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Nationally Known First, CEO, Legal Expert to Receive Honorary Degrees from UD

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DAYTON, Ohio -- A nationally known Catholic priest, a CEO of a Fortune 500 firm and a leading legal expert will receive honorary degrees from the University of Dayton at spring commencement 10 a.m. Sunday, April 28, in UD Arena.

Besides the honorary degrees, approximately 1,053 bachelor, 287 master, one Ph.D. in engineering and two education specialists degrees will be awarded.

The Rev. George Clements is best known as the founder and president of "One Church, One Child," a program dedicated to finding black adoptive parents for black children. In 1981, he became the first Catholic priest to adopt a son and has since adopted three more.

The pastor of Holy Angels Church in Chicago for more than two decades, Clements recently gained national attention again--this time for successfully fighting to have laws enacted forbidding the sale of drug paraphernalia in Chicago and 17 states.

Clements, who will be awarded the honorary degree of doctor of humane letters, is one of the founders and former executive director of the Black Catholic Clergy Caucus. He is chaplain and founder of the African-American Police League.

Burnell R. Roberts, chairman of the board and chief executive officer for Mead Corp., will receive the honorary degree of doctor of business administration. Roberts is director and former chairman of the American Paper Institute; a director of the Japan Society; a trustee on the boards of the Committee for Economic Development and of the Aspen Institute for Humanistic -more-
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Studies; and a director of the National City Corp., Armco Inc., Perkin-Elmer Corp. and DPL Inc.

Roberts is strongly committed to community service. He has chaired the Dayton Area Progress Council and now chairs the Advanced Technology Network Planning Committee. He has served on the boards of numerous institutions, such as the Dayton Art Institute, the Dayton Foundation, Junior Achievement, St. Rita School for the Deaf, Greater Dayton Public Television and ARTS Dayton.

Alumnus Joseph E. Keller, who has gained a national reputation as a leading expert in the fields of communication law and private carrier law, will receive the honorary degree of doctor of humane letters.

Keller graduated three times from UD--from the prep school in 1924, from the University with an A.B. degree in 1928 and from the School of Law in 1930. Keller's practice of law has taken him to federal district courts in the District of Columbia and in Detroit; to state courts in Ohio, Massachusetts, California and Louisiana; and to Canadian provincial courts in Ontario and New Brunswick. In addition, he has practiced law before numerous federal boards and administrative agencies, and he has served as an expert witness before congressional committees deliberating on pending legislation.

Throughout his life, Keller has been extensively involved in volunteer activity. For more than 40 years he was active with the Gorgas Institute of Tropical and Preventative Medicine, serving as general counsel. He has also served as general counsel for the Katherine Pollard Maddux Mental Health Association, which deals with mental health among preschool children. For his decades of work with the Boy Scouts of America, he has received the Silver Beaver Award, the highest Catholic scouting service award. He is widely credited for his work in integrating the Boy Scouts of America in the Washington, D.C., area.

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