

Debate Club Benefits from NCSL

by Marion Johnson

As a member of the North Carolina Student Legislature (NCSL), the Bennett College Debate Club has been involved in highly educational endeavors in the areas of law and debate.

Frances Gaines, a junior from Chester, Pa. majoring in communications (ISP) and president of the debate club, described the club's role in NCSL.

"Bennett sends delegates to the NCSL session in Raleigh. These delegates take seats in the House and Senate. Here they listen and participate in the debating of proposed bills. As House members they are allowed to lobby, vote and present bills."

"Preparing bills is one of the most important processes of NCSL. One must research the subject matter carefully and thoroughly,

keeping in mind all the pros and cons of the proposal. This aids in making the bill as airtight as possible," Frances added.

Makeup of NCSL

NCSL consists of student representatives from various North Carolina universities and colleges. NCSL offers the student a worthwhile experience in practical politics and the legislative process.

Each school's delegation works as a team to research and draft legislation which they present for debate by the House and Senate at the Annual Session each spring.

Bills passed at this session are made available to the members of the N. C. General Assembly. In this way, students offer organized, well-composed input into the state's lawmaking process that demands the attention of "real" legislators.

More Black Participation Needed

One of the problems NCSL is experiencing is the lack of active participation of major black universities and colleges.

Sam Blackwell, a senior political science major from Johnson C. Smith University and NCSL black membership co-ordinator, emphasized the need for black students to participate in a predominately white state organization.

Blackwell said, "We as black students involved in NCSL feel that the organization offers an invaluable experience to any student who is interested in the legislative process of North Carolina. NCSL approaches it's goal from an educational standpoint and I feel that we as black students or as leaders of black institutions have an obligation to ourselves, our race and to the future of our nation to take advantage of oppor-

tunities which would better prepare us to deal with society."

Despite the lack of black school's participating in NCSL, the Black Caucus in 1977 lobbied for the release of the Wilmington 10, a case of great relevance to the black race. This should serve as an example of the necessity to get black schools involved in NCSL.

Importance of Organization

It is difficult to summarize the importance of NCSL, because it holds a different significance for different people.

Through the work in small committees and more informal groups, debate and oratory in the larger chambers, individual behind-the-scenes research, and the interwoven socializing and human interaction, each delegate, alternate and observer has the opportunity to develop his known talents and find talents which were hidden

before.

Glenn Viers, a sophomore from Savannah, Ga. majoring in history at Greensboro College described NCSL's importance.

"I think NCSL provides a two-fold purpose in the sense that first off NCSL is primarily an educational organization. On that premises we are helping to educate the leaders of tomorrow. It also provides a direct line between the leaders of member schools and the General Assembly.

He added, "NCSL has aided me in the sense that it has made me more aware of legislative and political processes of today. It has exposed me to a group of individuals I probably would not have met."

"It has given me a sense of pride to know that some legislation proposed has been passed into an actual law," he concluded.

Peer Advisers Hold Meet "With Personal Touch"

by Deborah Tillman

With "A Personal Touch" as its theme, the peer advisers held a workshop to improve the Bennett College Peer Advising Program, February 10-11.

The workshop began with a banquet in the private dining hall, David D. Jones Student Union. Ophelia Foye, peer advising co-

ordinator, presided over the banquet as Barbara Hamm gave the keynote address, "Peer Advising: Past, Present and Future." In her speech, Barbara reflected upon her past experiences as a peer adviser. Citing her own experiences, she told of her expectations for the peer advising program in the future. As a last will and testament,

the senior peer advisers left many thoughts and ideas for the present and future peer advisers to remember.

James Armstrong, Project Upward Bound's program manager at N. C. A&T State University, served as program consultant for the Saturday workshop. His presentation, "Peering Advising Measures and Models" gave insight into the expectations of peer advisers. Many suggestions were made as to how to improve the status of the peer adviser.

Peer advisers should: 1) have the right setting for advising the students; 2) establish eye contact with the advisees; 3) evaluate the goals and objectives of the advisees; 4) inform the advisees that you must work together to defeat problems; and 5) help students to recognize their problems.

Following Mr. Armstrong's presentation, two sessions were held, one entitled "The Selection and Training of Peer Advisers," and the other "The Assessment of Peer Advisers."

The first session, chaired by Jimmy Gravely, discussed ways of recruiting and training new peer advisers. Because ten senior peer advisers are graduating, there is a need for new recruits.

Dorothy Harris, director of Freshman Studies and Academic Support Services, chaired the second session. Discussion centered around the establishment of a sound assessment program for the overall peer-advising program. The members of this group examined the peer advisers evaluation sheets and decided to make a few changes on the form as well as discussing other problems.

Dean Chelsea Tipton commented on the workshop by saying, "Academic advising is important. It is a vehicle from the known to the unknown. The future will bring many changes in the total peer advising experience."

The participants for the workshops were: Denise Berryhill, Dino Bradley, Lucinda Brunson, Myra Davis, Audrey Forrest, Ophelia Foye, Jimmie Gravely, Barbara Hamm, Dorothy Harris, Marilyn Hicks, Shawn Humphries, Vicentia Lipscomb, Mrs. W. M. McCallum, Dr. Isaac H. Miller, Jr., Shelia Miles, Rochelle Moody, Olivia Penn, Romona Reid, Vanessa Richmond, Marsha Roebuck, Deborah Tillman, Dr. Chelsea Tipton, DelGratia Walker and Marilyn Wilson.

Guests of the workshop were Shawn Echols, LaSandra Muldrow and Rosa Faulk.

The Peer Advising Program is supported by the Board of Global Ministries and Higher Education of the United Methodist Church and AIDP.



photo by Joyce Bass

"Roastees" await beginning of the show. From l. to r., Dr. Morris Peterkin, Alma Adams, Chester Jenkins, and Roxanne Wilson.



photo by Joyce Bass

Senior, Sandra Gardner, and friends roast the Science Division as Harold Bragg and Queen Bell look on.

Bennett Faculty Is Roasted by Seniors

by Joyce A. Bass

It was an evening not like any other evening, and one not to be forgotten by those "few" who weathered the cold and sat in the Little Theatre for the roast of all roasts.

The senior class of 1978 roasted several of its beloved and admired faculty and staff recently at what was called "The First Annual and (probably the last annual) Faculty-Staff Roast."

The Mistress of Ceremonies for the evening was senior class member, Sheila Stewart. The "roasters" were such class members, as Mildred Harris, Lisa Anderson, Jackie Thompson, Janis Badson, Margie Crutchfield, Marsha Roebuck, Marilyn Hicks, Sandra Gardner, Carolyn Hazel and Anita Little. The "roastees" were such renowned persons

as Coach McDougale, Jimmy Faison, Alma Adams, Dr. Morris Peterkin, Queen Bell, Harold Bragg, J. I. Scarlette, Chester Jenkins, Dr. Henry Sayles, Dr. Lloyd Harris and Roxanne Wilson. Only eight of the roasted faculty and staff members "showed" and comments were made in regards to the nerve of the missing "roastees."

Being seen through the eyes of your students sheds a much different light on your everyday activities. Somehow, students seem to pick up on little things that instructors overlook such as the coordinating suits or striped socks and the coffee-filled cups.

But as one of the "roastees" said, smiling, after it was all over, "This just goes to show how much they love us. After all it could've been worse."



photo by Myra Davis

Among those participating in the Peer Advisers Workshop were (l. to r.) Barbara Hamm, senior; Marilyn Wilson, junior; and Lucinda Brunson, junior.

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