

UD sees jump in 1st-year students

DAYTON – The University of Dayton followed up one of its best NCAA tournament runs with one of its largest incoming first-year classes since the 1960s, school officials said Thursday.

The university's goal was to have 1,950 new students and has received 2,163 deposits for the fall.

Additionally, the class is one of the most academically prepared and diverse in the school's history, officials said.

The university also measures division, diversity, quality and socio-economic diversity goals, said Sundar Kumarasamy, vice president for enrollment management and marketing.

"This is the first year, we have reached record numbers in all of those goals," he said.

A record number of students applied to the school – 16,579 – and the number of African-American and Hispanic students is up significantly, according to the university.

Miami University also said this week it had a record number of applications. Almost 25,300 students applied for fall 2014 admission, up more than 12 percent from 2013, according to a release from the school. As of May 13, 3,771 students were committed to attending Miami as first-years, the release said.

At Miami, those students also show significant academic achievement and are geographically diverse coming from 56 countries, 49 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico.

Kumarasamy said the reasons for the increase in student interest include: More work in recruiting students, particularly minority students; a four-year tuition plan that says that scholarships and grants will increase to offset tuition increases and the elimination of all fees; a strategic decision to diversify enrollment with a look to

out-of-state and international students.

UD's basketball team's Elite Eight run also raised the school's national profile, and the school has committed to providing a global education to any student without having to spend additional money.

"It's a cumulative thing," Kumarasamy said. He said the school has focused on investment, faculty, quality education and issues that matter most to students and parents – including the tuition transparency plan.

Retention also is key, he said. The school has an 89 percent average for student retention and is on track to potentially reach 90 percent or higher.

UD's Law School also has enrolled "the largest and most academically qualified summer class in four years and our seat deposits for the fall are running similar to last year," said Paul McGreal, dean of the law school.

Miami attributes the increased number of applicants to enhanced recruitment efforts throughout the state, nation and world and the university's reputation.

"Miami is known for its great students and accomplished alumni," said Michael Kabbaz, associate vice president for enrollment management in the statement.

Mark Weinstein, executive director of pub-

In addition to learning about the first-year class enrollment numbers, the University of Dayton Board of Trustees formally approved the \$12 million renovation of the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception during a board meeting Thursday, according to Teri Rizvi, executive director of strategic communication. Trustees also approved the design and bidding of the renovation of a portion of the third and fourth floors of the 1700 South Patterson Building for the relocation of specialized University of Dayton Research Institute labs and offices. These include the ETM (Energy Technologies and Materials), Materials Composites and Polymers (MCP) and Non-Structural Materials (NSM) offices and labs. The projects are part of the long-term master plan for UDRI, Rizvi said.

lic relations for Cedarville University, said the school will have 791 first-year students this fall. Wright State University's timeline is different than the University of Dayton and Miami and will continue to accept students throughout the spring and summer, according to a spokesman.