

The Bennett Banner

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Dr. Phyllis Jean Forte Ethridge has succeeded Harold E. Bragg as dean of student affairs. She stresses comprehensive development of a student's capabilities.

New dean emphasizes Character development

by Shelly Coston

Dr. Phyllis Jean Forte Ethridge of Smithfield officially began her new duties as dean of student affairs earlier last month, replacing Harold E. Bragg.

Her duties will include administrative responsibilities as well as involvement with non-academic matters. Under her supervision are student discipline, S.G.A. activities, career and placement services and the office of admissions.

Dr. Ethridge has many plans for Bennett College. "One goal of mine is to plan and implement a comprehensive student development program for the young ladies of Bennett, which will address their mental, physical, social and emotional capabilities—the development of the total student," she stated. "There's a need for continual strong supervision and motivation to enhance the young ladies to strive towards the positive, productive forces they have the potential of becoming," she added.

The tradition surrounding Bennett is one quality that attracted Dr. Ethridge. "I've always held Bennett in high esteem, not only because of its reputation and traditions but also because of Bennett's role in performing the educational criterion of the Black woman," she said. Another reason Dr. Ethridge is at Bennett is because she wanted to return to the higher

education setting and continue working in the student personnel services area which is where her former training is concentrated.

The friendly atmosphere and cooperation from the faculty, staff and students have made the adjustment period for the new dean pleasant. "The students are very nice and most I've found carry themselves rather well. As far as entering a new position, I received the warmest, most helpful hospitality from the staff here at Bennett that I have in the last fourteen to fifteen years."

Dr. Ethridge has received a B.S. degree in health education and library science from N. C. Central University in Durham, a M.S. degree in counseling education from A&T State University, and a doctorate in education from Duke University. She is also certified as a principal and superintendent in North Carolina.

Some of her previous experiences in education include teaching graduate courses at A&T in counseling and serving as junior high school assistant principal for the Wayne County Schools and residential recruiter at Fayetteville State.

Dr. Ethridge is looking forward to her years at Bennett and hopes for cooperation from the Bennett community. She also wants for Bennett to continue to thrive as the outstanding college it is.

Pre-alumnae council "supports" college

(Andrea Burch, reporter)

Valerie Wills, president of the Pre-Alumnae Council explains the purpose of her organization in this way: "The Pre-Alumnae Council is one of the most worthwhile organizations on campus because our primary purpose is to raise funds for the United Negro College Fund, which assists in keeping Bennett and other black private colleges in existence. Wills also says, "We allocate our money to projects to improve Bennett as well as send active members

to the National Pre-Alumnae Conference."

The council sponsors numerous fund-raisers on and off campus. Wills states, "Some of our tentative fund raisers include a fashion show, club night Las Vegas style and a masquerade party."

Each Belle belongs to the Pre-Alumnae Council, but to become an active member, a student must pay the two dollar dues. "The dues not only help the council out financially, but the dues assist in separating those who are members from those who are members by

talk and no action," Wills claims.

Anita Coleman, Miss Pre-Alumnae as well as secretary of the National Pre-Alumnae Council, says: "I sincerely hope more Belles, especially the underclassmen, will become active members." Coleman adds, "I am the only elected female officer on the national level. It would give me great pleasure to see a Bennett sister step up and replace me."

The other executive officers are vice-president, Stephanie Durham; recording secretary, Beverly Griffin; treasurer, Ursula Williams;

parliamentarian, Nadine Bennis; and chaplain, Kim Witherspoon. There is also a representative from each residence hall. The representative reports the business of

the council to the residence hall. The meetings are held every first and third Thursday of each month in the Science library at 6:00 p.m.

Parents' slate starts

by Arlene McNeil

A variety of glittering events—including Faculty Follies, the Founders' Recognition Banquet and a concert by Frances Cole—highlights Parents' Weekend, which begins tonight.

The celebration coincides with Bennett's observance of its 108th anniversary.

At 8:00 this evening, come out and capture the essence of the Harlem Jazz Era at the annual United Negro College Fund Faculty-Staff Follies in Little Theater. The program's theme is "Rompin', Stompin' at the Savoy"—a re-creation of the popular Harlem nightclub, "home of the happy feet." Prior to the performance, the film "I Remember Harlem" will be shown. The movie recaptures Harlem during the Depression and the early 1940's. Tickets can be bought at the door.

On Saturday morning, following the 8:30-9:30 Registration and Coffee Klatsche in Pfeiffer Science Hall, the Parent's Association will conduct its annual meeting. The agenda consists of a financial aid seminar, parents-faculty conferences and an institutional briefing on college programs and developments. At noon, there will be a Parents-Daughter Lunch.

Entertainment possibilities for Saturday afternoon include family reunions or an outing to A&T for the football game against Johnson C. Smith University.

At 6:00 p.m., the Founders' Recognition Banquet will honor faculty and staff members who have served for 20 and 35 years. Honorees include Mary Eady, college registrar; James J. Scarlette, business manager; and Earline Curry, library assistant. Tickets for the banquet can be purchased in the Development Office.

In addition, under the auspices of the Mellon Grant, internationally acclaimed harpsichordist Frances Cole will perform at 8:00 p.m. in the campus chapel. Cole has been praised in Germany, England, and throughout the United States. A native of Cleveland, she

began to study music at the age of three. Cole graduated *cum laude* at Miami University in Ohio with a bachelor of music degree. She later earned two degrees at Columbia University.

Cole performed here in 1977. Dr. Ruth Lucier, chairperson of the Mellon Committee, stated that, "the performance includes very 'gentle music,' not loud, but soothing."

While writing her doctoral dissertation on Bach's "Goldberg Variations," Cole developed her love for the Baroque era and began to study the harpsichord. Lucier states that, "Cole performs music of upperclass 19th century Europe. She dresses in costume and jewelry of the period."

Cole has performed at such major recital halls as Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall. She is also featured as a music critic on the CBS "Sunday Show." She plays a concert-size, double-keyboard harpsichord built by Boston's Eric Herz. After the Founders' Weekend Banquet, Cole will discuss her music and how it differs from other music. Appropriate dress is expected for this occasion. Mrs. Mary Crawford, associate professor of music, will be in charge of final arrangements.

On Sunday, everyone is invited to attend the 11:00 a.m. services at St. Matthews United Methodist Church.

Students will receive parents and friends in the residence halls on Sunday. Special entertainment will be featured to introduce parents to dorm life at Bennett.

The weekend concludes with the Founders' Day Convocation and Reception. Retiring Greensboro Mayor Jim Melvin will be the guest speaker. The service will begin at 4:00 p.m. in Annie Merner Pfeiffer Chapel. A reception, hosted by the International Students Club, will be held immediately after the convocation in the David D. Jones Student Union Foyer.

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One of the numerous highlights of Parents' Weekend will be a Saturday night concert by celebrated harpsichordist Frances Cole. Be sure to wear your 'Sunday best' to the performance.