

FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATE

Mailed October 30, 1987

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio - Making students aware that a minor in Black Studies can be advantageous is one of the goals of Sarah Brown-Clark, associate professor of English at Youngstown State University, who has been appointed as director of YSU's Black Studies Program.

Ms. Brown-Clark served as acting director of the program during the 1986-87 academic year while Alfred Bright, YSU professor of art, was on sabbatical leave. He has stepped down as director of Black Studies after serving in that position since 1970, when the program was initiated.

She would like to see more University students become involved in Black Studies, especially those in education, sociology and psychology. "Most students, even if they leave the area, end up working in minority areas," said Ms. Brown-Clark. "They really don't know how to relate to black children."

By minoring, or making Black Studies their secondary academic goal, students learn of the contributions made by blacks through the study of history, art and literature. This "makes for a better teacher in the classroom. We must provide our young people with teachers with expertise," she said.

Students majoring in social work or counseling could benefit from Black Studies as well, Ms. Brown-Clark added. The program is "not just for black students--white as well."

And, for anyone in going into business or the professions, knowledge and awareness gained from Black Studies is very beneficial.

MORE

ADD ONE

She believes guidance counselors should help students realize the benefits of the Black Studies program. "It is absolutely necessary that advisors send out the right signals," she said.

One of Ms. Brown-Clark's accomplishments as acting director of the program was the addition of a 700-level colloquium class in Black Studies, which balances out with the 600-level courses and makes the program "more comprehensive," she reports.

As director of Black Studies, Ms. Brown-Clark will also be coordinator of YSU's Black History Month, and other presentations given by the Black Studies Department.

She was pleased with the community response to events held last year, such as The Storytellers and "An Evening with Ruby Dee," and pointed out that many of the events had standing-room-only crowds.

Ms. Brown-Clark was also responsible for securing the speaker for "A Celebration of the Black Family," this fall. Atty. Patricia Russell-McCloud, noted for her insight into the inconsistencies of public affairs, will give a public presentation at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 4 in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley Center.

Plans for guest speakers and events for Black History Month are currently under way.

Ms. Brown-Clark received her bachelor's degree in Education and master's degree in English from Ohio University. She has been a member of the YSU faculty since 1972.

MORE

ADD TWO

While at YSU, Brown-Clark has served on the English Department Honors Committee and Humanities Review, the YSU-OEA Grievance Committee and the Affirmative Action Committee. She was the recipient of the "Outstanding Black Faculty Award" from YSU's Black United Students.

She has also served on the boards of the Youngstown Area Urban League, United Negro College Fund, Battered Persons Crisis Center and the Western Reserve Transit Authority. She is a member of Links, Inc. and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

By Debora Shaulis, YSU News Service

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YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio - Youngstown State University's 52-member Symphonic Wind Ensemble will present its annual Fall Concert at 8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 9, in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley Center, Spring Street.

The concert is free and the public is invited to attend.

Directors of the student orchestra are Joseph Edwards and Les Hicken of YSU's Dana School of Music, part of the College of Fine and Performing Arts.

The varied program will feature Susan Sexton, internationally renowned trumpet soloist who recently joined the Dana faculty.

Ms. Sexton, 1985 winner of the International Trumpet Guild's Solo Performance Competition, will perform J. Clifton Williams' "Dramatic Essay" and Robert Russell Bennett's "Rose Variations."

The program will also include compositions by Von Suppe, Persichetti, Mahr and others.

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(attached is a list of ensemble members and their home towns)

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