

## Two Belles earn \$4,000 awards

**Tahja McVay**

Banner Sports Editor

Two students have recently been awarded the Michael Jackson \$4,000 scholarship.

Yvette Burton, a senior majoring in mass communications, and Dorthea Taylor, a music education major from Marshville, N.C. were two of the 20

people nationally selected.

To qualify for the scholarship a student must have earned a 3.0 grade point average, be enrolled in an HBCU majoring in the arts, have an unmet financial need, and write a personal essay.

Burton, a Fuquay-Varina native and Banner editor, is also a recipient of the Janet Jackson Scholarship.

Taylor, a freshman and a member of the Bennett College Choir said she was glad she won the scholarship.

"I'm very happy and I do plan to renew it," Taylor said.

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# The BENNETT BANNER

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## Belle wins national title of Miss UNCF

**Tahja McVay**

Banner Sports Editor

A Bennett senior majoring in biology was recently crowned Miss National United Negro College Fund.

Dara Wilson, a Baltimore native, won the title Feb. 3 in Washington, D.C. where she competed against approximately 30 other colleges.

The UNCF competition is based on which UNCF school has raised the most money per capita.

Bennett raised \$24,000 -- about \$39 per student.

The National Alumni Council has proposed changing the competition from a fund raising pageant to a beauty pageant.

But newly crowned Miss UNCF does not agree.

"I don't think it's fair," Wilson said.



Miss UNCF 95-96, Dara Wilson

"It's [UNCF] all about fund raising and education, and not how a person looks."

Thus far, Wilson has received a dozen roses and gifts from Avon and the Alumni Council. She will also be awarded a \$3,000 scholarship.

After graduating from Bennett Wilson plans to attend graduate school to pursue a doctoral degree and a medical degree.

Wilson will be formally presented to the campus during the Feb. 22 UNCF ACES program.

## 'Emerge' editor speaks at Convocatum Est

**Yvette Burton**

Banner Editor

Convocatum Est, an induction of new students into the Bennett family, usually features the the spring semester's official opening ceremony. This year, however, the program included the David Dallas Jones Vesper which was Jan 21.

George Curry, author and editor of *Emerge Magazine*, the only African-African news publication of its kind, was the featured speaker of the event.

Curry's discussion included O.J. Simpson, Michael Jackson, racism and the importance of affirmative action.

A renowned journalist and Knoxville College graduate, Curry said that African Americans have been plagued with racism in society and urged students to plan for their futures by being technologically advanced.

"You all must make tough choices about your life, education is essential," Curry said.

Curry also challenged those who

were in a position to help others advance to do so, adding that once "...you have made it ... assist others in getting there," he said.

"Curry touched on issues that inspired thought," said Nanaaba Eshun, a senior mass communications major from Queens.

"The thing that I remember most is that he urged us to give back to our communities," Eshun said.

This semester's Convocatum Est marked the 123rd academic session of the college.

Those inducted were Adrienne Bailey, Saundia Cato, Shanika Choo-ying, Marta da Silva, Charise Dawson, Lillian Fitzgerald, Camisha Gentry, Maryann Hakeem, Shelly Huett, Alexis Jamison-Dottery, Tabitha Kajese, Margaret McLaughlin, Vimbayi Muhoma, Tamyelle Murray, Maonei Mutamba, Rasheeda Pass, Aminah Shariff, Tanya Wagstaffe, Lakeisha Williams and Kim Wilson.

## Renowned artist promises mural to Bennett

**Yvette Burton**

Banner Editor

What will Bennett College soon have in common with Winston-Salem State University and Hampton University?

Answer: A mural by Dr. John T. Biggers.

A renowned and celebrated artist, Biggers was in the Triad Jan. 14 as a special honoree during the fifth anniversary celebration of the founding of the African American Atelier, Inc. of Greensboro.

As part of that celebration, the Atelier is presenting an exhibition of the works of Biggers along with the other founding

members through March 2.

During his visit to the Triad and to the Bennett College campus, Biggers offered to produce a wall mural which will be located in a new humanities building being planned.

"We are excited to have such a noted artist agree to create a mural that will outlive all of us and inspire generations to come," said Lenora Brogdon-Wyatt, Humanities Division chair.

The new humanities building is part of the capital campaign currently underway, which involves raising funds for the renovation and construction of various

buildings throughout the campus.

Much of the the Bennett College community has already seen some of Biggers' works when they were treated to a trip to the Museum of Art in Raleigh, where an entire section of the museum was devoted to the artist's numerous murals, paintings and sculptures.

Before Biggers left the campus he left posters featuring a mural he painted for a YWCA in Houston, Texas. The posters are on sale for \$40 in the office of Academic Affairs.

**Biggers signing autographs at Bennett.**

