

YSU impresses Sweetkind

Dean discusses F&PA's future

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When Dr. David Sweetkind decided to move to an urban university, he received many fine and complimentary reviews about YSU.

"YSU has even exceeded my expectations," said the F&PA's new dean. "There is tremendous opportunity for growth."

Sweetkind assumed his duties July 18, filling the administrative post that was vacated last winter by Dr. Timothy Lyons' resignation.

During his 21 years at Western State College in Gunnison, Colo., Sweetkind climbed the college's ladder beginning as a professor of music in 1961, then to the chair of its division of music and later appointed dean of the college's school of arts and humanities. Before coming to YSU, he served as acting dean for the entire college.

The biggest difference

between the two schools, Sweetkind explained, are the size and the location. At Western State, enrollment is about 2,500 compared to the 15,000 students attending YSU.

Western State is located in a small rural community about 200 miles outside of Denver. "I felt it was time to get back to a metropolitan area," he said, to be close to a cultural center, such as Youngstown, Cleveland and Pittsburgh. Coming to Youngstown, he added, "is a pleasant change."

Atop the dean's list of priorities is "to get acquainted with what's going on here," he said. but of what he has observed thus far he describes it to be a "classy operation."

Sweetkind, in terms of long-range plans, wants to help his faculty members as well as F&PA reach their full potential. to accomplish this goal, the dean plans to act as liason between the faculty and the upper administration. By doing this, Sweetkind will be able "to

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implement and facilitate the unique ideas the faculty members may have," he said.

While he wants to hear the faculty's ideas, the new dean brings to his position a few ideas of his own. Sweetkind wants to strengthen the bond between Dana Hall and WYSU by increasing the number of live concerts and special presentations. He also hopes to broaden the audience for the family entertainment series.

With the additions of sculpture and ceramic sections all ready planned for Bliss, along with the new art gallery also in the works, Sweetkind is looking to the future for further growth.

Sweetkind's area of expertise lies in music. He is a clarinetist and has performed with several symphony orchestras since 1955. He has performed as a soloist and has given chamber music recitals.

But his experience is not limited to music. As an administrator, "I have been in charge of both the art, speech and drama," said Sweetkind. He is also an amateur painter who was accorded a one-man art show at the Western State Art Gallery and has directed as well as acted in musicals.

He earned both his bachelor's and master's degree in music from the Yale University School of Music. He received his doctoral degree in 1968 from Florida State at Tallahassee.

Sweetkind has written several articles for national music publications and was nominated in 1986 for the Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts.