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UD ESTABLISHES CONCENTRATION IN AEROSPACE ENGINEERING FOR UNDERGRADUATES

DAYTON, Ohio, November 8, 1988--Like the city itself, the University of Dayton has played a major role in aerospace history and tradition. More than one-quarter of a billion dollars of research has been performed on behalf of the Air Force since 1949, and UD has offered both an M.S. and Ph.D. in aerospace engineering since 1972.

Now undergraduates can concentrate their studies in aerospace engineering, with a formal degree expected to be offered within five years. Beginning in January 1989, juniors in mechanical engineering at UD can work toward the aerospace concentration. The Mechanical Engineering Department, recently renamed the Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Department, has received approval on the courses needed for an aerospace concentration, according to John Schauer, department chair.

"We think this step will lead to an actual aerospace engineering degree here at UD within a five-year period," Schauer said. "The student response has been very positive." He said approximately 40 students have indicated interest in registering for the first course in aerodynamics.

Undergraduates have previously been able to minor in aerospace engineering by completing four courses. To qualify for a concentration, students will have to complete seven courses. In addition to aerodynamics, courses will include gas dynamics, aerospace performance and controls, aerospace structures, propulsion and aerospace design. A laboratory course is expected to be offered next year to round out the concentration.

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Two faculty members have been added to the department to teach and conduct research in aerospace and mechanical engineering. James Scott of Spring Valley, a nationally recognized expert in the field of computational fluid dynamics, was given a tenured faculty position in August. He was formerly a research engineer in UD's Research Institute. Kevin Hallinan came to UD in May from Johns Hopkins University. His expertise is fluid mechanics and heat transfer.

In 1972, just three years after the first landing on the moon, the University of Dayton initiated its graduate program in aerospace engineering to complement existing graduate programs in electrical, mechanical and materials engineering. The graduate program offers courses leading to the master of science, doctor of engineering and doctor of philosophy in aerospace engineering degrees. Most of the graduate courses have been offered in the late afternoon and evening to accommodate a market created by local industry and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

The University of Dayton has the largest part-time engineering graduate enrollment (576 students) in the state of Ohio, and the number of graduate degrees awarded in engineering has increased fourfold in the last decade, according to department statistics. In 1988, the department expects to award 138 graduate degrees.

At UD, education and research are closely tied. The University of Dayton Research Institute performs $31 million worth of research annually, much of it in conjunction with Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, the world's center of aerospace research. UDRI, one of the base's largest local contractors, employs 400 full-time engineers and scientists.

For information about UD's undergraduate and graduate offerings in aerospace engineering, call John Schauer at 229-2999.