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UD DEVELOPMENT FUND SCORES HOLE IN ONE

DAYTON, Ohio -- The University of Dayton Scholarship Fund is $8,000 richer, thanks to some excellent golfing by one of its loyal alumni.

James O. Payne, a Kettering resident and a 1959 graduate of UD, won $8,000 by placing second in the Sprint Classic Golf Tournament held last month at the La Quinta Country Club in Palm Springs, Calif.

"The University of Dayton has always meant a great deal to me and my family," Payne says. "So when I won, I decided to contribute the winnings to UD, to use as it sees fit."

Payne received his bachelor's degree in economics. His wife, Suzanne, earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in English at the University as well. One of the couple's five children, Kathleen, will be a junior at the University this fall.

To recognize Payne, UD has decided to place the winnings in its scholarship fund, creating a special annual award to be called the James O. Payne Scholarship.

"When Jim called to tell me he was contributing his golfing purse to the University, he started off by telling me he had found an unusual way to raise money for his alma mater," says Patrick M. Joyce, UD vice president for advancement. "That it certainly is, and we're very pleased and grateful.

"Jim didn't shoot a hole in one at the tourney," explains Joyce, "but with our students who will benefit from his success on the links, he rates an ace."

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Payne, executive vice president of finance and administration for The Berry Company, shot an 81 each outing during the two-day tourney.

"That's slightly better than my usual score," says Payne, a frequent golfer at the Dayton Country Club.

In its second year, the Sprint Classic Golf Tournament provided a total of $100,000 in charitable contributions.

"Our company has a long, proud history of responsible support of worthy causes, and the Sprint Classic Tournament enhances this tradition," says William T. Esrey, chairman and chief executive of United Telecommunications and US Sprint.

US Sprint is a unit of United Telecommunications Company Inc., a diversified international telecommunications company headquartered in Kansas City, Mo.

The University of Dayton is a private, coeducational school founded and sponsored by the Society of Mary (Marianists), a Roman Catholic teaching order. UD is the largest independent university in Ohio and among the 10 largest Catholic universities in the nation. Approximately 11,000 graduate and undergraduate students currently attend UD.

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For media interviews, call Jim Payne at (513) 296-2121.