

The Bennett Banner

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Satellite enriches college

by Yvette N. Freeman

The students and faculty of Bennett College are now able to view live satellite broadcasts from other black institutions around the country as a result of the purchase of a new satellite dish.

The dish was installed in mid-February and now "enables Bennett to be a part of the Black College Satellite Telecommunications Network," says President Gloria Dean Randle Scott, "which is a network of 102 predominantly black colleges that are joined together through the satellite communications for purposes of enriching education programs."

The network offers special programs. Scott says that students may be able to tune in to certain courses that may not be offered at their institution, but are offered at another.

"For example, a course in 17th century theology, that might be taught at one of the other black colleges, which very few other schools would be teaching because they wouldn't have that kind of investment in faculty, can be run on a weekly basis or a daily basis, from that school to any of the other schools in the network who'd want to do it and have their students be able to have access to it," says Scott.

Scott also has hopes of "having interactive conferences, even workshops that may be held on one campus, then could be broadcast by satellite to all the other campuses, as long as we know when to tune in."

There is also the purpose of "providing for some community outreach," says Scott. She says this would consist of providing "almost an extension of the Lyceum programs or convocations that the college itself has."

The satellite program would also enable Bennett to have "specialty programs" that could be shown to particular groups. As an example, Scott says that "many people who are in the process of re-certifying themselves as teachers or reviewing where they are might be able to have a joint workshop on the NTE or other kinds of tests, that might be at one campus and we could tune in on it and then invite teachers in." This could include Bennett's occasionally running courses for a specific time period, such as five weeks, "so that every Saturday you might invite a group of teachers in who would take that course over the five week period, really telecoursing, is what that would be," says Scott.

Another major goal of the program is to have Bennett

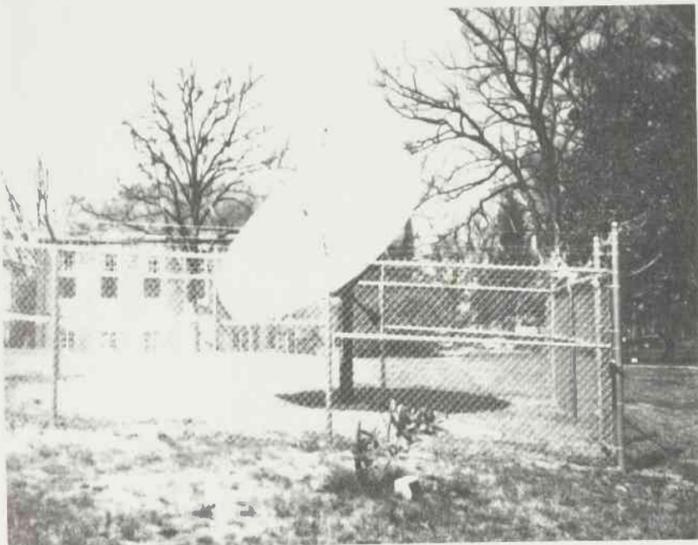
producing its own programs that could be broadcast to other college campuses in the network. "We're trying real hard to see if we can't get a good political debate that might come from the Bennett College campus," says Scott.

The satellite program is also expected to improve the communications program at Bennett. Scott says that it will help Bennett to "enrich, expand and deepen our communications program; to teach students the use of the media. We didn't get production equipment, but eventually I hope we will be able to have the electronic part of journalism and telecommunications as a part of our program. There are many, many possibilities for it."

"Once we purchased the dish, that enabled us to be able to do all of this. And so I imagine as we get more experience, that there will be a number of kinds of uses," says Scott. She also says that "As traveling becomes more expensive, and in some cases, prohibited, interactive teleconferencing is a wave of the future."

The program, which is funded under Title III, has been available to colleges and universities for about three years. Bennett had been invited to participate about two

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Entering new worlds: With this dish, Bennett joins the Black College Satellite Telecommunications Network, an event which will enhance the future of the college, according to President Scott. (photo by Waller)

Diplomat visits

by Yvette N. Freeman

A United States diplomat is now a temporary member of the faculty and staff of Bennett College.

Ambassador Robert J. Ryan Jr., a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, was assigned to Bennett by the U.S. State Department to participate in The Diplomat in Residence Program. The program, which is a first for Bennett, will enable the students and faculty members to enhance their awareness of international affairs.

Ryan, who served as ambassador to Mali from September 1984 to September 1987, says that he is "very impressed" with Bennett, especially with the architecture. He says that Bennett and Johns Hopkins University, where he received his bachelor's degree in political science in 1960, resemble each other in what Ryan calls "Georgian architecture."

Ryan will not only be working with Bennett during his stay, but also other black colleges in North Carolina.

He says, "Instead of working with one university, I'll be working with six historically black universities here in North Carolina. I'm happy to say that Bennett is one. The others are St. Augustine in Raleigh, North Carolina Central in Durham, your neighbor, North Carolina A & T, Winston-Salem State, and Johnson C. Smith in Charlotte."

Ryan's activities as diplomat in residence have not yet been determined. He says, "That's still being worked out." However, he says that it is certain he will be a guest lecturer in some of the classes, mainly the political science courses, in addition to speaking at seminars dealing with topics in international affairs.

Ryan says that he will also be glad to counsel "any students who are interested in pursuing careers in international affairs."

There is also a possibility of setting up a model United Nations program with the six schools, if there is enough interest in the project.

Ryan says, "That's where they have sort of a mock session of the United Nations. Each school that's participating represents a country. The

students debate issues that would actually be coming before the United Nations, as if they were the ambassadors for that country." This would result in the students gaining valuable experience in negotiating.

With almost 30 years abroad, Ryan says that some of his knowledge may be of assistance to those faculty members interested in participating in foreign exchange programs.

Ryan joined the State Department as a foreign service officer in 1960 and has served as a vice consul in Ponta Delgada, Azores, assistant commercial attache in Rio de Janeiro and economic officer in Pretoria.

He was a member of the National Security Council staff under Dr. Henry Kissinger. In addition, he has attended the Executive Seminar in National and International Affairs, a distinguished training program for senior executives in the United States foreign affairs community.

He received his master's degree in economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1967 and speaks both French and Portuguese. In addition to heading several international meetings for the United States delegations, Ryan has also received a Presidential Meritorious Service Award and the State Department's Superior Honor Award.

Ryan says, "If I can help raise awareness of the importance of international affairs, I think people will understand better what's going on in foreign countries, and how the United States debates with foreign countries. Then in the end I'll be able to make a contribution to the lives and careers of the students."

Ryan will be in residence here until July 1988, but he says, "There'll be someone replacing me in the summer so that the program with the six colleges will last at least until the end of the '88-'89 academic year."

Bennett was chosen for this program when a recruiter for the State Department visited North Carolina and was "impressed with the atmosphere here and the seriousness and

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Gordon offers farewell

by Betty Ellis

The SGA president has learned one big lesson.

"From my responsibilities this year, I have learned to take criticism with a grain of salt. Before taking office, I often took criticism personally. Now I listen objectively to what people say about the job I'm doing. Indeed, I get my feelings hurt a lot less this way," says April Gordon.

At first glance, you may conceive April to be shy and timid, but behind those friendly, expressive eyes lies a powerhouse of a leader. A native of California, the senior computer science major says she is indeed an achiever.

"Events sponsored by SGA were very successful. Personally, I feel that I stayed in contact with the student body, although the office took up much of my time. Projects I found to be interesting as well as enjoyable would include planning the Morehouse weekend and seeing everything executed smoothly. There is a certain satisfaction that comes from seeing your hard work finally paying off. I also found the congressional Black Caucus Youth Summit to be the most informative conference I attended."

Shortages of various kinds have been Gordon's biggest difficulty.

"Lack of available people willing to work on projects has caused trouble. Usually, it's the same few people doing all the work. Many members of SGA have other leadership responsibilities . . . The time



Outgoing President: SGA leader April Gordon has learned to cope with criticism. (photo by Waller)

available for SGA was often limited," Gordon says.

As the year comes to a close, April is preparing to clean out her SGA office desk as well as finish her stay here at Bennett.

"After graduation, I will be working at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, where I have been working for the past two summers on a graduate assistantship. During this time, I will decide where I want to go to graduate school and what I want to pursue an advanced degree in.

"The four years I've spent here have had a positive effect on my life. I would like to advise the Bennett family to utilize all the talent and enthusiasm available. The Bennett family is full of young women with desire and ability to be leaders. However, SGA, faculty, staff and administrators must reach out to them."

**Our condolences
to President Scott**

**upon the death
of her Mother**

Mrs. Juanita Randle

on March 24

in Houston, Tex.

The Bennett Family