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UD Students Celebrate Appalachia During Weeklong Slate of Activities

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**UD STUDENTS CELEBRATE APPALACHIA
DURING WEEKLONG SLATE OF ACTIVITIES**

DAYTON, Ohio — It's a region that faces widespread economic strife, but it's also an area with a rich cultural heritage. That's why the Appalachian culture will be spotlighted during Celebrate Appalachia Week at the University of Dayton

The Rev. Ralph Beiting, founder of the Christian Appalachia Project (CAP) will kick-off the week of activities with a speech at 8 p.m. Monday, March 2, in the McGinnis Center, 301 Lowes St. on campus. The speech, "Appalachia: Rejoicing in the Richness, Recognizing the Realities," is free and open to the public.

Beiting founded CAP in 1964 as an interdenominational organization designed to help the Appalachian people help themselves. CAP reaches out to Appalachian Kentucky as well as portions of Virginia, West Virginia and Tennessee. More than 55,000 people in 30 Appalachian Kentucky counties receive direct contact services from CAP and more than 637,000 people have benefitted from CAP donations.

Beiting was appointed as a delegate for the state of Kentucky to the President's Summit on American's Future in 1997 and has won numerous awards for his work with the Appalachian people. He has built nine churches from 1957 to 1994 and is currently pastor of St. Jude's Mission Center in Louisa, Ky., and St. John Neumann's in Hode, Ky.

A prayer service and Appalachian music concert will be held at 8 p.m. Wednesday, March 4, in the Immaculate Conception Chapel on campus. Edith Lykins, an Appalachian Christian music composer will play the guitar and sing at the prayer service. Lykins is from Magoffin County in Kentucky where UD students volunteer in a nine-week program during the summer. The concert and prayer service are free and open to the public.

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For more information about Celebrate Appalachia Week, contact **Brian Halderman** at (937) 229-2524. For media interviews, contact **Father Ralph Beiting** at (606) 638-0219.