

Continuing Education Program

President Informs Trustees of New Direction of College

In addressing the Bennett College Board of Trustees on May 10, 1975, Dr. Isaac Miller, president of the college, stated that "as we have looked at the facilities of the College and to new directions for our faculty and staff in regard to further utilization of facilities in serving new clients and non-traditional students, we have considered the possibility of having classes that might (1) enroll, principally, veterans; (2) begin to serve our adult population; and (3) develop programs for use of the campus in the summer. In this connection, the feasibility of establishing a Continuing Education Center has been proposed."

The Board of Trustees responded by authorizing the administrative officers of the college to continue the study of classes for veterans and adults for implementation in a program of continuing education. Subsequent systematic planning has engendered at Bennett College a commitment to the concept of continuing education as evidenced by the establishment of a Continuing Education Program in July, 1975.

The initiation of current activities in continuing education, an associate degree program in business administration, an American sign language course, and mini-courses, necessitated resolution of a number of social, academic, financial, and governmental issues.

Adams to Head BFA Program

by Robyn-Denise Berryhill

For half a century Bennett College has been one of two Black women's colleges in the country. In keeping with the theme "opening new doors for women" Bennett College has become the first college in the tri-college consortium to offer a course in life study drawing as part of its new Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree Program.

Mrs. Alma Adams, director of the program explains: "It is a four year program in which the student may concentrate in one of three areas: graphics and commercial art; painting or three dimensional art. The program will begin in September and we will have our first graduate in 1980.

This program will still allow the student to pursue a career in art education if she chooses to do so and also for the first time we will be able to certify our own

The significant experience base acquired during the first year of the Continuing Education Program will be immensely helpful to us as we move toward accomplishing the following objectives for the 1976-77 fiscal year.

1. Expansion of current associate degree program in business administration and American sign language course.

2. Offer non-credit courses in such areas as photography, federal income tax, public speaking, etc.

3. Sponsor special in-service workshops for faculty, administrators and staff: these workshops should give training in such matters as the assessment of adult educational needs, curriculum,

adult learning, counseling, and financial aid.

4. Procurement of federal and/or private foundation monies to support training programs for unemployed and underemployed adults in the local community.

Eight students enrolled in the Continuing Education Program have achieved recognition for scholarship during the first semester. Their averages ranged from 30-40 based on the regular grading scale. The students are: Margaret Gambill and Mollie Williamson (4.); Robert Joyner (3.75); LeRoy Smith (3.50); Richard Bledsoe (3.33); Reuben Jones and Gertie Moore (3.25); and Nathaniel James (3.0).

A Double Life For Bennett College

Not everyone knows that Bennett College leads a double life but anyone who is around the campus in the evenings also has probably noticed that many of the seats in the Science Building classrooms that are occupied by young ladies during the day are filled by members of the opposite sex at night.

These students, enrolled in the Continuing Education Program, are working toward an Associate of Arts Degree in Business Administration, something new on the Bennett campus.

Dr. Perry Mack heads the new program and the instructors are Karen Hampton (Math); Mrs. Lavaniel Lang (Accounting);

Mrs. Willie Mayo (Economics); and James Jarrell (Business English).

Jarrell has found being an instructor in the Continuing Education Program at Bennett challenging. He notes that the students are pretty much like other students with "the same interests, dress styles, gripes, etc."

There are several female students in the program but most of the students are male. Most of them are also veterans, including two of the young ladies, and are employed in various positions in the community. These include postal clerks, shippers, truck drivers, brick layers, clerk typists, secretaries, and salesmen.

Graduation Activities

(Continued from page 1)

garet Dean Freeman, Philadelphia; Ruth Artis Whitfield, Silver Springs, Md.; Maggie Simpson Matthews, Atlanta; and Alma Tarpley Taylor, Greensboro.

students for teaching rather than having to go through Greensboro College.

Mrs. Adams added that all courses toward the B.F.A. will be shared among the consortium but "we will still be able to maintain our own identity here at Bennett."

Previously the only art curriculum here at Bennett was in the area of education. Mrs. Adams mentioned that because of the new program many of the regularly required courses for the art education major had been eliminated but other courses such as philosophy of art have been added.

Cosmos I Hosts Several Musical Types

(Continued from Page 3)

he owes it to the public to do it again.

In the afternoon hours when people are dining at the restaurant you can hear soft dinner music clearly originating from some local FM station as Barbra Streisand, Barry Manilow, Andy Williams and others sing their soft style of music; but after sundown, especially on Friday and Saturday nights, Bennett students travel those three blocks to the nearest Cosmos or across town to the other one where area students also go to do some serious getting down to the tune of Johnny Taylor's "Discos Lady" and whatever else is hot on the charts and fresh out of recording studios.

Bennett, Johnson C. Smith Join Forces To Push Through Resolution at NCSL

by Dawn Holder

A resolution to establish the office of chairperson of minority affairs was submitted to the North Carolina Student Legislature's 39th Annual Session held in Raleigh from March 31 to April 4 by the delegates of Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte and Bennett College, the only two predominantly black colleges that attended, and was passed unanimously.

Both schools were concerned with the lack of attendance by their fellow predominantly black schools. The attendance of black schools had declined since last year.

The purpose of the resolution was to establish a person on the membership committee whose sole responsibility is to recruit unchartered minority institutions and maintain on going relationships with chartered (active and inactive) minority institutions.

The students who attend NCSL from Bennett were Kathy Daniel, a sophomore from Silver Springs, Md., Frances Gaines from Chester, Pa., and Dawn Holder from Raleigh. Dawn, a senate delegate, presented the resolution at the plenary session. The chair-

person will be chosen at the next Interim Council Meeting on April 24 at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill.

Most agree that NCSL's purpose is to give students in all North Carolina institutions of higher learning, experience and education in parliamentary and legislative procedures as used in the North Carolina General Assembly. Kathy stated that she happened to stumble on getting to go as a senator from Bennett purely by accident, but she was glad she did.

The 39th session was Kathy's and Frances' first experience while Dawn attended last year. Miss Gaines, senate alternate, commented that NCSL is a truly rewarding experience for any Bennett Belle.

The delegation from Bennett is sponsored by the Debate Club. The adviser is Dr. Ruth Lucier who accompanied the two senators and senator alternate on the trip. Dr. Lucier announced that any students who are interested in attending NCSL next year should contact her or any Debate Club Member.

Interested students must become an active member of the Debate Club which is one of the criteria for being selected to attend NCSL.

Home Economics Department Designates Five Days for Design

The annual spring program of the Home Economics Department, which featured a variety of exhibits and activities, took place April 22-26.

An exhibit of articles constructed for the home/family by home economics majors enrolled in the home furnishings class and a collection of North Carolina heritage quilts were on display in Black Hall during the first two days of the event.

Mrs. Marilyn Gore Mills, '74, an area extension agent in clothing and textiles in Washington, D. C., whose masters thesis topic was "A Historical Study of American Quilts: Designs from North Carolina—1666 to 1976," served as consultant. Mrs. Mills received her M.A. this year from Howard University.

On the second day of the program students enrolled in marriage/family life and household equipment classes presented an exhibit entitled "Nature + Human Imagination Equals Family Income."

The same day food preparation students presented a slide-video demonstration of food preparation techniques and also demonstrated various kinds of table settings.

Clothing majors played a large part in the activities. On the second day of the program they presented brief reports of research on aspects of dress and on housing and feeding the family. On the following Sunday they directed a spring showing of original designs in the gymnasium. Freshman and sophomores in introductory and advanced sewing classes modeled clothes they had made but had not designed. A reception followed.

Culminating the activities of the five day period was a "Showcase of Design" at the North Carolina National Bank where seniors presented their own creations. Participating were Debra Alston, Yulaundra Ferguson, Yvonne George, Nykki Lodrig, Patricia Murray, Crystal Phifer, Renee Saunders, and Celestine Wilson.

Robyn's Nest (cont.)

Gillespie Talks on Role of Black Women in Bicentennial

Time — Life books where she worked on an illustrated "History of Black America" which she describes as a painful experience. Upon completion of the book, she decided to leave Time-Life. On Monday, November 10, she became managing editor of "Essence." The following May, she became editor-in-chief.

In her keynote address for the Humanities Festival Monday night, Ms. Gillespie spoke on The Role of the Black Woman in the American Bicentennial. She opened her speech by saying that she, along with all Black women, was a descendent of Isabella, Isabella being the first Black woman slave in America. "We Black women should be about more than just the celebration of the Bicentennial," she said. "We should be about formulating our future and present."

She also said, "What worries me is that somehow during the course of the Black movement,

Black women were made to feel that they were somehow suppressing and mentally castrating their men. We were made to apologize and try to make up for this." She concluded by saying "Sometimes those of us in college who go on to acquire middle-class status feel that we are an elitist group and leave the others behind. But we can not allow this to happen. We must begin helping each other." "Personally, I'd like to get married but I don't think I'm grown up enough."

Being a single career woman, I asked Marcia if any of the men she came in contact with felt threatened by her success. "Some do, some don't. Some men get uptight about a lot of things. The men that like me like me as I am; the men that don't, don't. It depends on how comfortable and secure the man is with himself and with the fact that I am a very ambitious, aggressive and bright woman and I don't try to hide it."

Those of us who have hopes of breaking into the communications area asked Marcia if she could offer us any advice. She said, "I wish you luck — Right now the field is overcrowded. Somewhere along the way communications began to have a glamour image, but believe me it is not a glamorous job. Traditionally you are overworked and underpaid. You're going to have to start at the bottom so don't be too choosy about that first job. In the end it's going to be the experience that counts."

Even though the job may not be all fame and fortune Marcia Gillespie keeps on keeping on because as she puts it, "I don't want little Black girls growing up as I did thinking only white women were beautiful." Being true to her native sign of Cancer, Marcia is a sensitive, complex, many-faceted lady who deeply cares enough to keep us all aware. Each month when we read "Gettin' Down" we feel a little closer to her. As long as Marcia keeps talking, we'll all continue to listen.



ESSENCE Editor Gillespie speaks to packed chapel audience and says she wants little black girls to know their beauty.

photo by Virginia Tucker