

# The Bennett Banner

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"Deeds" not words: Mrs. Genevieve Greenlee, '32, paid tribute to the college in the form of two deeds, valued at \$20,000, for property in South Carolina. Her gift came to the planned giving program, and it was received by President Isaac H. Miller Jr. and Mr. James A. Burt, director of institutional advancement. (photo by M. Davis)

## Scholars receive honors

Two seniors headed a group of 25 scholars recognized for academic excellence during the Fall Honors Convocation Nov. 10 in Annie Merner Pfeiffer Chapel.

English majors Joan Yvette Davis of Tuscaloosa, Ala. and Yolanda Teresa DuRant of Florence, S.C. were commended for maintaining a 3.40 or better average during their years here.

Both will do graduate work—Davis in law and DuRant in English or journalism.

Three juniors were honored for keeping a 3.30 average or better—Tonya Horton, Robbin Rowe and Christiana Tumaku.

Twenty sophomores were cited for reaching a 3.20 average or better. These women are: Deirdre Aiken,

Natalie Bennett, Diertra Evans, Karen Fisher, Evelyn Fulmore, Penny Hill, Phyllis Jones, Mary Junious, Sherri Kitchen, Bonita Moore, Tina Morrison, Laurie Murphy, Demorris Norris, Andrea Russell, Amanda Smith, Karen Taylor, Rose Taylor, Theresa Thompson, Cassandra Walker and Thelma Watlington.

Freshmen will be included in the Spring Honors Convocation after they have received final grades for first semester.

The 25 students were given certificates of merit by President Isaac H. Miller, Jr.

In an address prior to the presentation, Miller stressed the importance of United Negro College Fund drive launched in Greensboro last week, congratulated the

scholars honored and made motivational remarks to other students.

Referring to a national report on competencies for freshmen published recently, Miller said, "It is not a sin to lack them. But it is a sin and a tragedy not to take the time to develop these competencies" while a student is in college.

"There will be no careers for people who are unprepared," Miller warned.

The convocation also featured a litany by Miss Wilhelmina Gilbert, professor of business and economics, and a brilliant performance of Pinney's arrangement of "America the Beautiful" by the Bennett College Choir, directed by Dr. Charlotte Alston and accompanied by Mr. Fred Mason at the piano.

## Dancers on the move

by Alaina Cloud

The Bennett College Dance Company has many performances in the near future, and Beaufort, S. C. and Brunswick, Ga. are its first stops.

Those two shows occur Dec. 2 and Dec. 3 and include a variety of dances—ballet, modern, jazz and spiritual.

Other performances are slated for Fayetteville Pauline Jones Elementary School, Feb. 1, the UNCF Pageant Feb. 11, the Holiday Inn Four Seasons where a few dancers will be performing, and South Park High School for mentally and physically handicapped students March 27.

Ms. Susan E. King, dance company coordinator, said that she spends most of her time choreographing for the first performance, which doesn't allow her enough time to have organized warm-ups. The practice schedules are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday from 6:30-8:30.

The dancers are: Donna Athias, Allyson Berry, Nicole Clayburn, Dee Evans, Tracve Faulkner, DeJaniera Little, Charlene Simmons, Khadija Ward and Cheryl Williams.

Williams, a senior, who is the president of the company and a four-year member from Brunswick, Ga., said that "we have more talented girls (this year) with more ideas." She added that "the dance company has kept me in shape, and we hold our own, we do a very good job, and people are pleased."

The dance company has experienced financial trouble in the past. King thinks that the group is not adequately funded, and said, "For the past two years, the college didn't give us any money."

Recently the company was given money which has to be requisitioned each time the company needs it, and there is usually a waiting period before any action takes place. The money came from Stu-

dent Activities, and took two days to go through. Cheryl Williams said, "Our costumes are made by us, and we put in our own things, whereas universities have a dance budget which allows them to get or order anything they want."

When asked the question "Have you benefited from the dance company?" Nicole Clayburn, a sophomore from Queens, N. Y., stated that "Yes, I've benefitted, because Mr. Scarlette gave us money, which allows us to have a concert here in April."

Clayburn added, "I think the dance company should be publicized and we need a lot more practices. We need technique and warm-up exercises."

Bennett College can look forward to a performance by the dance company in April. A concert wasn't given last year because of the lack of financial support.

King and her dancers feel they have the talent to create a very satisfied audience.

## King's appearance here recalled

by Dee Evans and Evelyn Sims

How would you have reacted if it were 1957, and a young reverend who had led the Montgomery bus desegregation victory, spoke at Bennett, heavily protected by police?

"It was the most moving experience I've ever had," Mrs. Mary Ann Scarlette says. An alumna, she had returned for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s address. He was 28 at the time.

"It was an emotional experience because of King's being a national figure. I remember the thrill and kind of stimulation one gets when one feels motivated to say, 'What can I do? What should I be doing, or what is it I haven't done?'" recalls the assistant professor of education.

The pastor was nationally known, but the fame that arose from his "I Have a Dream Speech" and the Nobel Prize still lay many struggles ahead.

Such greatness is never foreseeable. Dr. George Brethett, who had previously met King in Montgomery over dinner, describes King's stature at the time of his visit: "... we saw him as no more than a solid speaker and preacher. We didn't see him in retrospect as we do now and never expected him to reach the height that he did."

King had envisioned appearing at a local church, but bomb threats and racial intimidation closed the doors to him. Bennett did not bow to fear. But "the entire police force had to strategize every move he made for protection," Scarlette says.

So that overflow crowds could hear the address, loud speakers were installed in Black Hall and the Little Theater. Scarlette saw wall-to-wall people "from all walks of life and races."

What lessons did the minister impart? King stressed the importance of religion to the civil rights struggle: "Religion can and will be a powerful force in making a smooth transition" for Negroes rising from disenfranchisement to constitutional rights.

Voter registration was a key issue. "The ballot is one of the major instruments the Negroes must use to attain their rights. Persons need not fear reprisals for this form

of action since it is secret," King said.

Scarlette recalls that "voting was the big thing at that time because it was part of the movement, and everyone was caught up in it."

In a post-speech conference, Belles questioned the guest about Montgomery. They were following events in the Deep South closely, but they hadn't been involved in the campaign.

King brought this message: "The Negroes in Montgomery are now determined more than ever before to gain first-class citizenship. The bus boycott instilled within them a great sense of dignity."

"However, on the other hand, white segregationists in Montgomery are equally determined to keep Negroes from gaining this first-class citizenship; they don't want to give in, yet they see their failure in sight and fear it. Liberal whites are silent with fear in their deep concern and willingness to comply with the law."

How do leaders now assess King's accomplishments?

President Isaac H. Miller Jr., who was not here in 1957, believes King hastened the time of equality: "That (desegregation and full rights) would have come in time, but not as soon as it did because of King's efforts."

King galvanized support among college students. "The whole movement out of Montgomery—the bus boycott and the sit-ins—carried a spontaneous type of reaction wherever colleges were," Miller maintains.

He sees King as a standard-bearer to be emulated: "We must be prepared as a people to walk and hold our heads high, work as a group and perform at the same competence if not better as those who have opened the door for us like King."

King gave blacks a dream, according to Patrick Hairston, president of the Winston-Salem NAACP.

"King left us all with a positive effect in America, and still we must strive to make his dream a reality. It did not die with him. His dream lives in the hearts and minds of people who have experienced racism up front and refuse to let it become a way of life," Hairston states.

Reporter Tricia Hairston also contributed to this story.

## Living madonnas

A significant and sometimes neglected motif in black culture will be portrayed during the Living Madonnas pageant Dec. 1 at 7:30 p.m. in Anne Merner Pfeiffer Chapel.

Black madonnas from world art will be represented in an event that features backdrops from sacred paintings and Belles embodying the holy figures. The pageant includes music and dramatic speeches.

The Living Madonnas, done every two years, is a collaborative venture by the art,

home economics and music departments, assisted by the buildings and grounds crew.

Eight students will portray madonnas and other religious figures painted in various nations—Jeannette Goodwin (Einsiedeln, Switzerland); Marcia Strong (Montserrat, Spain); Kim Knight (Czestochowa, Poland); Betty Tinnin (France); Denise Green (ancient goddess); Monica Jones (the Egyptian goddess Isis). Vicelia Howard and Becky Henderson will serve as other archetypes.

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