

At First Awards Day Ceremony

Students Reach New Benchmarks Through Their Involvement With Double Oaks Center

By Jalyne Strong
Post Staff Writer

The Double Oaks Community Service Center began in June, 1982. The learning center offers Adult Basic Literacy Education (ABLE), Adult Basic Education (ABE), and High School Completion (HSC), among other classes. However, a continuous comment from the community was, "No one ever graduated from Double Oaks."

Now, that statement has been put to rest with the recently held first Awards Day Ceremony at the community center. Through the combined cooperation of Central Piedmont Community College, the Charlotte Area Fund, and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, the students of Double Oaks were each awarded honors for their participation in the various courses.

The adult students, many of whom had dropped out of school earlier in life, have reached new benchmarks through their involvement with Double Oaks. There were those who received recognition for progress in the custom course classes of sewing, upholstery, and lingerie construction. Others were honored for learning basic literary skills through ABE and ABE. And others received their high school diplomas.

It was a joyous affair for those who were honored and for those who were there to witness the event. As names were called, the students crossed the stage to receive their certificates or diplomas to the rousing applause of the audience. Pride and satisfaction emanated throughout the auditorium.

Keynote speaker for the ceremony, Ms. Barbara McClee, is a graduate of the high school completion program. Wearing a corsage, carrying a huge bouquet and clutching her most prized possession - the diploma, McClee commented, "I enrolled in Double Oaks because there are things I want to



Barbara McClee, shown holding her high school diploma, was such an outstanding student at Double Oaks Community Service Center, she was presented as keynote speaker for the center's Awards Day ceremony.

accomplish." She says of the program, "It is fantastic." And she notes the "patience and understanding" of the learning center's staff.

"Everyone will go out of their way to help you," enthuses McClee. A grandmother, McClee's plans are to enroll in computer programming at Central Piedmont Community College.

"The awards ceremony is a way of providing adequate recognition for those who've achieved through the different programs or have obtained their diploma," comments Kirk Grosch, executive director of Charlotte Area Fund, Inc. "It is also a means of motivation to others in the community to show them they, too,

can reach benchmarks. "It was such a beautiful day for the ceremony and the participation was good," he continues. "We are proud of the success but we're not putting our feet up and saying, 'This is it.'"

"There are a number of people in North Carolina who are illiterate-50,000. We've much more work to do."

And for some of the students at Double Oaks there is also more work to be done. Those who have completed ABE classes can now move up to the ABE courses and those who have finished the ABE courses can progress to high school completion and ultimately receive their diplomas.



Delores Bradsher
.....Nursing major

Delores Bradsher Named Woman Student Of The Year

By Loretta Manago
Post Staff Writer

"It couldn't have happened to a nicer person." That's probably what most folks said when it was recently announced that Delores Bradsher, a native of Roxboro, N.C., and a senior nursing major, was selected "Woman Student of the Year" at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Although she was nominated by her sorority sisters of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Ms. Bradsher was more than surprised when the announcement was made during a luncheon sponsored by the Women's Resource Committee at UNCC at the culmination of Women's Week.

"When I learned that I had won, I felt really honored, I was really surprised. I had no idea that I would be chosen," remarked Ms. Bradsher.

In the four years that Ms. Bradsher has been a part of the UNCC community she has affiliated herself with the Dean's Advisory Committee, the Student Affairs Committee and the Health Promotion Committee. Although she does not consider herself a bookworm, rather one "who just gets the work done," Ms. Bradsher is on the Chancellor's List.

Beyond the confines of UNCC Ms. Bradsher is a member of the N.C. Nurses' Association, the American

Cancer Society, the American Heart Association, Red Cross, the Community Health Services and she works at the Student Health Center on campus.

Ms. Bradsher's commitment to the organizations previously mentioned serves to demonstrate her strong commitment to the nursing profession. "Like any other profession, I feel that it is more difficult for blacks to excel and move up the ladder, but I do think that more education is the way to battle that." In the fall Ms. Bradsher plans to enter graduate school at Duke University in the area of nursing services administration.

"I want to be a private nurse consultant, whereby I would consult large, complex health organizations and advise them on their nursing service management," stated Ms. Bradsher.

In Ms. Bradsher's eyes the plight of nursing is very similar to the plight of minorities. "Before the nursing profession can become autonomous and stand on its own, changes have to be made politically, socially, economically, and in other areas."

The 1983-84 recipient of the Ruth C. Clark Nursing Scholarship has very simple reasons for choosing the nursing profession. Every since she can recall she stated, "I've always wanted to be a nurse."



In observance of the first year of the existence of the Amay James Athletic Association, a homecoming pageant was held and Geovonne Rankin, the daughter of Shari and Greg Rankin and Shanarid Hayes, son of Sarah Hayes and Richard Lawrence were crowned queen and king. The Amay James Athletic Association, which was formed to give the youth in the community

exposure to sports events in basketball, track and softball, is still in the need of businesses to help defray the cost of athletic equipment and uniforms. The monies that were raised during the pageant went toward the purchasing of new equipment. Interested persons are encouraged to join. Contact Greg Rankin at 394-8622.

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