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First Diploma Exercise of the University of Dayton's 122nd Commencement

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DAYTON, Ohio, December 15, 1971 --- A 41-year-old Dayton mother, Mrs. Albert (Lola) Blardinelli of 5136 Cloudsdale Drive, Kettering, who is grateful to "the University, my husband and my three children for their patience," will graduate summa cum laude from the University of Dayton Saturday after a 14-year college career. The grateful mother, who is the top graduate with a 3.973 cumulative average out of a possible 4.0, is among 519 graduates at the first diploma exercises of UD's 122nd Commencement in the UD Arena at 10:30 a.m.

Mrs. Blardinelli returned to school in 1957 when she enrolled at the University of Dayton because she felt the need for more education and her children then were all in school. Except for two years (1962-63) in St. Louis where her husband, a research chemist at Monsanto, was transferred, Mrs. Blardinelli has pursued her degree on a part time basis. One of nine honor graduates Saturday, she will receive a bachelor of arts degree in history with a minor in French. Her concentration was in European history and "it has been so interesting I hope I can start, at some time, my work toward a master's degree."

At the moment, however, she would like to concentrate on her husband and three children, Jill, 17; David, 14; and Karen, 11, who "have pitched in and helped me get my degree through their confidence in me and the amount of household chores they accepted."

"I want to say, too," she concluded, "that I am so grateful to the University of Dayton officials and professors who took me so seriously, understood my problems in returning to school, and guided me through."

Another Daytonian, Kathleen Gmeiner, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Gmeiner, 301 Volusia Avenue, is the second highest, graduating magna cum laude with a 3.788 average. She will receive a bachelor of arts degree in political science.

Other magna cum laude graduates are Deborah M. Trawczynski of Chicago, bachelor of science in biology, 3.775; Kathleen Hebbeler of Fort Wright, Kentucky, bachelor of science in psychology, 3.774; and William Gaab of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, bachelor of science in business administration, 3.710.

Four others will graduate cum laude. They are Nancy Jean Wetzel DeVore, wife of William DeVore, 4280 Stonehaven Road, Kettering, and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph L. Wetzel, 2916 Wayne Avenue, Dayton, bachelor of science in home economics, 3.658; George Ghayeb of Haifa, Israel, bachelor of science in business administration, 3.540; Jeffrey A. Schwamberger, Louisville, Kentucky, bachelor of arts in communication arts, 3.535, and Lea Ellen Koesterer, Freeburg, Illinois, bachelor of fine arts, 3.527.

Four hundred and two men and 117 women will receive their diplomas. The 519 brings to 26,925 men and women who have received diplomas from the University of Dayton since 1885. The figure also brings to 16,937 men and women or 63 per cent of the UD graduates, who have earned degrees at the University of Dayton since 1961.