

# The Bennett Banner

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BENNETT COLLEGE, GREENSBORO, N. C.

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## Tour lies ahead

by Valarie Reid  
and Evelyn Sims

One of the college's leading ambassadors of harmony is hitting the road again.

The Bennett College Choir, continuing a tradition that is more than 40 years old, will embark on a seven-state, 10-city spring tour. The itinerary begins in Roanoke, Va., moves into the Midwest with key performances in Cleveland, Detroit, Chicago and Cincinnati, and concludes in Chattanooga, Tenn.

The choir has long been recognized as a potent recruiting force. According to Director Charlotte Alston, the tour will "assist in recruiting students and in strengthening the ties between the graduates and the college since many alumnae frequently sponsor the choir and serve as hosts. The choir members make friends for the institution. There is a very positive upswing of school spirit during this time."

The chairperson of the music department adds: "Students will hear the choir on tour and say: 'I'm going to Bennett.'"

Many Belles verify Alston's

## Achievers cited

by Rosellen Durham

Two seniors earned special praise during the twenty-first annual Spring Honors Convocation which recognized the academic achievements of 56 students on Feb. 10 in Annie Merner Pfeiffer Chapel.

Four-year honor students Wanda Dick of Whitsett and Rose Nelson of Alexandria, Va., topped the list of seniors attaining a 3.40 average or above. The senior roster of distinction also included Zenobia Braxton, Vickye Johnson, Gloria Nunnally and Sadalia Wilkins.

The juniors honored for accumulating a 3.30 average or above were Leslie Monique Barr, Joan Y. Davis, Sue Douglas, Yolanda DuRant, Robbin Rowe and Angela Wilkins.

Ten sophomores achieved a 3.20 average or above. They were: Tonya Horton, Blanche King, Bonita Moore, Linda Rivers, Lydia Roberson, Carrie Scott, Maria Streeter, Christiana Tumaku, Lynell Wellington and Lisa A. Williams.

Thirty-four freshmen registered a 3.00 average or above. Composing this group were: Wendolyn Abel, Natalie Bennett, Sayon Bright, Tracey Brown, Cherryetta Cain, Vanessa Chambers, Andree Chan, Vanessa Cox, Deitra Evans, Karen Fisher, Evelyn Fulmore, Phyllis Hambright, Christine Henry, Sharon Highsmith, Penny Hill, Lynda Jones, Phyllis Jones, Mary Junius, Sherry Kitchen, Tina Morrison, Laurie Murphy, Sharon Nagbe, Allyson Oliver, Paula Peek, Leslie Pinckney, Andrea Russell, Dana Rutledge, Amanda Smith, Karen Taylor, Rose Taylor, Carla Terrell, Theresa Thompson, Cassandra Walker and Thelma Watlington.

viewpoint, including Charlotte Green, a sophomore accounting major from Darlington, S. C., who recalls: "When in high school, I heard the choir in Florence, South Carolina, and I was greatly inspired by the friendliness of all the members of the choir. This was the determining factor in my decision to attend Bennett and join the choir."

Alston, embarking on her tenth tour, feels that the tour brings out the best in her women: "Preparing for the tour is always an exciting time and a tremendous motivator because the choir becomes serious about rehearsals and does its best work . . . The choir congeals and becomes a solid unit because of the extra practice time and the very strong desire to represent the choir well."

Another source of excitement for Alston is the chance to perform some of R. Nathaniel Dett's compositions, which comprise part of the choir's repertoire. Dett, campus choir director from 1937 to 1942, made an ingenious contribution to choral literature by creating music for all-female voices instead of mixed choirs. Some of Dett's works, composed expressly for Bennett singers, advanced the college's splendid reputation in music and now "have become associated with the Bennett College Choir," according to Alston.

"One thing that Dett and his choirs became famous for was that the alto parts were sung low, just like little basses," explains Alston. "Dett affected the treble, and it gave the sound a bottom." Another important asset in the tour will be the contribution of Mr. Fred Mason, organist.

Dates and places on the tour include: Mar. 4, Roanoke; Mar. 5, Charleston, W. Va.; Mar. 6, Cleveland; Mar. 7, Detroit; Mar. 8, Chicago; Mar. 9, Indianapolis; Mar. 10, Columbus, Ohio; Mar. 11, Cincinnati; Mar. 12, Nashville; and Mar. 13, Chattanooga.

## Shange tonight

by Rosellen Durham

It's not a saxophone, soaring and wailing, or a piano, throbbing and rising, but when Ntozake Shange plays her instrument tonight, her bold musicality will dazzle you.

Shange's medium is imagery. Her notes are words. She's in the vanguard of writers creating works portraying the hearts and souls of black women.

She's presenting a reading and lecture in Annie Merner Pfeiffer Chapel at 7:30 this evening.

Shange, who lives in New York City, is the author of the Broadway play and best-selling book "for colored girls who have considered suicide when the rainbow is enuf," one of the most celebrated dramas of the last decade.

Her other works are "nappy edges," a volume of poetry, "THREE PIECES," a book of plays, and a novel "Sassafras, Cypress & Indigo."

A special guest secured by a Mellon Foundation grant, Shange is known for her innovative techniques, the range and power of her im-

agery and the precision of her characterizations.

The plays comprising "THREE PIECES" are "Spell #7," "A Photograph: Lovers in Motion" and "Boogie Woogie Landscapes"—all of which have received excellent reviews.

Evaluating "Spell #7," Don Nelson wrote in "The New York Daily News" that the play is "black magic. It is a celebration of blackness, the joy and pride along with the horror of it. It is a shout, a cry, a bitter laugh, a sneer. . . ."

Shange is at the forefront of a group of black women making rich contributions to contemporary American literature.

Among her sisters at the front are Maya Angelou, whose serial autobiography has generated wide acclaim, novelist Toni Morrison, winner of the National Book Award for "Song of Solomon," and outstanding novelists and short story writers Toni Cade Bambara and Alice Walker.

You can absorb part of this dynamic movement tonight when "Lady Sings the Life."



Journalist is coming: Washington newperson J. C. Hayward will make an informal presentation and lead a discussion Mar. 3 at 10:00 a.m. in Pfeiffer Science Assembly. The Emmy-winning TV reporter hosts "Everywoman," a talk show concerning women's issues.

## Scholars debate

by Yolanda DuRant

The Inalienable Rights Spring Colloquium provided a source of debate for the Bennett Scholars.

The colloquium, an annual project undertaken by the Scholars, was held Feb. 1-3 in the Henry Pfeiffer Science Assembly. The Scholars did most of the coordination of the program.

The topics covered were "Personal Rights," "Special Education's Rights for Public Education," "Handicapped Rights and Public Education," "Victim's Rights on Chemical Warfare," "Nuclear Disarmament," "The Right to Research Genetic Engineering," "Abortion: A Mother's Choice," "Euthanasia" and "Hospice."

The scholars who participated were Leslie Barr, Sheila Dockery, Yolanda DuRant, Tonya Horta, Rose Nelson, Renee Roberson, Rob-

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## Johnson made president

by Deborah Lewis

Jackie Johnson, former vice president of the Student Government Association, has assumed the position of president.

Former president Robin Dessauere withdrew from the college due to illness, and the appointment to president for Johnson was an abrupt one.

Johnson says, "Because I didn't run for president, I find the increased responsibility difficult."

Although the workload is heavier for Johnson, she says "the transition to president has been made easier because my working relationship with the administration and faculty is good."

One of the main objectives

of the SGA is improving the academic standing of students as well as "the preparedness of the students once they leave Bennett," Johnson explains.

The position of vice president has been taken by Wanda Parker, a senior from Rock Hill, S. C., who was appointed by the SGA cabinet and Dean Ethridge, who is the adviser to the cabinet.

Johnson says, "It (the appointment) was a consensus of the cabinet because Wanda had been working with the SGA all along."

Parker "feels honored . . ." by the position because she says "it reflects that the SGA cabinet felt that I was capable of filling the position and they looked upon me as a

leader."

Parker hopes two specific goals will be met by student leaders.

"First, I would like to see the SGA very well organized and more in tune with what the needs of the students are."

"Secondly, I would like to see its leaders politically aware of those external and internal forces which impact upon their environment both within the college and outside of college."

No comment was made on specific changes needed at the college.

The SGA welcomes student participation by working on the task force which meets on Tuesday mornings at 10 a.m.



Playwright is here: Ntozake Shange will "tune up" tonight in a reading and lecture in the chapel at 7:30 p.m. Her writing evokes powerful images of the exuberance and beauty of black life.