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Linda Anderson, appointed president of SGA, anticipates changes for the remainder of the school year.

(Photo by Davis)

Student government anticipates serious changes

Shelly J. Coston

The SGA here at Bennett anticipates many changes for the remaining academic year.

Linda Anderson, a senior English major and appointed president for the SGA, feels the biggest change will be to let the administration know that the SGA as an organization is very serious about the future plans. "We want to be taken seriously and are anxious for the administration, on the executive level, to respond," she adds. Anderson explained that the SGA is willing to work with the administration and that it should be understood that all decisions and actions will be based on sound judgement, which considers the

Bennett that was, the Bennett that is, and the Bennett to come.

The SGA members are fed up with the stagnation and apathetic attitude present on Bennett's college. "Another goal is to unify the student body. We want the administration to recognize the student body as a functioning entity of the school," says Anderson.

Many feel that the student body's decision to boycott classes in favor of King's birthday is a positive step towards the SGA's goals. "I am really pleased with the turn-out for the recognition of Martin Luther King. These actions are the first signs to the administration that the student body can be, and is, a powerful

entity on campus," responds Anderson.

The decision to boycott classes wasn't handed down by the SGA, but agreed upon by the student body. Once the decision was made, as the elected leadership on campus, the SGA had to take the forefront, regardless of the outcome, in organizing and directing the activities recognizing King's birthday.

At present the SGA is operating without either a vice-president or a special assistant to the president. "The cabinet functions as one, and very well. We all have equal input, although there have been incidents when I have had to make the ultimate decision," says Anderson.

Addo co-authors book

Linda Anderson

Mrs. Linda Addo, professor of History at Bennett, recently co-authored a book titled, *To Be Faithful to Our Heritage: A History of Black United Methodism in North Carolina*. The book reflects a history of the progress and achievements made by black United Methodists in North Carolina. As the Western North Carolina Annual Commission on

Archives and History met during the 1976-80 session, it was decided that such a book might be a useful resource.

Heads of the WNC and North Carolina Conferences commissioned the publication of the book and the research was begun. Realizing the need to incorporate social, economic, political and cultural aspects with the background materials, Mrs. Addo was chosen

as the historian and co-author.

The book traces the interaction and involvement of Blacks in Methodism from its inception in the state of North Carolina. There is also information credited to the founding and development of Bennett College. The price of the book are \$10.00 (\$11.00 by mail) and may be obtained by contacting the commissions on archives and history of either conference.

A.C.E.S. held

The annual service of remembrance for David D. Jones, president of Bennett College (1926-1955) was held Sunday, January 18 in Annie Merner Pfeiffer Chapel, with Dr. Isaac H. Miller presiding.

Professor C. Eric Lincoln, Professor of Religion and Culture at Duke University, Durham, N. C., was the guest speaker.

Lincoln spoke of black Americans' failure to utilize their freedom, liberty and justice, and said that they are ignorant about the rights they are entitled to. Lincoln also said that Bennett women should do the best they can in everything they do.

Lincoln, who has earned five academic degrees, is the author of several publications and the editor of seven publications.

On Jan. 29, Rev. Leontine T. Kelly, minister of Asbury Hill, the leading Methodist Church in Virginia, was the guest speaker for the convocation sponsored by Mrs. Anderson, director of the counseling center.

Rev. Kelly is the founder and operator of CHUM, a program geared to black youths in Richmond. The purpose of the program is to motivate black youths to excel in school and to enter college. Besides being the motivating factor for many, Rev. Kelly is also a member of the General Council for the United Methodist Church, as well as a delegate to the National General Conference.

While on campus, Rev. Kelly will also speak during the Human Sexuality mini-course.

Pres. Miller delivers Opening of College Address

President Isaac H. Miller, Jr. delivered his second semester state of the college address during the Opening Convocation on January 22, in the Annie Merner Pfeiffer Chapel.

Miller said that because we are living in a time of "change and upheaval in our society," he decided to speak on the topic of "Black Colleges Living With New Realities." Some of these realities,

he said, are the dependency of black schools on federal support for post-secondary programs, cuts of many social programs that are a mainstay of many, ethnic groups competing and challenging the gains of other ethnic groups, and black colleges in competition with non-minority institutions for teachers as well as students.

To the students he said, "College is not a place . . . to take a winter

vacation" or to squander tuition by not attending class. Teachers, he advised, "must re-establish themselves as mentors." Bennett, and other institutions like it, he contended, has an environment that may be inhospitable and contradictory. Its success, he said, would be measured by "what it has done to improve the awareness, astuteness, and competitiveness" of its students.

Society, he said, has a tendency towards "name calling, scapegoating, and finger pointing. On the other hand, there's a great tendency for us to fold our hands and acquiesce." As long as these tendencies exist, he stated, black schools will "continue to live with a legacy of presumed inferiority."

Quoting statistics, Miller stated that more than 50% of today's black graduates come from black schools. Another "disquieting statistic," however, is that only three out of ten black students in non-minority institutions graduate. These statistics prove, he maintained, that the non-minority institutions are not philosophically prepared to provide quality education for black students.

Miller said that "New variables and new circumstances create new demands. From one end of the spectrum with students to the other end with the president and somewhere in between with the faculty and staff, we must all be aware that there is never such a thing as 'business as usual.' We must all prepare for revolutionary and unprecedented creativity."

He concluded that the state of the college is "stable and healthy," although if we "go to sleep and fail to be aware of the problems alluded to," anything could happen. "The future is in our hands," he said.

Also on the program was the college choir, the college organist, Susan M. Smith, reading the scripture lesson; Jeanette M. Hatch, who led the litany; and the president. The convocation, Linda Anderson, who presided which began at 10:00 a.m., ended with the singing of the Alma Mater.

Black history recognized by Fed. gov't

Jackie Jeffers

Each year during Black History month the Federal Government recognizes the achievements, past and present, of Black Americans. Through executive mandate those agencies and their activities which comprise the federal work-force are charged with participation in programs for recognition of the Black contributions in society.

The Department of the Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service has as its theme this year, "Black History: Role Model for Youth."

The Greensboro District Office of IRS in conjunction with the Career Placement services of Bennett College will sponsor a career seminar on February 18, 1981 on the campus.

Role Models for the seminar will be four women employees from the Greensboro District IRS Office who have achieved success

and recognition in the field of tax administration. They will share with students the avenues used in attaining their current positions and be prepared to field questions from the audience.

The Role Models who will visit Bennett College are Mrs. Letitia Johnson, Internal Revenue Agent (Review Staff), Ms. Gwendolyn Pearson, Labor Relations Specialists (Personnel Branch), Ms. Mamie Okeke, Group Manager (Excise and Employment Tax Staff), and Ms. Edwina Wilson, Attorney (District Counsel Staff).

This program will be held in the Pfeiffer Science Assembly on Feb. 18th, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. This seminar has been designated as an A.C.E.S. and is sponsored by the Career Services Center.

Ms. Linda Anderson, President of the S.G.A. will be the moderator for this program.

Course offered

A two (2) week mini course offered January 19-30, 1981 and titled "Managing, Investing and Saving \$\$ in the 1980's," featured financial specialists who assisted students in understanding the management of personal assets.

Consultants appearing were: Mr. Albert S. Webb, Executive Vice-President, American Federal Savings and Loan Association; Mrs. Carol H. Raines, Office Manager; Mrs. Carol H. Raines, Office Manager; Miss Paulette Murray, Office Manager, North Carolina Mutual Insurance; Mr. E. L. Amsberry, Treasury Department, United States Savings Bonds Division;

Miss Edith Conrad, Broker, Merrill, Lynch, Pierce, Fenner and Smith Inc.; Mrs. Ann L. Davis, Owner, Anniques Antique Fashions; Mr. James Scarlette, Business Manager, Bennett College; Mr. J. Kenneth Lee, Attorney, Lee and Johnson Attorneys.

The course ended on a high note with the presentation of a skit titled, "To Tell The Economical Truth" by Senior Home Economics Majors. The original skit was presented at the Annual Meeting of the North Carolina Home Economics Association in Fayetteville, North Carolina during their November meeting by the Seniors.

New Lyceum grading system adopted

Denise Wilder

Recently Dean Harold E. Bragg, Dean of Student Affairs, relieved Computer Center personnel of one of their duties, recording ACES grades.

Bragg pointed out many disadvantages of using the computer to record the ACES grades. The computer, according to Bragg, followed the direct instructions of its operator(s). The operator(s), for some unexplained reason, did not pick up excused absences acquired through Dean Bragg's office. Therefore many students received failing grades. Married students who were excused from ACES were penalized by the computer. Other students who worked or experienced similar conflicts were also penalized by the computer.

Dean Bragg recognized that this system of using the computer did not work in the best interest of the students and his office assumed the responsibility of recording ACES grades.

With this new system worked out by the Student Affairs Office any student who can not attend an ACES program is allowed to present a valid reason why she is unable to attend the ACES to the Student Affairs Office. She is given consideration and may be excused without being penalized, but she will be given an alternate assignment. Dean Bragg says, "We

try to be as fair as we can with the ACES program."

Bragg thinks very highly of the new system. "It works in the interest of the students," says Bragg. Incidentally, he signs each card individually to make sure there are no mistakes and records each student's attendance under the labeled column of each ACES program. All of this, says Bragg, is done by hand.

This past semester was the first time this new system was put into effect and, if you noticed, your ACES grade was not recorded. "I will take responsibility for the grades not being recorded on the grade reports," says Bragg. "I just didn't get them all signed in time to have them run on the grade reports, but they were recorded on your cumulative records," he explains.

Bragg also explains that any student who is in doubt about her past semester grade may stop by his office to inquire. "We not only have the total number of programs in attendance but we also have the specific programs labeled," says Bragg.

The results may not be reached as fast with the new system (manually as opposed to the previous system (computer), but Bragg is confident that the new system is a better way. It, he believes, works in the best interest of the students.

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