

10-2-2000

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### Recommended Citation

"Arts, Languages and International Study Intersect in New Chair at University of Dayton" (2000). *News Releases*. 9318.  
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9JA(7) c.1

UNIVERSITY of



DAYTON

1850-2000

Oct. 2, 2000  
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## NEWS RELEASE

### ARTS, LANGUAGES AND INTERNATIONAL STUDY INTERSECT IN NEW CHAIR AT UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON

DAYTON, Ohio -- Where art and music meet experiences abroad, where language becomes poetry and where experience becomes theater -- the new endowed Graul Chair in the Arts and Languages at the University of Dayton will explore the connections and intersections between the visual arts, music, theater and languages while also focusing on international aspects of each field.

Roger Crum, associate professor of visual arts, is the first UD faculty member to hold the Graul Chair in the Arts and Languages.

For Crum, the excitement comes from the possibilities. "I'm intrigued and looking forward to exploring how we as human beings create in our world, how we give expression to the world around us and how we deal with the parts of the world beyond which we are natively from," he said.

He also would like to expand beyond the College of Arts and Sciences. "Exploring the questions of art and languages can be extended beyond the immediate College home of the Graul chair," Crum said. "What does it mean in the School of Business Administration to think deeply about the business of art, or for the School of Law to consider the language of law? Language is French and Italian, but it's also computer language and the language you use when you're in e-business on the Web."

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Crum has planned an interdisciplinary course for the winter semester called "The College Campus as Physical and Social Environment." That course will develop from the visual journal course he is currently teaching with Sean Wilkinson, professor of visual arts, that incorporates many of the characteristics of foreign travel right here at home.

"We are looking at the familiar but from a foreign perspective," he said. "When you travel abroad, you take with you or develop while there a means of analyzing your experiences that you don't put into play when you are home."

This recognition of the arts and languages will give the fields a strong voice on campus, Crum said. "It will create a greater interest in the arts on our campus, a greater interest in foreign languages and in going abroad and experiencing art. Our hope is that the arts will remain in the hearts of our students as they go forward in life to raise their families and build their communities. The arts will be something they hold dear and have the ability to argue for in their communities."

The Graul Chair in the Arts and Languages is named in honor of the commitment to the University of Thomas C. and Janet M. Graul. Dr. Graul, a 1951 graduate of UD, was a plastic surgeon in private practice in Dayton until he retired in 1995. He has maintained an international interest in his service activities, and he and Mrs. Graul each pursued the study of foreign languages.