



FLYER NEWS

The University of Dayton Student Run Newspaper Since 1956

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FLYER ENTERPRISES LOOKS TO RECOVER FROM 2018 DEFICIT



Flyer Enterprises has continued to grow as a staple of UD's campus and has helped many business students gain valuable, hands-on experiences, but it has taken a hit financially.. Photo courtesy of Christian Cubacub.

*After suffering a \$143,382 loss last year, leaders of the fourth largest student-run business are actively making changes. Learn more on **page 3**.*

NEWS: *Spring Break and St. Patrick's Day: what you need to know on **page 2**.*

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT: *Artist Spotlight: Natalie Stanziano on **page 9**.*

OPINIONS: *Editor remembers influential poet, Mary Oliver on **page 11**.*

SPORTS: *Men's Basketball has early success in A10: more on **page 15**.*

University delays spring break return time due to St. Patrick's Day

SEAN NEWHOUSE

News Editor

University officials told Flyer News in a statement that the 3 p.m. return time from spring break on March 17 (St. Patrick's Day) is due to the events that transpired last year on St. Patrick's Day.

This year's week-long spring break begins on March 8 at 6 p.m. and ends on Sunday, March 17.

Usually, students are permitted to return to campus at 8 a.m. on the last Sunday of break. The rules for spring break emailed to students on Jan. 15, however, do not allow most students to return to campus until 3 p.m. on March 17.

University officials said the later return time is due to last year's St. Patrick's Day, which resulted in the arrests of four UD students and the hospitalization of one after large crowds had to be broken up by riot police on Lowes Street.

"Because of the dangerous situation that happened on St. Patrick's Day last year, the University felt moving the move-in time to 3 p.m. would create a safer environment for our returning students and their families."

The news that most students are blocked from being on campus for the majority of St. Patrick's Day elicited a strong reaction on social media.

When Flyer News tweeted our initial article reporting the spring break rules, it received more replies, all of them disagreeing with the university's decision, than any of our articles this year.

Student Government Association (SGA) President Bryan Borodkin sent an email to university officials relaying student concerns about spring break, such as how the 3 p.m. return time will impact their travel plans.

Certain students will be able to apply to stay on campus during spring break. This includes those who live more than 400 miles from campus, students participating in a co-op or internship, student teachers, student employees with a minimum work commitment of 20 hours and student athletes.

Students who stay, however, may need to relocate, as not all campus housing will remain open. This is not uncommon. Students who stayed on campus during any part of this winter break also may have had to temporarily relocate.

The Jan. 15 email said the university will be "securing all residential spaces during [spring break]." According to university officials, "Students who return to their residences early without approval will be in violation of the student code of conduct."

"Because of the dangerous situation that happened on St. Patrick's Day last year, the University felt moving the move-in time to 3 p.m. would create a safer environment for our returning students and their families." - University Statement to Flyer News

8 facts from 2018 Campus Security and Fire Safety Report

SEAN NEWHOUSE

News Editor

UD annually informs the campus community of its crime and fire statistics in the Campus Security and Fire Safety Report to comply with federal law. The 2018 report includes statistics gathered from 2015 to 2017. Here are eight things we learned from it:

1. There were 14 burglaries reported in 2017. This is down from 2016 when 44 burglaries were reported.

2. Twelve on campus rapes were reported in 2017, and seven occurred in residential facilities. Residential facilities are defined as "crimes reported to have occurred in residence halls, apartments, and houses in the reasonably contiguous geographic area, that are owned or controlled by the institution."

In 2016, 16 on campus rapes were reported, 11 being in residential facilities. However, Title IX/Section 504 Coordinator and Equity Compliance Officer Amy Zavadil explained in an interview with Flyer Media last semester that gathering statistics about sexual violence is difficult because it is underreported.

3. During 2017, there were three reported instances of fondling (two on campus; one on public property), two for dating violence (both on campus) and three reports of stalking (all on campus).

All streets and sidewalks within the Student Neighborhood are considered public property.

4. There were 42 liquor law arrests in 2017, which represents a three-year low. There were 991 liquor law violations referred for disciplinary action in 2017. This is down from 1,029 disciplinary referrals in 2016.

5. Twenty-two drug law arrests took place at UD in 2017. There were 103 drug law violations referred for disciplinary action, which is the highest statistic from the three years of reported data.

6. There are 31 registered sexual offenders within a one mile radius of UD.

7. Public Safety has a free bicycle registration system "that helps identify ownership of bicycles in the event of a loss." You can register your bicycle at udayton.edu/publicsafety/parking/bicycle_registration.php

8. Also, Public Safety collects used cell phones. These are given to domestic violence victims at Artemis House.

Crimes can be reported to Public Safety. Their number is 937-229-2121

In 2017, there were...

- 14 burglaries

- 12 reported on campus rapes

- 42 liquor law arrests

- 22 drug law arrests

Flyer Enterprises implements changes after tough year



Flyer Enterprises' Heritage Coffeehouse opened in 2017 and has created problems, but also opportunities, for the student-run business. Photo courtesy of Christian Cubacub.

TYLER CRONIN
Contributing Writer

Flyer Enterprises (FE) has added new business units and changed its mission in the past year, altering the future of the nation's fourth largest, entirely student-run business.

A desire to provide more options for customers, create a more fulfilling experience for employees and once again turn a profit are the driving forces behind these changes, according to Vice President of Dining Services and Joint Ventures Jack Talaga, a senior finance and entrepreneurship double major.

The need for change starts with the Heritage Coffee House, which opened in September 2017. Despite the opening of Heritage, Flyer Enterprises' coffee divisions suffered a 3.3 percent drop in revenue when measured against the previous year, which nearly erased the 3.8 percent revenue gain that the coffee division experienced in the 2016-17 fiscal year.

"Some of the coffee customer loss is due to changes in where our customers went," Talaga said. "Some of the customers of Heritage went there instead of the Blend or Blend Express. In addition, some customers started going to Au Bon Pain."

The Blend and Blend Express are Flyer Enterprise coffee shops, while Au Bon Pain is a University of Dayton-owned coffee and pastry shop. In addition, Flyer Enterprises' Chief Financial Officer, senior finance major Kyle Ransom, said that Heritage was forced to spend \$73,539 on one-time equipment and renovation expenses related to the opening of the new division.

Ransom said the drop in coffee revenue and simultaneous increase in expenses was the main rea-

son why the organization suffered a \$143,382 loss last year. This is a significant shift from the past few years, when Flyer Enterprises turned a profit. Going forward, Flyer Enterprises is addressing the issue of product overlap between Heritage and the established Blend and Blend Express divisions, since they are all heavily dependent on coffee and pastry sales.

In order to offer different products than Flyer Enterprises' other divisions, "Heritage is adding 'grab and go' sandwiches and might add breakfast items in the future," Talaga said.

He continued by saying Heritage switched coffee suppliers and now is offering 3-19 brand coffee as opposed to Boston Stoker coffee, which is available at the Blend and Blend Express.

As Heritage continues to grow, the management team is hopeful that these new options will separate it from the other coffee shop divisions.

Flyer Enterprises also is continuing to innovate elsewhere by launching two new businesses in 2019 that will allow for diversification from the organization's food service divisions. Rudy's Runway will sell University of Dayton apparel online, and Flyer Enterprises is currently in the final stages of creating a website for this new venture. Also, FE Digital will be an IT division that provides technological consulting and troubleshooting to businesses throughout the Dayton area.

Flyer Enterprises also is working toward opening a daytime deli in downtown Dayton. Talaga says the plan is to serve workers, as opposed to the normal student client base. This venture currently has no name or opening date, but it will be the first Flyer Enterprises division to exist entire-

ly off-campus.

Talaga is optimistic that these divisions will represent a big step in growing Flyer Enterprises beyond the University of Dayton campus and into the Dayton community.

Beyond the business additions, Flyer Enterprises has eliminated its original mission and vision statements, which touted the size and revenues of the organization. Talaga says that the new mission, "To create a rewarding experience for our employees," is intended to remind students that Flyer Enterprises is focused more on providing employment and leadership opportunities for students than simply trying to grow top-line numbers.

Associate Director of Admission and Financial Aid Heather Barhorst said, "Flyer Enterprises is one of the top things mentioned to potential business school students because of the focus on experiential learning all four years."

Barhorst also said that all of the similar sized student-run businesses are at bigger schools, where a larger group of employees makes it more difficult to have the same opportunities that are available to Flyer Enterprises student workers.

Talaga agreed, saying that "Joining FE is one of the greatest things I've decided to do because I've been able to learn business processes, have leadership opportunities and build a team. It has provided experience that you can't get anywhere else."

Flyer Enterprises will head into the future hoping that these student opportunities continue to grow, with new businesses at the forefront of that growth.

University Archivists call students to engage with campus history

GARRETT REESE
Contributing Writer

A 16th century antiphonary, a 15th century prayer book and three different Papal bulls are all pieces of history available to UD students and faculty to see at the University of Dayton Archives.

In the Archive reading room on the second floor of Albert Emanuel Hall, students can request any item of historical importance to view, to just hold or to research.

"I really enjoy connecting people with information," said Kristina Schulz, the head archivist. "I especially like trying to integrate the special collection into the undergraduate program."

Other items in the Archives' collection include yearbooks dating back to UD's days as St. Mary's Institute for Boys, the original charter that established the university, writings and research from UD faculty, a large collection of musical instruments from around the world donated by a former UD music professor and photographs detailing the growth of the university. These items are only a fraction of the entire university collection.

Providing the public with access to almost everything in the Archives is a key goal, Schulz said. The center often turns down items offered by other university departments if the item won't be readily accessible.

Few items are off limits to students in the Archives. Presidential records from 1968 to the present, financial items that are still being paid and policy items that are in the planning stages by the Board of Trustees are among the few confidential items.

Schulz said she loves to show items like St. Mary's scholastic achievement medals awarded to students in the 19th and early 20th centuries and freshmen beanies from the early 20th century. These beanies were given to every freshman on campus and were meant to make them stand out to the upperclassmen, who often took advantage of them. It wasn't uncommon for an upperclassman to force freshmen to carry the upperclassman's books to class.

One beanie is resting in a display case along with an Etch-A-Sketch that has UD's chapel drawn on it, some photographs of the university throughout its history and various other memorabilia from UD.

Besides these, the Archives also has a wide collection of rare books. Dr. Fred Jenkins, UD's associate dean of Collections and Operations, said he particularly likes a handwritten and illustrated prayer book from the 15th century and a copy of James Joyce's book "Ulysses" with illustrations by Henri Matisse. Not many of these books were published due to a falling out between Joyce and Matisse during the signing process, according to Jenkins.

Holding an item like the illustrated "Ulysses" creates a connection between the one holding it and the history contained in the item, Jenkins said. Dr. David Darrow, a UD history professor specializing in Russian history, agrees that accessing the physical item is key to one forming their own arguments and opinions. Schulz agreed.



A page detail from the 16th century antiphonary. Photo courtesy of Kristina Schulz.

"I think that it's really important for students to look at documents people use for research because they get to form their own opinions," Schulz said. "They're not looking at a secondary source that has digested that information and told them what to think about it. Instead, they're learning how to think critically about things and form their own opinion. It's a universal skill."

That's why Darrow is pushing to get his students more active in researching in the Archives. Darrow, along with other faculty in the history department, started the Arena Project, where seniors find documents related to the UD arena in the Archives during their capstone history class. The project ties in with the arena's 50th anniversary and shows how the building impacted the university and the Dayton community. The seniors' work can be found at daytonarenahistory.org.

Other classes also come through the Archives to work with items housed there. Various music classes sing from the 16th century antiphonary. Some SSC 200 classes conduct research at the Archives on a variety of topics. UD faculty are working to attract more student engagement through the Internet.

Schulz, Jenkins and Darrow agree that physically handling the items and being in the Archives is important, but not many people are coming in. The hope is if this information is compiled on an online database, more people will use the Archives.

"As we digitize more collections, people will see what we have, and they'll want to come in and see the objects," Jenkins said.

On eCommons, UD's open-access institutional repository, students can find files of items housed in the Archives. Photos and a video of the Dayton Flood of 1913, a seminal event in the city of Day-

ton's history, can be found on eCommons, along with a collection of work done by notable alumni such as Congressman Charles W. Whalen, Jr. and local media personality Bette Rogge Morse. According to Schulz, these files are only a few of the large number of items on eCommons. There are around two terabytes of information stored on eCommons, and Schulz said they would like to digitize more.

Schulz, Jenkins and Darrow said they hope people go to the Archives to hold items like the 16th century antiphonary and the 15th century prayer book. They want people to leaf through yearbooks to see how Flyers used to live on campus and want students to know that research can be done in the Archives through an abundance of primary sources. But they worry an online presence may not be enough, so they want to make sure students know there is an option to see the physical items.

"My greatest fear in the digital age is that so much stuff that we use as primary sources like letters just vanish," said Darrow. "How will you write a history of your generation if most of your interactions with each other are online and stuff like 'snapcrap' just disappears instantly? If the past is not preserved, there is no way to challenge the assertions of politicians on what happened and why."

Schulz said UD exists to educate. It's up to the students to find their own way to the University of Dayton Archives.

The University Archive is located on the second floor of Albert Emanuel Hall and is open 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

Rodents in your dorm? Here's what to do

AUDREY ST. CLAIR

Contributing Writer

The University of Dayton has had campus-wide rodent activity this school year due to the living environment in residence halls. But there is a way to prevent them, according to Jay Moran of A-Abel Companies, a Dayton-based home improvement business. Moran has dealt with rodents throughout the campus.

"Rodents thrive in our weather and are capable of adapting to our weather," Moran said. "Rodents are a problem when they gain access inside our structures, where they can live, breed and multiply if not eliminated."

When first sighting mice, it is important to notify the Student Housing Office rather than maintenance or pest control, Moran said.

Residence halls play a big role in attracting pests, due to most buildings having dining halls or kitchens where students make their own food.

"Mice are attracted to food and shelter provided by our living spaces," Moran said. "Constant vigilance [for students] to clean up potential food sources along with caulkins [material used to get rid of rodents] and sealing exterior entry points is an ongoing part of maintaining our structures."

It isn't just food that attracts mice, but also warm living quarters. Moran from A-Abel said the mice can squeeze in through cracks in buildings, especially in colder weather.

RAs in VWK have mentioned the problem of rodents at Community Building Meetings. They told students to be aware of the issue and provided them with information on what to do if they come across the problem. RA Maria Snow said she is aware of the issue, but RAs have not been given any official information regarding mice population.

Neither Moran nor Facilities Management and the Student Housing Office knew the extent of rodent activity in VWK or elsewhere on campus.

Sophomore Ava Thompson was sitting in her common room when a small gray mouse ran out from under the couch.

"I cried and ran to a friend's room," Thompson said. "I finally went to the front desk, then didn't return to my room for six hours."

Thompson filed a work order, and maintenance set traps around the room. After three weeks of not catching anything, they called A-Abel.

"Pest control put poison traps in to make the mice lethargic and made the snap traps more effective," Thompson said. "We ended up catching two and haven't seen any since. Now we just look out for droppings."

Moran stressed that it is possible to prevent mice from becoming a major problem.

"It takes teamwork to eliminate rodent activity," Moran said. "Students need to maintain a

'spill free' zone so the mice are not finding easy food. Pest control needs to supply food in bait stations and traps, and maintenance must work to caulk and seal cracks where the mice enter the structures."

With seasons changing and the temperature dropping, it would not be surprising for students to notice an increase in the rodent population in any part of their residence building.

Graphic created by Olivia Pettigrew.



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Student's guide to Harvard's Greek life ban

BRENDAN ZDUNEK

Contributing Writer

Multiple fraternities and sororities have challenged Harvard University's decision to effectively shut down Greek Life.

To sort out the chaos, observers must understand a number of details. First, there is the minutiae of the actual university policy.

In its official policy statement on "unrecognized single-gender social organizations (USGOs)," Harvard describes these organizations, which include Greek ones, as counter to the university's non-discrimination principles in regards to gender because most Greek organizations are single-sex. Harvard also writes in its statement that Greek life has had a negative impact on campus, especially due to sexual assault allegations among fraternity members.

Consequently, the university announced in May 2016 that starting with the class of 2021 members of USGOs cannot hold leadership positions in other student organizations or athletic teams or obtain letters of recommendation from the Dean of Students for fellowships if the USGOs do not become coed. In May 2017, the president and fellows of the university voted to keep this policy in place and to review its ef-

fectiveness after five years.

The enactment of this policy has incited national backlash. In early December 2018, two national fraternities, Sigma Chi and Sigma Alpha Epsilon, and two national sororities, Kappa Alpha Theta and Kappa Kappa Gamma, sued Harvard University over the 2016 rule in Boston's federal court. Additionally, Alpha Phi, another sorority, filed a separate lawsuit against Harvard in Massachusetts state court. These two cases are the first legal challenges against Harvard's policy, and they both argue the "non-discriminatory" policy actually is sexual discrimination that enflames negative stereotypes about Greek organizations.

Sorority members have said young women need this form of single-gender space and have questioned why they have to follow the same guidelines as fraternities if Harvard views fraternities as the source of the most misbehavior.

Two of the plaintiffs, Sigma Chi and Sigma Alpha Epsilon, have struggled to recruit and have faced financial woes due to the decrease in members. The Harvard chapters of Kappa Alpha Theta and Kappa Kappa Gamma had to disband

and rechristen themselves as co-ed groups.

A number of other fraternities and sororities not involved in either lawsuit have publicly protested Harvard's decisions, including the sorority Sigma Kappa. The national sorority's Twitter page provided a link to standuptoharvard.org.

"Students deserve the right to shape their own leadership and social paths, and such decisions shouldn't be dictated to them by administrators," says the website.

Flyer News reached out to UD's Sigma Kappa for comment, but they declined.

The president of UD's Sigma Nu chapter, Rodger McNaughton, is pleased that Greek life is "fighting back against [Harvard] University."

"The fact that people can't hold leadership positions in other areas is ridiculous," McNaughton said. "Fraternities, at least Sigma Nu, strives to create leaders in today's age by sticking to our core values of love, truth and honor."

The lawsuits are pending and there have been no updates since either was filed; more will likely come in the ensuing months.

Students react to the “Heartbeat bill” veto

GRACE JAMES

Contributing Writer

On Dec. 21, Ohio Gov. John Kasich signed Senate Bill 145 into law, which prohibits a common method of abortion used in the second trimester of pregnancy called dilation and evacuation.

However, Kasich vetoed the “Heartbeat bill,” which would have banned abortions once a fetal heartbeat was detected. He did so under the belief that the bill would go against Supreme Court rulings on abortion.

Bailey Johnson, president of UD’s Feminists United, was pleased the “Heartbeat bill” was not signed into law.

“I am of course grateful that Kasich once again vetoed the heartbeat bill because that bill would be even more dangerous for women’s reproductive rights, as it drastically shortens the window of time in which women may receive a safe and legal abortion,” she said.

In 2016, Kasich similarly vetoed a “Heartbeat bill” but signed into law a ban on abortion after

20 weeks gestation.

On the other hand, president of Flyers for Life, Victoria Karutz, was disappointed in Kasich’s decision.

“In my opinion, Governor Kasich has timidly walked a fine line between wanting to be pro-life and seeking to keep doors open to further a political career,” she said. “His decision may be representative in his desire to run for President, and the false notion that his veto in this bill would improve his chances of winning.”

The Ohio Senate voted to override the veto but fell short by one vote. The override passed through the Ohio House 61-28, but the Senate only received 19 of the 20 votes needed.

There is still a possibility the “Heartbeat bill” could be signed into law with the inauguration of Ohio’s new governor, Mike DeWine. DeWine was sworn in as the 70th governor of Ohio on Jan. 14 at his farm in Cedarville.

“DeWine has been outspoken in his desire

to radically improve the foster care system, he believes in the priceless nature of human life,” Karutz said.

DeWine has previously said he would pass the “Heartbeat bill.” He stated he would do so under legal opinions that Roe v. Wade (the 1973 Supreme Court case that legalized abortion nationally) was incorrectly decided.

“Ohio Republicans want [the ‘Heartbeat bill’] to be sent to the courts to see if Roe v Wade will be eroded or weakened, especially in light of the new justices on the Supreme Court,” said Sarah Kuhns, secretary of Feminists United. “I hope that the courts will continue to uphold the precedent that Roe v Wade provides or there may be a threat to the legitimacy of our third branch of government in addition to the limitation of a woman’s freedom.”

Graphic created by Olivia Pettigrew.

“...the heartbeat bill...would be even more dangerous for women’s reproductive rights, as it drastically shortens the window of time in which women may receive a safe and legal abortion.” - Bailey Johnson, president of Feminists United

“...Gov. Kasich has timidly walked a fine line between wanting to be pro-life and seeking to keep doors open to further a political career....” - Victoria Karutz, president of Flyers for Life

"Mary Poppins Returns"

The surprising sequel to the "practically perfect in every way" classic

LAUREN DURHAM
Contributing Writer

The end of 2018 graced us with an array of highly-anticipated films. Whether you found yourself submerged in the underwater world of Atlantis, humming lyrics about Galileo for days, or seeing never-ending blindfold memes appear in your Instagram feed, it is a safe to say that the film industry engulfed pop culture over winter break.

A particular film has found great success within the past month, bringing a familiar sense of imagination and childlike wonder back to audiences. Disney's Mary Poppins Returns picks up years after the beloved classic that first introduced the world to a talking umbrella, a never-ending carpet bag, and an infamous thirty-four letter word. The original Mary Poppins, which was released in 1964, starred the eloquent Julie Andrews as Mary Poppins and vibrant Dick Van Dyke as Bert.

In the classic, Poppins looks after the Banks children in early twentieth century England with the hope that Mr. Banks may become a more active father. Poppins and Bert take the children, Jane and Michael, on numerous adventures. This film has captivated generations throughout the years with the cheery music, beautiful visuals and nostalgic spirit.

Graphic Courtesy of Olivia Pettigrew

Over fifty years later, Emily Blunt (A Quiet Place, Into the Woods) portrays the iconic role of the mysterious nanny, while Lin-Manuel Miranda (Hamilton) plays a Bert-like character named Jack. Mary Poppins Returns wisely follows a similar plot structure to the original. In the film, Michael Banks, now a widower and father of three, falls into hard times as the world endures The Great Slump of the 1930s. The risk of losing the beloved Cherry Tree Lane home forces Jane, now a determined activist, to help his brother search for their only salvation- a certificate of shares from their late father.

As if by clockwork, Poppins returns in an effort to liven up a glum household.

Recognizing that the young Banks children have grown up in the midst of unfortunate circumstances, she seeks to open their minds to the possibility of the impossible. By taking them to worlds such as an ocean beneath the bathtub, a carnival within their mother's china bowl and an upside-down fix-it shop; audiences start to feel magic creep into the theater at the same time the Banks children watch it enter their daily lives.

The movie concludes the way most might expect. The surprises come, perhaps, within the success of the film itself. Continuing the role that Andrews gave birth to would be no easy task, but Blunt plays Poppins with grace. She intelligently adds her

own unique quirks and characteristics while keeping within the bounds of everyone's favorite nanny from the original.

Miranda brings a melodic, playful essence to the story that leaves audiences engaged (and still wanting to see Hamilton). Special guests appear, including Meryl Streep as an eccentric cousin of Poppins, Colin Firth as an evil banker and Angela Lansbury (better known as Mrs. Potts from Beauty and the Beast) as a balloon lady. The unexpected cameos add to the already vibrant cast.

The soundtrack, an essential part of the movie as a whole, pays homage to the original. However, unlike the storyline, it seems to fall short. While the songs are catchy and capture the perky-British sounds that many know and love, the tunes do not stay in your head the way "Spoonful of Sugar" or "Step In Time" might. Is this simply because they are new and lack the fifty years of airtime? Time will tell.

Overall, the highly-anticipated sequel delivers the characters, plot and joy that one would expect. For those who put the original Mary Poppins on a pedestal at the age of five and have yet to lower it, this movie will not touch the beloved classic. However, Mary Poppins Returns continues the story line in an eloquent, respectable manner.

Photo Courtesy of comingsoon.net



Discover underground Italy in downtown Cincinnati

CASSIDY KYLIN
Contributing Writer

It's not hard to argue that Italian food is one of the most popular cuisines to enjoy. From pasta to Tiramisu there's not much room to be disappointed. Sotto is one of the most authentic Italian restaurants I have experienced.

The restaurant is located underground in downtown Cincinnati—which is fitting because the Sotto means below in Italian—and has an ambiance that is perfect for any special occasion due to their dim lighting and beautiful antique furniture.

The layout of the restaurant is beautiful, but also plays a part in your dining experience. They also have a huge wine cellar in the middle of the restaurant and an open window into the kitchen where you can watch the chef's hand-making the pasta.

While Sotto is known for their abundance of wine, they also have a full bar for those who would prefer something else.

Sotto is a prideful establishment in that their food is nothing short of authentic. They have plenty of choices for appetizers that include a variety of different kinds of Bruschetta, numerous cheese and meat boards, and delicious salads.

The cheese boards alone will blow you away because of the unique and flavorful cheeses, which get paired with local honey as a dipping sauce. Yes, you heard that right, honey with cheese. I, myself, never thought those two items could be paired together but Sotto proved me wrong.

The main courses are nothing short of an Italian experience due to the fresh and savory ingredients. The portions are a bit small, so I would suggest getting a few entrees for your table to share, that way everyone can have a taste of each dish.

Since the pasta is hand-made, you really cannot go wrong with any of the options. Bombolotti All'Amatriciana was one of the first dishes I tried.

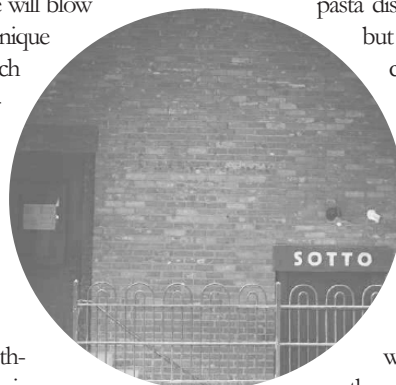
It is a typical marinara-based

pasta dish with short rigatoni noodles, but what sets this dish apart is the chunks of tomato and bits of bacon mixed into the sauce. The bacon and tomato pair extremely well with the handmade noodles.

This dish was outstanding and beautifully made but not my absolute favorite; the Short Rib Cappellacci with shallot, Amish butter, and thyme take the cake for me. This entrée features a ravioli-style pasta stuffed with prime beef covered in a savory butter thyme sauce topped with shaved parmesan.

This melt in your mouth meal will satisfy any Italian food cravings you may have.

The food outstanding, but the service is nothing short of amazing. Each server is equipped to answer any questions you may have about the menu and drinks.



On your first visit, your server will go through all of the possible options and explain what is on the menu because it is all written in Italian. The servers also have endless knowledge on wine and other drinks to help you find the perfect beverage to compliment your evening.

In my experience, the food always comes out in a timely manner with the perfect amount of settling time between courses. Your server will be attentive but not overbearing and will be there when you need them to be.

Overall, Sotto is a hidden gem in the city that will not disappoint. From the romantically humble atmosphere to the delicious food and drinks, this magical underground restaurant is one to hit when you're down in Cincinnati for a date night or celebration of any sort.

Their lunch hours are from 11am-2pm on weekdays and they are open after 5pm every day of the week; their prices can range from 30-60 dollars per person. Sotto is located at 118 E 6th St.

Photos Courtesy of cincinnatirefined.com (top) and cincinnatiusa.com (bottom).

What's the story behind the bird statue on Stonemill?

SEAN NEWHOUSE
News Section Editor

Many undergraduates who live in the South Student Neighborhood pass the intersection of Frericks Way and Stonemill Road on their path to class. This year, those students are greeted daily by a bird made from a hodgepodge of household items.

The statue, which is mounted on the porch of 305 Stonemill Road, has attracted a lot of attention. It has been featured on President Eric Spina's Instagram and has dominated the conversations of many students, and even UD public safety officers, who have tried to figure out what the story is behind the Picassoesque bird statue.

Junior mechanical engineering major Dillon Schimmoeller, who lives in the house, said the perplexing

bird is a family token he wanted to bring on campus.

"I figured... [the bird statue] would be a great thing to bring to college. So I did, and here it is," Schimmoeller said.

The UD junior's grandfather constructed about 15 similarly styled statues after his retirement more than a decade ago. The birds were distributed among family, and Schimmoeller's house ended up with multiple statues. The mechanical engineering major decided to bring one of them to decorate his porch.

Schimmoeller's housemates — juniors Nico de Leon (Operations Management), Paul Nguyen (Mechanical Engineering), Jared Puckett (Computer Engineering), Adam Roman (Communication), Matt Slisko (Computer Engineering) — responded with a collective "yeah" when asked if they



Photo Courtesy of Paul Nguyen.

were surprised at how popular their porch decoration has become.

The avian statue is nicknamed Ethyl, after the organic compound. It (or as Schimmoeller and his housemates would refer to it — "she") has more than 200 followers on Instagram.

Ethyl's social media presence spotlights her posed with sheet signs that always include some kind of bird pun or play on Ethyl's name. For example, the house's entry for the Commitment to Community Sheet Sign Contest read: "Byrds of a feather FLY Together."

The Stonemill bird's Instagram also features photos of her with students, alumni and Schimmoeller's grandparents, Ethyl's creators.

One of Ethyl's Instagram followers, Spina, spurred the feathered statue's popularity in August when he shared a photo of him with it, or rather her. Roman said the university president visited Ethyl when he was touring the student neighborhood at the start of this academic year.

"Next thing we knew, he was walking over to our porch," Roman said. "We took a photo with him and the bird, and he [Spina] nodded his approval."

Public safety officers, who are some of Ethyl's biggest fans, advised the Stonemill residents to secure her with a bicycle lock to ensure no one takes the bird.

Roman said it's possible fellow students may have tried to steal Ethyl. Schim-

moeller has even challenged individuals to take the beloved bird. But they're confident Ethyl is safe and secure on their front porch.

"I'd be surprised if nobody's tried [to steal Ethyl], but I'm not surprised that they have failed," Schimmoeller said.

The housemates said Ethyl loves taking pictures with her fans, who can follow her on Instagram (@ethyl.byrd). They should use the hashtag #ethylsquawk when posting pictures with her.

The six young men also announced "Ethyl-themed" merchandise is coming soon.

With how popular Ethyl has become, some wonder if more homemade statues of animals with misspelled names will begin popping up in the Student Neighborhood. Maybe it'll become a new UD tradition, who knows?

ROSE RUCOBA
Staff Writer

As the allure of the New Year wears off, the Rec will soon become much more quiet and the number of early morning joggers will dwindle.

These facts are a frustrating example of a phenomena that happens nationwide at this time of year—people everywhere begin to realize that their New Year's resolutions are either too unrealistic or that life just gets in the way.

But this isn't new information and it doesn't help those of us out there who are part of this failed-resolutions category or who have yet to be inspired to find a resolution they can follow.

Never fear! Thanks to some hard-core research on Pinterest, I have the solutions you are looking for. But first, some advice—one struggling college student to another.

While making it a goal to exercise everyday or cut carbs every week sounds productive, physically rewarding and self-improving, it's also not very original or realistic for college students.

New Year's resolutions should be about helping your-

A guide to college New Year's resolutions

self physically, emotionally and spiritually. They should also make you feel good about yourself, and getting frustrated for not getting up before your 8 a.m. class to go on a run or self-loathing for eating that extra slice of pizza for lunch is not helping you.

In other words, self-love, not torture, should be at the heart of any year-long goal.

With that in mind, here is a list of three creative and torture-less New Year's resolutions.

The Bullet Journal

To be honest, I never got onboard with the whole bullet journal movement, but my roommate and a whole lot of other people did and, from what I hear, it's an awesome way to organize your mind and life while also being creative.

For those of you like me who didn't get on that bandwagon, a bullet journal is a journal that has a grid of tiny dots (or sometimes is like

graph paper and has squares) for you to literally "connect the dots" to create lists, calendars, schedules or just doodle.

The bullet journal is for all those who are less savvy at writing about life and more about illustrating it.

If using multi-colored fine-

"This year, make self-love and self-care your goal."

tipped Sharpies, list-making and creative organization all sound like fun to you, then check out the blog, Tiny Ray of Sunshine for some starter advice and inspiration.

The Affirmation Jar

As a UD student who has had her fair share of retreat and mission trip experiences through campus ministry, I can tell you that the affirmation jar is a core part of self-love medicine for me.

For those of you new to the idea, affirmation in its dictionary definition is simply

"emotional support or encouragement." It can take the form of compliments, a note of admiration, or just words meant to lift the spirit.

During retreats, it's a common practice for participants to each have a bag or jar for others to put in notes of affirmation.

At the end of the retreat, you get to open your affirmation bag and read everything that people have written about you.

It's a huge boost in self-esteem AND you get to help someone else feel better while also feeling better about yourself!

Affirmation jars are a great semester-long resolution to do with roommates, friends, a club or small community you belong to on campus, but you can also pre-make them for yourself to read.

If giving and receiving love

is something you feel you need this year, check out the website Geek Club Books and look up "The 'You Are' Jar of Positive Affirmations" for more information on how to start.

Read More

Because I'm an English major, I feel obligated to give you this advice, however cliché.

I do, however, realize that not everyone is a reader or has the time.

I, too, often cannot find the time to read during the school year as I have my own texts and books to read for class, which is why short stories and celebrity autobiographies are best friends of mine during the semester.

They are easy to read between classes or right before bed and it's fun to get to know celebrities on paper instead of on-screen. It's more personal and human that way.

Below is a list of short story collections and celebrity autobiographies (and one short story

collection written by a celebrity), all of which fell somewhere on a scale ranging from "good book" to "made me laugh out loud" to "changed my life." Enjoy!

- 1) *The Girl With the Lower Back Tattoo* by Amy Schumer
- 2) *Uncommon Type* by Tom Hanks
- 3) *Scrappy Little Nobody* by Anna Kendrick
- 4) *The Bazzaar of Bad Dreams* by Stephen King
- 5) *Is Everyone Hanging Out Without Me?* by Mindy Kaling
- 6) *Why Not Me?* by Mindy Kaling
- 7) *The Opposite of Loneliness* by Marina Keegan

So there you have it! Three ways to recreate you this year that in no way involve running or sweating or cutting chocolate out of your life.

You're free to take advantage of any of the suggestions I've provided or do your own thing, but whatever you do, do it for you, and not because society or some infomercial or even your roommate tells you.

You do you this year, no matter what it is. And don't think for a minute it's selfish or not productive enough. College is about cramming and finals and becoming an adult, but it's also about learning how to take care of yourself.



CHEY WARD
A&E Section Editor

Graphic design and marketing come together in Junior, Natalie Stanziano's work. Throughout the past three years, she has found an art form that she truly loves, discovered several ways to profit off of her work, and settled into a community of people she respects and admires.

In the past year or two Stanziano has gotten really interested in typography. "It is the study of type, fonts, form, and letter shapes," Stanziano explained. She also has recently started incorporating illustrations into her work.

Stanziano is in charge of all of the branding for The Galley. When she found out that she got the job on St. Patrick's day last year, she was excited to get started on reworking the color palettes and revamping the typography for the brand.

She has also worked with the Marketing and Communications department to design the mailers that the University regularly sends out prospective students. Her favorite project she worked on were the graduation pamphlet covers. "All of my friends with siblings graduating were sending me pictures of their pamphlets and it was so rewarding to see the design finally done," Stanziano said.

A third way that Stanziano's work has impacted UD's campus and culture is through her work with Redbubble.

Artist Spotlight: Natalie Stanziano



Photos Courtesy of Natalie Stanziano.

The popular website is where most of us get the stickers that one sees plastered on almost every square inch of every laptop on campus. Stanziano stumbled into making sticker designs on accident.

"It's definitely not a job, I do it because I love it and I think it's so cool to see people around campus with my stickers," Stanziano said. She first got the idea to submit her work when she realized that the most popular designs were things she could create. It's very possible that UD students have seen her first design, the "Obama mic drop" floating around campus.

Unlike some of her more traditional artistic peers, Stanziano is most comfortable using technology to create her artwork. She has found that she can manipulate her illustrations and typography more easily and overcome her fear of failure through the use of software.

Again, Stanziano takes a step away from the traditional when she is looking for her inspiration. "My graphic design class went on a trip to New York and it was amazing to go to the Met and see true artist's work," Stanziano stated. She enjoys a good Van Gogh or Monet as much as the next person, but has found that the lettering and designs she stumbles across while scrolling through Instagram and Pinterest are more useful to her.

The finer aspects of art are not lost on Stanziano. One of her first loves was film photography, which is a very traditional and tedious way to capture the world around you. While Stanziano has moved away from film, she still has a deep appreciation for the rawness of it. "The process of developing film is so magical," Stanziano hopes that as her final year at UD approaches she will be able to find her way back to film photography.

While some may think that fine arts and graphic design are similar fields, Stanziano knows who she is and where her strengths lie. "I am not a fine artist," Stanziano insisted. She may start a design on paper with calligraphy pens, ink, or watercolor, but she is always inclined to take her drawings to the next level with her iPad or MacBook.

Her marketing background comes into play when she discusses how the two fields can complement each other

and result in a beautiful piece of work that "Pencil and paper are the root of everything, but learning how to add digital elements to traditional works to make them more appealing to the masses is really important." It's about giving everyday people something they want to look at.

The clean lines and perfect color saturation that she is able to achieve through the use of her devices plays into her simplistic style. Because she works for businesses and often produces work for clients, she sometimes has to create designs that don't align with her personal style. However, as she builds her portfolio and feels out who she is as an artist, Stanziano sees herself moving towards a simplistic style with a focus on nature.

Much like her style, the messages that her work portrays are also malleable. This is one aspect of her work that she prides herself on. "Artwork is whatever it is," Stanziano stated. At least, that's what she wants to get across with her body of work. There are so many possibilities when it comes to art, so she doesn't want to box herself in by only being open to a few styles or themes.

Although she has gone through her artistic journey with an open mind, she still struggles with her confidence sometimes. "One of my goals is to be more confident in my skills to portray a message through my designs," Stanziano stated.

It is important for her to reach this goal because she firmly believes that artwork can often be more powerful than words, but it has to be able to be understood to really pack a punch. "Artwork is so easily spread through social media. It can make a huge difference and get people's attention because everyone can talk but not everyone can do what artists do."

When it comes down to it, Stanziano gives her friends a lot of credit for her success. Watching her peers grow and getting feedback from them pushes her to create even when she is overwhelmed. Stanziano states, "I really don't know what I would do without my friends."

To see Stanziano's work in color, visit www.flyernews.com. To keep up with Natalie and her work, follow her on Instagram @natstanz.

Next stop... downtown Dayton

New Flyer Bus offers opportunities for students



LAUREN DURHAM
Contributing Writer

It's a Saturday night. A group of your friends want to explore the Gem City, but all of you don't feel like splitting yet another Uber.

Ohio has finally made up its mind and decided to bless you with a chilly night, and no pair of UGG boots or a North Face winter coat can justify the miles of walking. What are your options?

Thanks to The Flyer, a free RTA shuttle that launched towards the end of the fall semester, University of Dayton students now have the capabilities to discover the city of Dayton as they should.

The daunting concern of finding transportation no longer has to alter your weekend plans. Through a partnership with CareSource and Premier Health, Dayton is opening its doors to college students in hopes of expanding the already vibrant downtown attractions.

As a student without a car, I was eager to utilize The Flyer. My friends and I took full advantage of the shuttle's services prior to Winter break.

Although the blue bus may not look any different than normal public shuttles, the interior is clean and comfortable. After conveniently finding a stop on the corner of Brown Street and E. Stewart Street, we were on our way.

The Flyer took us to W. Monument Street, a mere ten minutes from UD. This stop is best suited for those visiting the RiverScape MetroPark, which was perfect for my friends and I. We were able to visit a swanky new restaurant and go ice skating without difficulties.

After an evening of incredible food, sore ankles, and lots of laughs, we hopped on The Flyer to head back toward campus. We ended our night in a way that all adventures should end - at Cold Stone Creamery on Brown Street. The spontaneous and carefree evening fueled us for the grueling week of finals ahead.

The Flyer is a tremendous asset that all UD Flyers can take advantage of.

I highly recommend giving the shuttle a ride, whether you are attending an interview in the Oregon District, seeing a show at the Schuster, or simply wanting to see where the night takes you.



The Flyer runs from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. Mondays-Fridays and 4 p.m. to midnight on Saturdays. For more information on the specific routes and stops, visit the RTA website.

Photos Courtesy of Lauren Durham and mydaytondailynews.com.

East St. Louis

winter domestic breakout trip

People are more than just statistics...

MADELINE CALHOUN
Contributing Writer

At the University of Dayton, upholding the Marianist tradition of community engagement and service is encouraged throughout student and faculty life, and is evident through the numerous activities and trips Campus Ministry has to offer.

After seeing information on various Winter Domestic Breakout trips and questioning what I would do with my entire month of Christmas break, I signed up for the St. Louis service trip.

A week before classes began, I climbed into a giant UD van with four strangers and a sense of uncertainty for what the following week would hold.

I knew I was in for some surprises. The five of us drove five hours to the St. Louis region, specifically East St. Louis, and it was there I was hit by my first realization.

I, like many people, had heard of East St. Louis but hadn't realized it was a completely different

city, isolated from St. Louis by the Mississippi River.

As our group of UD ladies settled into the Hubbard House, a specific shelter for volunteers to stay in while serving, we learned the harsh reality behind why we would be volunteering in East St. Louis.

What was once an All-American city flourishing with jobs, businesses and popularity is now a poverty-stricken town infamous for its shocking statistics and crime rates.

In the mid-1900s, racially driven migration or the "White-Flight" hit East St. Louis, leaving behind a town struggling to compete with the businesses and growth of surrounding cities becoming increasingly racially segregated.

Now I could rattle off statistics and unfortunate stories that encourage the negative reputation East St. Louis may now have, but those realities are not as impactful as what I experienced there.

After working with Catholic Urban Programs



Photo courtesy of Madeline Calhoun.

and other organizations, I had the privilege of meeting men, women and children who were welcoming and loving to me, a perfect stranger.

We played Candyland with kids in an after-school program, shared a meal with women and children before playing an intense game of Bingo, and helped people find the perfect coat or pair of pants in a newly renovated thrift store.

While it is hard to ignore the reality that two in three kids do not feel safe in their neighborhood, or that 75% of children are raised by single moms, or even that more than one in three individuals experience depression, it is harder to ignore the generosity of the community and volunteers we met.

Each morning we woke up and got straight to work in whatever service site needed us most that day.

From stocking shelves in a food pantry to orga-

nizing donated Christmas gifts, the four girls who were once strangers to me in a UD van became my friends as we served in solidarity with the citizens of East St. Louis.

There were times I wondered if we were genuinely making an impact on the men and women who live and work here full time. However, the wonderful volunteers and residents gave us guidance and instructions to progress the existing work benefitting the East St. Louis community.

Our group from UD had time to reflect each night on what we were seeing and feeling, and we agreed that these people we were meeting were more than a statistic.

These were kids that loved to draw, play games and tease us. These were men and women who worked to provide for their family, generously welcomed us into their community, and made us laugh with random stories. These were loving church ladies that helped us understand what genuine faith was while singing "Silver and Gold" over a delicious meal.

While I don't know when I will be returning to East St. Louis, I know that I will always be welcome. I highly recommend stepping out of your comfort zone and signing up for a service trip with Campus Ministry. If you do, I hope you can meet people that will inspire you the way the people of East St. Louis inspired me.

For more information about how to get involved in future breakout trips, visit Campus Ministry's website at <https://udayton.edu/ministry/index.php>

Mary Oliver, reverence, and attention

MARY MCLOUGHLIN

Opinions Editor

On January 17th, one of my favorite poets, Mary Oliver, died. Since then, posts paying tribute to her and her poems have been scattered throughout my social media feeds usually dominated by world news, partisan politics, and personality quizzes. Spending time remembering her and rereading her words has brought a great deal of peace into a stressful week.

For me, Mary Oliver is an unlikely friend. We share a first name and love of poetry, but little else. Mary Oliver is often considered a romantic poet and much of her work is driven by simple and reverent appreciation of the natural world. In an interview Oliver explained once, “poetry musn’t be fancy.” A friend once described my own poetry as vulgar and abrasive. Driven by convoluted experimentation in punctuation and sometimes militant argument, my own poetry is often far more driven by response than observation.

It took me a while to “get” Mary Oliver’s style of poetry. As a Human Rights major, I usually spend more time thinking about what we are all doing wrong than what we are all doing right. I’ve learned about injustices as big, consuming, and everywhere: systemic racism, colonialism, capitalism, sexism, patriarchy. When approached from this angle, the world often feels like a complicated web of tangled oppressions. And in this media climate, no one has to look too close or too hard for confirmation that the world is doomed.

But Mary Oliver is a poet of looking close and looking hard. One of my favorite poems by Oliver is “Praying.” In it, she writes:

**It doesn’t have to be
the blue iris, it could be
weeds in a vacant lot, or a few
small stones; just
pay attention, then patch**

**a few words together and don’t try
to make them elaborate, this isn’t
a contest but the doorway**

**into thanks, and a silence in which
another voice may speak.**

I once thought it was naive to find grace in small beauties within a world so marked by large-scale evil, but I’ve begun to understand the courage and wisdom in Oliver’s relentless reverence. I used to think that if poetry was going to change the world, it was going to have to get people riled up enough to do something.

While there’s a place for critical and angry art, Oliver’s words and her devotion to this



Photograph courtesy of Mary Malone Cook.

world taught me that moving people to action is not enough—the most important thing any person or poem can do is move another person to love.

While we don’t always make room for gentle love and awe within our attempts at revolution, I am starting to think Oliver’s dedication to ordinary reverence and awe is one of the bravest and most radical choices a person can make. When we (I) approach the world with a combative certainty that there is injustice to be uncovered, confirmation is a guarantee. And this anger and rage hardens us.

It feels safe and comfortable to live in a world where you can set the rules, but Oliver’s work characterizes a willingness to be changed and challenged by amazement. But the bravest part of Oliver’s love for the world is its vulnerability—without the hardness of anger, Oliver let the world move and soften her, and in return, both her and the world bend. Oliver did not wait for a world that is worth loving; the love she poured into the most ordinary of things *makes* the world worthy.

In one of her final works, *Our World*, Oliver grapples the death of her spouse, Molly Malone Cook, a renowned photographer. Oliver remembers watching her partner work and realizing “Attention without feeling, I began to learn, is only a report. An openness — an empathy — was necessary if the attention was to matter.”

As she wrote, Oliver spent a year re-exploring and sitting with her partner’s photographs. She concludes, “The end of life has its own nature, also worth our attention. I don’t say this without reckoning in the sorrow, the worry, the many diminishments. But surely it is then that a person’s character shines or glooms.”

Though we no longer have Oliver among, her words continue to create a space for us to share within her world. As we walk through our days with our gaze fixed forward, she walks beside us, points to the things we miss, reminds us to listen, teaches us how.

When I woke up this morning, I knew I had to write an opinions piece, but I couldn’t decide which qualm with the world I wanted to raise. As I drank my coffee, I scrolled through Twitter to look for ideas, and, as always, there were a lot of available atrocities to comment on.

But this morning, there was also a fresh sheet of snow on the ground. So for this issue, I put aside righteous anger (not forever) and took advice from Oliver’s poem “Sometimes:”

Instructions for living a life:

**Pay attention.
Be astonished.
Tell about it.**

**“
Sometimes I need
only to stand
wherever I am
to be blessed.
”**

– Mary Oliver | Evidence: Poems

The Future of Our Church:

Students reimagine relationships with the Church

ROSE DYAR AND ELLIE RIZZO
Contributing Writers

The signs of the times must not only be read, but responded to if change is to occur. In his inaugural address, President Spina issued his vision for the University of Dayton to become known as the University for the Common Good. In order to embody that name, to realize our identity, action must be taken where wrong is seen.

In August, a grand jury report out of Pennsylvania shocked both religious and secular groups. The report, which documented a consistent and covert sex abuse crisis in Pennsylvania dioceses, caused a crisis of faith for many Catholics all over the world.

Many were left to wonder: what does this mean for me and how do I respond? Some have ignored it. Others have explored other faith traditions in the wake of the scandal. And some have stopped practicing organized religion altogether.

While it is important not to dismiss the biases of the report itself, the contents were shocking, and somewhat paralyzing to American Catholics as well as those throughout the world. Here at the University of Dayton, and across most universities, it is no secret that sex abuse is likewise a prevalent issue. As Catholics, as college students, and as friends of those affected, we were left with a good deal of questions.

How could the place which I go to encounter Christ most fully exploit, abuse, and disgrace our faith-based relationships so severely? How does this pertain to our current position on a Catholic, Marianist campus?

Inspired by Mary's first "yes", which brought Christ into the world, we knew that ignoring the ramifications of the report or acquiescing to desensitization of the grave violations of trust did not present themselves as options in the face of this horror.

Sensing that our faith, and ultimately, our identity were at stake, we decided to act in the only ways we know how: by talking and listening and sharing stories. If we are to be church for one another, we must model love, peace, and joy as Christ embodies them.



Photo courtesy of udayton.edu.

"It is, after all, our church, and therefore we must not abandon it in its time of need, but rather take up the gauntlet and responsibility to respond to the current time, to protect the vulnerable, and to catalyze change."

We must be willing to come face to face with pain, acknowledge it, do our best to heal it, and prevent it from happening again. We are young people in an old church, and we resolve to take up our roles in its growth and development.

In order to discern an appropriate and productive response to the crisis, we looked to our campus community for guidance and expertise. We spoke with experts on power-based personal violence like Kristen Altenau Keen, to priests like Fr. Jim Fitz, religious scholars like Dr. Sandra Yocum, and campus ministers like Crystal Sullivan and Colleen Brown.

From these conversations, we heard comments like "canon law needs to change" and "God meant for each person, lay or religion to have leadership roles". We reck-

oned with several of the painful and deep roots that allowed this great evil to occur, drawing on writings about clericalism, power dynamics, and our own experiences as lay or religious within or outside of the church. These conversations exposed a need for further dialogue, a need for more voices to be heard.

As we discussed what a response might look like, bishops, lay people, and the Pope prepared for the Synod on Young People. This gathering of cardinals, youth, and other Catholics convened in October 2018 to discuss young Catholics' experiences of the Church.

We decided that we needed our own synod, one that elevated the voice of young, lay people within our own community. We were especially excited to gather a large group of lay people, whose voices so often go

unheard in official Church capacities.

The questions we had about power, leadership, and ultimately, developing a relationship with God only led us to developing more questions. We needed a wider perspective, to struggle through ideas with others, to come together in a communion of solidarity. Thus, *our* Synod of Young People: Hope for the Future of *Our* Church was born.

On a Sunday afternoon in late October, students from across campus gathered to engage in an open and candid discussion about the scandal, the power structures within the Church, and how we as lay, young people, encounter the Church in our life. It is, after all, our church, and therefore we must not abandon it in its time of need, but rather take up the gauntlet and responsibility to respond to the current time, to protect the vulnerable, and to catalyze change.

Through it all, we have come to know that this is exhausting work. It takes sacrifice of time and energy; it takes an emotional toll to be invested in this. Encountering these stories and acknowledging the sins within our institution is deeply painful and personal. However, we have also come to know that there is an infectious energy that exists in the collaboration we created.

Sitting in a room of our peers, discussing radical and complex ideas from every voice present, and knowing that we have a role in the advancement of our church and our campus community enables us to continue on this journey of faith put to action. Our work has not stopped here.

We will continue to share the main points of discussion at our Synod as they emerged from the voices of those gathered, many of which surprised us, and all of which are relevant to the Church as it seeks to remain an effective vessel of God's liberatory love today.

Please look forward to additional details regarding our Synod of Young People: Hope for the Future of Our Church in articles to come.

"Encountering these stories and acknowledging the sins within our institution is deeply painful and personal. However, we have also come to know that there is an infectious energy that exists in the collaboration we created."

SOFTBALL

LaPlaca returns with eyes set on continuing success

CONNOR HANSON
Sports Editor

Head coach Cara LaPlaca has slowly been leaving her mark on the softball culture here as she is in her twelfth season with eight consecutive years with at least 20 wins and two seasons over the 30 win mark. With multiple trips to the Atlantic 10 Championship and the programs first regular season championship in 2015, this team has stayed hungry as they continuously eye to improve off each season.

They graduated a strong senior class that featured pitching ace Manda Cash, standout infielders Rebekkah Potter and Kailee Budicin and outfielder Jaclyn Kweder. But after a strong fall season, where their experience and team chemistry grew, they are left with a good feeling heading into spring play in less than a month.

“One of the things is that we

want our young women to be really well-rounded. So, the fact that

they killed it in the classroom [in the fall] is really... we’re really proud of that,” LaPlaca said in regards to her thoughts on the fall season. “Athletically, we just want to build a strong culture and a strong chemistry. And that’s something that we have had a good foundation with, but this team has taken it to the next level. Our leaders have done a tremendous job developing a vision for their teammates and just owning what our team motto [win the day] and goals have been.”

One of their senior leaders, catcher Kyle Davidson has seen the same thing that LaPlaca talked about, noting a similar feeling to past fall seasons but with a higher intensity. Davidson was named to the A-10 First Team All-Conference and All-Conference Tournament team last year and was even selected to the NFCA

Mid-Atlantic All-Region team after starting all 56 games for the Flyers. She was also named to the A-10 Commissioner’s Honor Roll, capping off the “well-rounded” role that LaPlaca hopes all her athletes can achieve.

“I’ve been trying to make really good relationships with my teammates and work on team chemistry a little bit more [during the fall season],” Davidson said. “I think that our team is really special this year in that aspect.”

And with a long season, and one that starts off primarily on the road, team chemistry and that newfound intensity will be needed to sustain them throughout the spring. They begin their season on Feb. 7 as they head into the Charleston Southern Tournament. One of five non-conference tournaments that they will partake in this season. And then, come March 23, they will have their first opportunity to host a game of their own as



Davidson led the team in batting average (.351), hits (61), doubles (19) and stolen bases (17) last year for the Flyers. Photo courtesy of Leon Chuck.

George Mason takes the trip to Dayton for their first Atlantic-10 showdown of the year.

April will be a big month for the Flyers this year, as they face off against A-10 Tournament champion, Fordham in New York on April 6 & 7, and then they host the regular season A-10 champion, University of Massachusetts almost two weeks

later on April 19 & 20.

“I’m most excited to play with everyone and be with my best friends... it’s cliché... but they totally are, we spend every single day together. I think just that and the success that I think we can achieve this year is really exciting.”

BASEBALL

Young group looks to make immediate impact this season

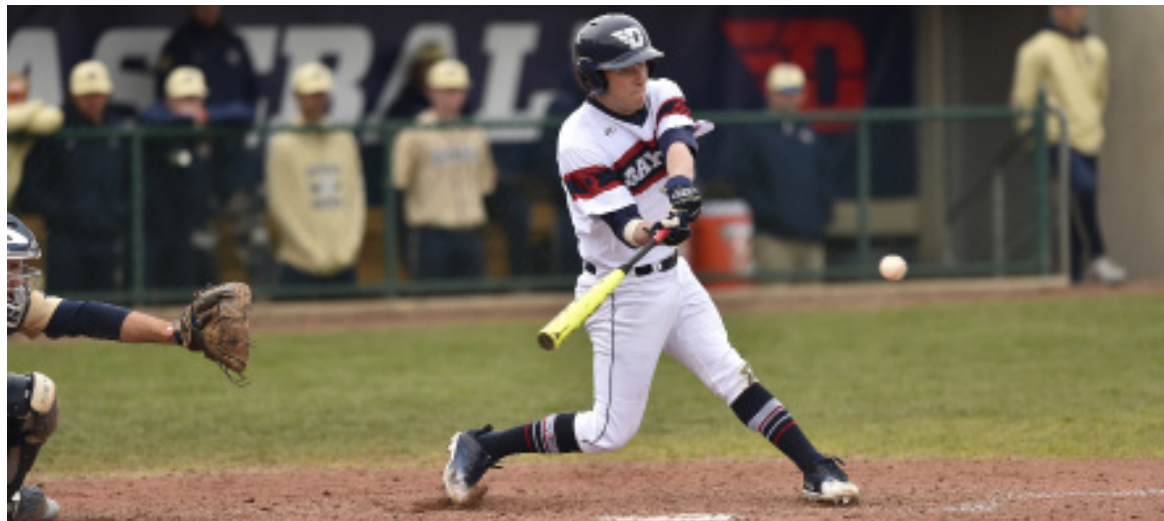
BRANDON HEATH
Contributing Writer

2019 looks to be a season of growth after a 2018 season in which the Flyers’ baseball team finished 21-31. However, there will still be plenty of challenges for this year’s team along the way.

The Flyers face a tough schedule to start the season, with their first 10 games on the road. This trip is bookended by a pair of three-game series against Southeastern Conference powerhouses Georgia and Vanderbilt.

“The biggest challenge is that our schedule is very difficult early on,” head coach Jayson King said. “It’s one of the toughest in the country.”

In addition to the challenging early-season schedule, there are a lot of new players on this year’s team. Fourteen freshman and six junior-college transfers will all make their debuts this season for the Flyers.



Echols was a captain last year and led his team with a .293 batting average. Photo courtesy of Dayton Athletics.

Even with a large group of new players, King has already started to see where the new players will fit in his system.

“We’ve got six ju-co players coming in,” King said. “Three are vying for the pitching rotation, and two position guys are going to

be hitting third and fourth in the lineup. So, it will ease having all of the freshmen come in right away.”

A big focus in the offseason was on the pitching staff. The Flyers struggled on the mound last season, as the team’s ERA soared to 6.39 per game. Many of the new players

will be looking to contribute to the pitching rotation, according to King.

“Half of the team is new guys,” King said, “We brought in four ju-co pitchers, plus we have lots of good freshman guys. So, we hope to get about 60 to 70 percent of our innings pitched to those guys.”

Only one pitcher, junior Justin Longbrake, had an ERA under 5.00 last year. This year, he’s looking to provide veteran experience to help the new players in the pitching rotation.

“The coaches expect a lot out of the older guys on the team to help make the transition easier for the younger players and the ju-co transfers,” Longbrake said. “They may be unfamiliar with how things work, so it’s up to the older players to take them up under their wing and show them what Dayton baseball is all about.”

Even with all of the challenges, King is looking forward to seeing his team compete this season.

“I’m looking forward to seeing the guys compete at a high level and to represent this team and the University. It’s a coach’s dream when that happens.”

Their first game of the season takes place on Feb. 15 at Georgia.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Reaping the rewards: Nonconference struggles paying off for the Flyers

ETHAN SWIERCZEWSKI
Contributing Writer

There's plenty of adages, proverbs, and clichés as to why struggling is beneficial to any person or team. While what doesn't kill you may make you stronger, overused phrases like these can sound like empty words with little meaning. In the sports world, no one enjoys going through a rough patch in the hopes of benefitting at a later date.

That is, until that later date arrives.

The Dayton Flyers women's basketball team began their year with a 5-6 record in non-conference play, a season removed from being 7-4 at the same point. Aside from the West Palm Beach Tournament, the Flyers won zero games on the road in that same stretch.

But one could not simply ignore the competition that the squad faced in those first 11 games. The Flyers went head-to-head with two NCAA Top 25 teams in South Carolina and Maryland, while also facing off against tough road opponents in Green Bay and James Madison. While the losses were certainly not enjoyable, the Flyers became a little more experienced and a little more battle-tested with each game.

Four games into conference play, those experiences are finally paying off.

The Flyers are 3-1 in the Atlantic 10 conference, good for third place and in striking distance of first, at just one game back. An easier non-conference schedule may have looked better for the team's win column, but those tough and talented opponents have readied the Flyers for the games that count the most.

"I think our non-conference schedule is critical in [the team's]



Scaife has been on a tear this year for the Flyers, leading the team in both points and assists throughout the first months of play. She scored a season-high 27 points against Georgia Tech and a season-high seven assists in their game against Buffalo. Photo courtesy of Erik Schelkun.

growth and development as a team, especially as an experienced team," head coach Shauna Green said. "We have a lot of new faces and new pieces; I think we saw a variety of different things from different teams that really helped us."

The Flyers are not just skating by in conference play either; each of their three wins have been by margins of 10 points or more, with two blowout wins at home against Massachusetts and La Salle by 28 points and 39 points respectively. Their only loss came on the road against George Washington, a heart-break game decided by one point.

"I've been very happy with how we've played in conference," Green said. "Aside from the [George Washington] game; we just couldn't really get it going offensively... otherwise, I liked where we've come [from], where we're at now. We're continuing to get better each day."

It would have been easy for the

Flyers to become discouraged after their rough start to the year, mired in offensive struggles and defensive miscues in the face of talented opponents and difficult away environments. But one philosophy allowed them to remain focused in the face of early adversity.

"Our focus is always taking it one day at a time, one game at a time," Green said. "You know that once you get into conference play, it's even more critical to stay laser-like focused in practice and in games. Anyone can beat anyone in conference; you see that in the league this year."

Green went on to explain the nature of the A-10 in terms of its unique level of competition.

"Everyone knows everyone so well," Green said. "That's just what happens [naturally] in conference. If you overlook a team, if you come and you're not mentally and physically ready to play, then you

can get beat. That's our focus; one day at a time, trying to be as locked in as we can to be our best."

The Flyers are at their best in conference play it seems in recent years. Last season, the team posted a 15-1 record in A-10 play, good for a regular season championship and an eventual trip to the NCAA tournament. While the team takes their season one day at a time, it cannot be denied that their early success in conference is a sign of good things to come.

One player that can speak to both last year's success and this season's positive start in conference is junior guard Jayla Scaife. Scaife was named second team all-conference as a sophomore, averaging 14.5 points per game while snagging 5.4 rebounds at the same pace. As a steady contributor and leader on the floor this season, Scaife knows the importance of responding well to adversity.

"I think we're in a good spot," Scaife said. "We had a tough loss early against [George Washington], but when we came back we talked about how we needed it; we know we don't want to feel that again. Everybody is mentally preparing properly, taking it day-by-day."

Scaife's echoing of Green's sentiments about taking the season one day at a time is testament to the team's unity and focus. Their adherence to that message has allowed them to reap the rewards of their difficult non-conference schedule and tap into their talent-filled potential.

"[Non-conference play] prepared us very well," Scaife said. "The teams in our conference are all good; you can never look down on anybody...all of those teams are tough. We have a mentality that guided us through that Maryland game, that South Carolina game, and we've just carried that over [into the A-10]. We think of every team as a Power 5 team."

This year's A-10 field will be no less competitive than usual. The standings still feature two undefeated teams in VCU (4-0) and Davidson (4-0) and two teams aside from Dayton with just one loss in Duquesne (4-1) and Fordham (3-1). While Dayton will certainly be tested from this point forward, the team has demonstrated they can put themselves in a position to win every contest.

"We need to continue to work on our consistency," Green said. "We need to put 40 minutes of solid basketball together [every game]. That's easier said than done, but that's the focus of one possession at a time and just trying to be the best that possession. That's what we're preaching, and you can see it come together in a lot of games...that's what we're continuing to work on."

The Flyers will be on the road this week on Jan. 23 for a showdown with Saint Louis before returning home for a Jan. 27 matchup with Saint Joseph's.



Scaife is seen here putting a shot up in the paint. She can also get it done on the perimeter as she is currently shooting around 35% from three this year. Photo courtesy of Erik Schelkun.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Conference play ramps up as Flyers vye for A-10 championship

MICHAEL CROUCHLEY
Contributing Writer

Students were welcomed back to campus only to see Dayton men's basketball suffer a heartbreaking 76-71 loss to rivals VCU Wednesday night. The up-and-down nature of the game (which included 12 lead changes) mimicked the rollercoaster of a season the Flyers have had in 2018-19. We're here to fill you in if you missed any of the loops over winter break.

Non-conference play for Dayton men's basketball was equal parts promising and worrisome. Five straight wins to start the season were followed with five losses in the next six games. Despite the early optimism, Dayton's rough patch raised questions about the team's depth and ability to close out games.

Nonetheless, the Flyers left 2018 winning three straight games and entered 2019 with an 8-5 record, ready to kick off the Atlantic-10 (A-10) conference season.

"This year in the [A-10], we have a lot of parity," men's basketball head coach Anthony Grant said before the start of the conference season. "On any given night anything can happen."

Dayton began A-10 action with a convincing 72-48 win over the Richmond Spiders. Dayton ran a zone defense all game, and Richmond couldn't find any ways to break it down. However, the big story of the game was redshirt senior Josh Cunningham. Along with recording the game-high in points (25) and rebounds (10), Cunningham surpassed 1,000 points for his collegiate career.

"It was definitely great to be able to do it in front of the home crowd," Cunningham said. "The coaches and my teammates put me in the right position. They just believed in me and trusted in me."

Grant honed in on the team's strengths and weaknesses after that game.

"We have a variety of guys that are capable offensively so we have to trust that and make sure we continue to make strides defensively."

A 72-66 win over George Washington followed by a 72-67 win over University of Massachusetts left Dayton with a 3-0 conference record. However, neither win was done in convincing fashion.

The game against George Washington required a major comeback in the second half, as the Flyers trailed by 22 points in the first half. A shooting explosion from sophomore guard Jordan Davis was the main catalyst that propelled the Flyers to victory. He dropped seven 3-pointers on his way to 25 points, both career highs.

The victory over Massachusetts required some late-game heroics from sophomore guard Jalen Crutcher, as he hit a 3-pointer with 1:10 left to play to give Dayton a lead they wouldn't relinquish. Crutcher's backcourt partner, Davis, came through with another strong performance against UMass. Crutcher and Davis finished with 19 and 21 points respectively.

"[Crutcher and Davis] really came through in a lot of different ways," Grant said. "Those two guys really made plays for us on both sides of the ball."

Davis was named A-10 co-player of the week in recognition of his strong play.

Dayton basketball was busy off the court during this period as well. It was announced that sophomore forward Chase Johnson from Florida will be transferring to UD. Johnson is enrolled this semester, making him eligible to play in the 2019-20 season. Injuries stunted Johnson's Florida career, but he will be looking to making a big impact at Dayton, similarly to recent transfers such as Cunningham, Charles Cooke, and Jordan Sibert.

The Flyers' win against UMass was their sixth in a row, albeit against rather weak competition. The three games to close out the non-conference schedule were against teams that play in conferences a lot less prestigious than the A-10. On top of that, the current combined record of their first three conference opponents is 20-31.

Wednesday night's game against VCU was a different story. Both teams came into the game sporting the exact same record (11-5), and it was a good chance for the Flyers to prove themselves as a true contender for the A-10 championship.

"VCU is a team that is playing really well at the moment," Grant said. "It's a challenge that we will be ready for."

The game against VCU didn't disappoint from an entertainment

standpoint. The game was close from beginning to end, as the score was tied nine times in the second half alone. With the game tied at 69-69, VCU's Marcus Evans scored a three-pointer with 33 seconds left to play. Dayton couldn't score on their next trip down the floor, letting the game slip away late.

One of the main criticisms of this iteration of the Dayton Flyers has been its inability to close games, and this game certainly helped reinforce that belief.

The Flyers traveled to New York Saturday afternoon trying to bounce back against St. Bonaventure. Dayton had won eight of its last nine games at the Reilly Center (St. Bonaventure's arena), and they notched another win on Saturday.

The Flyers heard all of the complaints about closing out games and stole the game from the Bonnies in double overtime, winning 89-86. Despite St. Bonaventure's poor record so far this season (6-12), they held a 14-game home winning streak in the Conference before the game against Dayton.

The Flyers will be hoping to carry the momentum back to UD Arena Wednesday at 7 p.m., when Dayton takes on George Mason.

Flyer fans: for up-to-date stories, recaps, and scores, follow @FlyerNewsSports on Twitter.



Crutcher, pictured at the top and Landers have been helping this team to their strong A-10 start as Crutcher leads the A-10 in assists and Landers leads the team in rebounds. Photos courtesy of Atticus Hughes.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

UPCOMING GAMES

Jan. 23 vs. George Mason

Jan. 26 @ Fordham

Jan. 29 vs. St. Joseph's

STATISTICAL LEADERS

PPG: Josh Cunningham (15.6)

RPG: Trey Landers (7.6)

APG: Jalen Crutcher (6.0)

RECORD

12-6 (4-1)



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

UPCOMING GAMES

Jan. 23 @ St. Louis

Jan. 26 vs. St. Joseph's

Jan. 29 @ Rhode Island

STATISTICAL LEADERS

PPG: Jayla Scaife (15.3)

RPG: Jayla Scaife (7.1)

APG: Araion Bradshaw (3.3)

RECORD

9-7 (4-1)



Jalen Crutcher (left) leads the Men's team in assists, and Jayla Scaife (right) leads the Women's squad in scoring and rebounds.. Photos courtesy of Griffin Quinn.