

FEATURES

PROFILE

Kimm Waller: Bennett Belle with a mission

by Sanya Washington
Bennett Banner

Caring for others is what 24 year old Kimm Waller does best. Waller is a 1990 Bennett College graduate who recently won the "2 Those Who Care" award sponsored by WFMY Channel 2 in Greensboro. The Oakland, California native is one of ten recipients of the prestigious community service award.

When Waller won she couldn't believe it. "I am one of the youngest to ever receive such an award, so I thought maybe they made a mistake," she said. Waller was recognized for founding an organization where young girls can gain mentors and become positive leaders.

Waller admits that she really didn't see the difference she was making in the young girls' lives. "After listening to the television interviews featuring the girls and listening to them say how much they have learned and changed, I then realized I must be doing something special," she said. She gives a lot of credit to the girls in the group, because they cooperate in all the community service activities and participate in most of the social events. Waller is a phenomenal leader who has molded herself through a passion to help young girls. That passion led her in August 1992 to start, "Young Ladies on the Move".

"Most young ladies don't have a role model or a mentor to follow," she said. "The girls in this organization are either the only child or at the most have one sibling that is younger than they are. They need a positive influence to help them make successful decisions in their lives. I feel I can live up to that challenge."

Leandra Radford, an Indianapolis, Indiana sophomore describes Kim as "an energetic, bubbly, sweet and lovely person who is wonderful with the

girls."

Radford and Waller are good friends. The friendship and the organization blend well. "We're getting something positive done but at the same time we are friends," Radford said.

Waller's mission is to help young ladies lead successful lives just as her mentors helped her. "I want to see all of them graduate from college and receive advanced degrees. I want them to see that as beautiful black women they are important to society. My mission is for them to experience responsibility, develop strong self-esteem and make sure they become leaders of the next generation."

Waller is a member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. and Graduate Counsel Association. This Belle has a bachelor's degree in public relations and communications and is presently pursuing a master's in counseling education. Everyday Waller works in the Bennett bookstore.

"Jolly with high spirits and a community orientated person who enjoys working with children and is dedicated to the bookstore," Ravonda Mechem, college operations director said of Kimm.

Waller also teaches a dance class at Hayes-Taylor YMCA and attends classes at A&T State University. Between researching, working, teaching, and doing homework she still finds time to devote three weekends out of each month to "Young Ladies on the Move".

"I have no complaints about my busy schedule. It keeps me occupied and the children keep me happy," she said. Waller works at Bennett because she feels Bennett is a part of her family and working in the bookstore is rewarding. "When students come into the store and make positive remarks I am a happy camper."

She admits that she has many mentors and role models in her life, but the one person that sticks



by Deanne McLeod

WALLER: On a mission to make the next generation's leaders.

out the most is Dr. Patricia Bethea.

"Her encouragement and advice goes beyond the call of duty. I can never give back what she has given to me, but I can show her that all she has said and done will stay with me always."

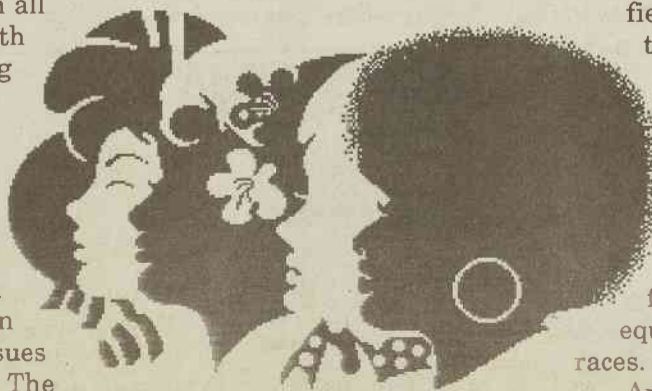
Dr. Scott participates in Women of Color teleconference

by Robin Walls
Bennett Banner

Who are the women of color? In America, women of color come from many ethnic backgrounds from all over the world. They bring with them their ability to be as strong and as intellectual as any other human being.

The satellite teleconference, "Women Of Color In: Higher Education" brought together a panel of women of all different races. The women were questioned by the host on how they feel on different issues concerning women of color. The president of Bennett College, Dr. Gloria Scott said, "A Bennett woman challenges the system. She knows who she is." The host asked the panelists if a woman should support another woman just because

she is of the same gender. Scott replied, "Why not support a woman? Women of color are going to have to be viewed in all perspectives." Another



question was asked. How do you change the norm to support women of color? With a quick reply, Vera Harris, also African-American, of Stockton College, said that there are only a few women of color in high positions in

education such as President and Vice President. Instead they have the titles of Associate to the President.

The panelists said this situation can be changed by supporting qualified women to hold these positions. There was one white male on the panel among the women. Dr. L. Jay Oliva, of Italian background and President of New York University believes that women should support other women. He said his staff and faculty at NYU are divided equally, male and female of all races.

Among the panelists were Dr. Evelyn Hu-Hart, professor of history, Juliet Garcia, President of Brown University and Janine Pease of Native American heritage, President of Big Horn College.

Roxi says be a friend

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Dear Friend,

I think you should talk to her because things for her are only going to get worse. She probably does not see it but she needs help bad.

DEAR ROXI,

I am a closet lesbian on campus. I have fallen in love with someone here at Bennett College. I want so desperately to tell my friends but I am so afraid that they will no longer be my friends. What should I do.

Signed In the closet

Dear in the Closet,

I am torn because this is not an easy subject to deal with on a all women's campus. If you tell your friends you had better get ready for a lot of strain on the friendships, but then this would also be a test of true friendship.

Address letters to Dear Roxi, Box 302, Bennett College, Greensboro, NC 27401