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Nov. 24, 1999
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NEWS RELEASE

CHANNEL 16 TO AIR DOCUMENTARY ON HISTORY OF UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON

DAYTON, Ohio — From a local orchard farm to one of the country's largest Catholic colleges, the University of Dayton's 150-year history is chronicled in an upcoming documentary on public television.

The 50-minute production, "Our University on the Hill: The First 150 Years of the University of Dayton," debuts at 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 3, on local PBS-affiliate WPTD (Channel 16). It will be re-broadcast at 8 p.m. on Dec. 29; 11 a.m. on Dec. 30; and at 4 p.m. on Jan. 2. Carl Day, a TV news anchor at WDTN, is the narrator.

The documentary — part of UD's sesquicentennial celebration, which runs through May 2001 — highlights the school's history, accomplishments and the people who helped make it the largest private university in Ohio and one of the 10 largest Catholic universities in the country.

"We're always looking for important subjects in which to make documentaries," says Roy Flynn, production manager at Channel 16. "The University of Dayton is a local institution and, given its long history and close relationship to the Dayton community, deserves to be put on film."

Flynn says the documentary is divided into six segments: as a school for boys beginning in 1850; as an emerging college in the 1880s through World War I and the 1920s; the pre-World War II years when women were admitted and enrollment flourished; the post-war years with the GI Bill and new departments, courses and resources; the continued physical and academic growth of the school over the past four decades; and the University today as a nationally recognized institution of higher learning.

"UD has gone through so much growth and changes that viewers, even if they didn't attend the school, will find the documentary fascinating," Flynn adds.

A significant cost of the \$60,000 project was funded with a gift by Jim Tinney, owner and CEO of Edge & Tinney Architects Inc., UD's contracted architectural firm since 1982. He recently previewed the documentary.

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"I believe viewers will find it quite captivating," Tinney says. "The old photos are especially compelling as are the memories shared by those who have been most touched by the University of Dayton."

Tinney said he became involved with the documentary to preserve an important part of local history.

"UD has meant — and still means — so much to the Dayton community," he says. "This relationship has to be preserved, and what better way than through a well-done documentary?"

The piece also chronicles UD's commitment to the spirit of its Catholic heritage, its role in higher education and to the quality of graduates it produces, Tinney says.

UD was founded in 1850 by the Marianists, a Roman Catholic teaching order of brothers and priests. In summer 1849, the Rev. Leo Meyer, S.M., and Brother Charles Schultz, S.M., were sent to Dayton to minister to the sick during a cholera epidemic, during which they met John Stuart, a local parishioner whose young daughter had died of cholera. Stuart, wanting to return to Europe to be with his wife, accepted a St. Joseph medal from Meyer and a promise of \$12,000 at 6 percent interest in return for his 125-acre farm, which would become the University of Dayton.

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For media interviews, contact **Jim Tinney** at (937) 293-2022 and **Roy Flynn** at (937) 220-1721.