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Student Center to be Dedicated

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DAYTON, Ohio, December 6, 1984 -- A ceremony will be held on Monday, December 10, at 12 noon to dedicate the University of Dayton McGinnis Center at 301 Lowes Street to the memory of Edward C. McGinnis. Mr. McGinnis, who died in March 1983, was the husband of Marie-Louise McGinnis, a member of the University of Dayton Board of Trustees. Mr. McGinnis was the former executive vice president of the Dayton division of Southwestern Portland Cement Company.

A tour of the center and the unveiling of the building's new name will begin at noon, followed by a luncheon for family members. Thomas T. Montiegel, vice president for Development and Alumni Relations, will present the McGinnis family with a commemorative gift, and remarks by Brother Raymond L. Fitz, S.M., Ph.D., president of the University, will close the ceremony.

The McGinnis family and the Leonardt Foundation, which is a McGinnis family Foundation, have pledged $250,000 to fund renovation of the Center, which was acquired last year from the Dayton Public School System. The gift has been designated as a challenge gift. A total of $500,000 is needed to complete the work being done on the building, with the remaining amount being raised by UD parents. At present, their total contribution is over $63,000.

Some modest repairs and renovations have already been completed, but major improvements, including a new heating and cooling system and roof, must await full funding before they will be undertaken.

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Fitz cites a number of reasons for restoring the old school building as an off-campus center. "It provides a place for the indoor programming of activities in the off-campus area and also increases the visibility of the university in the area. The occasional overcrowded conditions at the J. F. Kennedy Memorial Union will be alleviated, and we will make activities more accessible to the one-third of our students living off campus. It will provide a base of operation for our student development staff to coordinate activities for the betterment of the entire area. All segments of campus and neighborhood communities can benefit from its availability even when classes are not in session."

Presently, the Center houses laundry facilities for off-campus student residents, a student-operated food cooperative, office space, study lounges, and meeting rooms. A recreation room with a stage and large floor space has already been used by the University's studio theatre groups and for other special events in the off-campus area. The goal in expanding the functions of the McGinnis Center is to keep the facility as flexible as possible.

For more information, contact University Communications at 229-3241.