

Generally speaking, dean leads double life

By Monica Auld

One man's dean is another man's brigadier general.

While he is no Dr. Jekyll or Mr. Hyde, Dr. Duane Smith certainly leads two separate, yet compatible lives. One, Smith is our associate provost dean. The other Duane Smith is co-commander of the 28th battalion of the National Guard in Pennsylvania.

Smith entered the army in 1945. Promotions elevated him through the ranks as a second lieutenant, first lieutenant, to a captain and a major. Smith now is a one-star brigadier general, and the assistant division commander for support elements for the 28th Infantry Division of the Pennsylvania National Guard.

During his military career, Smith was also a student, earning degrees in education from the University of Pittsburgh. After receiving his doctorate, Smith taught public school in Monroeville, Pa. for eleven years.

"Teaching in Monroeville was unique because the community

was like a bedroom for technology in the steel industry," he says. "The viewpoint of the blue-collar worker affected the education system."

During his teaching in Monroeville, Smith maintained his position in the Signal Company, a smaller division of what was later to become part of the present-day 28th Division of the National Guard.

How does one combine a career in the military and a career in education?

"Being involved with ROTC has bridged the gap a lot. I am in contact with Lt. Colonel Bob Harman, a professor of Military Science who teaches both at Dickinson College and here at Capitol Campus. I work with him not to recruit, but to promote the ROTC program."

"My experiences in the military field have helped me in delegating responsibilities in my position as an educator. In these ways, the two careers have grown together."

In 1966, Smith came to the Harrisburg area to assume an administrative position in the Harrisburg city school district.

"I enjoyed my experience there not only because of the

racial differences, but also because there is a 'capital city' atmosphere."

His military career led him through many interesting changes during this period. He joined the division staff in 1966 as a principal staff officer for

intelligence. In 1978, Smith left to take command of the non-divisional troops in Pennsylvania. Then, in August of 1980, he returned to the 28th division as the assistant division commander, the position he currently holds.

In 1975, Smith assumed the position of associate dean of academic affairs at Capitol Campus. Through a series of administrative changes, he is now the associate provost dean.

"All that title amounts to is that Dr. Gross and I share the administrative work of the campus. I am primarily responsible for the day to day operations of the campus, such as monitoring the maintenance crews and regulating the business and personnel offices."

Dr. Smith understates his achievements and one gets the idea he doesn't see himself as all that special.

Whether he's in his army fatigues or in a three-piece suit, Dr. Smith is special. In an age when people seem to be shrugging off responsibility rather than rising to meet it, Dr. Smith sets a unique example by which we all could benefit.



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