

# Belles Attend 3 Natural Science Meetings

by Diane Stevens

In an effort to expose students to the field of scientific research the Natural Sciences Division of Bennett College sent students to three scientific meetings this spring.

Kassandra Clark, Mallika Maniam, Marilyn Hicks, Sheila Sammons, Thorna Humphries and Diane Stevens, accompanied by Dr. Benjamin Duhart and Mrs. Evelyn Jones attended the 34th Joint Annual Meeting of the scientific honor society, Beta Kappa Chi and the National Institute of Science. The meeting was held from April 6-9.

Two days of the meeting were devoted to the presentation of research papers by students and faculty. Speaking about the papers, Thorna Humphries said, "Because it is a necessity for students to know how to communicate their ideas in the form of formal presentations the conference was very beneficial since it gave students the opportunity to present papers."

Dr. Duhart said, "The meeting gave me a chance to see what kind of research was going on at other schools. And from the presentation of papers I could also compare students at Bennett with students at other colleges."

One afternoon of the meeting was spent at Meharry Medical College. Here presentations on the school were made in the form of slide-tape and video-tape. A recruitment panel from the school also conducted a question and answer session for the convention participants.

"I thought the trip to Meharry and the panel discussion on the pros and cons of medical school and what students should do to prepare themselves for school were very interesting," said Dr. Duhart.

The joint assembly for the meeting was held at Fisk University. The speaker, Dr. Gertrude Ridgel, national president of Beta Kappa Chi, addressed the problems of energy shortages. The director of the National Institute of

Science Dr. Arthur Washington, also spoke to the group the following day.

All the students attending the meeting said they found it a rewarding, informative and enjoyable experience.

Mrs. Jones said, "Of a total of fifty papers presented in the biology section over half the papers were presented by students. It is encouraging to see so many of our students actively engaged in scientific research."

A second meeting attended by Bennett students was the Fifth Annual Minority Biomedical Support (MBS) Program Symposium from April 11-13 in New Orleans, Louisiana. The symposium was sponsored by Xavier University.

Students attending from Bennett were Shawn Humphries, Diane Stevens, Lennet Hill and Deborah Travis. Dr. J. Henry Sayles and Dr. Sekhara Rao, MBS research directors at Bennett, also attended.

The MBS research program is sponsored by the National Insti-

tutes of Health. This program is designed to increase the number of minorities in research fields. During the symposium, papers were presented by students, faculty or both on their institution's current research.

Somewhere in the neighborhood of seventy-four colleges and universities participated in the symposium. There are a total of 80 minority institutions with MBS programs, employing 1400 students and 500 faculty members.

Dr. Rao and Lennet presented a paper on "Influence of Certain Diets on the Growth Rate and Blood Lipid Levels of Experimentally Induced Hypercholesterolemic Hamsters."

Dr. Sayles, Shawn, Diana and Deborah presented a paper on the "Synthesis and Biological Activity of En-Amine Piperazine Derivatives."

Speaking of the presentation Dr. Rao said, "This paper was well received by other members of the scientific field. A representative from Lawrence Livermore Lab-

oratories (Livermore, California) expressed an interest in the type of work we are doing at Bennett College in the area of arteriosclerosis."

It was the general consensus of all the students attending that the symposium provided exposure to the research field and the presentation of papers. Lennet said, "At the symposium I became aware of the different types of research that were going on in the area of science."

Donald S. Fredrickson of the National Institutes of Health gave the address at the banquet. He spoke of the achievements of the MBS program since its implementation. He said, "You will be more than pleased when these programs cease to exist because they are no longer needed for access into the mainstream of biomedical research." He added, "Maybe one day at the last MBS symposium you will be addressed by a Spanish-speaking black from Hawaii and I will envy her."

Three mathematics majors, Thorna Humphries, Barbara Johnson and Veronica Watson along with their instructor Dr. James Alonso attended the 56th Annual Meeting of the Mathematical Association of America Southeastern Section, in Huntsville, Alabama, sponsored by the University of Alabama (Huntsville).

Each of the students and Dr. Alonso presented 15 minute lectures on designated mathematical subjects. For Barbara, a junior, it was a first time out at presenting a paper and she felt it really helped her.

Thorna, a senior, thought that the math department should provide more opportunities like the math meeting.

Veronica, also a senior, said, "Attending a meeting like this gives you the opportunity to see how you compare with other students."

The attendance of faculty members and students at these meetings was supported by grants from the National Institutes of Health program, the National Science Foundation, augmented by AIDP at Bennett College.

## Faculty Concerned about Students

by Lennet Hill

The Bennett College faculty has concerns for strengthening the student's abilities for the future.

According to Dean Chelsea Tipton the faculty has three concerns for the future of the student body.

Dean Tipton said, "One concern of the faculty has been the poor communication skills of students." He defined communication skills as being the ability of students to use English in a practical and correct manner, both in writing and orally. As a result, the faculty has done a serious study of the creation of certain basic requirements that all students must pass before qualifying for graduation. Dean Tipton stated that a task force composed of faculty and students will address this issue during the next several months.

He further stated, "It is my feeling that the improvement of this area will do much to advance the students before they leave Bennett."

A second concern is that of a policy to govern student representation. The Academic Standing Committee has formally presented to the faculty academic standards

to govern students who represent the college in matters such as sports activities and academic activities, as well as student professional meetings. Dean Tipton said, "In the recent faculty meeting, the Council on Academic Standing, Counseling and Academic Advising recommended to the faculty that any student representing the college must have a minimum of a "C" overall academic average. He added that there are nine other provisions in the recommendation and the faculty is expected to act on these recommendations at its next meeting.

A third concern is that of reducing the attrition rate. (Attrition is the flow of students away from the campus after they have once enrolled.) Dean Tipton said that Bennett at present has a below-national-norm attrition rate, yet the faculty is dissatisfied with the number of students who leave the campus after being enrolled after a length of time.

During the past three months an attrition study has been conducted. The report given by its chairperson, Ms. Dorothy Harris, revealed that the Bennett student attrition rate has been about normal at every level; however, the greatest rate appears at the freshman level. Dean Tipton said, "During the summer a special task force will be formed with the express purpose of addressing recommendations to reduce the attrition rate, and at the same time formulate procedures for implementing the program of retaining students."

He concluded by saying that in simple terms the task force will determine the human elements which agitate a climate of dissatisfaction among students and attempt to eradicate them.



Dr. Constance Hilliard, executive director of African American Scholars Council, Inc. speaks on the participation of women in the international scene. Eva Ablorh, r., introduced the speaker. The talk was one of the Humanities Festival events.

photo by Joyce Bass

## Graduation Weekend Events Scheduled

(Continued from Page 1)

Barge Hall's recreation room will have the floors and painting with the support of the Winston-Salem Chapter. Its study/TV room is to have furniture and curtains with help from the Norfolk Chapter and painting and general repairs thanks to the Richmond-Petersburg Chapter.

The Washington, D. C. Chapter will raise money for carpeting the Annie Merner Pfeiffer Chapel.

The final alumnae event to be held that weekend will be the "Alumnae Get Together" May 7 at 9 p.m. in alumnae headquarters.

Two other events are scheduled for commencement weekend. The College Choir will present its Spring Concert with its director, Dr. Alston, May 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the Annie Merner Pfeiffer Chapel. The President's Reception for Seniors will be held from 5 to 6:30 p.m. May 7 at the home of President Miller.

## Bennett Four Perform Ozone Waste Treatment Study

by Myra Davis

Dr. Allison Maggiolo and three Bennett student assistants, Frances Davis, Nanetta Lowe and Rhonda Montgomery, are under-

taking research on the present and future of ozone in treatment of textile wastes and ozone vs chlorine in treatment of textile-chemical wastes.

They presented papers on these topics at the April meeting of the AATCC Symposium on Environmental Sciences Textile Technology/Ecology Interface in Atlanta. Dr. Maggiolo hopes the group will also be able to participate at the Third International Ozone Institute Congress in Paris, May 4-6.

Ozonization appears on the verge of replacing chlorination as a treatment for chemical waste found in large amounts. Because of this, Dr. Maggiolo feels that private, institutional and governmental pressure to eliminate the current standard practice, post-chlorination treatment of these

chemical wastes, is likely in the near future.

Dr. Maggiolo was one of over 300 persons attending the International Ozone Institute and EPA Workshop on ozone/chlorine dioxide oxidation products of organic materials in Cincinnati. The meeting was held to bring together scientists, engineers, regulators and educators in the field of organic oxidation products.

Although preliminary finds about alternatives for chloride treatment seem feasible, more work must be done to determine what, if any, undesirable products may be generated and how their production can best be minimized or eliminated.

And it's good to know that Bennett College is in the forefront of such important research.

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