

DANIEL J. CURRAN BIOGRAPHY



Daniel J. Curran is president of the University of Dayton, recognized as a top-tier national research university and one of the 10 best Catholic universities in the country. The Philadelphia native became the University of Dayton's 18th president and first lay leader on July 1, 2002.

An energetic man of faith and vision, Dr. Curran brings a forward-thinking approach and a strong commitment to social justice, internationalization and the Marianist educational philosophy. By almost every measure — from enrollment to research dollars to rankings — the University of Dayton has grown in stature during his presidency.

First-year undergraduate applications have soared more than 60 percent, entering test scores are at a record high and selectivity has increased by double digits.

The sponsored research volume is approaching nearly \$100 million. In 2009, the University of Dayton was named the lead partner for the Aerospace Hub, the first Ohio Hub of Innovation and Opportunity. During Dr. Curran's tenure, UD also has established centers of excellence in nanotechnology; fuels and combustion; ladar and optical communications; and advanced sensor technology. The University of Dayton is the No. 1 Catholic university in engineering research and the No. 2 university nationally in materials research funding.

In the classroom, the entrepreneurship program ranks in the top 10 in the nation for the fourth straight year, according to Entrepreneur magazine and The Princeton Review. The University of Dayton is part of a small network of premiere teacher preparation programs dedicated to changing the way students are prepared to teach. In another Carnegie Foundation initiative, the University of Dayton is one of 10 law schools — including Harvard, Stanford, Vanderbilt and Georgetown — shaping the future of legal education.

During Dr. Curran's presidency, the University launched the nation's first accelerated law curriculum, started a doctor of physical therapy program, introduced one of the nation's first bachelor's degrees in human rights studies and offered the state's first master's program in clean and renewable energy.

Internationally, UD's Catholic, Marianist brand of education is resonating. For two straight years, the University of Dayton ranks first in international student satisfaction, according to an International Student Barometer survey, the largest study of international students in the world. UD ranks as the fifth-best



university for Chinese students studying abroad, according to Aoji Study Abroad, a student-recruiting agency. In 2008, the University signed its first two partnership agreements with colleges in India. UD now has partnerships with nearly 30 universities and colleges around the world in countries including China, France, Lebanon, Kuwait, Morocco, South Korea, Spain and Thailand.

As a testament to its Marianist philosophy of community service, the University of Dayton ranks first among Catholic universities and ties for second overall for its community revitalization initiatives, according to the 2009 “Savior of Our Cities” survey. In 2005, the University purchased 50 acres of land from NCR and plans to remediate the former brownfield and expand campus to the Great Miami River.

Campus has undergone a transformation. UD finished the Science Center and Innovation Center; built a sports complex; and opened the Dayton Early College Academy, a charter school that prepares first-



generation college students to earn a high school diploma and college credits at the same time. In the residential arena, UD constructed two facilities that combine living and learning — Marianist Hall, a residence hall with learning spaces, and ArtStreet, an imaginative housing and arts education complex in the University neighborhood. RecPlex, an ultramodern fitness and recreation complex, opened in 2006. Marycrest and Stuart Halls both underwent multi-million-dollar renovations.

In addition, UD teamed with commercial developers on two

ventures: University Place, a two-story mixed-use development on the corner of Brown and Stewart streets that includes graduate apartments and retail outlets, and Courtyard by the Marriott at the University of Dayton, a hotel near UD Arena.

Dr. Curran serves on numerous national, regional and local boards.

As a member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association’s Division I board of directors from 2004-2008, Dr. Curran helped shape academic reforms designed to improve the graduation rate of student-athletes. He also has served on the executive committee and Division I-AA/I-AAA Presidential Advisory Group and the Higher Learning Commission. He currently serves on the Atlantic-10 President’s Council.

In the state, Dr. Curran chairs the Strategic Planning Committee of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Ohio and serves on the board of the Ohio Children’s Defense Fund.

In the Dayton region, he focuses on economic development and high-tech issues. In 2009, DaytonB2B magazine featured him in its 2009 Hot List of six community leaders “who we believe will be key to helping shape the region’s growth and economy in the coming year.” In 2006, the Dayton Development Coalition named him the Dayton region’s most outstanding volunteer citizen. He currently serves on the executive committee of the Dayton Development Coalition as well as a number of other boards, including the Homeless Solutions Policy Board, Dayton Daily News business advisory panel, Mayor’s Council on Economic Development, CEO Roundtable Task Force, Miami Valley Research Foundation, Miami Valley Higher Education Consortium and SOCHE.

A sociologist by training, Dr. Curran spent 23 years in various administrative and faculty positions at Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia, most recently as executive vice president and vice president for academic affairs. He's a noted scholar in criminology, juvenile justice and social problems, with a deep interest in international issues.

His passion for social justice runs deep. At his presidential installation ceremony in April 2003, he noted that a Catholic university must be "a force for social change. As a community of learners and educators, we must analyze the causes of social injustice and educate professionals with a conscience."

In 2007, he received the Joseph E. Lowery Human Rights Legacy Award from the Southern Christian Leadership Conference as well as the Humanitarian Award from the National Conference for Community and Justice of Greater Dayton for his "personal advocacy and energy toward building a more inclusive community." In 2005, he joined University of Dayton students on a relief trip to hurricane-stricken Mississippi. In 2002, he received the Eternal Flame Award, an international award given for "exceptional contribution to the field of Holocaust education."

Most of Dr. Curran's research has focused on ways to address social inequality. His prolific scholarly record includes eight books, most of which he co-authored with his wife, Claire M. Renzetti, a sociology professor at the University of Dayton. *Theories of Crime: A Reader* was published in 2003 and is now available in Polish and Czech. The two are working on updated editions of *Women, Men and Society:*



The Sociology of Gender and Social Problems: Society in Crisis. In 1993, the University of Pittsburgh Press published his *Dead Laws for Dead Men*, a historical analysis of coal mine health and safety legislation.

Before becoming a vice president at Saint Joseph's University, Dr. Curran served as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences for four years. He started his academic career there in 1979 with a series of faculty positions in the department of sociology, including chair from 1988 to 1992. As a professor of sociology, he has taught courses in criminology, social problems, juvenile justice and white-collar crime. Dr. Curran also served as president of the faculty senate at Saint Joseph's University.

In 1990, he served as a Fulbright Senior Scholar at the University of Melbourne in Australia. He held a concurrent professorship at Nanjing University in China.

Dr. Curran earned a Ph.D. from the University of Delaware in 1980 after receiving a master's degree from Temple University in 1978 and a bachelor's degree from Saint Joseph's University in 1973 — all in sociology. Dr. Curran and his wife, Claire, have two sons, Sean and Aidan.

(revised October 2009)