The Greater Dayton Chapter of the University of Dayton Alumni Association Contributes to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund.
DAYTON, Ohio, April 14, 1969 -- The Greater Dayton Chapter of the University of Dayton Alumni Association has contributed $1,000 to the University's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund. The presentation was made to Curtis Hicks, Director of UD's Human Relations Office who aids in the selection of local black students for the scholarship each year.

Charles Graham, outgoing president of the Greater Dayton Chapter, made the presentation and pointed out that this was one of a series of efforts being initiated by the local alumni group to assist their university throughout the year.

According to Bro. Elmer C. Lackner, Vice President for Public Relations, the new contribution brings to $17,934, the amount in the scholarship fund which was established in April of 1968. He said that previously $15,000 had been transferred from the annual alumni fund and the UD Parents Association had donated another $1,500. Other gifts had brought the fund to its present financial status.

The University hopes to bring the fund to at least $25,000 in an effort to award yearly scholarships from the interest on the principle. This year Grace Evans of Roth High School has utilized the scholarship for two terms while Kenneth Milner, also of Roth, has had scholarship assistance during the second term.

Graham pointed out that other projects for the Greater Dayton Chapter are student recruitment, fund-raising for special programs, continuing education for alumni, and a special effort to bring alumni and student leaders together to develop a better understanding between the two groups.

Student recruitment at the moment involves efforts on the part of Dayton's west side to interest high school students in the University of Dayton and to raise funds for Project Echo. Two alumni, James Wilkerson and Lloyd Lewis, are working with Greater Dayton Chapter leaders and Hicks in the preliminary planning. Project Echo has been in effect at the University for one year. Currently 10 students, who normally would not have gone to college, are finishing out their first year. The University has been financing this project but will need help for it in the future.

Greater Dayton Chapter leaders will be talking to academic deans and departments to determine the type of continuing education programs suitable for graduates in individual academic areas. This will be an effort to assist the graduate in his chosen life work and bring him back to the campus to learn about his university.

Programs with students are in the discussion stage but Graham hopes to have firm commitments in a short time.

"We have other things in mind which would fit into the aforementioned programs," Graham said. "We have already conducted tours on the campus for high school students and hope to establish a speakers bureau from which alumni and the UD community could both benefit.

"We feel the alumni should become more involved in their university," he concluded. "Becoming involved means more than just fund-raising and we feel that our programs are a step in the right direction. It will benefit 7,000 alumni in the Dayton area and we in turn can assist the university."