

# Ten Students Return from Co-Op

by "Kool-Aid" Bartley

One of the major features of Bennett College throughout the years has been its commitment to treating students as individuals while attempting to individualize instruction to the fullest extent that its resources would permit.

One of the main features to enrich the experiences of Bennett Belles is the **Cooperative Education Program**. This option is administered by **Mrs. Mae Nash, Director Of the Career Service Center**. The cooperative education may be in the form of a work study program, an internship, or field study for one or two semesters. Under special arrangement, students on co-op may also engage in independent study on their own time for extra credits.

Last semester ten students were on co-op. Although students had many different experiences, one thing was clear, that the co-op experience was indeed a

learning one and enabled them to meet the challenges of technological and social change.

**Karen Ferguson**, a sophomore, chemistry major from Charleston, South Carolina, resided in San Diego, California and had what she described to be "the best experience I have ever had." Karen worked at the Naval Material Command. Her duties included testing fuel for ships and Naval vehicles. Karen found herself in an all-white, male environment. She was the youngest and the only black female. Karen commented, "You have to learn how to work in an all-male and white environment, but most of all you have to learn to work with people in general."

Although Karen worked eight hours a day she found time to enjoy herself socially, which was also a part of the learning experience. "I had the opportunity to visit Mexico, which is a neighbor to California. It was interest-

ing to observe two different cultures. So many things were different, even the trees!" She also took time out of her busy schedule to join the San Diego Modern Dance Company in which she was the only black. Karen described both her work and social life as "a rewarding, motivating challenge."

**Marilyn Hicks**, a junior I.S.P. major with a concentration in biology from Columbus, Georgia, made Vicksburg, Mississippi her home for a semester. Marilyn worked with the United States Fish & Wildlife Services. Some of her duties and responsibilities included assisting in review, compilation and reorganization of the field office biological information library and assisting in field investigations to determine current fish population and yields and the effects upon these of proposed projects which are designed for flood control.

Marilyn said, "My field is a

male field. There were only two women in the office that I worked in and those two women were secretaries. This did not present itself as a real problem since I dare to be different." When asked if she would recommend co-op for other students, Marilyn said, "I would because it gives them a chance to determine whether or not the field they are interested in is open or closed." When asked what she learned other than her job experience she said, "I gained self-respect and most of all I gained independence." She went on to add with a smile, "I wish someone would teach me how to manage money. That was indeed a challenge."

Before Marilyn went on co-op she had a chance to attend a six-week training period sponsored by the National Wildlife Service for minority students. This training program was held in Tennessee.

**Vanessa Massenburg** and **Dale Jefferson**, both juniors, worked at

the Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park in Durham, North Carolina.

Vanessa, a biology major from Wake Forest, North Carolina, had several comments to make about her experiences: "I worked as a physical chemist in the department of toxicology on pesticides and I also worked with different types of carcinogens. When asked would she relive this experience, she said, "Definitely. If I were given another chance I would take advantage of it. I found this to be very beneficial to me and conducive to my personal and social well-being. I gained a lot of experience, but most of all I learned how to work better with other people."

**Kathleen Clark**, **Kaye Brimage**, **Beverly Randolph** and **Katie Gales** set up house in Framingham, Massachusetts. Each of these young ladies was affiliated with the Liberty Mutual In-

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After she makes it up the hill . . .



. . . she still has these steps to go!

Photos by Joyce Bass

## New NAACP Chapter to Be Organized

by Lennet Hill

Would you like to be a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)? If you would, the opportunity to join is coming up soon.

**Vanessa "Kool-Aid" Bartley** is the temporary president; **Rose Hudson** is the temporary secretary; and **Barbara Hamm** is the temporary treasurer.

In the near future there is going to be a membership drive. Students will be asked to pay a membership fee of \$2; faculty and staff will be asked to pay a membership fee of \$4. At least 25 members are needed to start an NAACP chapter. After 25 members have joined, permanent officers for the year will be elected. "Kool-Aid" said, "I hope everyone on campus will become a member."

The NAACP is a service organization. The members of the NAACP would participate in civil rights actions, community advancement, citizenship training, and leadership development.

"Kool-Aid" said, "I hope the NAACP chapter here will be organized by Feb. 12, so that we may send our officers to the Youth Division Training session in Charlotte."

She added that she would also like for the officers to attend the National Convention usually held in the spring.

Rose Hudson, the temporary secretary, has been affiliated with the NAACP for about 6 years. She has served as the president of the local branch in South Carolina and many other offices. She has also attended 3 national conferences.

Rose said, "While being affiliated with the NAACP I have learned a lot about politics and civil rights." She would like for every student to become a member so that we may have an active chapter at Bennett.

Rose is already a member of the NAACP and she is going to have her membership changed to Bennett's chapter once it is established.

## Teacher Education Workshop Features Murchison

The annual Teacher Education Banquet-Workshop was held on the evening of December 1, 1976 at the Golden Eagle Motor Inn and was attended by over 150 participants — student teachers, cooperating teachers, and Bennett College faculty members.

The student teachers in attendance included: **Kimble B. Anthony**, **Diane Black**, **Shyrell D. Brooks**, **Barbara G. Brown**, **Donna S. Brown**, **Cathy Burton**, **Demetria J. Chavis**, **Stephanie Y. Cherry**, **Linda P. Christopher**, **Constance L. Davenport**, **Donna H. Dennis**, **Mary D. Dubrey**, **Wanda E. Edwards**, **Mary S. Foster**, **Mary F. Gamble**, **Gail D. George**.

**Patricia Goings**, **Laura G. Goodman**, **Gilda Y. Hackett**, **Mary L. Hemphill**, **Gaynell L. Hendricks**, **Sherrie A. Hill**, **Portia J. Hooper**, **Sandra L. Johnson**, **Cynthia A. Jones**, **Linda C. Kennedy**, **Mary J. Lewis**, **Brenda D. Lilly**, **Janet R. McCoy**, **Carmen D. Miles**, **Angela M. Moore**, **Angie L. Moultrie**, **Gladys A. Odom**, **Joy Person**, **Delphia A. Saunders**, **Hester Scott**, **Virginia C. Siler**, **Linda K. Thompson**, **Darius R. Wagstaff**, **Sheila E. West**, **Nicki L. Woods**, and **Roslyn F. Thompson**.

The keynote speaker was **Ruby Murchison**, National Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Murchison, who teaches seventh grade language arts and social studies at Washington Drive Junior High School in Fayetteville, North Carolina, graduated Magna Cum Laude from A & T State University. She later received her masters degree from A & T State University, and has done further study at the University of Maryland, East Carolina University, and the University of Connecticut.

Among her many honors are included: North Carolina Teacher of the Year; recognition in the Outstanding Teachers in Exceptional Education Yearbook, NAACP Achievement Award, A & T State University Chancellor's Citation, and a USOE grant to study and travel in West Africa.

In her address, "Education for the 21st Century," Mrs. Murchison predicted that the task of educa-

tion is going to become more significant than ever before, and warned that there is no time for relaxed inattention on the part of educators. Mrs. Murchison also noted that the young people in the schools today will live in an environment that is radically different from the one we know, and stressed the importance of preparing our students for the future by helping them to discover their own learning styles.

Following Mrs. Murchison's address moderated by **Jimmy Faison** of the Department of Elementary

and Special Education. Faison was dressed, **Mary J. Crawford**, Bennett College Music Department, directed three of her students, **Thelma Robinson**, **Ellen Warren**, and **Angel Bloodworth** in excerpts from Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro." These three students delivered excellent performances of their roles.

The evening was concluded by brainstorming and evaluation sessions moderated by **Jimmy Faison** of the Department of Elementary and Special Education. Faison was

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Mrs. Ruby Murchison, 1976 National Teacher of the Year

Photo by Myra Davis



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