

'Exert some leadership ability'

Career services director retires after 41 years

by Barbara Janesh

"Keep in there and make the most you can out of college. Get involved. Get to know people. Exert some leadership ability," advises Mary B. Smith retiring director of career services, to students.

"You'll love it (college) a little more."

Smith, director of career planning and placement services at YSU since 1973 will end her official career at the University on September 1 after 41 years of service.

Although she has "mixed feelings" about her departure, Smith stated she will remember her years at the University with

a special fondness.

"If I have any immortality at all, it's in the fun that I've had helping students and seeing them make good," Smith stated. She recalls many students who she helped through trying times at YSU and who have now assumed positions of responsibility or have obtained other degrees of success. "It's tremendous."

Although Smith will be leaving her University position, she will not really be retiring from her active life. She explained that she intends to remain involved in the many activities she currently enjoys in the community.

These include participation on the McGuffey Center board, the

American Association of University Women, the Christian Campus Ministry, and the Northeastern Ohio Federation of Women's Clubs.

Smith has also volunteered to help at the University in any way she might be able. She also plans to travel and visit her family. But, Smith adds, "The kids here at the University have always been my family."

Smith was born in Pittsburgh and attended Hiram College in Ohio. She began working at Youngstown College in 1937 in the admissions office.

After a brief stint assisting as an instructor at Hayes Junior High, Smith returned to the

College as assistant registrar.

Smith worked for a time in the physical education department, and after receiving her master's in the field from Ohio State University, she became head of Youngstown College's H&PE department.

The director became University recorder in 1956, registrar in 1967, and assistant dean of admissions and records in 1971.

In spring of 1973, Smith began working in the placement office, and was named director later that year.

In this role, Smith has counseled numerous students in

their search for employment, in addition to planning and managing the financial and personnel activities of the department.

The University is continuing the search for a replacement for Smith as director of career services, according to Pat Bleidt, assistant dean of students services.

The position was announced and the application deadline is May 30.

Bleidt reports that 33 persons have expressed interest in the job, and she predicts that Smith's successor will be chosen sometime in July.



“GET INVOLVED” — Mary B. Smith has taken her own advice during her 41 years at YSU. The retiring director of career services has assumed several positions at the University since joining its staff in 1939. (Photo by Kathy Dlabick)