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UNIVERSITY of



DAYTON

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NEWS RELEASE

EXHIBIT OFFERS SNAPSHOTS OF 150 YEARS OF UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON HISTORY

DAYTON, Ohio — It's a look back in time, as absorbing as a trip through a family photo album.

The University of Dayton's rich 150-year history is captured in an exhibit of framed archival photos in the first- and second-floor galleries in UD's Roesch Library. The exhibit, "Sesquicentennial Foundation: Images of UD's First 150 Years," runs Sept. 24-Oct. 31. The gallery is open during library hours (Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. to midnight, Friday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday 10 to midnight).

The photos, selected by UD archivist Kerrie Moore, are eclectic. Primary schoolboys in caps and ties take an 1869 field trip on the canal. In 1917, cadets march across campus in preparation for service in World War I. A 1935 photo captures the first class of women at the University of Dayton. Small children wave from the tiers of a giant birthday cake float in UD's centennial parade through downtown Dayton in 1949.

Fast forward to the 1980s for images of Father Norbert Burns, UD's "marriage priest," teaching his popular Christian marriage course and UD students hosting children from the community at a "Christmas on Campus" celebration, a popular campus tradition that dates back to 1964.

The 38-photo exhibit contains one color image: a portrait of Father Leo Meyer, the Marianist priest who founded what was to become the University of Dayton when he bought a 125-acre farm from Dayton landowner John Stuart with a St. Joseph medal and a promise of \$12,000 at 6 percent interest.

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The rest are black-and-white enlargements of campus scenes ranging from a traditional outdoor May crowning ceremony to beanie-clad teen-age boys at their freshman initiation. Early photos show the original deed; the tombstone of Mary Louisa G. Stuart, Stuart's four-month-old infant who died of cholera; and throngs of spectators at a turn-of-the-century dedication of the Immaculate Conception statue that still stands on the lawn between St. Mary Hall and the campus library. Other photos reflect UD's tie to the Dayton community. A 1913 *Dayton Journal* headline describes UD as "an institution near to the heart of all Daytonians." A mid-1950s shot shows a Dayton Chamber of Commerce billboard that reads: "University of Dayton. In Its Second Century of Service to Dayton."

"I organized the exhibit around key University of Dayton themes illustrated in UD's *Vision 2005* strategic plan," Moore said. "These are UD themes that have remained consistent throughout the years — the emphasis on educating the whole person, the idea that students are educated for leadership and service, that UD has a strong bond with the Dayton community."

The exhibit opens on the eve of UD's sesquicentennial celebration, which kicks off Sept. 25 with a daylong campus celebration that is free and open to the Dayton community. Many of the exhibit's photos will also appear on the University of Dayton's sesquicentennial Web site (www.udayton.edu/150/), which will debut the week of Sept. 20.

The photographs are part of a collection of historical photos found in the University of Dayton archives. Besides photos, visitors can find the original deed to the property, a ledger of names of flood refugees who stayed at the University of Dayton in 1913, bottles of Kentucky Derby whiskey from the Si Burick collection and scrapbooks of clippings, including articles about when Elvis performed at the Fieldhouse and when students conducted sit-ins in the administration building. Next spring, the archives will receive the Erma Bombeck papers — a collection of manuscripts and columns written by the 1949 graduate who became one of America's most famous humorists.

UD's archives, on the second floor of Albert Emanuel Hall, are open to the public 8:30 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.