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The "menace of drugs" can paralyze youth graduating from college, said the Rev. George Clements, who received an honorary degree from the University of Dayton in April.

Clements, an outspoken anti-drug crusader whose work as part of Chicago's "God Squad" has captured national headlines, is the founder and president of "One Church, One Child," a program dedicated to finding Black adoptive parents for Black children. In 1981, he became the first Catholic priest to adopt a son and has since adopted three more.

At a banquet following UD's commencement exercises, Clements said, "I looked out there at those 1,300 or so graduates, and I was so happy for them. It was such a beautiful occasion, but realistically there were some clouds hanging over their heads. The clouds quite frankly are the one thing that can destroy all that beauty. (The clouds) are the menace of drugs," Clements said.

"I feel very, very strongly that we must love the addicts and hate the addiction," he said. "Drugs are the only thing that can really paralyze what happened here today."

Clements, who recently resigned as pastor of Holy Angels Church in Chicago where he served for more than two decades, has gained national attention for successfully fighting to have laws enacted forbidding the sale of drug paraphernalia in Chicago and 17 states. In 1989, Clements and another Chicago priest invited parishioners to join with them to participate in rallies and boycott retailers who sold drug paraphernalia. They earned the nickname, "the God Squad," and President George Bush named Clements one of the nation's top 20 anti-drug fighters. Clements most recently has crusaded against breweries that target alcohol advertisements to Blacks.

"All may see the evil done to our neighbor, but too few go beyond repulsion to action, beyond caring to doing. Father Clements is one of those courageous few," according to the citation read at UD's spring commencement. "Faced with the threats of enemies and the misgivings of friends, he was brave enough to stand alone to confront the evil in our world. And by doing so he has given others the courage to stand with him."

Clements, who was awarded the honorary degree of doctor of humane letters, is one of the founders and former executive director of the Black Catholic Clergy Caucus. He is chaplain and founder of the African-American Police League. In 1989, he was made a chief of the Yoruba Tribe in Imeko, Nigeria, for his work in helping African students pursue higher education.

Clements has dedicated his life to improving the lot of the less fortunate. He is the focus of the award-winning movie, "The Father Clements Story," televised by NBC, which starred Louis Gossett Jr.
More than 100 UD students turned out this year for "Community Connections,"

For a student who is struggling academically, graduation day can seem like an impossible dream.

Making graduation day a reality — by assisting students who are experiencing academic problems or in danger of doing so — is the goal of a program designed by UD's minority student affairs and provost's offices.

Now in its second year, the program assists African-American students who may have been reinstated after being dismissed for poor academic performance, have low cumulative grade point averages or low SAT/ACT scores.

Graduate assistant Gerald Cox works with the students in one-on-one meetings and in small groups and covers such topics as study skills, reducing test anxiety, writing skills and support services available on campus. "Students may not be aware that they can get tutors through the Learning Assistance Center, or that the Counseling Center deals confidentially with concerns and offers 'interest inventories' which can help them select majors," Cox said.

Students facing academic problems often feel frustrated. "They're not sure anyone can help, and they're reluctant to seek assistance," Cox said. "This program says, 'you're not in it by yourself' and offers pro-active assistance as early as possible."

UD's Gospel Choir begins the academic year on a new note and with a new name: the Ebony Heritage Singers. The name is meant to "more fully reflect what we do," said Donna Cox, the group's director. The goal is "the preservation of all sacred African-American music traditions, from anthems to civil rights songs." For performance times, see Page 8.

The University of Dayton recently received a $165,000 federal grant to help fund a minority business development center at 1818 W. Third St. in Dayton. The center provides technical assistance in accounting and marketing and helps minority businesses develop markets for goods and services and locate financing.

UD operates the center in conjunction with the Dayton chapter of the National Association of Minority Contractors and the Southwest Business Association. All three organizations are providing additional funding.

Marvin Merritt of UD (shown above) is the center's project director. "Our mission is to grow businesses," he said, adding that the center will serve Montgomery, Miami, Greene and Preble counties.

Students have a new reason to consider the dual degree program offered by UD and Wilberforce University — engineering technology. Participants finish three years at Wilberforce and then come to UD for two years. They graduate with two degrees — one from Wilberforce in math and one from UD in engineering, computer science or engineering technology.

Studying first at predominantly Black Wilberforce and then at predominantly white UD adds up to "a marvelous education," said Patrick Sweeney, interim dean of the School of Engineering. He expects the new option in engineering technology will broaden the base of students taking part in the program.
By the year 2000, minorities could make up 35 percent of U.S. school-children but only 5 percent of their teachers, experts say.

Since this will leave a huge shortfall of African-American role models, teachers are going to need training in what Carol Talbert-Johnson calls “multicultural techniques.”

Talbert-Johnson, a new assistant professor of teacher education at the University of Dayton, spent part of the summer giving three-day workshops in how to combat racism in classrooms to administrators, teachers and counselors in Columbus, Ohio.

At Ohio State University, where Talbert-Johnson received an M.A. and Ph.D. in special education, she mentored several African-American students because “once they got into the university setting, they didn’t have a support system. There is a need for role models, especially for minority students coming into education.”

After receiving a B.A. in special education from Ohio Dominican College, the Columbus native spent seven years teaching juvenile delinquents — all mentally retarded or emotionally disturbed — at the Training Center for Youth, a Columbus facility sponsored by the Ohio Department of Youth Services. She spent another five years in the Columbus Public Schools teaching learning disabled and developmentally handicapped students.

For her doctoral dissertation, she visited the homes of Alzheimer’s patients, where she taught care-givers how to improve the skills of people who have forgotten how to dress themselves.

Talbert-Johnson, who will teach special education classes at UD, says she’s attracted to education because of the challenge and desire to help people. “I’m interested in imparting knowledge to those who truly want to learn,” she says.

When the issue is fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS), community good must take precedence over individual rights, and pregnant women who abuse alcohol should be forced into treatment programs, according to UD law professor Vernellia Randall, an expert in health care law.

Randall, who is concerned that FAS is creating a biological underclass,” served on a panel about FAS at the American Society of Law and Medicine’s health law teachers section meeting at the University of New Mexico in May. She is also writing a paper on FAS titled “Slaves, Women and Fetuses: A Commonality.”

Herbert Woodward Martin, UD English professor and poet-in-residence, was selected as a 1990-91 Fulbright scholar. He spent 10 months teaching American literature in Hungary at Janus Pannonius University. He also gave lecture readings at two other Hungarian universities and was invited by the Yugoslavian government to participate in a conference on exchange teaching at the University of Debrovnik.

Where can you find comprehensive information about Africa’s people, geography, culture, economy, political systems, arts and religions?

In Dayton — if Bernie Harawa’s proposal for an African Resource Information Center is successful. Harawa, an associate professor of educational administration from Malawi, envisions a site where local residents and educators can find out everything they ever wanted to know about Africa. He plans to launch the project during his sabbatical.
The National Forum for Black Public Administrators Dayton Chapter bestows but two Marks of Excellence Awards — its highest recognition — each year. Both recipients of this year’s awards are UD graduates, Arthur O. Fisher and John E. Moore were honored for their achievements and commitment to public service at a June 18 banquet.

Fisher, who earned his bachelor’s in communication from UD, has served as a judge in the domestic relations and juvenile division of the Common Pleas Court of Montgomery County since 1971.

He served as assistant city and county prosecutor and was elected to two terms as judge in the Municipal Court of the city of Dayton, serving from 1962 to 1970.

Fisher is a member of the American, Ohio and Dayton Bar Associations, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Dayton Urban League.

He has also worked with area youth, earning him honors from the Boy Scouts of America and the dedication of the Judge Arthur O. Fisher Park.

Moore, who earned his bachelor’s in business administration from UD, retired in 1979 as chief of civilian personnel for the 2750th Air Base Wing at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

He chairs the governing board of the Dayton Foundation, the Dayton/Montgomery County Scholarship Program and the Ford Foundation Self-Sufficiency Project. He is a trustee of the United Theological Seminary, Sinclair Community College, Miami Valley Hospital, Mary Scott Nursing Center and the Clark County Dialysis Facility.

Mel Taylor ’68

Kids who fight or skip school aren’t welcome. Neither are the ones who have been expelled. And gang members are quickly shown the door.

But those are the only requirements to play in an Evanston, Ill., basketball league called the Fellowship of Afro-American Men, formed nearly 22 years ago when budget cuts threatened the future of sports programs in the Chicago suburb’s junior high schools. Former UD football player Mel Taylor serves as a coach and role model for the league’s players.

“You try to pick the kids as sixth-graders so you have a chance to follow them,” Taylor explained. “I’ve had kids who have come by the house and I’ve helped them get scholarships to college. It’s not just throwing the basketball out on the court and letting the kids run up and down for an hour and a half.”

Although the league’s teams are fiercely competitive — its coaches range from business executives to physicians to police officers — the main emphasis is on studying, not slam dunks, Taylor said. All players are awarded certificates for participating, but athletes who achieve a B or better receive recognition and trophies. The goal to succeed on the court and in the classroom is stressed.

“I think there are a lot of lessons that you learn from sports,” said Taylor, a Xerox executive who controls a $300 million budget. “The competitive drive that I have that has helped me in business and in life is due to sports.

“And you know, there’s always somebody who’s looking to knock you off the hill.”
Shari Carter '79 graced the cover of Graduating Engineer magazine in April 1991. The publication's "Star Tracker" feature focused on Carter, a mechanical engineer, actress and model. Carter works at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif, and was part of the team that developed software for the spacecraft Galileo.

Mona Guerrier '91

UD drew Mona Guerrier from Baldwin, N.Y., and UD keeps her here — working with the director of corporate and foundation relations.

"UD is a good school," she said. "I believe that."

She's persuading others to share that belief as she writes and revises proposals as an intern in UD's development office.

Proposals for the Distinguished Speaker Series (requesting Jimmy Carter as a guest) and funding for the United Nations Club head her list of projects. She said she enjoys the writing and works on a few projects at a time. "I appreciate the opportunity to improve my writing skills," she said. "It's an opportunity to get experience and be paid."

Guerrier worked her way through school as a part-time student in communication. Writing for the Black Perspective, being a resident assistant and working on campus for five years are experiences that help in her current job, she said.

She heard about the internship from two of her English professors at UD and applied. A contact she made at a "Community Connections" reception sponsored by UD's minority student affairs office recommended her as a candidate.

Guerrier's career plans are open and flexible — although she would like to stay in public relations. "I like the public contact. If I had to sit in an office all day with paper, it would drive me crazy."

Elizabeth Lynch '79,

For M. Elizabeth Lynch, one community service effort led straight to another.

In 1990 Lynch was named to the Black Board of Directors Project, a Phoenix-based organization that promotes awareness and multi-cultural appreciation by identifying talented minority members willing to be considered for candidacies for boards of directors. "People would like to have minorities on their boards, but they can't always find qualified members," says Lynch, who will receive an Outstanding Alumni Award from the group in October.

Because of her involvement with the project, Lynch now serves on the board of directors of the Tucson Community Food Bank. Her activities have also led to memberships on the boards of the Tucson YWCA and the Sahuaroo Girl Scout Council in Tucson.

Lynch, who holds an MBA from the Amos Tuck School of Business Administration at Dartmouth College, is director of product operations business management for Hughes Aircraft Company's missile systems group and has her own management consulting firm. She is also co-writing a book for managers who will deal with future workforce issues.

"You know what they say: 'If you want something done, give it to a busy person.'"
A program that's been called "a boot camp for graduate school" won rave reviews from three University of Dayton students who attended this summer's Institute for Recruitment of Teachers at the Phillips Academy in Andover, Mass.

Karen Brame, Stacy Brown and Jeff Combs, all UD seniors, were among 32 undergraduates throughout the country accepted to the month-long institute, which, according to director Kelly Wise, attempts "to attract people of color to the teaching profession after they go to graduate school."

Refining students' writing and analytical skills, preparing them for the Graduate Record Examination and introducing them to the rigors of graduate school are among the goals of the institute, which is taught by minority faculty and doctoral students from top colleges and universities.

The institute also "creates a dialogue between participants and nationally known educators and writers and artists of color," Wise said.

“You get views from people of color, and you can relate. It's where you've been. You don't have to explain things,” said Brown, a social work major interested in community development and teaching at the community college level. Brown called the institute "a real confidence-builder," and added, "I'll be voicing my own opinion in class more."

Combs, a photography major who hopes to teach at the college level, is considering graduate programs at Tufts University and the Rhode Island School of Design. If he hadn't attended the institute, "I would still be looking at graduate school but not at some of the finest schools in the country. It's a terrific opportunity."

Students wrote several papers each week, attended classes where activities included plays, films, lectures, seminars and small group discussions. "At night we'd go to the computer lab to work on our essays. It was a lot of writing, rewriting and writing,” said Brame, who wants to teach psychology at the university level.

Participants received a stipend of $1,000, travel expenses and room and board. After they complete their undergraduate study, they will receive extensive counseling assistance if they apply to graduate programs in a consortium of universities, including Harvard, Dartmouth and the University of Chicago. The institute is supported by the Rockefeller Foundation and Bristol-Myers Squibb Co.

For Brame, the best part was meeting people — from Latinos from New York to Blacks from the West Indies. As for the instructors — "they're hard on you — not to be evil, but for your own benefit.”

Student Ray Hodge prepares to throw a few numbers around at the calculator toss, part of UD's annual Engineering Week festivities.
Monica Lewis not only received the 1991-92 Cargill scholarship of $2,500, she also landed a summer internship at the Dayton corn milling industry. The chemical engineering junior performed lab analyses on corn germ processes.

"We're given guidance on our projects, but we have to seek out how to do it, think about what steps to take and take the initiative to ask questions," she said.

Lewis, who has the opportunity to fill the internship again next summer, sees it as a chance to develop "a lot of analytical skills."

UD junior and NCR summer intern Brian Mitchell paid close attention to his manager, Bob Hole. Not only because his assignments came from Hole, but also because his education was being expanded.

"I'm seeing the different management techniques and applications in managing different situations and personnel issues," said Mitchell, a Milwaukee resident. "I'm seeing how Bob handles them, how I would have handled them and how the text book says to handle them. Sometimes they're different.

"I'm getting the opportunity to apply the knowledge I've learned at UD and practice in the real world," said Mitchell. "And the experience I'm gaining in the real world will apply when I return to my studies, so it's a two-way street."

Mitchell, a management major, received a UD/NCR Minority Scholarship Award — a full academic scholarship combined with a three-year summer internship at NCR. He worked last year in NCR's worldwide inventory department and this year is part of the U.S. Marketing Group.

Carna Smith, a sophomore who has also received a UD/NCR Minority Scholarship Award, spent her first summer with NCR this year. An accounting major from Flint, Mich., she worked in accounting at NCR's World Headquarters.

Mitchell and Smith both started work at NCR on May 6. "I worked for NCR for about four hours before the takeover by AT&T became final," said Smith, who didn't really notice a change in attitude among her coworkers.

Michelle Hankins' sense of community centers on serving others. As an honors student at Dunbar High School, Hankins committed herself to the Hunger Awareness Club, Big Brothers/Big Sisters and the Red Cross food drive.

This fall, Hankins will continue her service and leadership activities as a first-year student at UD, where she received this year's W.S. McIntosh Memorial Leadership Award, a combination scholarship and internship sponsored by the city of Dayton and UD.

Named for the slain Dayton civil rights activist, the full-tuition award is given to a student who is committed to the ideals of social justice and demonstrates potential for community leadership.

The Staff of Minority Student Affairs cordially invites you to attend a Welcome Reception for African-American Alumni Friday, October 18, 1991 7-10 p.m. Kennedy Union Torch Lounge

RSVP to Minority Student Affairs by Thursday, October 10, 1991 (513) 229-3634
Sept. 14
The minority student affairs office will sponsor a welcome picnic from noon to 6 p.m. at Old River Park. Information: (513) 229-3634.

Oct. 6
The Ebony Heritage Singers, Hands in Harmony and Celebration will perform in concert in the Kennedy Union Boll Theatre at 3 p.m.

Oct. 18
The minority student affairs office will sponsor a Homecoming reception for Black alumni in the Kennedy Union Torch Lounge from 7 to 10 p.m.

Oct. 25-27
Tentative dates for the Leadership Conference. For information, call the minority student affairs office at (513) 229-3634.

Nov. 9
A soul food dinner theater will be staged at the University's McGinnis Center, 301 Lowes St., at 5 p.m. For reservations and cost, call the minority student affairs office at (513) 229-3634.

Nov. 24
The Ebony Heritage Singers Winter Songfest will be held in the Kennedy Union Boll Theatre at 8 p.m.

Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration. Speakers to be announced.

The Ebony Heritage Singers will perform at a prayer breakfast in the Kennedy Union Ballroom on Jan. 14 at 7:30 a.m. On Jan. 15, a 7 p.m. program in the Chapel featuring Celebration and the Ebony Heritage Singers will be followed by a reception in the Kennedy Union Torch Lounge. For information, call the minority student affairs office at (513) 229-3634.