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March 17, 1989

UD INVESTS IN SAFETY AND STATE-OF-THE-ART TECHNOLOGY WITH PREFABRICATED FLAMMABLE MATERIALS BUILDING

A state-of-the-art prefabricated building for the storage of flammable materials arrived on the University of Dayton campus this week. The first structure of its kind in Dayton, the building will be used primarily by the chemistry department to house chemicals from Wohlleben Hall, according to Sandra Kulik, UD's safety officer.

"It's a long-term solution to the storage of flammable materials on campus," Kulik said. "We're trying to be very aggressive in promoting safety on campus."

The $35,000 fire-rated building is 22 feet long and features 18-gauge steel exterior walls, a dry chemical fire suppression system, a 10-gauge steel spill-containment reservoir below the floor, explosion-relief panels capable of containing an explosion in the building and a 20,000-pound bulk material capacity.

The University of Dayton is not the only university to invest in such a system. The University of Cincinnati, Stanford University, University of California at Berkeley, University of California at Irvine, Florida A&M University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the University of Mississippi and North Carolina University have all installed similar buildings.

For more information, contact Sandra Kulik at 229-4333.

UD ARCHEOLOGIST RECONSTRUCTS ANCIENT LANDSCAPES TO TRACE DAYS OF ROMAN EMPIRE

Archeologist Bruce Hitchner quickly dismisses any comparisons to Indiana Jones, Steven Spielberg's popular film creation.

"The work's not sexy. Archeology frequently is counting potsherds vs. discovering buried treasure," said Hitchner, an assistant professor of history and Oakwood resident. "It's hard, back-breaking work, but ultimately there's romance in it."

Since 1982, Hitchner has spent summers conducting an archeological survey in Kasserine in the North African country of Tunisia. Members of the surveying team walk the land, marking sites where farms, fields and villas once stood. They're trying to "reconstruct the ancient landscape"--which is largely uninhabited today--to answer questions about Roman imperial rule. The region once produced grain and olive oil for Rome. Hitchner believes the area's soil erosion and deforestation can be traced to the Roman Empire pushing the region to its agricultural limits. "The fall of the Roman Empire has nothing to do with moral decadence," he said. "It has more to do with such things as the over-exploitation of the landscape."

A Tunisian-American cooperative project, the survey involves a surface recording of archeological sites, not an excavation. Supported by the National Geographic Society, the U.S. Information Agency and the American Philosophical Society, the project also will receive $25,000 through the University of Dayton Research Institute. A grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities is pending.

For media interviews, contact Bruce Hitchner at 229-3291.