

# The Bennett Banner

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BENNETT COLLEGE, GREENSBORO, N. C.

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## Hill returns to alma mater to teach



Coming home: The college won't let Miss Penny Hill get away. The former Miss Bennett has come back to the institution as an English instructor and co-director of the audio-lingual lab. (photo by Kimmerly Waller)

by Yvette Freeman

There is a new face on the Bennett campus. Some of the instructors may recognize it, but the students may not, at least not the juniors and seniors.

She teaches English, so freshmen and sophomores should already be familiar with her. Who is she? Miss Penny Hill, of course, a former Miss Bennett . . . The 1986 graduate of Bennett has returned to her starting place, not as a visitor, but as a faculty member.

Hill says of returning to Bennett, "Well, at first it felt a little strange coming back, you know, and to be on the other side. So that took quite an adjustment. But, in all actuality, it feels good to be back at Bennett."

Hill says that in comparing Bennett now to when she was a student, there really isn't much of a difference in the

customs and traditions. She says, "They're still basically the same." She adds that the only change in the students is in the numbers. However, she says, "As you move with new administrators and so forth, there's going to be a change there, a change in the way people tend to do things. I would say that's different from the way it was when I was a student here."

An English major, Hill had originally planned to go to law school. "That was my initial goal right after Bennett," she says. In fact, teaching was not what she had in mind. She says, "Originally, I had no plans whatsoever to go into education. But it seems that everything that I have done has been geared towards education. And I think the more I get into it, the more I like it."

Hill received her master's from Ohio State University

in 1987. She then briefly taught English part-time at Rutledge College in Winston-Salem, her hometown. When that ended, she began substituting in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School system and decided to return to school for her teaching certificate. She had planned to take the necessary courses at Winston-Salem State University.

However, two days before registration, Bennett called.

Hill is now teaching two communications skills, 101 courses and three 102 courses. She is also the co-director of the Audio-Lingual Lab. Miss Jean Morris is also co-director.

Hill says that in the future she hopes "to obtain a Ph.D. in some area, where I can remain in the area of education." But for now, she says she will remain here at Bennett.

## Abbott speaks as mentor

by Cheryl Floyd

Ms. Diane Abbott, the only black woman member of British Parliament, told an audience of Bennett students and guests on Oct. 13 that black women will need weapons to advance into the 21st century.

Abbott cited four weapons that will move blacks forward. "We as black women preparing for the new millennium need a sense of our history. We need to know that we come from somewhere and we are going somewhere," she said, revealing the first weapon.

She also told the audience that blacks need a sense of culture and joy.

"Black culture is at the heart of popular American culture, which dominates the world," Abbott said after admitting her envy of Bennett women who are in the midst of positive black role models like Dr. Gloria Scott and Dr. Jacqui Wade. "Black women need a sense of pride in black

beauty," she said.

Revealing the fourth weapon, Abbott said, "We need an understanding and appreciation of a sense of power."

"Many things work toward empowerment — organization, taking time, hard work and working through troubles — and the most empowering thing is love," she said. Abbott stressed the similarities of black people all over the world.

After receiving a standing ovation for her speech, Abbott accepted gifts from the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., of which she is an honorary member. Dr. Alma Adams, chairperson of the humanities division and city councilwoman, presented Abbott with a key to the city on behalf of the mayor.

Abbott became an honorary Bennett Belle and a Bennett Scholar during a luncheon held in her honor. In a response to the statements made by others that she is the first to do many things, she said,

"The important thing is not being the first, but making sure that you are not the last."

At an honors seminar that night, Abbott told Bennett Scholars and honor students that Great Britain has practiced economic segregation which has made blacks poor and unemployed rather than the southern Jim Crow laws of the United States which legalized segregation.

"Britain invented racism. The U.S. sophisticated it," she said.

Abbott said that if students would like to see changes in South Africa's system of apartheid, they should be involved in economic sanctions against the country, educate themselves on the struggle and put political pressures on the government here.

Abbott is the only black woman among the four persons of color who serve in the British Parliament House of Commons. She was elected

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## MARC students attend conference

by Shavaughn Neal

The Division of Natural Sciences is molding its students into hard-working professionals.

It is deeply involved with the Minority Access to Research Career program (MARC) whose purpose is to increase minority group involvement in biomedical research and strengthen sciences curricula and research opportunities.

The MARC program is designed for undergraduate students and is known as an Honors Undergraduate Research Training Program. Bennett College was given a grant to begin participation in the MARC program in 1987.

Currently there are six students at Bennett who have met the requirements needed to participate in the MARC program. They are Stacy Copeland, a junior Biology major; Angela Overstreet, a junior Biology major; Alicia Elam, a junior chemistry major; Mia Powell, a senior

psychology major; Kelly Holland, a senior computer science major and DeLisa Hill, a senior biology major.

Three of these students presented papers at the Seventh Annual MARC Scholars Conference. DeLisa Hill presented a paper on "Cis-acting Element in the First Exon of the Gs Alpha Gene;" Kelly Holland presented "Psychological Study of Sequential Decision Making using Cognitive Information Processing and Psychophysiology;" and Mia Powell presented a paper on "A Study of the Hormone Prolactin in the Brains of Hamsters."

The conference was held November 2-5, 1988, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Bethesda, Md. The students were accompanied by the following MARC advisers, Dr. Nellouise Watkins, director of the MARC program at Bennett, and the MARC co-faculty members, Dr. Linda Thomas, Dr. Sekhara Rao and Dr. Perry Mack.

Students who have completed their sophomore year

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## Students speak out for change

by Cheryl Floyd

The persuasive segment of the annual Evening of Public Speaking Oct. 27 became an outlet for student grievances.

"I ask you, 'What time is it?' It's time for a change," said Staci Rose, Miss Junior, to the crowd applauding her comments on the absence of male visitation in the dorms.

Other students who gave persuasive speeches during the event sponsored by the Bennett Players, included Adonica Smith, who spoke on students' rights; Catrina Carson on rules and regulations; Alexandria Miller on ACES; Michelle Alleyne on the dress code; Louise Morris on class attendance policy and Cheryl Childs on curfew.

Wanda Davis, president of the Bennett Players, who served as

a black college ambassador for the United Negro College Fund this past summer, repeated a speech she gave at a Methodist conference. Davis told of her surviving a car accident in which her mother died and of her strategies for becoming a successful student in spite of this accident.

Vera Bonds and Katrice Bowden gave informative speeches on black women pioneers in sports and education.

Through creative works in the original poetry and prose category, Elizabeth James, Erica Salter and DaMica Wilson revealed their beliefs about "Women In Transition," this year's theme. Wilson also gave an oral interpretation of Langston Hughes' "The Negro Mother."

Students participating in the humorous category described certain distinguished black women

as Buppies (Black Urban Professionals). Taundra Woodard introduced the category. Anecissa Patterson read a Buppie biographical sketch about Angela Davis' would-be fashion style and attitudes. April Boyd and Renee Cooley gave sketches for Barbara Jordan and Toni Morrison. Deidre Johnson described the supposed Buppie Charlayne Hunter-Gault's life philosophy—"Me, me and more me."

The evening concluded with a dramatic monologue by Elizabeth James, who portrayed The Woman in Red from the play "for colored girls who have considered suicide when the rainbow isn't enough" by Ntozake Shange. James roused the crowd with her final line to a lover about a plant she had been watering since he left her. "Go water it, your damn self!" she shouted.

Unlike previous Evenings of Public Speaking, there were no judges to pick winners in each category. Dr. Carol Meeks, chairperson of the communications department, presented certificates to the participants.

Ms. Carolyn Cole, speech instructor and adviser for the Bennett Players, organized the event. Freshman Bennett Player Jacquelyn Griffin was mistress of ceremonies.

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In the right place: The college is proud to have the Reverend Barbara Woods as its new chaplain. (photo by Kimmerly Waller)