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Special Events at the President's Faculty Recognition Dinner

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DAYTON, Ohio, April 18, 1967 — The creation of a new academic department, Information Sciences; naming of five new departmental chairmen; a special 25th Anniversary honor to Dr. Betty Jean Thomas of the Music Department; faculty promotions and other special recognition were part of the President's Faculty Recognition Dinner at the University of Dayton last night (April 17). Very Rev. Raymond A. Roesch, S.M., University President, presided before 160 invited guests from the UD community.

In announcing his new chairmen, Father Roesch revealed that the new Department of Information Sciences is an outgrowth of the psychology department. The new program under the direction of Dr. Anthony Debons, who had been the chairman of the Department of Psychology, will go into operation on an undergraduate level for the 1967-68 academic year.

"Creation of Information Sciences department moves the University to a unique position in this interdisciplinary field," Dr. Debons says. "Stressing the human aspects of the information explosion, the University aims to train scholars with broad interdisciplinary outlooks to assume significant roles in man's conquest of human utilization. Industry, government and education are in real need for individuals so trained."

The other chairmen are Dr. Samuel M. Bower, Psychology; Dr. George E. Matlin, Economics; Bro. Thomas A. Schoen, Computer Science; and Mr. Howard E. Smith, Mechanical Engineering.

Dr. Bower, who came to UD in 1965, has divided his time between the Research Institute and the Psychology Department. He received his BA from Mexico City college in 1957 and his doctorate in psychology from Vanderbilt University in 1963. He was a National Institute of Health Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at University of Michigan in the 1963-64 school year.

Dr. Debons joined the UD faculty in September of 1963 as a professor of psychology. He was named Chairman of the Department of Psychology the same year. Prior to his UD tenure Doctor Debons had been a Colonel in the United States Air Force and officially retired in 1964. During his 22 years in the service, Dr. Debons served in an executive capacity for computer, visual displays, research management and human engineering laboratory offices.

Dr. Matlin came to the University in 1965 as an Associate Professor of Economics. He is a 1942 graduate of St. Francis College, Loretto, Pennsylvania; attended University
of Pittsburgh, and received his doctorate in economics from Pennsylvania State University in 1953. He has taught at St. Francis, Penn State, Villanova and Duquesne universities. Brother Schoen is a 1954 graduate of UD and received his masters from the University of Cincinnati in 1959. He has served as acting chairman during the past year.

Mr. Smith, who is a 1951 honor graduate of UD, received his masters from the University of Cincinnati in 1961 and is a doctoral candidate at the latter school.

Father Roesch also revealed that Mr. Joseph Updyke, an honor graduate of UD in 1947, has been named an Assistant to the Dean of the School of Business Administration. Mr. Updyke, who is currently working on his MBA, takes over the new duties August 15.

All appointments become effective on that day.

Dr. Thomas started as a part-time instructor in Music in 1942 and received her bachelor's degree in music from UD in 1944. She is the first woman faculty member to achieve the rank of full professor, attained in 1964. Dr. Thomas, who was born in Ludlow Falls, is given much credit for the constant growth of UD's music department.

The 28 faculty promotions had been announced earlier but Father Roesch revealed that Dr. Thomas Campanelle, Education; Dr. James M. Ferrigno, Chairman, Department of Languages; Patrick Gilvary, Communication Arts; Richard Hazen, Electrical Engineering Technology, Robert I. Mitchell, Industrial Engineering; Mr. Raymond Puckett, Industrial Engineering Technology; Dr. Philip Sha, History; Howard Smith and J. Ralph Thorne, Mechanical Engineering, and John Vigle, Assistant Director of Libraries were placed on faculty tenure. One must have been on UD's faculty for at least three years, had seven years teaching experience in higher education, be at least an associate professor and be over 37 years of age to receive tenure.

Retiring from the faculty are Mrs. Alberta G. Prather, Associate Professor of Mathematics, and Dr. James G. Steed, Associate Professor of Chemistry.

Brother Arnold Klug, retiring UD Postmaster, also was honored in retirement.