

The Bennett Banner

Friday, September 21, 1984

BENNETT COLLEGE, GREENSBORO, N. C.

Vol. XLVI, No. 1



Registration rigors: The strain shows on employees, students and parents during August.

(photo by Keith Miller)

Scholars' slate

by Tricia Hairston

The Bennett Scholars have put together an October conference featuring three exceptional black female writers speaking on topics involving the black woman.

Occurring Oct. 17-19, "A Socio-Cultural History of the Black Woman in America" will analyze the past and future directions of the black woman from three perspectives — traditional, feminist and ethnographic.

Margaret Walker Alexander, Paula Giddings and Angela Davis will make presentations. The conference includes lectures and responses, book parties, special exhibits and a musical, "Hats," based on the life of Harriet Tubman and directed by Dr. Charlotte Alston.

According to Dr. Marshena Baird, director of the Scholars, "The Scholars and I wanted a sense of true historical context, values and beliefs — not just the special contribution of the black woman."

Baird adds that the program should open students' eyes to key issues involving the black woman today.

"We have got to get beyond just surviving because we have knowledge to share with people of all races. Our information and resources have been scattered and abused, but we still have them, and there is always room for improvement," Baird says.

Margaret Walker Alexander wrote *Jubilee*, a widely read and praised historical novel recounting the struggles of a matriarch and her family during the 19th century.

A retired professor of English from Jackson State College, she will discuss the concerns of the black female writer from the first novel by a black woman, Frances Harper's *Iola Leroy*, to such

contemporary fiction as the award-winning *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker.

Paula Giddings' *When and Where I Enter* has drawn rave reviews since its publication earlier this year. The book studies the impact of black women's organizations on the long struggle for freedom.

"Paula Giddings is indicative of where we are going in the future. She's very positive about the black woman's strengths and resources," Baird says of the author who will take the feminist approach at the conference.

Angela Davis, professor of women's and ethnic studies at San Francisco State University, has written several books, including *Angela Davis: An Autobiography*, *Women, Race and Class*, and *Racism and Male Supremacy: The Hidden Alliance*.

Davis was embroiled in controversy during the late '60s and early '70s. At the University of California at Los Angeles, she was twice fired for her Marxist beliefs and speeches and twice reinstated by the courts. Later, she was acquitted of a murder, kidnapping and conspiracy after a Marin County (Calif.) shootout in which two San Quentin convicts, a teenager and a Superior Court judge were killed.

"The stigma that stays with her is a great injustice because she is here in a scholarly capacity," Baird observes about Davis, whose trial created international sympathy for the defendant and provoked major demonstrators in Europe.

Baird believes the conference will stimulate pride and motivation among students. "We want our black women to be proud that they are black and female," she explains. "There are lots of opp-

(See page 4)

Personnel changes affect administration and divisions

by Melanie Hubbard

A turnover in personnel has affected the administration and all four of the colleges' divisions.

Familiar faces have departed, and new ones have appeared.

Dean Chelsea Tipton has received a year's leave of absence. President Isaac H. Miller, Jr. will take on Tipton's duties.

There is a notable absence in the home economics department. Louise G. Streat has retired after 40 years of teaching here. Dr. Lovie K. Booker has assumed the chair after 10 years in the department. This summer, Booker wrote a successful proposal for a nutrition education course to be offered to pub-

lic school teachers in North Carolina.

In the humanities division, Dr. Lynn Sadler has left to become academic dean at Methodist College in Fayetteville.

Dr. Charlotte Alston has replaced Sadler as division director. She says her goal is "to increase enrollment in the humanities division by 30 students." Alston also intends to promote scholarship among teachers and students, to raise the number and quality of performing groups and to begin getting funds for a new arts center.

Dr. Flossie McIntyre has become chairperson of the communications department. She was formerly the head of the English and Foreign lan-

guage department at Norfolk State University.

Calling the communications program "very challenging," she plans to appoint a committee to determine if new courses are needed.

In the mathematics department, Dr. Ray Treadway has moved into the chair, replacing Queen Wiggs. Treadway, who previously occupied the chair, plans to speed the developmental studies program for course 100, expand the use of the Apple computer lab and increase student enrollment.

The chemistry department has landed a United Negro College Fund scholar at large. Dr. Lloyd Ferguson, who taught for many years at

(See page 4)

President Miller addresses student issues

Banner editor Dee Evans interviewed President Isaac H. Miller Jr. about various student concerns on Sept. 10.

Q: What improvements are being made concerning the quality of the food in the cafeteria?

A: Corrective measures were underway during the summer pertaining to the rating of food service and facilities. Other concerns such as more fresh vegetables, juices and fruits, more variety in the entrees, better sanitary conditions, and the attitude of staff/servers toward students have been reported to the director of food services and purchasing officer.

Q: What is being done about better security measures?

A: First, you must realize that Bennett sits in the southeast quadrant of Greensboro which is a potentially high crime area of petty activities and so on. Many people cut across our campus which gives us a greater security problem. No matter how many security officials one may have or how a security program may be structured, if there is a determined plan on the part of someone who means to execute a misdemeanor, they will find a way to work through what security there is. However, first, I should point out that Mr. Fennell, our business manager, is well acquainted with the problems which we have and it is his direct responsibility to work with Mr. Browning, superintendent of building and grounds, to bring about as optimum a security as possible. What we are contemplating doing is to consider putting a fence around certain boundaries of the campus to reduce the number of people who just wander through. In addition, in the future we hope to provide only one entrance to the campus, which would be controlled by a booth where a security officer would be stationed.

Meanwhile as far as the residents are concerned . . . we have reviewed the fact of putting screens or bars around the windows of the lower floors of all dorms to prevent anyone from entering and yet not limit the person having to leave that way if there is an emergency. We are looking at the lighting on the campus with the prospect of increasing the lighting in the parking lot. We feel this can be accomplished with our present system and the clipping of the lower branches of the trees which have prevented the light to spread down around the quadrangle as it should. This will possibly alleviate having to change the entire electrical system. Patrolling by secur-

ity will continue to be more regular and into the classroom buildings where students may be studying at night.

One of the most difficult areas of concerns, since most of the security are young ladies, is the parking lot area when we have social activities on campus. These functions attract people who are not students or guests of students and just sit around. There is no solution. This is just something that needs to be studied. The parking lot situation needs to be worked out the best way that we can and soon as possible. This is one of our troublesome areas which we are addressing quite aggressively.

Q: What dorm renovations are in effect?

A: We have total plans for all resident halls such as improving the lighting, the plumbing and the bathrooms. At this point we are only using the first floor of Jones Hall in order to finish repairing all the rooms on the upper level and replacing furniture. By the end of the year, we will continue to implement physical plans. The implementation is ongoing.

Q: How much did you contribute to the revision of the Student Handbook?

A: I approve the handbook, but did not have any input. The handbook as it stands is the result of a student handbook committee in which the student government was represented. It was also studied and edited by members of the faculty and staff, but provisions for the most part regarding closing hours and the judiciary process have been in effect for many years. I did not contribute to specific rules and regulations. Through time they have been developed.

Q: How is the teacher evaluation handled?

A: There is a search committee made up of department heads and the dean who send out letters of vacancies, study the resumes and invite the ones they would like to talk to. There is a teacher evaluation process which involves a self-evaluation as well as a student evaluation. We want the students and the whole college family to understand that we're not just teaching subjects, but we're trying to teach a whole competitive life.

(Dr. Miller made this closing statement): My goal for the institution after the security problem and the food is the goal of education. You must have a return on your investment that makes it so you can move into the marketplace of work and career, feeling competent and high on yourself about what you can do.