

# The Bennett Banner

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## Chaplain leads Belles from woods

by Monica L. Hawkins  
"My task is to try and create a campus ministry that is as appealing as M. C. Hammer," says the Rev. Barbara A. Woods, who is taking a bold stand as chaplain of the college.

Many students assume the job of the college chaplain is fairly easy, but that is not true. "The difficulty that goes along with the job would basically be that we are ministering to the age level that is farthest away from the church," Rev. Woods says.

She is dedicated and sincere in her efforts to maintain a consistent state of spirituality on campus. Apathy and backbiting are two problems that threaten sisterhood at Bennett, but Rev. Woods reminds students that these nemeses exist on most campuses and that they can be defeated.

Rev. Woods has been a

mentor to students that are seeking extra activities to help them become more spiritual. She is the driving force behind the Belles of Harmony Gospel Choir, and the Christian Coffee House. Rev. Woods has guided and encouraged the Belles of Harmony Gospel Choir. She is elated by the work of these young, bold, Christian women.

"I am totally overwhelmed; I am impressed personally. Anytime young people at the college age level consistently profess faith, it makes them the exception rather than the norm, and I can only recognize them as exceptional young women."

There is an enormous amount of love felt for Rev. Barbara Woods from members of the choir. Stacy Abraham, a sophomore biology major, tells how Rev. Woods inspired her. "Rev. Woods is a confidante as well

as an inspirationalist. The Lord blessed her with a lot of wisdom. She showed me that knowledge is the key to every closed door."

T. C. Collins, a junior business administration major, describes Rev. Woods as energetic, uplifting, motherly, graceful and motivational.

The Christian Coffee House is a campus ministry program that Rev. Woods has seen grow at a tremendous rate.

"The Christian Coffee House has become for me a phenomenal form of the church . . . There have been persons who have participated in the Christian Coffee House from outside the college community that have marvelled at the spirit that has been present at the Christian Coffee House."

Staff members as well as students are aware of the good job that Rev. Woods is doing and are very pleased

with her as college chaplain.

"It is pleasant to have a woman in a ministerial role. There is an understanding of the problems of women that she would be able to identify with more than a male," says Mrs. Alberta Hairston, residence hall coordinator of Pfeiffer Hall.

The chapel services that are rendered every second Sunday are very important not only to those students who are saved, but also to those who may not be spiritual.

Mrs. Carol Cheston, residence hall coordinator of Jones Hall, praises the worship service. "I think that the chapel services are a plus because students usually do not get out of the bed to catch the church van or to walk somewhere to go to church. The chapel offers that opportunity within the campus whereas most students would not

normally go."

Rev. Woods exemplifies the qualities of a spiritual role model. Truth is very important to her.

For a Bennett Belle who may be in the midst of a struggle with her spirituality, Rev. Woods expresses these words of wisdom: "Truth for me has become the most important value that a life can possess, so that whether a person is conscious of God or not, I would say to them to seek truth. Not only seek truth within the world in which they live, but to seek that truth within them."

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## Students volunteer for Literacy Corps

by Kimberly Dargan  
Bennett College students don't only think about themselves; they are friends and tutors too.

Just ask Ms. Barbara Moore, director of the Student Literacy Corps established to train a group of Belles to serve as volunteer tutors to inner city youth. The program focuses on enhancement of academic skills. It implements Bennett's goal to help the disadvantaged in southeastern Greensboro.

"The Student Literacy Corps means Bennett College students and family reaching out into the community where the college is located, and putting something back after having resided among the residents of the area. It means using older, more educated and experienced students to help others who are younger and need that special touch through a relationship of learning together. It also means caring about children, and for education majors especially, it allows them to

get a feel for the real world of teaching, and helping youngsters with the learning process before they actually become teachers," Moore explains.

The students that the Corps serves need special attention. Many have academic deficiencies and low self-esteem. Some are slow learners or learning disabled. Some students have well-educated parents who lack the time to tutor their children.

Moore is inspired by the children. "What motivates me to keep on going even when it seems like nothing is going right are the children themselves, also the younger tutees receiving the help, and the college students, giving the help," Moore says. "When I see a sparkle or a gleam in a young child's eye, it shows me he or she has really understood what their homework or lesson is for the first time. To know that it was made possible by the help of the older student is a reward in itself. Hopefully, one day

when that little one grows up and realizes they've come to a point in their life that they can now go out and help a young one learn because of their experiences during tutorial sessions, it's worth it."

Parents, guidance counselors and teachers of students being helped by the Corps are seeing improved performances, according to Moore. The children praise the work of the tutors, who are good at making friends as well as teaching.

Autumn Harris, 5, says, "The hardest thing for me was to spell my name, but now I can spell my name very well. I like coming. I was mad one day because I could not come since I did not have any homework."

Latoya Marcus, 8, says, "What I like about the program is the tutors. They are nice, and they teach me how to spell words correctly. They also help me with my math."

Carolyn Kennedy, 12, says, "What I have learned since

the tutorial program was math. I learned to act mature and how to act right around people. I look up to all of the tutors."

Moore says, "hopefully we can assist students in meeting minimum competency requirements per grade level for promotion within the local school system."

The tutors are as proud as the children.

Angela Green, a tutor, says, "I get the satisfaction of knowing that I touched a child's life by opening up the doors of a particular task that he or she did not understand. To see a child smile and hear him say, 'I understand' lets me know that I have done my job."

According to Myeaser Outerbridge, "I felt an obligation to help children. I know how it is to not understand a subject and want to give the extra help that the teacher did not have time to give."

Shontenette Smith says,

## Professor has CBS credentials

by Gloria D. Carr  
Teresa Jo Styles, who joined the communications department in the fall, is not just any ordinary new instructor but a very talented, successful, and phenomenal black woman of the '90s.

Originally from Atlanta, Styles started her career there. She said, "During the time when I was growing up, the only profession for a black woman to do was teaching, but that was not the path I wanted to take." So after high school Styles went to Spelman College and majored in English with a minor in Spanish.

After graduating from Spelman, she went on to Northwestern University where she majored in film. While she was attending Northwestern, she met Robert Wussler. Little did she know in the future this man would

become president of CBS and recommend her for a position there.

Styles climbed the ladder of success, working as a researcher for "60 Minutes" and later as a "CBS Reports" researcher and producer. She produced such award-winning documentaries as "The Defense of the United States," "The CIA's Secret Army" and "What Shall We Do About Mother?" She also helped produce the short-lived series "Crossroads" and "American Parade." She received a number of prestigious awards for her work, such as the Emmy, Peabody and Columbia DuPont Awards.

Styles was delighted with her success. She said, "I argue with Andy Warhol's assessment that everyone is a star for 15 minutes, so I was very pleased to be recognized for my broadcast

journalistic achievements."

Styles said, "My greatest achievement was my ability to get the Justice Department in 1979 to tear down a segregated doctor's waiting room in Lexington, Miss. almost 20 years after the Civil Rights Bill was passed." The name of the documentary was "Blacks in America: With All Deliberate Speed." Ed Bradley was the correspondent.

After 10 years at CBS, Styles decided that it was time for a change.

"I was getting tired of the busy hectic city life so I decided to move on to other things," she said. She had a lot of other offers to accept after New York and CBS but she decided to teach. It was a new experience for her, and she wanted to take her expertise and talents and be of some help to someone else

who wanted to pursue a career in documentary film-making.

Styles, who enjoys the Bennett experience, tells her students about her struggles in making it in journalism. She reminds them that "anyone with a good background can make it in journalism. Perfecting your writing skills is the main goal in making it out there in the world of journalism. The more you write, the more you perfect. Therefore the more you perfect, the more competitive you become. If you believe the good of all mankind and want to make change in order to undo social ills then become a documentary film maker."

Styles' honors have continued since her arrival at the college. Recently, she won an award for a video she made about Savannah State University, where she formerly taught.

## Woodson started History Month

by Jacqueline Davis

Black History Month is an annual observance in February of past achievements and current status of black Americans. It coincides with the birthdays of the great black leader Frederick Douglass on Feb. 14 and of Abraham Lincoln on Feb. 12.

The idea for an observance honoring the accomplishments of black Americans led to the establishment of Negro History Week in 1926. It was proposed by Carter G. Woodson, a black historian known as the father of black history and others. The observance became known as Black History Week during the early 1970s and was established as Black History Month in 1976.

The celebration is sponsored by the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History (ASALH), which Woodson founded in 1915. The ASALH produces Black History Month study kits to help schools, colleges, ASALH branches and other organizations celebrate the observance. The ASALH also provides information about Black History Month through its publications.

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