

The Bennett Banner

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Fall Honors Convocation: Elynor Williams, a vice-president with the Sara Lee Corporation, and President Gloria R. Scott pay tribute to scholars Gladys Sarpomaa (left) and Shanaz Chowdury (right), who have attained perfect 4.0 grade point averages. The ceremony honored 74 students who made the dean's list and 62 who were cited on the honors list. (photo courtesy of Office of Public Relations).

Executive provides tips

by Olivia M. Rowe

Elynor Williams, newly appointed vice-president of public responsibility for Sara Lee Corporation in Chicago, reflected upon the words of a song by Michael Jackson called "Man in the Mirror," as speaker for the fall honor's convocation Nov. 1.

Jackson's lyrics state "Start with the person in the mirror . . . take a look at yourself . . . make the world a better place, stand up and lift yourself, make that change," and Williams encouraged students to face the person in the mirror and to challenge that reflection daily.

"No one ever really 'makes it', if part of 'making it' means you stop growing and becoming a better person, stop stretching towards new horizons and a greater understanding; if 'making it' means you stop learning new things about yourself and your world," said Williams.

The strategy to effect change is to focus on four key areas: education, mentoring, networking and entrepreneurship, according to Williams.

As a member of the Executive Leadership Council, which is comprised of 40 black corporate executives from the Forbes 1000 corporations, Williams said the group's goal is to facilitate economic empowerment for African-Americans.

"Our ability to be self-sustaining and to fully participate in the economy is the next step in our efforts to gain equality," said Williams.

Williams said blacks entered corporate America as a result of the Civil Rights Movement when corporate managers sought blacks to fill quotas established by the federal government. Thereafter, she said, the quotas diminished, racism renewed itself and illiteracy, drug abuse, homelessness, environmental issues and other

social problems developed, affecting our economy and ability to survive.

Williams stressed awareness and adaptability.

"Change is swirling around us, some good, some bad. We must become aware of these changes, both current and historical, if we are to effect change and incorporate it successfully in our daily lives," said Williams.

She said the future appears hopeful for women and minorities.

"The new workforce will reflect demographic and ethnic changes with minorities in 30 percent of entry-level jobs and 90 percent filled by women," said Williams.

Students were encouraged to sharpen their writing and speaking skills, know themselves as best as they can, take good advice and good criticism, plan to succeed and set goals for maintaining a healthy, drug-free body, with plenty of exercise, rest and nutrition.

Alumna comes home

by Kimberly Dargan

A 1987 graduate is back to motivate students to strive for excellence.

Ms. Victoria Dunn, a Greensboro native and former SGA president, has returned as an instructor in the English department where she wants to help students experiencing the same problems she had as a freshman — shyness and difficulty coping with college life.

Involvement in student activities, including serving as a columnist for this paper, boosted her self-confidence. A turning-point came at an event sponsored by the United Methodist Church in New York.

"It was a conference that brought 14 African women and 12 American women to live together and have a conference in a living type of experience for two weeks. We were talking about issues of our cultures and the different concepts of work, which were not so different. My roommate at the conference was from South Africa. We exchanged Aqua

Fresh toothpaste. The only difference was that their toothpaste in South Africa was not as sweet and more gritty. Learning about different cultures broadened my perspective."

Dunn, a former Bennett scholar with a 3.5 g.p.a., received a master's degree at A&T where she taught part time for two years. She worked here in the summer.

"I always knew I was coming back, Bennett College is my alma mater. I love this college and when the opportunity was available, I jumped at it. Bennett College has a wonderful environment and a change of pace. Now I am actively involved as family and faculty," Dunn says.

Dunn looks up to Dr. Charlotte Alston, vice-president of academic affairs. "She inspired me. I can't express how I feel about her. Dr. Alston was the choir director and professor of music. The choir was very disciplined. I remember, I was a sophomore and this certain day I was tired because of studying so much. She talked to me and I

remember her saying, 'Don't give in to this and you will be all right. You will be all right. Just don't become corrupted,' the alumna says.

Dunn married Mr. Roger Raynor on Oct. 20 in Annie Merner Pfeiffer Chapel. She says of her husband: "He is kind of quiet and a reserved type of person, but in non-traditional ways he is incredibly strong. You always need someone there no matter how old you are. My husband has a very under-spoken, very quiet strength and he is my anchor."

One thing she wants to accomplish as a teacher is to increase student discipline.

"What I want my teaching to draw out is discipline. Come to class and listen while you are there. I would like to see students liberate themselves from the notion that I am here to spoon-feed them. I would also like them to liberate themselves to pursue and to disagree; that is really important. They don't challenge, and only when you are challenging are you thinking," Dunn says.

Bell excels

by Erica Salter

SGA President Miji Bell emphasizes that she's the students' representative and students have a responsibility to let their voices be heard.

Bell, a communications major from Durham, maintains that students must be supportive of their leaders in order for the SGA to be effective. It is also important for students to be involved in SGA business and to have active input.

"The best way to get students motivated is to get the officers to set an example," says Bell, who is determined to end the apathetic attitude that exists on Bennett's campus. She plans "to implement programs and activities that will interest the student body."

Bell will not be doing everything herself. She will rely on other SGA officers more than past presidents did. "We need to work together," she says. "The burden doesn't need to be on one or two people."

Bell is looking for dedicated individuals who want to work. "The SGA officers just don't realize how much there is to do,

even on a day-to-day basis," says Bell.

"The students have a responsibility just like the SGA," Bell states. "I hope to add new activities that involve Bennett students in the community where they could play an important role and have a tremendous impact." Greater involvement in elections and combating illiteracy are two possibilities.

Belle's performance so far has met with approval.

"I feel that she is doing an excellent job and that she has allowed everyone to know that SGA is an active board," says Natisha Hoskins, a junior from Ardmore, Pa. "She has scheduled regular student body meetings which allow students to know what's going on. That's a change from the past. Miji is also very organized which allows things to flow well."

Marcene Ross, a junior from Grand Rapids, Mich., is optimistic about Bell's term in office. "We're in for a successful year, and there will be a lot of activities," she says. "Miji is interested in what the students want."

Test stats given

by Era Hardy

Nearly 60 percent of the students that took the English Comprehensive Examination passed while 40 percent passed the Math Competency Examination.

These figures are consistent with past test results.

The English test, which 59 percent passed this year, was instated in 1980. "Its purpose," said Dr. Juanita Lewis, chairperson of the English department, "is to test the thinking skills, writing skills and language skills of each student." She added that "all jobs require basic writing skills. The better the student writes, the better her chances of progressing."

The Math test was instated in 1984. According to Dr. Ray Treadway, chairperson of the math and computer science department, the purpose of the exam is "to see if each student has established a minimum level of competence in mathematics. The exam also tries to encourage students to take standardized tests and develop test-taking strategies."

Why do more students pass the English Comp. than the Math Comp.? According to junior Kim Boyd, "Bennett places a higher emphasis on English skills rather than math skills."

Students that have taken the English exam suggest there's room for improvement.

"I think we should be allowed more than four mistakes," said junior Alima Easler-Bey. "Even on the NTE (National Teacher's Exam) you're allowed 12 mistakes."

"It takes 30 minutes to a hour just to get your thoughts together," said junior Renee Floyd. "I think more time should be allotted for the exam."

When asked about the Math Comp., students made similar suggestions. Students should be more thoroughly prepared for the math exam.

Each of these exams is a requirement by the college in order to graduate. If you have not taken either exam, a chance will come again during the spring semester.

Communications department is thriving

by Monica Hawkins

"Lights, camera and action" is the tune that the communications department is singing this year. There are two new instructors and several new courses.

The communications department is growing rapidly. The number of students that major in communications increases each year. Adjustments were made to accommodate the rapid growth of the program.

Ms. Charmaine McKissick-Kemp, director of the Interdisciplinary Studies Program and head of the communica-

tions department, feels positive about the future and so does Bennett.

"The entire college has been very supportive of the new mass communications program," she says.

The communications department is in the process of becoming an official department. In June the board approved mass communications as a major. Once the department becomes official, mass communications majors will be required to take the general education courses of the college. The Interdisciplinary (see page 4)