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Building a Bangalore Library, Book by Book, For the Brothers

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BUILDING A BANGALORE LIBRARY,
BOOK BY BOOK, FOR THE BROTHERS

DAYTON, Ohio — Wanted: Books for Bangalore.

University of Dayton library professor Michael Krieger is getting ready to ship many of the books in the UD philosophy department’s conference room to Bangalore, India, where the University offers a philosophy degree program for brothers in the Society of Mary (Marianists), the religious order that founded and sponsors UD.

The goal is to provide a small college library of 50,000 to 100,000 volumes for the program. Five Marianists in Bangalore are currently enrolled and are expected to earn bachelor’s degrees from UD in 2001. They will meet the same requirements as do students in Dayton.

In Bangalore, the Marianist brothers work with street children and families, training them for employment. The Marianists’ 25-acre complex, called Deephalli, meaning village of light, is a self-sufficient community that includes orchards and gardens, classrooms, a conference center and computer center. Among the Indian Marianist brothers, Krieger said he observed the same commitment to community and to education that characterize the U.S. Marianists.

Krieger spent nine weeks in Bangalore this spring, organizing and cataloging the 1,700-volume fledgling library and training an English professor to serve as librarian. The collection of UD philosophy professor emerita Jane Zembaty and donations from St. Mary’s University, a Marianist institution in San Antonio, Texas, are among the works already sent. Donations, especially in literature, science and social science, are being sought.

The director of the Bangalore philosophy program, Harry Roberts, visited UD for three months earlier this year and met with Patricia Johnson, philosophy department chair, to discuss grading, standards and syllabi. E-mail and the Web help with sharing information and syllabi. An oversight committee in the College will regularly review the program, and a site visit is planned every second year.

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In Roesch Library, which is serving as a clearing house for the book donations, Sefic and Slavica Konjic, immigrants to the U.S. from Sarajevo who have settled in Dayton, site of the peace accords that ended the fighting in their home country, have volunteered to pack and ship the books. Nineteen mailbags each weighing 66 pounds have already been sent by surface mail and will arrive in Bangalore in several months.

Those with books to donate may contact Pat Johnson at (937) 229-2933 or via e-mail at johnsonp@checkov.hm.udayton.edu or Mike Krieger at (937) 229-4581 or via e-mail at krieger@data.lib.udayton.edu.

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