

Dayton Daily News

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Sunday, July 18, 2010

\$1.85

UD doubles in size since '05

Growth in acreage comes as the university anticipates its largest class of freshmen.

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Staff Writers

DAYTON — The University of Dayton has nearly doubled in size in the past five years with two major acquisitions from NCR Corp.

The campus ballooned to 373 acres with the purchases of 50 acres from NCR in 2005 and another 115 acres, including the

NCR world headquarters building, in 2009. The purchases account for nearly 45 percent of the current campus acreage.

"It's certainly much bigger than it was in 2000," said President Daniel Curran.

The expansion comes as UD anticipates what may be its largest class of incoming freshmen, this fall. First-year applications have grown from about 7,500 in 2000 to 11,545 this year.

Curran said UD has no plans to swallow up any other large swaths of land, although it's working with Miller-Valentine Group to develop the six-acre former Frank Z Chevrolet property on Brown Street

into student housing. UD will continue to buy nearby houses as they become available.

The growth of the formerly landlocked campus means UD can expand graduate programs, research at the University of Dayton Research Institute and facilities for alumni. It means UD can do more with business incubators that can help start-up businesses in the region. It also frees up space on the core campus that can be used "to enhance the academic experience of the undergraduates," Curran said.

"What gets missed in this equation is all the academic things we can do on the main campus

that we weren't able to do before because we were overcrowded," he said.

Peter Bracher of the nearby Fairgrounds neighborhood said UD's growth is "an engine for economic development," but some residents are uneasy about how quickly UD and Miami Valley Hospital are buying land.

"Living down here, you feel like there are giant bulldozers right across the street that are going to roll right over you," he said.

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