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New Leader for College Theology Society

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Sandra Yocum, chair of the religious studies department at the University of Dayton for the past nine years, has been elected president of the College Theology Society. It's a two-year term.

The College Theology Society is an international organization of more than 900 college and university professors of theology throughout the U.S., Canada and Europe. It’s ecumenical, though it maintains roots in the Roman Catholic tradition.

"I'm deeply committed to the theological education of undergraduate and graduate students. This organization supports and develops those who hear the call to be teachers-scholars in the theological disciplines," said Yocum, who's been a member of the College Theology Society for nearly three decades. "I'm honored to serve."

Yocum has served on the board as well as coordinated the organization's American Catholic Life and Thought group. She pored through 50 years of meeting minutes as part of research for a historical volume, Joining the Revolution in Theology: The College Theology Society, 1954-2004. For that effort, she received the group's "2007 Presidential Recognition" award.

In addition, Yocum and University of Dayton theologian William Portier co-edited the College Theology Society Annual Volume 42, 1996: American Catholic Traditions: Resources for Renewal.

Yocum, associate professor of theology, recently stepped down as chair of the religious studies department at the University of Dayton, where she's been a member of the faculty for 20 years. She will continue to teach courses in Christian tradition of prayer, historiography and U.S. Catholic experience as well as conduct research in historical theology with a focus on 19th and 20th Century U.S. Catholicism. She's co-editing a multidisciplinary collection of essays examining clergy sexual abuse and completing a history of U.S. Catholic women's entrance into the study of theology, A Strange Impulse: Roman Catholic Women Enter the Court of the Queen of Science.

Founded in 1850 by the Society of Mary (Marianists), the University of Dayton is a top-tier national Catholic research university.

For media interviews, contact Sandra Yocum at 937-229-4321.