

Mascot from page A1

the mascot's leg. "Big" Rudy is usually the center of several fans' point and shoot photo ops.

"What's really amazing about the mascot — especially a good one — is that Gary does a phenomenal job playing to the crowd," said McCallister, who oversees the university's spirit section. "Children just adore him. They'll come running down the concourse and bear hug him."

And jerks? There's a few of those, too. It's usually guys who are trying to be cool with their friends, Galvin said.

"At first, they used to intimidate me and I'd kind of back away," he said. "Now I've learned how to deal with it."

Galvin tried out for the mascot's posi-

tion on the advice of a friend who is a cheerleader. He made his debut at the University of Dayton's first home game last season.

He's perfected a few of routines to get the crowd going. He usually runs onto the court before the game to the chants of "Rudy."

He'll dive into the student section or dance with the cheerleaders on the court. Rudy stages mock fights with the visiting team's mascot. "Of course, because it's my home court I have to win," Galvin said.

The hard part is winning over 12,000-13,000 fans when the home team is trailing by 16 points in the second half. For U-Dayton who play in the

Atlantic 10 Conference, those games are few.

He gets one section to clap at a time and builds momentum.

"The crowd gets mad and starts yelling at the team. It's my job to get them back on their feet," Galvin said.

Though seen as a sidekick to the athletic event, Galvin's work calls for a great deal of skill and stamina.

The costume's oversized head, though made of lightweight materials, causes him to sweat heavily. He also has quite an aerobic workout running up and down the court.

The exercise has firming up Galvin's confidence outside the setup.

"Sometimes, I'll be out with my

friends and I'll do something funny and they'll relate that to me being Rudy," he said.

"It's neat to carry that into my social life and into my school work."

"That's the biggest thing: It's given me the energy to be open with people."

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Murder from page A1

divorce. The professor was not married at the time of his murder.

Wojciech also spoke about how he was "getting along much better" with his dad in recent months. On the dining room table was Wojciech's acoustic guitar, which his father had helped fix.

"He had incredible stamina and willpower for life and work," Wojciech said, glancing toward the guitar. "I guess I'm glad he's at peace now."

Detroit police officers, as of late Friday, were still trying to determine why the gunman walked into Olbrot's classroom, shot him — reloaded — and shot him again. Olbrot, who had gunshot wounds to his head and chest, was taken to Detroit Receiving Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Wayne State University President Irvin D. Reid issued a statement expressing shock and grief over the incident.

"I speak for the entire Wayne State University community when I say how deeply saddened we are by this terrible tragedy," Reid said. "Professor Olbrot was an expert in control systems who devoted much time to his students and to their success."

Frank Westervelt, chairman of Wayne State's electrical and computer engineering department, concurred. "He cared deeply about his students and worked hard to have them succeed."

In fact, Olbrot often made extra efforts to assist students with disabilities, by allowing them to take separate exams. Thursday night, he

arranged such an exam for a student who has dyslexia.

Commitment and perfection were two of Olbrot's most prevalent personality traits, according to family members.

The professor often worked 20-hour days, and never gave up trying to improve the world, Henryka said. "He was always thinking he could solve the most difficult problems and that all he needed was (more) time."

"He was born to be a scientist," she continued. "It was his passion. It was his life. And he had the ability."

Olbrot, who also did some consulting work at TRW Automotive in Farmington Hills, was considered an expert in advanced computer control systems. He came to Wayne State in 1988, having been recruited from Poland. Olbrot held a bachelor's degree from the Technical University of Warsaw, as well as graduate and postgraduate degrees.

About his father, Wojciech said he was "never a quitter... I think I inherited a lot from him."

Dedication to his work aside, the professor did enjoy some stress-relieving activities, particularly downhill skiing and travel.

"He was an excellent sportsman," Henryka said.

Funeral and burial plans were incomplete as of late Friday afternoon.



Andrzej Olbrot

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by Josephine Finazzo, D.M.D.
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MORE ON ARTHRITIS AND THE WEB
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