

5-2-2000

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Recommended Citation

"UD to Give Honorary Degrees to Three Women Crusaders, Promising Job Market Greet New College Graduates" (2000). *News Releases*. 9080.

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11/21/00

UNIVERSITY of



DAYTON

1850-2000

May 2, 2000
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NEWS RELEASE

**UD TO GIVE HONORARY DEGREES TO THREE WOMEN CRUSADERS,
PROMISING JOB MARKET GREET'S NEW COLLEGE GRADUATES**

DAYTON, Ohio — Nearly 1,300 newly minted college graduates will walk out of the University of Dayton Arena on Sunday, May 7, and into a promising job market.

Some have received multiple job offers and signing bonuses. "Others are negotiating whole summers off," says Lisa Warren, assistant director of graduating student services in UD's Career Services Center. "It's very promising. There are steady opportunities for our students in all areas, but specifically in information technology. About 200 corporate recruiters visited campus this year — the most we've ever had."

More than half of employers responding to the Job Outlook 2000 survey say they plan to increase the number of new college graduates they hire this year. Overall hiring is expected to increase by 14.5 percent, according to the National Association of Colleges and Employers.

Degrees to be awarded at UD's spring commencement, which begins at 10 a.m., include 1,051 undergraduate diplomas, 205 master's degrees and six doctorates.

In addition, UD will award honorary degrees to three extraordinary women crusaders: Evangeline Lindsley, 103-year-old educator who fought for equality in the school system; Sister Mary Peter Traviss, O.P., a leading contributor to Catholic school research; and Virginia Varga, a pioneer in the Montessori movement.

For 41 years, Lindsley taught civics and government at Roosevelt High School, where black students initially could not join student organizations. She put a stop to that by spearheading separate clubs for blacks and then organizing Roosevelt's school-wide chapter of the Junior Council on World Affairs, in which a black student was elected president. She is a charter member of the Dayton chapter of the League of Women Voters, and she founded the Women's Education Association. In 1975 — at the age of 77 — she was one of the founders of Daybreak, the area's crisis shelter for youth.

"She has spent a life spanning more than a century fighting for the rights of others," reads her honorary degree citation. "Evangeline Lindsley has nurtured and protected and prodded our young. She has challenged the values of a community, holding up the gleaming ideals of justice

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while fighting in the everyday trenches against sexism and segregation, inequality and inertia. She is a consummate teacher.”

Traviss, a Dominican sister who directs the Institute for Catholic Educational Leadership at the University of San Francisco, advocates that Catholic schools do their best when their leaders are scholars of the highest quality. For more than 20 years, she has guided doctoral students through that institute. In almost every diocese in the country are teachers and administrators whose success is rooted in their experience with Traviss at the institute.

The National Catholic Educational Association in 1986 gave Traviss the C. Albert Koob Award for Outstanding Contribution to Catholic Education. *Today's Catholic Teacher* named her the “First Lady of Catholic Education.” Active in numerous national organizations, Traviss is also deeply involved with the University of Dayton. She has served on the School of Education and Allied Professions’ advisory council and was a catalyst for the creation of the periodical *Catholic Education: A Journal of Inquiry and Practice*.

An excerpt from her honorary degree citation: “Sister Mary Peter Traviss has significantly advanced scholarship on Catholic schools. She has done so as an active participant in various communities — in the Dominican sisterhood, in a university graduate program, in national professional societies, in the entire community of those who call themselves Catholic educators. She has served and led those communities well.”

Varga, a 1951 University of Dayton graduate, was one of the first people in the nation to receive Montessori training — an educational philosophy that encourages children to learn through experience. In 1962, she opened the Gloria Dei Montessori School, the first such school in Dayton. In 1997, she founded Educare, a Montessori facility for children as young as three months. She is the founder of the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education.

A visionary in early childhood education, she placed children with handicaps, mental retardation and Down syndrome in classrooms before legislation mandated that school systems educate such youth, long before “inclusion” became a catchword in education. In addition, she established day care centers for the children of migrant workers and for the poor in Nicaragua.

Varga has received national recognition for her achievements. In 1993, she was one of the first people to receive the Living Legacy Award of the American Montessori Society.

“Virginia Varga has been called a leader and a visionary, serious and playful, outspoken and passionate,” reads her honorary degree citation. “As such, she has committed her life to improving methods for educating children, she has provided international leadership in advancing and extending the Montessori movement, and — above all — she has helped children grow as strong and independent persons.”