights. Hence, China seeks to strip Hong Kong of its “universal suffrage” by 2047, but the sooner the better.

Since 1997, Hong Kongers have protested against China for their right to elect their own leader. Half of Hong Kong’s legislature is directly elected officials while the other half is chosen by special interest groups, who support the Chinese government. After citizens claimed their right to elect their own leader, the Chinese government said that Hong Kong’s Chief Executive would be chosen from a list of pre-approved candidates. Hong Kongers criticized this as a move into “fake democracy.”

They responded with mass protests. Since a 79 day protest in 2014, political camps in the city have become even more divided. Belief that China is meddling in Hong Kong’s politics has lead to the development of the “umbrella movement,” wherein pro-democracy protesters assemble wielding umbrellas.

As of November 2018, nine prominent members of the pro-democracy movement have been put on trial and were sentenced for committing a “public disturbance” and “public nuisance,” which yielded a seven-year sentence. Though

protestors breached a civil ordinance by failing to notify authorities, the charge for “public nuisance” implies China’s motive to halt Hong Kong’s right to freedom of assembly. Citizens fear the verdict of this trial is the determinant in the city’s future autonomy.

Still, this trial is viewed as proof that Hong Kong cares about its liberties and that the populous will not easily comply with Beijing. But some Hong Kongers believe a lack of leadership in the movement makes the evolution of it appear unlikely, according to Deutsche Welle. Though much of the younger generation in Hong Kong fervently wants their rights, their hope dwindles with time.

If democracy dies in Hong Kong, the civil liberties the city once enjoyed will inevitably be repealed. Freedom of speech will disappear and so will their voting rights.

Twenty years after the “handover,” Hong Kong has been on a noticeable decline, both politically and economically. The complete loss of Hong Kong’s autonomy will benefit China, but the place it held in the world economy will be gone. According to the South China Morning Post, in 1997, Hong Kong’s GDP represented around 18 percent of China’s GDP; as of 2017, it represented three percent. Hong Kong still contributes a GDP equivalent to most developed nations, but after the dissolution of its autonomy, the economy is expected to further minimize.

The dynamic enterprise it once had, benefiting other nations around the world, could be gone in less than 40 years.

“Though much of the younger generation in Hong Kong fervently wants their rights, their hope dwindles with time.” - Dominic Ortenzo



Hong Kong, denoted by the circle, has experienced strife with Beijing over its political and economic autonomy.

Pelosi's speakership brings mixed reaction from College Democrats

Thomas Pedrotti, president of UD College Democrats, gives his thoughts on the likely return of Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) as Speaker of the House.



EMMA KAPP
Contributing Writer

Election season has come and gone, but the work is only beginning for this newly elected Congress.

Because the majority party has shifted in the U.S. House of Representatives, Democrats are now tasked with finding the next Speaker of the House. The speaker is a prominent face in the party, so the decision is not taken lightly.

Following the election, Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) was the clear frontrunner for this position, having served as speaker previously from 2007-2011.

However, a sentiment of reluctance and discontent surrounds Pelosi’s promotion to speaker. Members of the Democrat party do not seem overall excited about her return.

“A lot of it has to do with a desire for new leadership,” said junior political science major Thomas Pedrotti. He also is the president of UD College Democrats. “Congresswoman Pelosi has been leading the House Democrats for a long time, and many are ready to see a fresh, young face take over. A lot of Democrats grew weary of Pelosi’s leadership during the eight years that Republicans dominated in the House.”

Whispers that Rep. Marcia Fudge (D-OH) would challenge Pelosi circulated for several days. However, according to the New York Times, Fudge fully supports Pelosi as speaker.

Sixteen House Democrats also signed a letter opposing Pelosi as speaker, including four incoming freshmen lawmakers. Per a report from The Hill, signatories of the letter do not think Pelosi could provide the “real change in the status quo” they promised their constituents.

House Democrats nominated Pelosi to be the next Speaker of the House on Nov. 28. According to NPR, the House Democrat Caucus vote was 203 for Pelosi, 32 in opposition, three blank ballots and one absent member. The full House of Representatives will vote for speaker on Jan. 3.

Moving forward, Pelosi will have her work cut out for her. She needs to bring a divided Democrat party together and show those who opposed her that she will truly listen to progressives.

Pedrotti offered steps she could

take to prove she is committed to change.

“Giving more leadership roles to the younger, progressive Democrats in Congress would go a long way towards building support for Pelosi as Speaker,” he said. “New voices need to be heard.”

A major criticism of the Democrat party is that it does not have a clear message or unifying theme coming from its leaders. Many feel the party is still collecting itself after Hillary Clinton’s loss in the 2016 presidential election. Pelosi will take a role in getting the party back on track, but it will require help from younger legislators.

“Congresswoman Pelosi is a genius strategist and politician, but she is going to have to listen to new, progressive voices such as Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez in order to better promote Democratic policies of inclusivity and prosperity for all,” Pedrotti suggested.

The Speaker of the House also is primarily responsible for setting the agenda of issues to be covered during the congressional session. During her previous term as speaker, Pelosi pushed heavily for environmental laws. Pedrotti expects to see a similar trend in this next term.

“I truly hope that Democrats will use their control of the House to push for environmentalist policies and protections for everyday Americans,” he said. “I also think Democrats will attempt to address the way that immigrants and asylum seekers are treated, especially at the southern border.”

Pedrotti pointed out that Democrat leadership will most likely open several investigations related to President Donald Trump’s executive actions. He reasons these will take place in order to “check President Trump’s power and hold him accountable to the American people.”

The next congressional session is crucial for the Democrats.

“Democrats need experienced leadership in order to navigate the difficult waters of controlling one half of one branch of government,” Pedrotti said. “Pelosi led House Democrats to victory in November, and I am confident that she will to continue fighting for progressive values across the country.”

Graphic courtesy of Olivia Pettigrew

Students promote Gem City fundraiser to support food insecurity

MELODY CONRAD
Assistant A&E Editor

Food insecurity and issues of immigration will come together Dec. 7 at the third annual Dinner in the Desert Kitchen: From Borders to Bridges event where students sell artwork through a silent auction and shed light on local needs.

The fundraiser, hosted in part by Glenna Jennings's Art and Social Practice course, will raise money to support the creation of Gem City Market, a co-op business focused on providing wholesome, healthy groceries to Dayton residents in need.

The grocery store, according to its website, will attend to the grocery needs of the people of Dayton.

As Dayton is an area in a food crisis, the store would offer "affordable, quality, kitchen staples including well-stocked fresh produce and meat departments, as well as specialty, local and organic products that make the store a unique draw."

The website further shared that the Gem City Market would be located at Salem Avenue, an area chosen because of its low access to food and large enough population to offer a sufficient number of consumers for a lasting business.

Through the co-op, students and local businesses- specifically Hall Hunger Initiative, Welcome Dayton, and Latinos Unidos- have come together to address the divisiveness in America through the common theme of food.

The co-op hopes to bring in more members, both through businesses and the average person, and incorporate them into the decision-making process. Members will own a small piece of the market and hold a personal investment in it.

Gem City Market, as a member-owned co-op, will require a membership card similar to Costco.



The Gem City Market has been in the making since 2015. There are current plans to break ground in the Spring of 2019. Photo courtesy of Dayton Daily News.

ever, instead of charging every year, the Market will have a one-time cost of \$100. This funding will go directly back into the business, and will allow Gem City Market to offer discounted memberships at \$10 to those in need.

At the fundraiser, those in attendance will have the option to become a member and buy community shares.

Gem City Market has been in the making since 2015, and the fundraiser will help make that a reality as it promotes various issues facing Dayton.



Students and local businesses have come together to address the divisiveness in America through the common theme of food.

"We aim to break down barriers as we raise awareness of both food justice and immigration alongside our community partners," according to a fundraiser flier.

Artwork from students is one of their major contribution to the event that will support Gem City, and a number of them are selling their photography to benefit the cause.

Student artists Allison Burns, Emily Busch, Elli Capellupo, Grace Elliott, Maia George, Katie Gross, Alison Hiatt, Lydia Kladitis, Maggie Lessel, Wenshan Lu, Andrew Lynch, Jillian Parker, Al-

lison Perry, Sophie Wilson and Taylor Wilson plan to sell their pieces at the event in a silent auction. All of the proceeds will directly benefit the market.

Beyond artwork, however, students will also be distributing a magazine that features articles about issues of food insecurity, what a co-op is, and noting local businesses owned by immigrants in the Dayton region.

It is the hope that people will become more informed about the issue of immigration and food insecurity and consider



"We see food as a means through which we can connect and find compassion."

While admission is free, attendees are encouraged to bring a non-perishable item such as a canned good to the event. In exchange, they will receive a small, editioned print from one of the student artists as a thank-you while supplies last.

Also offered at the event will be locally supplied refreshments of international flavor. It is the hope that the food based in non-American culture will help to foster the conversation of immigration in America.

Every year, Dinner in the Desert seeks to combat food injustice. At their third annual event, the group's primary focus was immigration and its ties to food injustice, but they previously looked primarily at food injustice the first year and water the second year.

"We see food as a means through which we can connect and find compassion," according to the Dinner in the Desert flier.

The event will be located at Index, a University of Dayton Project Space. The address is 1001 E. 2nd St., Building 100 in door B-C, which can be found on the second floor. It will take place from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., and free parking will be located at Front Street Warehouse Spaces.



"Every year, Dinner in the Desert seeks to combat food injustice."

Photos courtesy of Katie Gross

UD PRESENTS FIRST DEPARTMENTAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

GRACE JAMES
Contributing Writer

On Dec. 1 at 3 p.m., the University of Dayton Department of Music presented its Christmas concert, which featured choral and instrumental performances from student ensembles.

Mary Miller, freshman music education major, was excited to celebrate the Christmas season through music. She plays flute in Symphonic Wind Ensemble and Flute Ensemble, bass guitar in Jazz Combo, and is a soprano in the Choral Union.

"I am most looking forward to the end of the concert sing-along," she said. "I really love Christmas and getting to spread the Christmas cheer to everyone through music

is heartwarming."

Alex Reynolds, a senior psychology major and alto in the Choral Union, was excited to collaborate with the other ensembles.

"I'm looking forward to making music with my fellow ensemble members and the UD community," she said.

The concert is under the leadership of Julia Randel, the department chair. The concert will explore several themes and feature pieces from many different cultures.

World Music Choir, led by Sharon Gratto, will perform a song in the Huron language,

which is a language of several nations of the Iroquois Confederacy. The piece is a Huron carol, which is very popular in Canada and has a connection to Native American peoples.

"I love teaching the music we sing in its historical and cultural context and sharing new information about the world through music with students, many of whom have had limited experience with cultures other than their own," Gratto said.

Two other vocal ensembles that participated in the concert were University Chorale and Choral Union, both of which are led by Steven Hankle. University Chorale is predominately music majors, but non-majors can participate as well.

"[Chorale] works really hard; they're very responsive," Hankle said.

Choral union is an all-women ensemble that is open to everyone. For Hankle, building musicianship and developing trust and independence have been key aspects of the rehearsal process.

"I like the growth we've had from where we started to where we are now," Hankle said.

Marie Pece, a freshman discover arts major and alto in the Choral Union, appreciates the friendship and camaraderie of the group.

"It's nice to be part of a group of women who are so passionate about music," Pece said. "Getting to see all our hard work paying off and seeing everyone grow as musicians and singers is really special."

In addition to vocal ensembles, many instrumental groups performed as well, including University Orchestra, Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble, Dayton Jazz Ensemble, Javanese Gamelan, and more. Patrick Reynolds, director of Symphonic Wind Ensemble and University Orchestra, wanted to add diversity and a theme of inclusivity to the pieces for his ensembles.

"University orchestra is performing a work by Brian Balmages titled 'A Solitary Wish,' touching on themes of homelessness in the holidays," he said. "It is a beautiful and thoughtful work."

The concert took place the Dayton Masonic Temple, 525 W. Riverview Ave. in Dayton, and was free and open to the public.

Photos Courtesy of Christian Cubacub



Maz Jobrani brings a comedic end to Fall Speaker Series

EMILY BATTAGLIA
Contributing Writer

Walking into the West ballroom of Kennedy Union on Nov. 14, I didn't quite know what I was in for. While I was expecting the typical presentation of a UD guest speaker, I was in shock when the lights went out and the energy in the room elevated to that of a Las Vegas casino.

It was at that moment Maz Jobrani took the stage in full force, greeted already by an enormous round of applause. After all, he is no stranger to performance.

His variety of accomplishments include acting as the founding member of The Axis of Evil Comedy group, having three Showtime comedy

specials, and acting as a regular panelist on NPR's Wait Wait...Don't Tell Me.

Born in Iran, Jobrani's Iranian-American heritage was a large part of his performance; as a vast amount of his comedy referenced life with immigrant parents, frustration with the American accent, and humorous tales of his transition to the U.S. as a young student.

I found myself laughing uncontrollably at Jobrani's politically charged jokes and judging by the size of the crowd in the ballroom that night, many were already devoted Jobrani fans.

Practically every seat was full, with many people standing along the wall; further attesting to Jobrani's comedic talent and ability to put on an excellent show.

Next semester UD's Speaker Series continues with...

Beverly Daniel Tatum, Annual MLK Commemorative Speaker on Jan. 22 at 7 p.m.

Another major contributor to Jobrani's excellent performance was his energy on stage. While some stand-up comedians stand firm on stage with the occasional back-and-forth pacing, Jobrani skipped, juggled, jumped and paraded across stage with as much energy as a young gazelle.

This made him more interesting to watch, and despite the seating options being less than ideal, this discomfort was easily forgotten as I found myself extremely engaged in Jobrani's performance.

Most importantly, I enjoyed the uniqueness of this speaker series event, and hope the speaker series committee will consider inviting more guests who bring a similar element of humor and entertainment as Jobrani did.



Photos courtesy of Kristin Davis

"I do not like broccoli. And I haven't liked it since I was a little kid and my mother made me eat it. And I'm President of the United States, and I'm not going to eat any more broccoli."

-George H.W. Bush

Letter signed by over 150 students and faculty urges UD not to close the China Institute

SEAN NEWHOUSE
News Editor

Dear Dr. Paul H. Benson (Provost and Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs),

As former participants of the UD China Institute (UDCI), we are extremely disappointed by the university's decision to end academic programs at the institute after the upcoming semester.

Even more so, we are angered that, as far as we know, none of us – students who attended the China Institute – were consulted during the decision-making process about the discontinuation of

academic programs at the center. This is compounded by the fact that most of us first heard about the closure from a local news article.

It is not an exaggeration when we write that attending the UD China Institute was life-changing for all of us. By participating in a semester-long or weeks-long program, we, American students, built relationships with our Chinese counterparts. At a time when our respective governments are experiencing increased political and economic tensions, it's inspiring to know that young people can maintain global friendships.

By ceasing academic programs at the

China Institute, UD is removing itself from countless opportunities based in Suzhou (where UDCI is located), which the BBC called a "city of the future."

We understand the concerns about recruiting faculty to teach at UDCI, persuading students to study abroad in China and allocating university resources to other important initiatives. However, there has been record-breaking enrollment for the China Institute this year. Moreover, reducing the university's premier international center conflicts with UD's recent widely-publicized commitment to promote diversity and inclusivity.

While many other study abroad options

exist at UD, the China Institute was more financially-accessible. Unlike other programs that charge significant fees, UDCI cost the same as a student's semester tuition and came with a scholarship that paid for additional educational trips and excursions.

We are asking you to reconsider your decision or, at the very least, be willing to discuss with some of us about what the China Institute can offer in the future.

View the letter's signatures and Dr. Paul Benson's response to the letter at flyernews.com.



Pictures courtesy of udayton.edu

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What to expect from the 116th Congress?

President of UD College Republicans reflects on the coming years

JOHN GOMEZ
Contributing Writer

"Elections have consequences." Considering the abnormally high voter turnout in the 2018 Midterm Elections, voters seemed to clearly understand this point. After the occasionally hyperbolic and bombastic rhetoric of this Election cycle, the focus of the nation is shifting to expectations for the incoming Congress. While expecting the unexpected has become the rule, not the exception, for politics in the last few years there are at least few things that the nation can expect from the Republican Senate and Democrat House.

Criminal Justice Reform

On November 14th, President Trump announced his support for a bipartisan criminal justice reform. The bill, titled the First Step Act, is touted as a major overhaul of the criminal justice system. Pundits and politicians on both sides have long called for an update of the American criminal justice system. A great deal of work on criminal justice reform has quietly been taking place over the last two years with Kim Kardashian and her husband Kanye West both taking trips to the White House to lobby the President. The proposal, which has already passed the House, is currently stalled in the Senate. If the bill does not pass the Senate before the end of this session of Congress, it is very likely to be reintroduced in the next session of Congress. The passage of this bill would offer a rare moment of bipartisan agreement on a major issue in Washington.



Plenty of Judges

Unfortunately, criminal justice reform may end up being one of the few areas which Republicans and Democrats come to an agreement on in D.C over the next two years. The confirmation of federal judges by the Republican held Senate has been one of the biggest achievements of the Trump Presidency and with an expanded count in the Senate, expect Majority Leader Senator Mitch McConnell (R-Ky) to push more judges

through. Democrats will obviously object and attempt to stall the confirmations but will likely not find a great deal of success in defeating them. With the expanded number of Republicans in the Senate, moderate Republican Senators such as Susan Collins (R-ME) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) will see their power dwindle from the previous session of the Senate.



Investigations

Now that Democrats have control of the House of Representatives, they have the power to launch investigations and issue subpoenas. Listening to Democrats, they clearly intend to use that power. Expect numerous investigations of the Trump Administration and members of the President's Cabinet from the Democrat-controlled House Judiciary Committee.

Auditions for 2020 Democratic Nomination

Now that the 2020 Election is coming up, expect to see a great deal of dramatic political stunts from potential contenders for the Democratic Party's nomination in 2020. Look to Democratic Senators Elizabeth Warren (MA), Kamala Harris (CA),



Sherrod Brown (OH), and Corey Booker (NJ) to have some dramatic moments that give them national attention. All four are considered likely to run for the Democratic nomination to take on President Trump in 2020 and have an incentive to build up a national profile for themselves especially when they know there is little chance for legislative wins. Despite the national hope that the Senate works together to solve national issues, as the saying goes, you can't take the politics out of politics.

Impeachment?

While the topic of impeachment will be floated by Democrats in the House of Representatives, it remains unlikely that the President is impeached. Too many new Democratic Representatives are from close districts that can easily flip back to Republican control if they decide to take the radical move of impeaching the President without a clear crime or reason. The factor which would change all of this, of course, is the outcome of Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation. If the Special Counsel's investigation turns up damning allegation against the President, one can reasonably expect Democrats to try to impeach the President. They would face a very uphill battle in the Senate and as we saw with the impeach of President Clinton, voters may not react in the way that Democrats expect.



These predictions, of course, are based on things we know now. As I stated in the introduction, in this day and age, we have to expect the unexpected. It is quite possible that there is a whole new set of issues which present themselves to this new Congress. It's possible that Congress is tasked with approving a peace treaty with North Korea, must confirm a new Supreme Court Justice, or must deal with a new crisis. What we do know for sure is that the next two years will be quite the spectacle and highly consequential.

"What we do know for sure is that the next two years will be quite the spectacle and highly consequential."

How Ohio abortion bill hurts vulnerable women

CLAUDIA JACKERT
Contributing Writer

Recently the state of Ohio passed a fetal heart-beat bill, which criminalizes abortion around six weeks, realistically before many women know they are even pregnant. It sends an explicit message to women of reproductive age in Ohio and in states like Ohio: You are not responsible enough to make decisions about your body and your future, therefore we will make them for you.

It tells women that their reproductive capacities eclipse their status as independent human beings, and that it is the job of the state to act as a steward for independent adults.

These TRAP laws (Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers) create significant barriers to care for women who are the least equipped to deal with the repercussions of an unplanned pregnancy, in addition to undermining the autonomy of half the population.

As a person of reproductive age, the climate being created around abortion is unsettling at the very least. In Ohio, and states like Ohio, legislatures are drafting legislation to limit access to abortion, largely to poorer women who don't have the resources to travel or miss work to obtain the procedure. As an upper middle class white femme, at a university largely populated by other upper middle class white women, this ban or subsequent limitations of the right probably would not drastically affect my life or my peers if I were to choose to obtain an abortion.

Many students here have access to cars, money in the case of an emergency, health insurance to obtain birth control, and not have to contend with the threat of unplanned pregnancy. To get an abortion within the first six week's of a pregnancy for a woman with fewer resources would require



Following the heartbeat bill and legislation like it, an abortion will be harder to get in Ohio, but this will not change the fact that there always have been and will continue to be women who decide to terminate their pregnancy.

By making abortion a more expensive and time consuming procedure, legislators are pushing younger and poorer pregnant women to obtain abortions through far less safe avenues, and this is inhumane. Planned Parenthoods across the state offer more limited services due to legislation targeting abortion providers.

A young woman in Dayton for example, would not be able to get an intrauterine device implanted at this location simply because they do not have the resources to provide this method of birth control. She would have to go to a Planned Parenthood in Cincinnati, Columbus, or Indianapolis to obtain an IUD. This would require half a day off of work at least, money for gas and a copay or the procedure itself if she is uninsured, and someone to accompany her to the clinic itself.

These factors complicate an otherwise straight forward task for women less able to accommodate these complications. The fact that

coordination of work schedules, making or borrowing several hundred dollars for the procedure, arrangement of childcare for existing children, all concerns most students would not have to consider.

Abortion is not an easy choice for anyone and to create these practical hurdles

complicates it further. This bill undoubtedly places an undue burden upon women trying to make a difficult decision and undermines the right of women to make serious choices about their reproductive future.

“This bill undoubtedly places an undue burden upon women trying to make a difficult decision and undermines the right of women to make serious choices about their reproductive future.”

Photo courtesy of Wiki

I was able to obtain birth control because I was fortunate enough to be born in a city where reproductive healthcare was relatively inexpensive and accessible explains the overt injustice of TRAP laws.

It's hard to explain to those who cannot empathize with this problem why TRAP laws are cruel, but I would caution the Ohio state legislature and those supportive of the bill and others like it to consider how hard choosing abortion is for a woman in this position. It is by no means a choice made lightly, and abortion and reproductive rights ought to be protected, if only to ensure an equality of access to basic reproductive care for every woman regardless of her background.

Football Yinger caps off career as Dayton's new all-time leading rusher

ATTICUS HUGHES
Contributing Writer

There are a plethora of words redshirt senior Tucker Yinger's coaches use to describe him: focused, hardworking, intelligent and consistent, just to name a few. These adjectives are on display in all that Tucker does both on and off the football field.

The consistency and focus were what shined the brightest throughout his career in the Dayton Flyer football program. In this past season, Yinger's consistency and hard work was

rewarded with a few lofty accolades. Yinger surpassed former running back Connor Kascor for the career rushing yards record in his final game this season, capping off his career with 3,757 rushing yards along with 4,468 all-purpose yards (also a new record).

Yinger's illustrious career could also be seen through his appearances on the PFL first team offense, being a repeat winner as he earned those honors in his junior and senior year, with this year being one of four unanimous decisions.

Yinger's accomplishments couldn't



Tucker Yinger has led the Flyer backfield for the past four years after taking over in Connor Kascor's absence. Photo courtesy of Griffin Quinn.

be contained to just the football field; he also received PFL Scholar Athlete of the Year to go along with two previous Academic All-American selections, all while boasting a 3.8 GPA as a mechanical engineer.

Yinger began his career at Dayton as a back up to the previous all-time leading rusher Kascor as a redshirt freshman. After Kascor went down early in the season, Yinger assumed the starting role and never looked back.

Head coach Rick Chamberlin could talk all day about the kind of person Yinger has been for the program, but what he stressed the most was the attitude Yinger brought to everything he does, stating that, "his focus is to just do his job, he gives it all he has, and he is a competitor."

For Chamberlin, it was no surprise that Yinger would eventually break the records that he has.

"After his first year playing, I said to myself that (rushing) record may not stand very long," Chamberlin said.

This foresight that Chamberlin has shown is yet another testament to the player that Yinger has been for Dayton, showing consistency and improvement throughout his four years playing.

Chamberlin wasn't the only coach to have praises for Yinger's on and off the field accomplishments. Running back coach Mark Ewald spoke very highly of Yinger in reference to his dedication and focus he puts into what he does, mentioning yet again the work ethic and focus that he displays, "Most players hit a wall eventually (in terms of development) but Tucker never did that, he was continually improving, and that is a testament to his work ethic," Ewald said.

Ewald believed there was more to Yinger's impact than what showed on the field. Rather than focusing on accolades and accomplishments, Ewald mentions times when Yinger would give up practice reps to younger backs, and in doing so, build continuity throughout the running back core, allowing the team to grow as a whole.

Yinger's approach to the accolades he has received has been unbelievably humble, he credited the records he has broken to those around him, including players and coaches. Even the praise Ewald showed for Yinger goes both ways.

"Coach Ewald was a very good motivational guy and did a lot for me," Yinger said. "He stressed character, being a good person, having a strong

work ethic, doing everything to the best of your abilities and having fun with it. Whatever happens along the way happens."

Yinger had praise for his teammates as well.

"When you're out there with not only your teammates, but your best friends, it makes you want to play that much harder and do that much better," Yinger said.

When asked about the moment he broke the all-time rushing record, he responded with, "it was pretty anticlimactic, it happened right in the middle of the drive, but I didn't really notice at all. It was kind of funny," Yinger said.

This fits in perfectly with Yingers demeanor as Ewald previously described him as a "humble and unassuming kid."

Yinger's career will be remembered for the accolades and accomplishments that he has earned through his five years here; however, Yinger will also be known for truly embodying what it means to be a Dayton Flyer both on and off the field and bringing a new meaning to what it means to be a student-athlete at the University of Dayton.

Women's Basketball Flyers choosing the road less traveled in non-conference play

ETHAN SWIERCZEWSKI
Contributing Writer

It seems as though there are two prevailing ideologies among NCAA Division I basketball programs in terms of non-conference scheduling. One route is to play against teams of a lesser skillset and talent level, bolstering the team's win total and in theory, player-confidence. The second ideology is to schedule games against talented teams, teams that are as good if not better than your own team on paper.

The first philosophy all but guarantees wins. The second philosophy heightens the risk of losses. So why would any team take the second route?

Two words: battle-tested. The schedule, as of late, for the Dayton women's basketball team has been anything but a cakewalk; a top-10 team in No. 9 Maryland, a top-20 team

in No. 18 South Carolina and a stingy Green Bay team on its homecourt. Losses in each of these games dropped the team's record to a daunting 2-4.

Yes, these are losses on paper. But the learning opportunities these games provide are unmatched.

"It's just not an easy stretch," head coach Shauna Green said. "You have to go to Green Bay, which is an extremely tough place to play... go to South Carolina, ranked in the top-20. We had our opportunities to beat [South Carolina]. We played 35 minutes of really good basketball...it just didn't go our way."

The Flyers did in fact take the Gamecocks down to the wire; Dayton was trailing 53-51 headed into the 4th quarter but was outscored 12-4 in those final 10 minutes. The game was proof that the Flyers can hang with some of the best teams in the country when they play their best basketball. These tough road games will only sharpen the

play of an already talented team.

"We're doing these hard road games all with a purpose," Green said. "It's all in preparation so we're ready for the A-10 when we have to go to Fordham, to Duquesne, to [George Washington]...hopefully we continue to learn, continue to get better and the ball will bounce our way."

When conference play begins on Jan. 5, a battle-tested Flyers' squad will be ready to take what they have learned from their non-conference schedule and use it to their advantage in the A-10.

"Maryland and South Carolina are similar because they're super athletic and long," Green said. "They're bigger across the board than any team in the A-10...so when we get into [conference play] and we go up against presses or [teams] that are bigger, we have that experience to draw back on."

In an A-10 conference that features the likes of a veteran-heavy Duquesne

squad and reigning conference tournament champion George Washington, the Flyers will need all the experience they can get in order to be competitive this season. Their growth from their loss at Maryland and periods of success against South Carolina are extremely valuable to this effect.

"We want to win, don't get me wrong," Green said. "We want some of these tough losses to be wins. But it's a long year...the most important thing to us is playing well in the A-10, so we can get a good seed in the conference tournament and be in a position to win it. All of these games are just experiences; whether you win or lose, they're learning experiences."

At 2-4, the Flyers are taking their lumps it seems early on in the season. But the adversity they face now will only aid them in their pursuit of another regular season conference championship, a conference

tournament championship and yet another at-large bid to the NCAA tournament.



Lauren Cannatelli pulling up for a three-pointer. Photo courtesy of Griffin Quinn.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL A-10 champs down VCU in gritty fashion, finish season in Illinois

ALEX LANDMAN
Contributing Writer

If you watched the tape of the Dayton Flyers women's volleyball team in their championship match against VCU in the Atlantic-10 Tournament, then you would see the players on the bench rush onto the court, then run back to the bench and repeat. The Flyers, who have lost to VCU in every contest in which the two teams met this season, were looking for revenge.

On Nov. 25, the Flyers defeated their self-dubbed A-10 rivals 3-2 to secure the A-10 championship and earn an automatic berth into the 2018 NCAA Tournament. This was the team's twelfth tournament title and the program's fourth in the last five years.

To make it to the championship, the second-seeded Flyers had to defeat the third-seeded La Salle Explorers, whom they lost to twice during the regular season, both at home and on the road. In postseason Flyer fashion, the team defeated La Salle in a four-set semifinal match.

As they prepared to enter the final versus VCU, the team's motto was to, "play fearless."

"We were very prepared going into the match and honestly at that point, we had nothing to lose," senior defensive specialist Margo Wolf said. "We were like 'let's go out there, play as hard as we can.' We had a great game plan, our coaches scouted well, and I think the leaders played fearless."

VCU jumped to a quick start when they won the first set 25-18, capturing six of the final seven points in the set. Dayton responded with a 25-15 win in the second, closing out the set with the last five points. The Rams then took the third 25-19 before the Flyers evened the match with a 25-16 fourth set win.

Fortunately, the team was no stranger to fifth set matches against VCU. As they trailed 7-10 in the final frame, their, "play fearless" mantra kicked in, and the Flyers rolled off four straight points to take an 11-10 lead before closing the match with a 15-12 win.

"Honestly, I've rewatched the final play probably 20 times, and it was just surreal," Wolf said. "It didn't really hit until a couple days after. Everything we had worked for, it's all for one moment, one game at the end of the day. To finally realize that our hard work paid off was the greatest



The bench squad mobs their teammates after the final point is played out, giving Dayton their A-10 Tournament win. Emotions were at an all-time high after a five-set dual between their rivals VCU. Photo courtesy of A10 Photographer Brian McWalters.



Teammates get together after their tournament win to celebrate and take photos with their new gear and hardware. This tournament win gave the Flyers their fourth NCAA Tournament birth in the last five years. Photo courtesy of A10 Photographer Brian McWalters.

feeling in the world."

Wolf's teammates and fellow seniors Lauren Bruns and Kendyll Brown shared similar feelings about the final moment.

"I can't even put it into words," Bruns said. "Just knowing that our hard work paid off was huge. I was actually on the bench watching, and every point we would try to score we would go and then we'd come back. But once we finally sealed the deal, it was very rewarding. If you see the video, there's a lot of emotions on everyone's faces just because we've really worked hard for it. and I'm happy we finally did it again."

"[It was] a rush of adrenaline," Brown continued. "If you watch the tape, you can see us all rushing off the bench, then running back, then rushing off the bench and running back, then we finally rush the floor.

It was just a really amazing moment, and it's one I'll probably treasure forever."

Bruns recorded a match-high 19 kills and was named the A-10 Tournament's Most Outstanding Player. She was joined on the All-Tournament Team by her teammates Brown and sophomore Brooke Westbeld.

Although their work ethic does not go unnoticed and proves itself time and time again on the court, Bruns insists that it is the bond the team shares that is the key to their success.

"We put in a lot of work, and our freshmen, sophomores and everyone just bought in this year, and I think we were an awesome team," Bruns said. "We've been awesome teammates to one another and care about each other, and I think that's what set it

apart. Our team chemistry this year is unlike any other."

The Flyers traveled to Champaign, Illinois to take on Louisville in the first round of the NCAA Tournament, which was hosted by third-seeded Illinois. On Friday Nov. 30, the team dropped a 3-0 decision to Louisville (25-21, 25-23, 25-21). The loss marked the end of the season and for Brown, Bruns, and Wolf, the end of their careers.

Against Louisville, sophomore Brooke Westbeld posted 16 assists and 13 digs, her fourteenth double-double of the season. Freshman Maura Collins was another key contributor with a career high three service aces.

Dayton ended their season 23-8 overall and hit many important milestones throughout, including head coach Tim Horsmon's 250th

career win, which was hit on Friday, Sept. 28 against Davidson.

With preparations already underway for next season, the Flyers have added two new faces to the 2019 roster. Joining the Flyer family next fall are Grace Dynda and Livie Sandt. Dynda is a 5-11 outside hitter from Perrysburg, Ohio, and Sandt is a 5-10 setter from St. Louis.

Despite the excitement of incoming young talent, the team will take a hit in graduating Brown, Bruns and Wolf. As their careers have come to a close, they all agree on one thing. "It's definitely bittersweet," Bruns said. "It's been an amazing four years, and I wouldn't have wanted to spend my college experience anywhere else but UD."

"This has been the best four years of my life," Wolf said.

MEN'S BASKETBALL Coach Anthony Grant's second year is off to an interesting start

MICHAEL CROUCHLEY
Contributing Writer

We all know it happened and it gets brought up far too much, but I'll go ahead and say it again - Dayton's men's basketball is coming off a very disappointing 2017-18 season. The Flyers only managed 14 wins on the season. The following offseason saw several rotation players graduate or leave Dayton for new opportunities.

However, last year was head coach Anthony Grant's first year steering the ship at UD, and this year's team is very different.

"We're much more of a together team," junior guard Trey Landers said. "Off the court, we love being around each other. I feel like being more together off the court can only help us on the court. We've just been building up chemistry, and it's starting to show."

Dayton's schedule thus far has been very fractured to say the least. The first three games were against teams far inferior to the Flyers, and UD proved just that. Dayton took home three relatively easy wins against North Florida, Coppin State and Purdue Fort Wayne.

The most recent four games have been very different, as Dayton has competed against teams in the upper levels of the college basketball hierarchy.

Dayton played three games in three days at the Battle 4 Atlantis tournament in the Bahamas, taking on Butler, No. 4 Virginia, and Oklahoma. Dayton took down the Butler Bulldogs in the first game of the tournament, handing them a loss that remains their only of the season.

The next two games couldn't quite live up to scratch. Dayton showed that they could hang with some of the top teams in the country but ultimately struggled close games out, losing 66-59 to No. 4 Virginia and then 65-54 to Oklahoma the following day.

"We feel like we didn't get the results we wanted in the Bahamas going 1-2," Grant said. "We certainly felt like we got better and that's the thing that we need to continue to do."

Friday night's game against No. 25 Mississippi St. was in front of a sold out crowd at UD arena, but the Flyers painted a similar picture on the court.



Trey Landers gets the crowd hyped after a pivotal moment in the Mississippi State game. Landers went on to finish the game with four points, two assists and seven rebounds. Photo courtesy of Griffin Quinn.

Despite leading by as much 10, and holding a seven point lead very late in the second half, Dayton let a 20 point lead slip to eight in the game against North Florida.

"We still are learning a lot about who we are and what we need to do to become the best version of ourselves," Grant said.

It's pretty clear that Dayton has a bit of growing to do, but we can't set the expectations too high. I

traces of these issues earlier in the season, when Dayton let a 20 point lead slip to eight in the game against North Florida.

"We still are learning a lot about who we are and what we need to do to become the best version of ourselves," Grant said.

It's pretty clear that Dayton has a bit of growing to do, but we can't set the expectations too high. I

think it's clear to anyone with eyes that UD is vastly improved from last season. The 2017-18 Flyers were only 3-4 at this point, having gone against greatly inferior competition.

The new additions to the team have already showed the value they can provide. Redshirt freshman Obi Toppin is dynamo on offense. He throws down mostorous dunks

after dunks, but he also has the skill to hit outside jumpshots, forcing his defenders to be constantly thinking. His 11 points per game is good for third best on the team.

Junior guard Jhery Matos, a transfer from Monroe college, has been more important than anybody would've thought coming into the season. Matos has struggled to find his shooting stroke early, but he has been the teams best defensive player. His absence due to injury was quite possibly one of the reasons the Flyers lost to Mississippi St.

"He's been one of our best defensive players for sure, and we definitely missed him," redshirt junior forward Ryan Mikesell said.

Sophomore point guard Jalen Crutcher has been a revelation early this season, showing significant growth over just one off-season.

Crutcher has been a true maestro at the point guard spot, scoring 13.1 points per game and dishing out a team high 5.9 assists per game. He's been doing it in style as well, showing off fancy ball handling and clutch three-point shooting. His play has been drawing a lot of comparisons to another recent Dayton point guard...

"It doesn't bother me, it's cool," Crutcher said in regards to people comparing him to Scoochie Smith. He went on to confirm that he is indeed better looking than Smith.

So yes, there's a lot that could be improved upon for the Flyers this season. Some problems, like the extremely short rotation, could eventually come back to haunt Dayton. But this is a young team, and while it doesn't show on the record, the Flyers have proved how good they can be.

"We've played against some really good teams, and we've fought," Toppin said. "We can compete for a national championship."

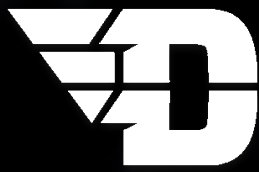
Dayton has games this week against University of Detroit Mercy on Tuesday, Dec. 4 and University of Auburn on Saturday Dec. 8, with Auburn currently sitting as the No. 8 team in the nation. Those games will be home and away respectively.

To stay up to date on all things Flyer basketball, be sure to follow our twitter account, @FlyerNewsSports and check out our website daily at flyernews.com!



Jalen Crutcher drives against his defender in the Mississippi State game. He would go on to finish that game with 11 points and seven assists. Photo courtesy of Griffin Quinn.

MEN'S BASKETBALL



MEN'S BASKETBALL: *BY THE NUMBERS*

Record: 4-3 (0-0)

Points Per Game: 69.3

FG Percentage: 47.3%

3PT Percentage: 30.2%

FT Percentage: 64.5%

Rebounds Per Game: 34.6

Assists Per Game: 14.3

Scoring Leaders:

- 1) Josh Cunningham, 13.8 PPG
- 2) Jalen Crutcher, 13.1 PPG
- 3) Obi Toppin, 11.0 PPG
- 4) Ryan Mikesell, 9.7 PPG
- 5) Jordan Davis, 9.0 PPG

Rebound Leader:

Trey Landers, 7.1 RPG

Assist Leader:

Jalen Crutcher, 5.9 APG

Upcoming Games:

Dec. 4 vs. Detroit Mercy

Dec. 8 @ Auburn

Dec. 16 vs. Tulsa*

Dec. 19 vs. Western Michigan

Dec. 22 vs. Presbyterian

Dec. 29 vs. Georgia Southern

* = game to be played in
Uncasville, Connecticut

For more on how the Flyers are
faring in Anthony Grant's second
year as Head Coach, read
Michael Crouchley's story on
page 15.