



Debra Moore is welcomed to Bennett by faculty members, Mrs. Willie M. McCallum, Mrs. Mary J. Crawford and Dr. Georgie Latimer.

photo by Myra Davis

Class of '82: to seek, but not to yield

by Barbara Jones

Not long ago, the most important moments in a woman's life were those which involved marriage and childbirth. Now that women are at the point where they are able to attend college and have responsible and respectable careers, they are expanding their horizons.

This also holds true of the members of the Class of 1982. These young women are seeking to find knowledge and skills here they can use for the rest of their lives. With this knowledge, they will not yield to the obstacles before them. Furthermore, the "Bennett Experience" will be a part of them whether they are here for four months or four years.

Bennett College: love it, don't leave it

by Romona Reid

Bennett College is not perfect, as many of you know and as many of you are finding out.

In my four years here at Bennett I have trudged the same roads and made the same complaints as I am sure years of past graduates have. I have complained about the rules and regulations, the lack of co-ed visitation, the food, and other problems facing students here.

However I have never, ever been faced with such extreme examples of some of these same complaints as I was this past summer when I was enrolled at A&T.

For many reasons I decided to stray from the norm and attend A&T State University for summer

school. I had always heard adverse rumors about the summers there. The boredom and the heat always seemed to keep people a little edgy and apathetic.

And sure enough, for me and for other Bennett Belles who attended A&T this summer, it was a non-stop expression of constant complaints. From the very first day I attended A&T, I was anxious to leave and return to my home across the tracks, Bennett.

Endless registration lines, accompanied by the sour attitudes and dispositions of the Aggie women only seemed to make the Aggie men enjoy more the traditional "battle" taking place between Aggieettes and the Belles.

The mammoth dorms housed not only a melting pot of conflicting personalities, but also an army of arthropods.

The Woolworth type cuisine offered at the Red Carpet cafeteria was quite similar to that of Mrs. Paul's heat-and-serve recipes. I realized from this that home cooking was something found only at home and at Bennett.

Quite to my surprise, co-ed visitation as it existed at A&T is far more than the average Belle could cope with. This smug authorization only leaves the female student open at all times to receive visitors, even those she does not expect. Men roaming the halls always seemed to be very aggressive and anxious to introduce themselves, even if you were napping in your nightgown at the time of their intrusion. Before I was finished with summer school, I longed for Bennett College and my privacy.

So, I say to you, old and young, senior and freshman, Bennett has its many faults, but there are other places, some not far away, that have a whole lot more.

ferred Bennett because of its very fine home economics program and its closeness to her home. Brenda's only criticism is that she doesn't think curfews should be enforced so strictly upon freshmen.

Angie Bethea, a freshman music and voice major from Winston-Salem, N.C., says that Bennett is the place for her because she can study better without male distraction. Angie is satisfied with the sizes of her classes and the adequacy of her instructors. Her only gripe is that she has to wait six

Miller initiates freshman program

Current developments in post-secondary education cause serious educators in black colleges and universities to be quite concerned about meeting the unique needs of entering students.

To help meet these needs at Bennett Dr. Isaac Miller, president, announced during the closing meeting of the Bennett faculty and staff on May 14 that he was planning a special summer program for the entering college freshmen. He later appointed a working committee of faculty and staff to implement the idea which received support of the United Methodist Church, with which Bennett is affiliated, and government support.

On July 8, the President's Pre-Freshman Advancement Institute officially opened. Nearly sixty young women registered as part of this pioneering effort on Bennett's part. Parents were also included in the opening program.

"It's important that parents know what the mission of the college is and how they fit into the scheme of the college experience," explained Dr. Miller to the planning committee.

During their three-week experi-

ence, these students received a variety of experiences. In the mornings they engaged in reading and writing skills workshops under the tutelage of reading specialists and English instructors. Afternoon sessions included seminars in such areas as time management, assertiveness, developing study skills, developing library research skills, and student government involvement. Recreational activities included instruction in tennis and swimming. A variety of coeducational social events was also held.

Consultants consisted of Bennett alumnae and staff. Students were enabled to interact with former Bennett students about their college careers and professional development.

"Institutions like Bennett have an obligation to explore and discover new measures to enhance the success prognosis of black students," Dr. Miller said.

"We black educators must endeavor to motivate our young people to cooperate with the colleges' programs and the teachers so that they will overcome the deficiencies which limit their success," he added.

weeks before she can go home to visit her family, and she feels that she should not have to sign out at the desk when she leaves campus.

Gloria Johnson, a freshman photography major from Durham, N.C., says that she was attracted to Bennett because she heard it is a very good learning institution for young women. Gloria feels that the food could be better than it is at the present but doesn't consider it to be a major gripe. Gloria does believe that a curfew is needed for the freshman class.

Freshman Tryna Patterson, an early childhood education major from Hope Mills, N.C., feels that attending Bennett College will help her to get along with other young women her age. Tryna says that Bennett is a tradition with the women in her family, and it is one of the reasons she decided to attend.

A pre-med major, Anita Hickson, from Washington, D.C. says that her first words upon arrival on campus were, "Oh wow, so this (Continued on page 6)

Peer Advising Center developed to aid freshman students

by Andrietta Brown

The basement of the Freshman Studies Center has been renovated to house the Peer Advising Center which is designed to provide space for freshmen to consult with their peer advisers.

The center contains the offices of the peer advisers and the office of the Peer Adviser program coordinator, Ophelia Foye, who is to assist the peer advisers. Also located in the center is the conference room and lounge area which provides space for tutoring and conferences. A large supply of books to aid tutors is also located in the center.

Support for the development of the center was received from the National Division of the Board of Global Ministries and the National Division of the Board of Higher Education, both boards of the United Methodist Church. The funds were secured by Dorothy J. Harris, director of the Freshman Studies Program, through proposals which she submitted to the

boards.

Miss Harris believes that "the new center has a tremendous amount of potential for development of a more professional atmosphere for academic advising by upperclass students." The peer advisers are referred to as "student paraprofessionals" because of the complexity of their jobs, she said.

Each adviser is assigned 10 to 20 freshman advisees and her job is to aid the students with their academic adjustment. The students are free to contact the center anytime and arrange a conference with any adviser.

The peer adviser also works with a faculty adviser. This team works together to assure that freshman students make satisfactory adjustments to college life.

The peer advisers designed the layouts for their offices and decorated the center with curtains and paintings that they made themselves.

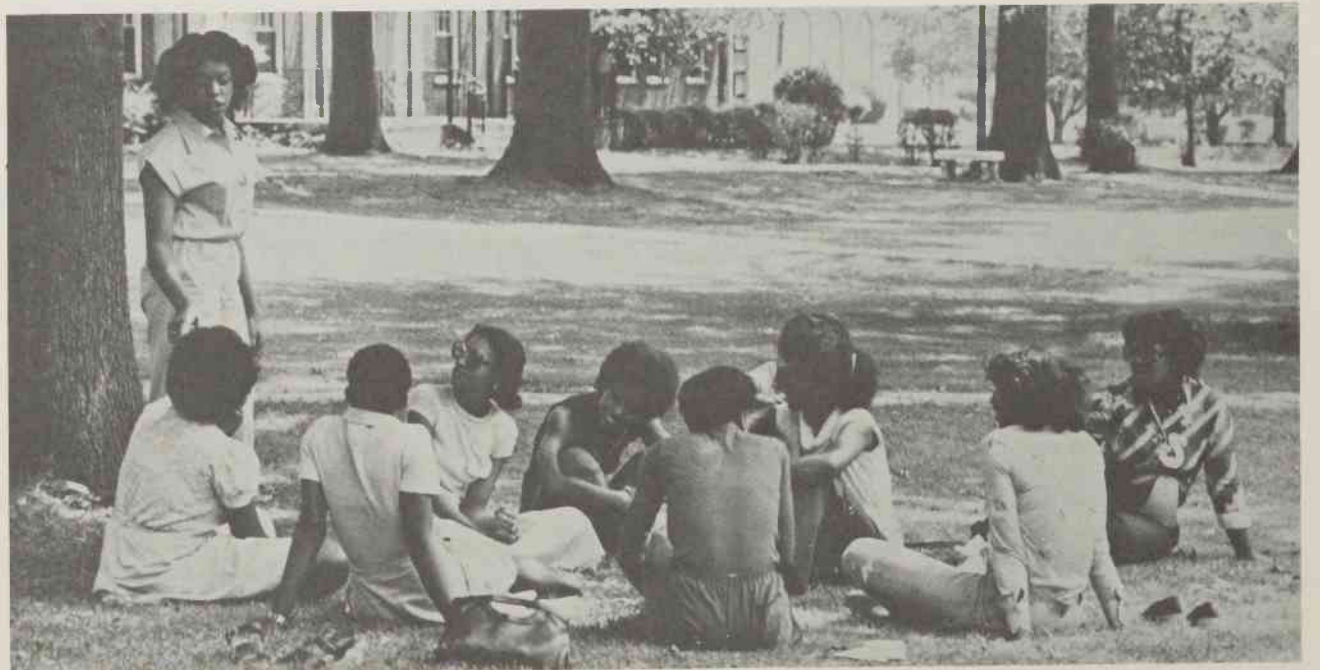
The center is now in operation

and each peer adviser has her available office hours posted. The center does not close at 5 p.m., for seven to 10 advisers will be available from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The goal of the peer advisers this year is to increase the retention of freshman students. They expect to have a 95 percent or better retention as a result of their work.

Miss Harris feels "that the Peer Advising Program is another way for Bennett to say 'We care' about our students; and we will do everything to insure that they have a successful academic experience at the college."

Peer advisers for the '78-'79 school year are Dino Bradley, Lucinda Brunson, Shaun Echols, Belinda Foster, Lisa Johnson, Sharonlyn Jones, Tina Jones, Vicentia Lipscomb, Sheila Miles, Sandra Monroe, LaSandra Muldrow, Romona Reid, Shelby Rich, Yvette Shelton, Mary Simpkins, Deborah Tillman, Edwina Wilson and Marilyn Wilson.



Peer Adviser Shaun Echols provides an informative session during Freshman Orientation week. In this small setting she establishes personal relationships with students.

photo by Myra Davis

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