



Photo by Phanaphie Rhue

Opening Convocatum Est

(From left) Seniors Michell Huff and Cinzia Atkinson joined by juniors Tracy Bedford and Makia Moore leave the Annie Merner Pfeiffer Chapel after attending Convocatum Est, Aug. 25.

Mother-daughter duo attending Bennett

Stephanie McCorkle
Managing Editor

Imagine going back to school with an adult daughter attending the same institution that you are attending.

Sound strange?

It isn't according to senior mass communication major Kelly Drayton and her mother Brenda Drayton, social work major.

The mother-daughter duo from Winterhaven, Fla. are not the first maternal team to attend the College; however, they are the first to be enrolled in Bennett at the same time during an academic semester.

Brenda Drayton attended Poke Community College in Winterhaven as a social work major, but she always wanted to go to a four-year institution.

But not for her benefit.

"I needed a degree to better help my community, as well as to find a place in society," Drayton said.

Drayton's daughter couldn't be more proud of her mother, but stressed that just because her mom attends the same school that she does, does not mean she is going to be tied to her apron strings.

"She has her life, and I have mine," Drayton said.

Other students around the campus have been very supportive of her as well.

Amina Morrison, a transfer biology major from Rochester, N.Y. said.

"She's really nice. I think it would be beneficial to have your mother at school with you, because it would push you to work harder."

Brenda has met the other "alternative" students and says that they have been supportive.

"I have met the older students and we get along fine."

She believes that college has given her a sense of fulfillment that she has wanted all her life. "The classes are fine, and I'm having a ball. I love the Bennett community."

Brenda works as a circulating relief coordinator, in addition to being a full-time student.

Drayton is thankful for the chance to attend college, but is very concerned about her hometown in Winterhaven.

The area from which Drayton came is a rural neighborhood that is predominantly African American and the chances of a college education is slim, unless there is athletic ability worthy of a scholarship.

"The black children do not know about Bennett, or many other schools like this," Drayton said. "They don't have many black guidance counselors in the schools to encourage them."

As a social work major, Drayton has a right to be worried about the futures of the young people in her community, because not many people there are.

"I would like to get literature out to them about Bennett, because the white guidance counselors there are telling them to go to junior colleges and technical schools. They have no one encouraging them to go to schools like Florida A&M, and others."

Attention sophomores; Americorps is here

Mariacorazon Hill
Banner Reporter

Attention Sophomores.

Are you are looking for something productive to do with your spare time?

Do you enjoy working with new people? If the answer is yes, then look no further.

This job may be for you.

The 1993 National Community Service Trust Act is part of President Bill Clinton's National Service Plan.

College students render community service by becoming a part of the Americorps program.

Americorps is a nationwide community service organization that, unlike many programs, provides students with monetary incentive for continuance and completion of college education.

Although the acquisition of

grant funding came about through the joint proposal-writing efforts of five other colleges and universities, Bennett has two particular individuals to thank.

Riley Kline, field coordinator for social work and director of Outreach Services, and Andreana Coleman, director of Institutional Research and Planning for Bennett College, collaborated in writing and submitting a 10-page proposal during in April.

By July, Bennett received official notification that it was one of the six colleges and universities entitled to a grant for the amount of \$800,000 for the Americorps program. The grant took effect Sept. 1.

The Faculty Resource Network shares a common theme of safety with Bennett College.

The other five participating institutions are: Manhattan Col-

lege, Richard Stockton College, Johnson C. Smith University, New York University, and Bennett's brother school, Morehouse College.

Upon completion of 900 hours, participants, with sophomores having top priority, earn \$2,378 for educational funding. This award is sent from the government directly to the scholastic institution of the student's choosing.

"I feel very good about the program," Kline said.

"It's an opportunity for students to be involved in community service while learning an educational award which can be used for undergraduate and graduate education."

For more information, contact Riley Kline at 370-8733 Vicki Burke, Chair of the Social Work Department, at 370-8699.

Bennett chaplin ordained

Tahja McVay
Banner Reporter

There is something new about Bennett's chaplin this semester. The face is the same, but something has been added.

The Rev. Sherrie Cook was ordained as a deacon in the United Methodist faith June 11 in Lake Junaluska, N.C.

When Cook became campus minister in 1992 she was still in school studying to become a deacon of the United Methodist faith.

Cook's new duties include preaching, leading worship, and officiating baptisms.

Before she was ordained, Cook said she had to first receive the call of God and be recognized by the people of the church. Then the church recommended her to the conference. She met with three committees.

In two years she said she will go through the same process to become an elder.

Cook, a Greensboro native, has been more active in the community since ordination, preaching at different churches. Some of the Belles say they see



Newly ordained Rev. Sherrie Cook

what a difference the ordination has made within her.

Gerri Roland, junior from Washington D.C. said, "She really has grown. You can tell by her sermons on Sunday mornings and she will be a great asset to today's society and women of Bennett College."

When Cook became campus minister, she said that she wanted everyone to know her as laid back and compassionate.

Now she says, "ordination sets me apart."

"There is a big difference between campus ministry and local ministry, but I think Bennett is a good place to grow and come into your own and work with other folk."

Along with preaching at different local United Methodist Churches, Rev. Cook teaches philosophy of religion this semester.

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