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Dr. David C. Kraft Appointed Dean of the School of Engineering

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DAYTON, Ohio, May 1, 1972 --- Dr. David C. Kraft, Assistant Dean and full professor of Civil Engineering, today was appointed Dean of the School of Engineering at the University of Dayton. The appointment of the 34-year-old engineering educator was made by Reverend Raymond A. Roesch, S.M., University President, upon recommendation of a special search committee of UD student, faculty and administrators, and professional engineers in the local community. The appointment was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Dr. Kraft, who replaces the retiring Dr. Maurice Graney, will assume his duties on July 1. Dr. Graney has been dean of the internationally known school since 1956. He was the first lay dean in the school's history.

Dr. John Lucier, S.M., Chairman, Department of Chemistry, and a member of the President's Advisory Council, was chairman of the search committee. In recommending Dr. Kraft, he said: "Dave Kraft's credentials were outstanding. We had more than 50 candidates to whom we gave some attention and Dave could match his ability and achievements with any of the applicants. His familiarity with the University was only one of his assets."

Father Roesch, in announcing the appointment to the engineering faculty before his Monday afternoon news conference, said in part:

"Though only 34 years of age, Dr. Kraft is a full professor of the Civil Engineering faculty and has served as Assistant Dean since 1970. His chief achievement in that post was a strong growth in graduate engineering programs. His outstanding teaching ability culminated his being named Professor of the Year in 1970. This year he was the recipient of the Neil Armstrong Award of the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers. Since 1967 Dr. Kraft's research projects have attracted \$238,761 in grants and he has authored 24 papers for journals and symposia.

"The University of Dayton has full faith in its new Dean and in the future of its Engineering School.....Dr. Kraft has already promised an increased interaction with industry and government.

"Although it is a common phenomenon for most engineering schools to be suffering a decline in their enrollment these past few years, the University of Dayton is convinced that the role of engineering in solving basic human and social needs of today is a real one. I firmly believe that those young men and women who perceive this role as an answer to what they want to offer society for its betterment will once again cause engineering to regain its prominence as an academic discipline and career."

Dr. Kraft, who has degrees from Dayton, Notre Dame and Ohio State in that order, is known on the campus as the "student's professor". His constant personal and professional interest in engineering students served as one reason for his Professor of the Year award at UD and the Neil Armstrong award. He is particularly known for his ability to help students in their professional problem solving, to aid and

support their extracurricular programs and to advise them in their search for professional positions after graduation.

His popularity extends to the faculty where his appointment was met with approval. It was his colleagues who strongly recommended him and prepared the material for the two aforementioned awards.

Dr. Kraft's chief research as a member of the UD Engineering faculty and UD Research Institute has been in the area of soil for aircraft landing strips. He has investigated every phase of this subject which also has had some effect on studies concerning highways.

Dr. Kraft graduated from the University of Dayton in 1959 with his bachelor's degree in civil engineering. He attained his master's degree in the same academic discipline in 1961 at Notre Dame and the doctoral at The Ohio State University in 1964.

He joined the engineering faculty in August of 1965 as assistant professor of civil engineering. He was made associate professor in 1968 and assistant dean of engineering in 1970. His full professorship was approved in March of this year.

Dr. Kraft, who was born in Marion, Ohio, and his wife, the former Suzanne Bintz, have three children, Susan, 9; Michael, 8; and Jeannine, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$.

PREPARED STATEMENT

by

David C. Kraft

Dean, School of Engineering

University of Dayton

It is with a feeling of both enthusiasm and optimism that I have accepted the appointment as Dean of the School of Engineering at the University of Dayton. The University has had and will continue to have a position of prominence in the field of engineering education. We are deeply indebted to Dean Graney, now retiring, for his untiring efforts on behalf of the School of Engineering and the University for the past 16 years.

Engineering education, and indeed the engineering profession itself, faces the critical situation of more clearly and effectively demonstrating the interrelationships between technology and society as we build toward a better society. While the objectives of engineering education will not change, the methods of accomplishing these objectives for the School of Engineering will. Increased flexibility in educational programs, the initiation of an undergraduate research fellowship program, and an increased interaction with industry and government will offer a new dimension to engineering education here at the University. The excellent engineering faculty, the new Eugene W. Kettering Laboratories building with its outstanding teaching and laboratory facilities, and the three million dollars worth of engineering research conducted annually by the University will form the core of these new efforts.

I would urge that our youth, both men and women, give serious consideration to careers in engineering and engineering technology. Engineering is the "can do" profession which provides the opportunity for young people to make a positive contribution to improving the environment of man.
