

# First ISP Grads Set High Marks

Judging from the performance of the first class of Interdisciplinary Studies Program (ISP) students, graduates of the program are bent on distinguishing themselves.

A recent survey of the class of '75, the first graduates of the program, which elicited responses from 19 of the 20 graduates, revealed that the majority have gone on for advanced study and many have already been awarded advanced degrees or are anticipating them soon.

**Linda Davis-Raiford**, whose concentration was in political science, is a third-year law student at the Antioch School of Law in Washington, D. C. and is expecting to be awarded the degree of *juris doctor* in May. Lucia is also working part-time in legal assistance. But she does not intend to stop there. She notes that she is planning to take a job in the legal field after she receives her

doctorate and begin work on a masters in business administration with "an eye towards a career in investment banking and/or corporate financing."

Master's degrees are in abundance. **Polly Ashley Douglas**, whose concentrations were biology and chemistry received her M.S. from the Harvard School of Public Health and is presently engaged in research in nutrition in the School of Education at Harvard. She is also trying to decide she says, "whether my next degree will be an M.B.A., a Ph.D. in nutrition, or a law degree."

**Agnes Duncan**, who graduated from Bennett with a psychology concentration, has received the M.S. degree from Roosevelt University in Chicago and is working as a therapist for the Chicago Department of Mental Health. **Gwen McLean Mami**, another political science student, earned the M.A. degree in Urban Planning from

Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas, and is now in law school in Houston.

**Balaynesh Tekeste**, who concentrated in library science, has earned an M.S. degree in library science and media.

**Janice Hatch Canady**, who concentrated in elementary education, is employed as a classroom teacher in the Dekalb County (Ga.) school system and is working on an M.A. at Georgia State University which she expects to complete in 1979.

A business and mass media student, **Shirlene McCoy**, is working on a master's degree in business administration (MBA) at Atlanta University and Georgia State while she holds the position of account representative for group insurance and pensions at the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company in Atlanta.

**LaRita Sprott**, a mathematics and French student at Bennett, is

an engineer planner with General Dynamics in Fort Worth, Texas but finds time to work on an M.S. in Industrial Administration at the University of Dallas.

After concentrating in mass media at Bennett, **Tsedale Mulugetta** moved into a position as a seminar executive for the International Association of Business Communicators in San Francisco. She says her job is primarily in the area of public relations and "there is never a dull moment." She is also working on an M.A. in Broadcast Communication Arts.

**Kathleen Hicks Suggs**, after studying special and intermediate education at Bennett, works in special education with the Guilford County Public Schools in Greensboro and is working on an M.A. at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

One of the classes' two Air Force Officers is **Lt. Yardley Nelson** who is an air training officer

at the U. S. Air Force Academy and is working on an M.A. in Guidance and Counseling at Colorado University. **Yardley's** field of study at Bennett was English.

The second Air Force officer is **Lt. Dyora Thomas Kinsey** who is on a joint assignment with her husband at March Air Force Base in California. **Dyora** studied dietetics at Bennett.

**Valerie Tillman Southerland**, who concentrated in English, is working as a telephone operator in Toronto, Canada. **Valerie** has done advanced study in photography and plans to enter graduate school in Buffalo, New York.

**Paulette Wicks** has completed a Tuskegee an internship in dietetics, a field she pursued at Bennett, and is a specialist in cardiac nutrition and responsible for staff development and education at the Veterans Administration hospital in Buffalo, New York.

After concentrating in arts and humanities at Bennett, **Gina McAdoo** is presently employed as a receptionist/secretary at the Office of Undergraduate Financial Aid at Duke University and planning to enter law school at North Carolina Central University in the fall of 1978. She hopes to work in the area of criminal reform for juveniles.

**Jacqueline Hemphill**, who concentrated in sociology and music, is minister of music at the Christ Lutheran Church in Greenville, Alabama, where she was formerly director of music at Lomax-Hannon Junior College.

A secretarial position with Southern Bell in Charlotte, N. C., was the fruit of **Jacqueline Howard's** study of secretarial science at Bennett.

Two other members of the class who have stayed close to home are **Connell Pinnix Burnette**, who concentrated in social welfare and is now employed as a bank teller in Burlington; and **Gail Dickerson**, who concentrated in French, and is employed by Rolane Corporation in Greensboro.

The most distant member of the class is **Chris Ofoma Obiagi** who is now teaching art, her area of concentration, in a secondary school in her home country of Nigeria.

Information on more recent graduates is not as full yet as on the class of '75 but encouraging reports are coming from them, too. **Cheryl E. Johnson**, '76, has just completed her master's in journalism at the University of Michigan and is working for the Booth Newspaper chain on their paper in Flint, Michigan. **Cheryl** concentrated in communications media and was editor of the **Banner** for two years.

**Kris Dennard**, '76, is teaching dance in a public school in Detroit. **Deborah Lundy** is in her second year of dental school at Howard. **Clarencia Simmons Collins** is in chemical research work and took a graduate course in the fall semester.

**Janice Blair vanJohnson**, after a year and a half as financial coordinator for the Women's International League of Peace and Freedom, has now stepped up, as of November, to coordinator of recruitment for the American Friends Service Committee.

**Rita Duren** was selected to participate in a special graduate program at Florida International University, for the severely/profoundly retarded. She is now teaching in a special education position and "loves every minute of it."

A look at the class of '77 reveals that **Sheree Johnson** is in law school at Columbia University and **Thorna Humphries** is studying computer science at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Both have graduate fellowships.

**Katie Gailles**, who graduated in December 1977 after remaining an extra semester to complete a concentration in accounting, is currently employed by IBM.

## McCoy's Job Unusual For Woman

Jackie William

Not many women are sales service supervisors for a major national insurance company.

**Shirlene McCoy**, '75, interdisciplinary studies major with a concentration in business and mass media, is one of those few. She is with the Metropolitan Insurance Co. as a sales service supervisor for group insurance.

Her job is to visit policy holders who usually are the presidents or vice presidents of corporations and to do an "enrollment." An enrollment is explaining to employ-

ees their benefits and getting them to sign up for group insurance. She also does "installations" which is setting up the plan of administration.

Shirlene, who comes from Columbus, Georgia, covers four districts in Atlanta.

"I work with agents and brokers in the capacity of a group representative," says Shirlene. "This is a pretty challenging position in that there are no other females in this position in the Southeastern Region."

When asked if the career she

now has is the one she had in mind while she was a student, she replied, "Yes and no. While a student, I was unaware of the many opportunities available in the insurance industry. I did however anticipate a career that would inter-relate many skills and interests. In this sense, my career is what I had in mind." This is why she chose to be an interdisciplinary studies major.

Shirlene definitely feels that Bennett helped her for her present career. She feels that she received "intellectual and creative

experiences" which gave her confidence. This increased her perception, enabling her to relate "positively and work effectively" with people of different backgrounds and cultures.

When asked what advice she would give Bennett Belles now on the choice of careers, she said, "Explore as many areas or job opportunities as are available in making a choice. You may be astounded to find that certain careers that you always considered boring have areas of interest that can be quite fulfilling."

"Speech is very important as is appearance. Procrastination is no good; organization a must," she said.

Developing skills in speaking, reading and writing to the utmost, she feels, is a good way to prepare for any career.

The motivation that pushed her to succeed was, "An independence that I've had since childhood, coupled with the desire to reach my fullest potential."

"Don't expect handouts. Hard work mixed with moderate pleasure and determination leads towards success," Shirlene said.

Shirlene feels that her race and sex were an advantage in getting her hired. However, it has not determined or affected how successful she has been. She had to work extra hard to be better than the next guy to prove her success.

She feels that if she had to do it again she would choose Bennett. Her vivid memories of her years at Bennett included I.S.P. classes, Diversion I and II, the Concert and Gospel choirs, and A&T. She felt the choirs were a beautiful experience. They even recorded an album while she was here.

Shirlene feels that **Dr. Helen Trobian** was most influential as was **Barbara Procton**. Courses in speech and forensics, synergetic strategies, mass media, and the Guided Individual Study Program, as well as problems seminars were valuable in preparing her for her career. Her Co-Operative Education experience under the direction of **Mrs. Mae Nash** also prepared her.

Although Shirlene is not now married, she believes that a career can be reconciled with marriage. She said, "While a husband, children and family life are important to me, so is my individuality. I wouldn't feel complete in one without the other."

Finally Shirlene gives a few words of advice. "I must emphasize, to graduating seniors especially, the importance of taking advantage of any and all interviews available, even for positions you feel you're sure you don't want. You will find that you'll have more selections when making important decisions of which job to take."

## '74 Graduate Advises: Take Pride in Doing Things Well

by Sheila Purnell

"Do things in a manner which you would be proud of, and try to live your life in a manner that would inspire others or influence someone else positively," said **Diane Jones**, a media specialist, in expressing the philosophy of life that has guided her.

**Diane D. Jones** is a Bennett College graduate of 1974. Her major was history and her minor was library science. She is presently employed as a media specialist on educational leave. She is attending graduate school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is a student in the master's program in Library Science.

Media specialist is the career that Diane had in mind while she was a student at Bennett. She had planned to go on to advanced study after graduating from Bennett. She feels the longer you wait

to return to graduate school the harder it is to get back into the "swing of things."

Bennett helped to prepare Diane for her present career. "The library science program at Bennett was well-rounded in that I was exposed to a lot of information needed for me to function in my job and feel confident in knowing what to do and how to do it," said Diane.

Diane feels that neither her race nor her sex was of significance in her career. "I feel that my career has been influenced mainly by the type of work I attempted to do. If your grades are of high caliber, and if you have high recommendations from instructors, you can find a job of some nature. After that it's up to you to prove yourself and if you can do that, no matter what your sex or race is, then there is nothing that can be said," said Diane.

Diane's motivation to succeed

came from her family, instructors at Bennett, and her belief in herself. The teachers that helped her most in preparing for a career and in life were **Carrie Shute**, assistant professor of library science; **William Alcorn**, assistant professor of education; **Willie Mae McCallum**, assistant professor of social science and academic advising; and **Linda Addo**, assistant professor of history. "These people really stood behind me, pushed me when they felt that I could do better. I really appreciate their belief in me which in turn caused me to believe in myself," said Diane.

Diane has some advice for "Bennett Belles" on choosing and preparing careers: "Think big when choosing a career. Go into a field where there aren't many black women. Never set your sights too low or underestimate yourself. Attend graduate school immediately after undergraduate school."

Dorotheine advises Belles preparing for careers, "Don't just do enough to get by. Prepare yourself for a career by taking advantage of all the knowledge that Bennett has to offer."

Though she isn't married yet, she thinks that it is possible to reconcile marriage with a career. "I'm working with professional women who seem to have successful marriages. It seems that married career women have more satisfying relationships with their mates than housewives who don't work outside the home," she said.

The philosophy of life that has guided Dorotheine "is to continue to set goals and objectives and try to achieve as many of them as possible while at the same time enjoying myself."

analytical techniques to make and validate conclusions used to develop recommendations in systems concepts and design. Therefore, the mathematical and programming skills that I obtained at Bennett have played a very important role in preparing me for a career in Operation Research Analysis," said Dorotheine.

Dorotheine feels that her race and sex have been an advantage in her career. "Pressure is being put on companies and organizations to increase the number of qualified black minorities in the higher level positions. As a black woman today it is to my advantage to get the experience, training and self-development needed so that I can take advantage of this effort," she said.

## Keeping Up with Technology Vital Says Math Grad

by Jacqueline Roberts

"The choice of career is not as important as one's interest in that field. When you get a job you must be interested and willing enough to continue to keep up with the new and changing technology in your field," says **Dorotheine Murphy**, an alumna of Bennett College.

Dorotheine was a mathematics major when she attended Bennett College. She is a graduate of 1971. Her present profession is operation research analyst at the Engineering Topographic Laboratory in Fort Belvoir, Va.

Bennett helped Dorotheine prepare for her present career. "My present position deals with research in cost and operational analysis of military geographic information. This involves using an-