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Oct. 6, 2000
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NEWS RELEASE

UD WINS \$2 MILLION GRANT FROM LILLY ENDOWMENT TO ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO CONSIDER FAITH COMMITMENT IN CAREER CHOICE

DAYTON, Ohio — The University of Dayton has won a prestigious five-year \$2 million grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc. to encourage students from all disciplines to “think about their lives as a calling” and consider pursuing ministry or assuming leadership roles in their professions, their churches and in their communities.

As one feature of the program, UD will award 15 Chaminade Scholarships averaging \$10,000 annually to undergraduates who “have exhibited such qualities as strong academic work, capacity for Christian leadership and a desire to grow in their faith,” according to the Rev. James L. Heft, S.M., chancellor and professor of faith and culture. The scholarships are renewable for four years. Students may be enrolled in any major, but two scholarships will be set aside for music majors interested in studying pastoral music.

“The main focus is to get talented young people thinking about their lives in terms of a calling,” said Heft, who will hire a program administrator and launch the program next fall. UD will commit an additional \$400,000 annually in new funding and reallocate some general scholarship funds to continue the core elements of the program after completion of the grant.

UD is one of 20 colleges and universities awarded grants from the Lilly Endowment. “The caliber of proposals that we received in this initiative was absolutely outstanding,” said Craig Dykstra, Lilly Endowment vice president for religion. “It is clear to us that these schools have thought deeply and productively about this issue of encouraging young people to consider questions of faith and commitment when they choose careers.”

The University of Dayton initiative includes three programs:

- Under the Chaminade Program, 15 students will receive renewable scholarships averaging \$10,000 annually and take part in a structured program that includes three specially designed seminars, retreats and service experiences.
- Under the Christian Leadership Program, UD will offer an annual four-day weekend retreat for approximately 100 incoming first-year students. Another 20 students each year will participate in Christian leadership retreats. About 15

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campus ministry music leaders will take part in a special four-day training workshop yearly.

- Under the University-Wide Program, UD will create greater awareness of vocations by introducing themes or topics in classes that all undergraduates take.

The grant will also be used to fund faculty development workshops, curriculum redesign and interdisciplinary projects.

Under the initiative, UD officials want to encourage at least 10 of the scholarship students to enter lay or ordained church ministry or apply to pertinent graduate programs. Among UD's graduating seniors, officials want to increase the number of students who participate in a year of volunteer work after graduation.

"In my 21 years as president, I believe this proposal is the strongest and most carefully thought out initiative to lead our undergraduates into the heart of our mission," said Brother Raymond L. Fitz, S.M., president. "The proposal describes a number of strategies to help our students gain a deeper religious wisdom that will encourage a larger number of our most talented students to pursue ministry and assume leadership roles in their churches. In addition, all of our students will be more strongly encouraged to make life commitments of service to their churches and their communities."

The \$2 million Lilly Endowment grant, the largest foundation grant UD has ever received outside Dayton, is part of UD's "Call to Lead" image- and fund-raising campaign. To date, UD has raised approximately \$120 million toward its \$150 million goal.

Founded in 1937, the Lilly Endowment is an Indianapolis-based private family foundation that supports its founders' wishes by supporting the causes of religion, community development and education. The Lilly Endowment has awarded the University of Dayton three other grants within the past 15 years: a \$50,000 planning grant in May 1999 to develop this proposal for increasing vocations; \$50,000 to launch *Catholic Education: A Journal of Inquiry and Practice* in 1997; and a \$73,405 grant for a faculty development initiative in 1987.

UD's planning grant committee, headed by Heft, included Brother Edward M. Brink, S.M.; the Rev. Gene Contadino, S.M.; Carol Cummins-Collier; the Rev. James Fitz, S.M.; Brother Daniel Klco, S.M.; Jan Lively; Brother Todd Ridder, S.M.; the Rev. Phyllis Scholp; William Schuerman; Terrence Tilley; and Sister Angela Ann Zukowski, M.H.S.H.

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For media interviews, contact **Father Jim Heft** at (937) 229-2105 or heft@udayton.edu, **Gretchen Wolfram** at Lilly Endowment Inc. at (317) 916-7304 and **Jan Lively**, assistant vice president for foundation relations at UD, at (937) 229-2907.

Programs for the Theological Exploration of Vocation
Lilly Endowment Inc.
September, 2000

Implementation Grant Awards

Baylor University	Waco, TX
Boston College	Chestnut Hill, MA
Davidson College	Davidson, NC
Earlham College	Richmond, IN
Furman University	Greenville, SC
Goshen College	Goshen, IN
Gustavus Adolphus College	Saint Peter, MN
Hanover College	Hanover, IN
Loyola University of Chicago	Chicago, IL
Macalester College	Saint Paul, MN
Manchester College	North Manchester, IN
Mercer University	Macon, GA
Millsaps College	Jackson, MS
St. John's University	Collegeville, MN
St. Norbert College	De Pere, WI
Transylvania University	Lexington, KY
University of Dayton	Dayton, OH
University of Notre Dame	Notre Dame, IN
Valparaiso University	Valparaiso, IN
Xavier University of Louisiana	New Orleans, LA