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UD PROFESSOR TO DEVELOP DAYTON "URBAN GEOLOGY" PROGRAM

DAYTON, Ohio -- Michael R. Sandy, assistant professor of geology at the University of Dayton, has been awarded one of the University's coveted Urban Fellowships to develop a "Building Stones of Downtown Dayton" program.

Sandy's program, to be done in conjunction with the City of Dayton, is designed to increase general awareness of the wide variety of geological features to be seen in the stones of downtown Dayton structures.

Sandy will prepare educational materials, in brochure or booklet form, which will identify and describe different types of stones used in downtown Dayton construction. He has developed a similar brochure about the building stones on the UD campus.

The program, says Sandy, could be especially useful for Dayton high school students and teachers, area college students, visitors and the general public.

The Urban Fellowship Program, an effort sponsored jointly by UD and the City of Dayton, annually awards fellowships to UD faculty members, enabling them to develop their projects, which must have a City of Dayton orientation.

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In his project, Sandy will work with the Dayton Department of Planning or the Living City Project. The program also provides fellowships to City of Dayton employees to use UD resources to examine issues and problems related to their departments or divisions. The program is funded by a UD endowment.

Sandy, who earned his B.S. and Ph.D. degrees at the University of London, uses his UD brochure in his beginning geology class. He calls this approach "urban geology."

"It's a different way of helping students learn about rocks, and it's especially helpful for students in urban areas who might not get much opportunity for field study," says Sandy. "A scholar in London has done the same thing there, and I picked the idea up from him."

Each semester, Sandy's students spend at least one class period walking around the UD campus, following the route of a 45-minute "rock tour" he has designed. A printed brochure and map describe the rocks at different sites on the 101-acre campus.

"Almost any urban area contains numerous different types of rocks in its buildings," says Sandy. "This might not be the entire answer, but a brochure like this could help students and others in urban areas to learn to identify different types of rocks and have fun while so doing."

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For media interviews, contact Michael R. Sandy, assistant professor of geology, at (513) 229-2952.