

Director excels in diplomacy

by Rhonda Wesby

"If there ever comes a time where I couldn't interact with people, I think I'd just die," says the director of alumnae affairs.

According to Mrs. Ellease Colston's record as an expert in human relations, that time is never going to come.

A vibrant personality, a gift for diplomacy and devotion to duty have marked her 32 years of service to the college. After her graduation from Bennett in 1953, she managed the book store, the post office and the snack bar, and she worked as an assistant in the records office.

Those missions familiarized Colston with the business operations of the college. Then, 15 years ago, when President Issac H. Miller Jr. urged Colston to accept her present job, she was ready.

The human relations part of the job came naturally. It was instinctive for her. "Basi-

cally, I like people, and this is a people-oriented job. You have to learn to deal with a lot of personalities and criticisms," she says.

Colston has been so successful at building bridges that the alumnae have met the goal of raising \$1 million in five years.

Her many-faceted job includes organizing and visiting alumnae chapters, handling class reunions and doing recruiting, research and record-keeping. But she feels her biggest task involves being an educator.

She has to answer many questions from alumnae about how their money is being spent, whether or not the Bennett tradition is continuing to be instilled in the students and what the conditions are in the dorms.

"I try to educate and motivate alumnae and bring them up-to-date about what's going on," she explains.

She feels a strong obligation to her alma mater. "You have a certain commitment and loyalty, not only to the school, but to young black women," she says.

The most challenging part of her job is to see that contributions increase from year to year. "People give to people—not to causes. If you see them one-on-one, they'll contribute. Letters don't get it. The phone-a-thon has been an excellent help," she observes.

What's her strategy? "Basically, you tell people the need of the institution, whether it's faculty salaries or painting the dormitories, whatever the need is. There is no degree in alumna affairs. You learn by trial and error and by the number of workshops you go to," she states.

Although her work is complicated by plenty of travel and paperwork, Colston finds she especially enjoys Alumnae Weekend. "The exciting part is the 50th reunion

class," she says. "They all look so good."

She is also an on-campus educator, advising the pre-alumnae club and reminding seniors not to forget their alma mater once they've left campus. She feels that no student pays for her entire education. She asks seniors to show pride in their college and to inform other graduates of how well the school is progressing and how well the faculty and administration are preparing students for the challenges in a changing society.

What improvements could be made in her office? Colston would like to add another full-time person or administrative assistant to do records research and some travel. She wants the job fully computerized and the salary upgraded.

What makes Colston such a success on and off campus? She's got charm, tact and a wealth of common sense.

Contest closes; Induction rites

Foreign Languages Contest: The deadline for entering the "Foreign Languages for Global Understanding" visual arts contest fell last Friday, and the final winners will be disclosed before Thanksgiving.

The contest, which was open to any junior high, senior high or college-level foreign language student in Guilford County, solicited posters, collages and photographs. Entries are judged by a committee here, with French Instructor Mrs. Betsy Simpson serving as coordinator of the contest.

Last year, sophomore Andra Henning won first-place honors on this campus and placed second in the county-wide competition.

The contest is sponsored by the Foreign Language Association for Strengthening the Humanities.

Society Ceremony: Sigma Tau Delta, the national English honor society, inducted nine new members on Nov. 6.

Four members of the communications department entered the organization—Dr. Martha Brown, Dr. Carol Meeks, Miss Marcella Whidbee and Michael Gaspeny. One student, Dayme Joseph, and four alumnae—Yolanda T. DuRant, Kay Boyd, Leslie Barr and Joan Y. Davis were inducted.

DuRant teaches high school English in Burlington, and Boyd serves as a graduate assistant in English at A&T. Barr and Davis were honored in absentia. The former works as an accountant in New York City, and the latter is attending law school at the University of Alabama.

Sigma Tau Delta's officers are Amanda D. Smith, president; Bonita Moore, vice president; Penny L. Hill, secretary; Vicky Dunn, treasurer; Dee Evans, marshal; and Karen R. Taylor, historian.

Trip to Ohio State University is mind-expanding experience for student

a column
by Karen R. Taylor

I was excited. It was approaching midnight and I had one more person to say good-bye to before I picked up my bags, cleared my room and ran to the Bennett College van where Mrs. Cheston, Evelyn Fulmore, Penny Hill, Mrs. Scarborough and Amanda Smith were waiting to go to Ohio State University. There always seems to be one more great opportunity to take advantage of just when I thought my luck had run out. Naturally, I slept the whole day and had to be awakened upon arrival.

I didn't rush into OSU. I walked cautiously, with eyes open to the possible rewards, challenges and pitfalls. The OSU experience was one of choice, challenge, and commitment.

My choice to attend OSU is a likely one. Nov. 3-5 marked the 15th annual graduate and professional school visitation days. Fifty-seven institutions were represented and it was an exciting venture.

OSU is unusual for many reasons, particularly because its large size includes its very own McDonald's and airport, to name a few of its features. In other words, it is a city within a city.

The Office of Minority Affairs at OSU was the sponsor. This group tried to encourage the minority students represented to pursue graduate studies at the Ohio State University. This group also did a wonderful thing by bringing the students there. This type of opportunity was not taken lightly but as an accomplishment.

In my lifetime I hope to do great things. It takes a mixture of things that will prepare me for the world. The three days spent at OSU were instrumental in helping me crystallize my thoughts about a career.

I was amazed at the number of options that the graduate journalism and communications schools had to offer. This knowledge has helped to broaden my horizons and bring my career goals into focus. My status as a GPSVD honor student allowed for much greater involvement in some aspects of the school, and it provided a better understanding of OSU's unique perspective. At this point, I would like to enter graduate studies. This reaction comes from my experience and reinforces my decision to pursue a master of arts degree in journalism.

Of course, there were fun times. I had a chance to meet students from all parts of the nation. We exchanged ideas and addresses and hope to one day see each other again. We attended a concert that featured the gospel group, The Winans. They were fantastic. We also attended a banquet where Benjamin Hooks, executive director of the NAACP, gave the keynote address. He inspired greatness through example. He told us to "vote, dream, try and believe."

Picking the right graduate school is never easy. OSU holds a great deal of potential, especially since it offers fellowships to many minority honor students. Although my orientation to graduate school is toward OSU, other graduate schools' offerings are vast and are open to anyone who approaches them.

From page 3— Research errs

Furthermore, the intelligent very probably commit more crimes than the less intelligent. It is unfortunate that the researchers focused only on violent crimes and not on other such as embezzlement, fraud, smuggling and the like which are usually committed by older, more intelligent, middle class men and women. Note, for example, the relatively light punishment served for siphoning funds by members of the E. F. Hutton corporation.

By far, the weakest of the proposed criminal characteristics is body types. Shorter, more muscular men, whose builds have been associated with "expressive, extroverted, domineering temperaments," are not necessarily inherently more violent, but are probably more violent because of societal expectations and archetypes.

Certainly, this matter is not to be lightly addressed nor hastily swallowed. What, for example, do researchers say of the millions who fit the distinctions but who never commit crimes? What do they say to the fact that though tendencies may exist in all, only

certain circumstances bring them out? Honestly, they seem to contradict themselves and agree with the theories of a humble college student with no degrees or titles. They say the "conscience," which determines morality, "is probably the chief restraint in keeping people honest," and that "one encounters that moral tone at every turn."

Unfortunately, our perception of what is criminal has been shaded by the media and is therefore relative. Somehow, we must finally agree that crime is crime no matter how it is packaged. Whether a thin white woman commits a crime or a short, muscular, unintelligent black man commits a crime, it is the same. Actually, it is not what Wilson and Herrnstein said that bothers me so much. It is what they left unsaid. They attempted, unsuccessfully, to completely ignore race. Did they assume that we already know of our criminal predisposition? Sure we know. From the blood of kings and great warriors and educators came the criminal. Something smells fishy, king-fishy.



Coronation Festivities: Penny L. Hill, crowned Miss Bennett in October, receives due courtesies from President Issac H. Miller Jr. Photo by Keith Miller.

Books—from page 1

Tucker. She added, "Dr. Charles was my instructor in graduate school and Dr. Cowling was a graduate school instructor of Dr. Charlotte Alston, director of the division of humanities."

Perhaps the students who will get the most use out of the book collection will be those who helped move the books to campus.

The students included seniors Rhonda Wesby, Gail Brady, Penny Hill, Amanda Smith, Natalie Pratt and Lisa Tharpe; juniors Lynda Keith, Lois Wilkie and Dayme Joseph; sophomores, Bernice Scott and Karen Horne; and freshman Tammy Reid.

Rifles—from page 2

the backbone of the P/R, but you do not have to be in the program in order to be a member of P/R and P/A. Company N-4 serves A&T, Bennett College, Greensboro College, Guilford College and UNC-G. There are already four active members from Bennett College. They are Jessica McDaniel, LaVonda Trimble, Jackie Washington and I.

There is a pledge period in order to gain membership, but the P/R and P/A are a non-Greek organization. As a member, you can also pledge a Greek organization if you are pleased to do so.

All interested students are to bring their questions to the P/R and P/A interest meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 4. The dress is semi-formal and the meeting is at 8 p.m. Please be prompt.

Yvonne Breece
P/A
S-1 Adjutant