

## **CASSEL GRUBB UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR OF MUSIC 1999-2004**

October 1999

Orcenith Smith has been appointed as the Cassel Grubb University Professor of Music for 1999-2004

In April 1999, Trustee Gary P. Drew '61 and his wife Sandra Aldrich Drew '62, who was a piano major and voice minor in the School of Music, established an endowment for the Cassel Grubb Professor of Music. This new professorship honors emeritus professor Cassel Grubb who served as Professor of Music and Director of the School of Music for many years. He was a member of the faculty from 1949 to 1989.

The Drews' gift created a professorship of distinction and significance equivalent to those of the University Professorships for which the first appointments were recently announced. The principal difference is that the Grubb Professorship is restricted to only a portion of the DePauw faculty. In completing the selection process, the President and I consulted the dossiers of members of the School of Music who had been nominated and reviewed for the award of University Professorships. We have made the appointment recognizing the eligible faculty member rated most highly by the review committee among those deemed to have demonstrated sustained excellence in teaching effectiveness, service and professional activity at levels suitable for recognition.

The inaugural appointment to the Grubb Professorship, for a term from 1999-2004, goes to a distinguished member of the faculty of the School of Music who is noted for his twenty-five years of energy and excellence and for the national and international visibility he has brought to the University and to its School of Music. Among his students he is known for being tough and fair: One student states, "In the classroom he displayed a dedication to teaching unlike that of any other professor I encountered. He was consistent and fair in a discipline that is very subjective and open to favoritism. He challenged our talents and inspired us to perform at our best. He critiqued, he coached, and he educated, but he never patronized. The level of respect he displayed to his students was unparalleled, his strong moral character unquestioned." Another wrote, "He is also very effective at obtaining the desired musical results. He utilizes various media such as stories, biographies, analogies, cues, body language and singing to help set the mood for each piece and helps his students to reach their potential on each piece as soon as possible." A national advisory team consisting of leading educators and musicians said of him: "that an undergraduate orchestra and choir can mount distinguished performances of works such as the Beethoven's Ninth Symphony and the Verdi Requiem is truly remarkable. Institutions several times the size of DePauw could not match these achievements."

He has served as Principal Guest Conductor of the Terre Haute Symphony Orchestra, as Music Director of the Chicago Youth Symphony, as Music Director of the Philharmonic Orchestra of Indianapolis, the cover conductor for the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra,

American Music Director of the Vienna International Youth and Music Festival and Music Director of all-state orchestras of Wisconsin, Kansas, Indiana, Illinois and British

Columbia. He has served DePauw as Professor of Music and as Music Director of the DePauw Symphony, Chamber Symphony, Opera and Musical Theater. He has led the Chamber Symphony on concert tours recently to Japan, Austria, The Czech Republic, the United Kingdom, Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall.

For his sustained and effective excellence as teacher, conductor, performer, composer, and University enthusiast, the President and the Vice President of Academic Affairs are pleased to announce the inaugural appointment of **Orcenith Smith** as the inaugural Cassel Grubb University Professor of Music.