

The Bennett Banner

Friday, September 20, 1985

BENNETT COLLEGE, GREENSBORO, N. C.

Vol. XLVII, No. 1



Symbolic start: Freshmen Tracey Wilson of Rochester, N.Y. (left) and Nancy Leath of Burlington (center) chat with President Miller after the matriculation ceremony, the first convocation of the year. (photo by Keith Miller)

Opening impressed frosh

by Bernice Scott

One hundred and ninety-two freshmen and new students saw their names entered in the official registrar's book during the Caremony of Matriculation, highlighted by an address by President Issac H. Miller Jr. Sept. 12.

This traditional ritual welcomes the new Belles, and many of the new students were warmed by this ceremony.

"I thought it was very interesting," said freshman Annette Hunter. "It made me feel important."

Freshman Joycelynn Richardson said, "It made me feel like I was joining the family."

Not only were the freshmen impressed with the idea

of the ceremony, but some commented on its organization.

"It was a different experience because normally things just kind of go, but this was well-organized," said Pamela Barnes.

Sandra Henry said, "The ceremony could have been shorter, but it was nice because we were welcomed officially into the school."

The ceremony's traditional value was also important to some.

"I feel that it brings everyone together," said Sarah Brunson. "It's tradition . . . Something like that should be kept alive."

"The ceremony was unique because it was something I

had never experienced before, and I'm always open for new experiences," Brunson said.

President Miller addressed the student body with comments concerning survival.

"We hear continually the implication that for blacks enough has been done," said Miller, "but it's time for you to learn to paddle your own canoe . . . Don't be too satisfied too soon with too little."

Miller went on to discuss Bennett's role in the advancement of black people.

"Bennett College remains an institution devoted to the advancement of black people," said Miller. "We are in a very serious business of trying to survive."

Trip enlightens teacher

by Evelyn Sims

The Pilgrimage to Africa: Call it chapter 99 in a real-life novel, "The Enlightenment of Dr. Alma Adams."

She spent 10 days this summer in the West African nation of Senegal as a member of the National Conference of Artists, and she describes the experience as a "mind-buster."

A delegation of 350 Afro-American artists met African counterparts in a convention whose theme was "Negritude Reexamined" through a joint exhibition of art. But the trip involved more than aesthetics: it included a grim visit to a fortress where slaves were once imprisoned and an absorbing tour of a city where exquisite tapestries are made.

The Senegal experience was a revelation to Adams. "It put things in perspective for me as an Afro-American artist. It put me in touch with my roots. When I got off the plane, I kissed the ground," says the chairperson of the visual arts and humane studies department.

She found such a strong link between black American and African artists at the show that "it was almost impossible to tell who from

whom" because symbols are shared by blacks around the world.

Adams believes that it's possible for a white artist to make a visual statement from elements of black culture, "but the artist wouldn't have our sensitivity" to archetypes.

"Those people are our ancestors," she explains. "The basis of your art grows out of your experience. There was a definite connection that we could feel and that we could sense. It was all so natural. The old sayings, 'we were just made to be together' and 'it was a marriage made in heaven,' are true. I was just so happy to be there."

Senegal, a former French colony, was the site of international slave trade that began with the arrival of the Portuguese in the 15th century. Adams visited Gorée Island, a one-time way station for slaves being transported to Africa.

"The Africans were treated like cattle," Adams says. "The rooms in the slave quarters were about as big as my office, and the traders packed 150 people in each room. They separated the women from their husbands. Those that got sick from the [wretched] conditions were

shot. If the slaves got sick on the trip over, the crew threw them overboard and let the sharks eat them."

Exposure to Gorée appalled the artists: "People were crying. Grown men broke down and bawled. When you go there and come back, you're never the same." The artists held a ceremony to honor their ancestors.

At Thies, Adams watched the world-famous Senegalese tapestries being woven. It takes 375 days for five artists to complete a work which sells for about \$7,000. "The design quality is just extraordinary," Adams observes.

The tapestry-makers do not like for tourists to take pictures of their work for fear that their designs will be copied. But Adams, who traveled with two cameras, managed to take photos which will be converted into slides to show her students.

Daily life in Dakar, the capital of Senegal, dazzled the professor. She saw brilliantly colored clothing, "trees that looked like beautiful pieces of sculpture" and throngs of aggressive hucksters shoving articles at tourists. Adams learned to be forceful with the street vendors and to do (see page 3)

Cafeteria improves arrangements

by Avanti Allen

With a new year come many changes. This is especially true in the dining hall, now managed by TWM Services, Inc.

According to William McGee, chairman, "TWM Services, Inc. has come to serve as a management consultant to Bennett."

The changes include a new salad bar that contains over nine items, a larger variety of beverages and juices, and more of a variety in the meals. Students now have a choice of two entrees.

"College students are the hardest to please. That's why we try to offer more of a variety," Nathan Crosby, new assistant director, stated.

A menu board has been put up so that students will know what is being offered in advance.

Mrs. Myra D. Jones still serves as manager of the dining hall while Mrs. Eula H. Willis is still serving as supervisor. Other personnel changes have been made among the dining hall staff.

A new employee of the month program has been implemented. The winner will receive a plaque and a small bonus. The employee's name will be placed on a plaque that will hang in the dining hall.

From the contests an employee of the year will be chosen. The program will be held for eight months.

New serving hours have also been created to fit the needs of the students and employees. Breakfast is served from 7 to 8 a.m. Monday through Friday. Brunch is served buffet style on Saturdays and Sundays from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Dinner is served from 5 to 6:15 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 3 to 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

Both McGee and Crosby stress the importance of working around the schedule of the college and serving the students' needs.

A Food Services Committee has been formed. Crosby stated, "This committee is valuable to all colleges and universities. This is where any problems that may arise can be ironed out." The committee is comprised of the president of the college, the dean of students, the student government president, the presidents of each class and Miss Bennett.

Stress is being placed on buffet style serving. "It allows students to choose what they like and can also help eliminate waste. The more we can keep the cost down, the more we can do for the students," stated Crosby.

McGee plans to offer a special menu in the dining hall at least once a month. For the month of September a buffet style picnic was held on Labor Day. According to McGee, "The first three events will be experimental to see exactly what the students like."

Plans are for the placement of rules governing the dining hall on an information board outside the dining hall. The staff is expecting the full cooperation of the student body.

Both McGee and Crosby would like to cut down on the traffic coming in the kitchen. They are asking that all questions and requests be made at the serving line.

Many students have praised the work of TWM Services, Inc., which also operates the snack bar in the coffee house.

Laurie Murphy, senior pre-med major, sees the new arrangement as offering better service, a higher quality of food and more of a variety than in the past. "TWM serves in a very professional way."

"It's an improvement. I particularly love the juice selection and the salad bar. As a member of the Food Services committee, I plan to relay all student concerns," says SGA President Evelyn Fulmore.



Dazzling locale: Dr. Alma Adams gained some sharpened perspectives during a summer stay in Senegal. She found that Afro-American and African artists have a shared vision.

Dean has departed

Dean of Student Affairs Phyllis F. Ethridge has left the college for Dillard University.

She will serve as vice president for student affairs at the institution in New Orleans.

Bullock on NBC

Ednita W. Bullock, head librarian, was a contestant on the game show "Wheel of Fortune" this summer. The show was taped July 30 and will be aired Oct. 10 at 7:30 p.m.