

# Plaza

## Poet, teacher Martin receives honorary degree

Herbert Woodward Martin, professor emeritus of English, has achieved a reputation as a poet, has restored the reputation of another poet and has professed his discipline and his art to decades of University of Dayton students.

In an extraordinary step of appreciation of one its own, the University on May 5 conferred upon Martin an honorary degree of doctor of humane letters.

"Martin has published several volumes of poetry," his citation read, "the libretti for two one-act operas and a play. His work appears in a number of journals and anthologies. He has won respect for his influence on the world of contemporary poetry. He is the University of Dayton's

poet-in-residence and the city of Dayton's poet laureate."

As a scholar and as a performer, Martin has been a major force in resurrecting the reputation of the poet Paul Laurence Dunbar. His latest contribution to that effort has been editing *In His Own Voice: The Dramatic and Other Uncol-*

*lected Works of Paul Laurence Dunbar*, published this year. Martin shares his readings of Dunbar with the world on the Dunbar Web site, <http://www.udayton.edu/~dunbar/>.

"Herbert Woodward Martin," his citation read, "has restored the voice of Dunbar. He has given his own voice to Dayton and the world. And in teaching his students and all of us to be creative and to be critical, he

## The stuff of dreams



—Larry Burgess

Graduation on May 5 brought the number of degrees awarded during the 23-year presidency of Brother Raymond L. Fitz, S.M., to more than 57,000. During those years, UD's budget more than quadrupled from \$51.4 million to \$230 million. Endowment grew from \$7.7 million to \$275 million, now eighth among all Catholic colleges and universities. Percentage of alumni giving ranks UD fourth among national Catholic universities. The University is successfully completing a fund-raising campaign surpassing \$150 million, helped by \$17.5 million from the Society of Mary. But the story is not in the numbers. As Fitz has said, "The faculty keeps challenging students, 'What are your dreams made of?' If it's just economic success, that's not enough." For a look at a community gratefully celebrating his leadership of a University seeking its dreams, see Pages 17-19.

helps us give voice to our souls."

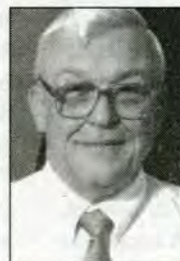
## Thompson, Hunt win alumni awards

Thomas Hunt, professor of teacher education, won UD's 2002 Alumni Award in Scholarship. Teresa Thompson, professor of communication, took the award for teaching.

Evaluations of Thompson's teaching frequently include the word "challenging." Comments speak of "rigor." And they speak of "learning." According to the citation for the 2002 Alumni Award in Teaching, Thompson "has distinguished herself through excellence in the classroom, by her ability to accommodate a wide range of

learning styles and levels of student development, and through her commitment to the personal and professional growth of her students. ... Her classroom has been described by former students as 'more of a community than a classroom.'"

Hunt was honored for his scholarly work related to the future of Catholic schools.



Hunt



Thompson

Among his many works are the *The Handbook of Research on Catholic Schools*, which he

co-edited and which was published this past fall. He has assembled a team of 11 from UD to publish next year *The Handbook of Research on Catholic Higher Education*. With six books recently completed or in process and ideas for four more, the 71-year old Hunt says he has no plans to slow down.

"As long as you enjoy what you're doing," he said, "and they don't put you out to pasture, you keep on doing it."

## Wittmann to direct campus ministry

Father Chris Wittmann, S.M., currently director of campus ministry at Dayton's Chaminade-Julienne High School, will direct UD's campus ministry.

At Chaminade for the last five years, he has coordinated retreats, liturgies, a peer ministry program, prayer services and pastoral counseling. For the past 10 years, Wittmann has directed the Marianist Life Retreat Program, a summer program for 70 high school students.

While a student at UD, he was an active member of Circle K, a campus ministry service club, volunteering both with mentally ill hospital patients and with the Edgemont Neighborhood Garden and organizing Circle K's dance marathon to benefit work on muscular dystrophy.

From UD, he received a bachelor of arts in psychology in 1983 and a master of arts in theological studies in 1987. He also received a master of divinity degree from the University of St. Michael's College in the University of Toronto.

He lives in the Trinity Avenue Marianist community at UD.



Martin