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Sept. 27, 2001
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NEWS RELEASE

UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON RECEIVES MORE ACCOLADES FOR TECHNOLOGY, YAHOO! NAMES UD TOP WIRED UNIVERSITY IN OHIO, 16TH IN THE NATION

DAYTON, Ohio — The University of Dayton continues to be the top wired university in Ohio and now ranks in the top 20 in the nation.

The University of Dayton is the 16th most-wired university nationally, according to *Yahoo! Internet Life's* annual "Most Wired Colleges" survey of universities and colleges. The University of Dayton was ranked 21st in the nation last year. The rankings will appear in the October issue of the magazine or can be found online at www.wiredcolleges.com.

This is UD's second national recognition in two months. In the *2002 Kaplan/Newsweek College Catalog*, UD's admission Web site was named one of the top five in the country.

Yahoo! Internet Life conducted extensive research on 1,300 U.S. colleges and universities for "sheer computing power, integration of the Net into curricula and classrooms, availability of technical support for students and numerous other criteria." The University of Dayton received its highest marks for student resources and infrastructure.

"Dayton's cutting-edge Web portal offers a 'virtual dorm room' which allows floormates to interact with one another prior to arrival on campus," the magazine noted.

Carnegie Mellon University topped the list nationally. The report lists three other Ohio schools in the top 100: Kent State (37), Ohio State (48) and Miami University (74). The University of Dayton, which was the most wired Catholic university in last year's survey, fell to the second spot, 3/10 of a point behind Seton Hall University. Other Catholic universities that made the top 100 were the University of Scranton (39), Santa Clara University (82), Marist College (85), Villanova University (88) and Notre Dame University (93).

UD administrators believe the recognition by Yahoo! increases UD's prestige as one of the nation's leading wired universities and will help recruit students. "This high ranking continues to substantiate the high quality learning and technology environment that our students demand. We are preparing students for work and life in the digital age," said Chris Muñoz, vice president for enrollment management.

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Here's part of what sets the University of Dayton apart from other wired universities:

- More than 1,800 students are enrolled in online courses that are enriched by electronic discussions and virtual teamwork projects. More than 90 percent of UD faculty members use technology tools in the classroom.
- The University of Dayton now accepts only online applications for undergraduate admission, the only university in the country to take this step, UD officials believe. Last year, more than 60 percent of prospective students applied electronically. There's no application fee. Prospective students receive tailored e-mail newsletters and a customized Web site based on their interests.
- All University-owned housing on the highly residential campus — space for 5,645 students in residence halls, apartments and 350 houses in a 25-block campus neighborhood — is fully wired for direct high-speed Internet connection as well as the University's 78-channel cable television system and telephone network. It's a noteworthy initiative: No other residential campus in the country has networked a neighborhood of single-family homes, UD officials say. The University also offers a wireless data network in the library, student union and the student neighborhood, giving students living in private property high-speed access. It provides free dial-in connections to the campus computer network for the small percentage of undergraduate students who live off campus or in non-University housing.
- Before new students even set foot on campus, they take placement exams, sign up for classes and make new friends through UD's "virtual orientation" Web site. Professors used the site this summer to help students get a head start on a mandatory humanities curriculum, a set of four interconnected first-year courses, one each in English, history, philosophy and religious studies.
- The University of Dayton requires students to own computers. When incoming students moved into their residence halls, desktop computers, fully loaded with the same Microsoft and Lotus software their professors use, await them.
- Students use their computers to check out photos and floor plans of all University-owned housing, get together with their friends, tap into a special online housing lottery site and make electronic "first dibs" on housing for the fall.
- Students register for classes over the Internet, from dawn until midnight. As soon as a student hits the button to register for a class, he or she automatically gets a seat, if it's available. The customized system allows a faculty adviser to review the selections, and with one click, approve a student's schedule.
- Students can access grades, order transcripts, check out and renew library books — all online at any time of the day or night.
- Among curricular innovations: The University of Dayton's Center for Portfolio Management and Security Analysis, a hands-on laboratory for student investors, features sophisticated investment management tools and materials, including up-to-the-minute information on stock trades. Students invest in two portfolios, including one that has grown into a \$1 million investment fund.
- Among computer support: Webmentors, computer-savvy students who teach professors how to build Web sites; and the Ryan C. Harris Learning Teaching Center, where faculty

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and students explore innovations in teaching and learning. Computers are equipped with groupware to facilitate decision making, brainstorming and other group work. The center also features a wireless network and "smart boards" that can convert a person's writing into computerized information that appears simultaneously on computer screens in the room.

University of Dayton administrators encourage families to use more than rankings to evaluate information technology on campuses. One site provides families with a list of questions to ask about technology and helps them match their children's needs with a campus' capabilities. See <http://www.educause.edu/consumerguide/>.

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