

The Bennett Banner

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Coronation is a dazzling ceremony

by Carla Bannister

The Coronation of Miss Bennett went well once it began. The program was delayed, but people waited anxiously for the flawless presentation of Alicia McCollum. At the program Mr. James Burt sang "Believe In Yourself." The theme of the evening was very positive.

The court was introduced, and it was escorted by Army ROTC students as the Air Force ROTC students made a arch of swords. The court included: Miss Biology, Martha Carvin; Miss International Student, Michele de la Coudray; Miss Zeta, Shelly Middleton; Miss Twenty Pearls, Karen Jones; Miss 1908, Monica Wooley; Miss Zeta XI, Deidra Underwood and Miss Alpha Kappa Alpha, Marguerette Byrd. The Delta queens included Miss Delta, Angela Alford; Miss Omicron Delta, Veneatrice Jackson; Miss Nine White Pearls, Rosetta Jordan; Miss Crimson, Wanda Davis; and Miss Cream, Tonya Zarate.

The class queens looked very elegant in their blue off-the-shoulders dresses. Miss Senior was Celeste Webster; Miss Junior was Antoinette Holman; Miss Sophomore was Adriane Denny; and Miss Freshman was Stacy Smalls.

Miss Bennett's attendant was Lynda Keith. Linda wore a beautiful white gown. Little Miss Bennett was Tamara Burnette.

In her acceptance speech Alicia said, "If you want to be a success, believe in yourself."

She related several positive ideas. She said that it was her aunt who inspired her to run for Miss Bennett. As she began to speak, she recalled the day of the election. She said that she hid out in the library and asked herself what she thought Miss Bennett should represent.

She believes that doing outstanding work academically and getting out in the world and seizing opportunities are key parts of her role as Miss Bennett and her goals in life.



The coronation committee: (l-r) Ms. Jocelyn Foy, co-mistress of ceremony; Alicia McCollum, Miss Bennett; Mrs. Elaine Harrigan, co-mistress of ceremony; Ms. Sallie Hayes, public relations director; Dr. Perry Mack, escort coordinator and Dr. Dorothy Harris, dean of students. (photo by Otis Hairston)

Founders praised by candidate

by Carla Bannister

Founders' Day Convocation went well as Democratic senatorial candidate Terry Sanford addressed a crowd fanning itself in the heat. Sanford spoke about the faith, strength and hope that was in the hearts of the Bennett founders.

Wearing aqua-blue academic regalia, the former governor of North Carolina reminded the audience that the founders of Bennett College were very special people.

"Back then (during Reconstruction) it was a time of despair and bitterness. Yet it was a time of hope, opportunity, new beginnings and a time of rebuilding. The founders saw a great hope of being educated, and they saw to it that they were going to have a school for their young people," Sanford said.

Sanford praised the strength of the founders.

"They (the founders) had four important factors in their minds. They had faith; they had the determination that something had to be done about the education of the Negro; they loved the Methodist Church and they strongly believed in the driving force of the church."

Sanford stressed the importance of private institutions like Bennett.

"They save taxpayers money; They are diverse; They put pressure on the public institutions to excel; they offer freedoms that the public institutions don't offer and they also offer students a special opportunity to think and grow," the former president of Duke University said.

There was quiet in the audience and people listened attentively to Sanford. Although it was very hot in the chapel, the speaker had the undivided attention of the crowd.

Sanford reminded Belles that they have a important job when they graduate from Bennett.

"You need to understand that we have a job to do in making sure private colleges don't fade out," he said. He urged students to make donations and help support their college.

Sanford said that private institutions helped an individual to "develop a sense of self, a sense of community awareness and priority." He said that these make something special that only the small, private institutions could offer.

Sanford asked an important question — "Why be smart just to be smart? You must also have caring feelings for other people and a sense of purpose."

He added, "The founders didn't quit because founding a college never stops."

Adams campaigning for reelection

by Monica O'Hare

You could say that Dr. Alma Adams is driving hard for better education in Greensboro.

On Oct. 7, she was taxiing Belles to vote for other candidates. On Nov. 4, she'll be whisking students to the polls to vote for her.

Adams, the chairperson of the visual arts and humane studies department, is running for reelection to the Greensboro Board of Education. There is a great sense of urgency in her campaign. She wants to return as a board member because "we don't want to get set back 2000 years," she says.

"We've got a lot of important things in place, but a new board can wipe the slate clean," warns Adams, who is on leave from Bennett.

She is worried that the system-wide affirmative action program she worked for will be neglected if she isn't reelected.

She is also taking a protective attitude toward her other accomplishments as a board member: the ban against smoking on high school campuses; the institution of a "C" average in order for students to participate in extra-curricular activities and increased funding for students with unique needs (those who have failed to be promoted two or more times).

"I want to see these things through to their fruition," she says.

She has also had a hand in improving counselling about curriculums for parents and students and in reorganizing the middle schools.

She backed an investigation into the criteria for selecting students for the gifted and talented program. A committee reported that the standards were culturally biased "to some extent." Adams learned that of the 2100 students in the gifted and talented program, only 200 were black.

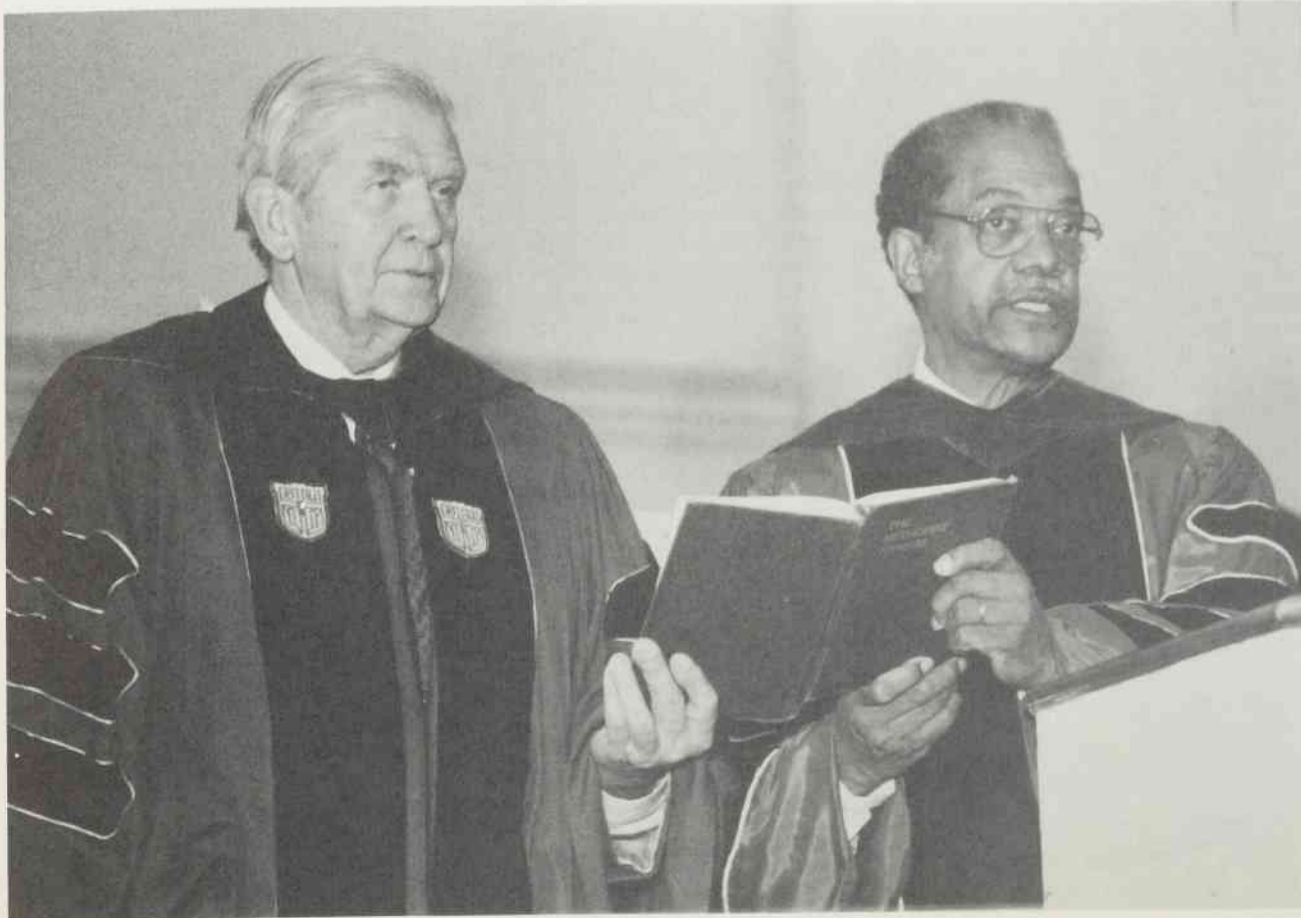
"We thought that was alarmingly low," she says, hoping that improved criteria will increase the number of black students in the program.

Last summer, Adams and the Reverend Michael King, the other black board member, threatened to resign, creating a controversy that drew 500 people to an NAACP-sponsored meeting at New Zion Missionary Baptist Church and another 300 people to a board meeting.

"It (the threat) was a move I had to make because the community was asleep about what was happening to it," she explains, adding that "sometimes you have to vary your methods."

She believes that this action brought about greater involvement in educational issues among her constituents.

Adams feels she has had a "sensitizing" effect on the board and on the voters she represents.



Democratic senatorial candidate Terry Sanford and Dr. Isaac H. Miller during Founders' Day Convocation. (photo by Otis Hairston)

Exhibition to feature state artists

The seventh annual Winter Show at Green Hill Center for North Carolina Art will open in December with the largest number of artists and works in the history of the exhibition.

Over 135 artists and craftspeople from throughout the state will show over 1100 pieces. The contemporary art works encompass a variety of mediums and will be for sale with prices beginning at \$10.

The Winter Show opens Dec. 7 and runs through Dec. 23. Gallery hours during the show will be expanded to include Mondays. Because the pieces on display are for sale, the show is an excellent place to select holiday gifts. All pieces are original works by North Carolina artists.

For tickets or additional information, call Green Hill at 373-4515.