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Thursday, September 6, 2012

Paddling with the President's Council!

Amy Price

On Friday, August 24, the Rivers Institute had the great pleasure of taking the President and members of his council out for their first ever kayak trip in Dayton! We had scheduled this trip for earlier this summer, but it was oh so very sadly cancelled. Luckily, we were able to reschedule the paddle, and it was awesome! I honestly think that trip was the highlight of my college career! We took the group for a very short trip from White Water Warehouse down to Riverscape, which is about a 20 minute trip. Thanks to some strategic planning and blessings from above, we paddled up to Riverscape just as the fountains started going off. Several people in the group were really not too keen on the idea of paddling through the massive fountains with frigid water coming out, but needless to say, everybody came out of the fountains soaked. Every person in the group kayaked through the fountains and loved every minute of it! I have always loved going through the fountains, but this time it was particularly special because I took President Curran around every single fountain! Dr. Curran is such a fun guy, so when I said, "Who wants to round the bases and go through every fountain?" he responded with, "After you!" It was seriously awesome. After getting thoroughly soaked, we all rafted up and discussed the future of the city of Dayton and the potential for UD to have a river-front campus.

In my years here at UD, we have been dramatically expanding our campus, so we now have property all the way out to the Great Miami River. We also own Old River Park, which has a lagoon that was formerly part of the river. Obviously, the Rivers Institute would love to have access to the river right from our own campus, but we also think it would be hugely popular among the students for a variety of reasons. There are many pieces of this puzzle coming into play, but we are hoping to make UD a school that prides itself on its connection to nature, recreation, and most importantly our rivers. While yes we only took Dr. Curran on a short trip down the river, in that short trip he saw and experienced what the stewards see and experience every time we get in a boat. We are fairly confident that he sees the potential UD has as a river-front campus.