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## Dr. David Kraft Takes On the University of Dayton's School of Engineering

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DAYTON, Ohio, August 2, 1972 -- The emphasis today is on man and society; his environment, his quality of life, and his social concerns. To meet and direct these demands, engineering education must develop an imaginative approach in fusing engineering and the social sciences.

Ready to take the University of Dayton's School of Engineering into the next decade is Dr. David Kraft. Recognized as one of the outstanding educators on campus, who has a special empathy for students, the 34-year old dean will be building the school and its programs on the solid base established by his predecessor, Dr. Maurice Graney. New programs, courses, innovations, and professional values will be the guidelines by which engineering schools all over the country must follow. While still preserving the integrity of the engineering profession, Dr. Kraft has assumed these goals for the School of Engineering at UD.

Numerous plans are in the making for the School. Besides being in constant contact with his departmental chairmen, Dr. Kraft recently organized three advisory committees, composed of interested and knowledgeable faculty members, to establish the short and long term objectives the School of Engineering will take in the future. One of the areas examined was the departmental programs. "We will now be offering more flexibility in the program to meet the student's interests and objectives," stated Dr. Kraft. "We have always had the necessary courses for an elective minor, for example, but now we intend to formalize and permit students to minor in such areas as environmental engineering, urban engineering, transportation, etc., while still receiving their engineering degree in a fully accredited program."

Dr. Kraft also sees the need to begin offering courses and programs which are at the interface of technology and society. "We need to address ourselves to students outside of engineering who would like, and who need, some technical knowledge--technical studies--to be not only a well-rounded individual, but also functional in our society. These students would not be engineering majors, but could possibly minor in an engineering type study program. They would work back and forth between technology and our social and humanitarian concerns," he continued.

A more personalized counseling program is also on the agenda for the School of Engineering. Faculty who have professional experience and who relate well with young people in particular will work closely with the engineering freshmen, sophomores, and transfer students. As an aid in this counseling effort, for the first time beginning this Fall semester, all freshmen engineering students will be housed together in the on-campus dorms to facilitate contact with these students.

On the graduate level, the School of Engineering will continue to expand "to meet the community needs of the over 8,000 engineers and scientists in the Dayton area," affirmed Dr. Kraft. He also pointed out that over the past several years, the graduate enrollment for the School of Engineering has increased approximately 20% a year and now offers such diversified programs as Civil, Aerospace, Chemical, Electrical Materials Science, Mechanical Engineering, and Engineering Management.

What is the engineering student of today like? According to Dr. Kraft, a greater percentage of these students are more interested in the interaction between technology and society, and in particular, how they can make positive contributions in this area after graduation. This, he believes, is because of their greater awareness.

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Today's ~~engineering~~ student at UD is able to apply his interest in society not only through the courses offered but also by participation in special projects continually being undertaken by different student/ faculty groups. Systems science, new towns, mass transportation, stronger metals, are all being explored by UD's engineering student.

One ~~example~~ that Dr. Kraft cited to show the way in which technology can work to improve our environment is the Urban Vehicle project. A team of engineering students, under the direction of Dr. Vance Browne of the Mechanical Engineering Department, and spearheaded by Bob Gilbert and Dennis Mullins, both Mechanical Engineering students, have designed and are currently constructing a "car of the future" from scratch. The car will be one of eighty entries in a contest sponsored by the Student Corporation on Relevant Engineering and organized by MIT. The objective of the contest is to design and construct a small city car, with an emphasis on safety, economics, and emission control. Parts, materials, and financing were contributed by various businesses, industries, and local concerns, with strong support, encouragement, and financing from the University administration. The judging will be held in early August. The project, which was started over a year ago, has involved approximately sixty people, most of them students.