

DAYTON FUNK SYMPOSIUM & DANCE PARTY

As Graul Endowed Chair in Arts and Languages, and on behalf of the University of Dayton College of Arts and Sciences, I welcome you to the Dayton Funk Symposium and Dance Party, celebrating Funk Music for what may be the first time in the Academy. Funk is the genre that brought fame to Dayton, Ohio and its many talented musicians in the 1970's and 1980's. During this Symposium, we welcome and honor scholars and performers from Dayton and many parts of the United States and Scotland. We also have opportunities to hear the voices of several established Funk artists, some of whom continue to perform and tour today.

One person does not create an event like this Symposium without help and support. It is with special thanks that I recognize and thank Endowed Chair Office Administrative Assistant Heidi Haas, who has worked diligently on this project all summer and our student office worker, Chandra Kishore Danduri. Student graphic designer Elizabeth Weiler, with guidance from her faculty mentor Misty Thomas-Trout, designed all the creative publicity and program materials for the Symposium. There are also a number of faculty colleagues who have responded to calls for assistance, including Sam Dorf, John McCombe, Caroline Merithew, Tom Morgan and Todd Uhlman. Student assistance has been provided by three music organizations: The Ohio Collegiate Music Education Association and Sigma Alpha Iota and Phi Mu Alpha music fraternities. Financial support has been provided by the Department of Music, Julia Randel, Chair, through a bequest from the George Zimmerman American Music Fund; the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Dr. Lawrence Burnley, Vice President; and the Department of History, Dr. Juan Santamaria, Chair. I also extend warmest appreciation to Dr. Jason Pierce, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, for his Symposium support and participation. Finally, special thanks to David Webb, CEO and President of the The Funk Music Hall of Fame & Exhibition Center here in Dayton for the many connections he has provided and for his ongoing assistance of this project. Thanks to all of these individuals and to anyone else I may not have listed.

Please enjoy the Symposium events and be prepared to dance the night away at the Thursday Dance Party!

DR. SHARON DAVIS GRATTO
PROFESSOR OF MUSIC AND
GRAUL CHAIR IN ARTS AND LANGUAGES

GREETINGS FROM SHARON GRATTO

Graul Endowed Chair in Arts and Languages

