

Bennett exceeds goal; keeps national title

By Paquita Herring
Banner Editor

Bennett College and the College Fund/UNCF exceeded their goal by more than \$53,000 and raised \$163,138 during local "Lou Rawls Parade of Stars" telethon on Jan. 11.

Approximately 150 students, faculty, and community members participated as volunteers, answering the phone and collecting money during the telethon which was in the Embassy Suites Hotel.

Kellie Cole, the reigning National Miss UNCF and Jasmine Canady, Miss Bennett College participated as top board changers.

Cole, a junior business administration major from Maryland, won the national UNCF title, which is based on the total money raised per capita.

According to Dorothy Colston, vice president of fund raising, this is the second consecutive year that Bennett College has coveted this title. In the past four years Bennett has won three national Miss UNCF titles, and in 1994-5 Bennett was first runner up.

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Spring sing

The Bennett College Choir [above] will be spending spring vacation performing across North Carolina and in some northern states including New York and Maryland. The names of the 22 members and the Choir Spring Tour schedule is on Page 3. See Spring sing. Photo courtesy of and the Public Affairs and Marketing Office.

Speech class ACES receives praises

By Brandy Jones

Banner Reporter and Banner Staff

ACES on Jan. 30 was a little different. The scenery looked very similar to other ACES programs that have taken place in the gym. The "Star Spangled Banner" was played, which is the usual musical opening at an ACES program.

The uniqueness of the program entitled, "A Prelude to Black History Month" was due to its presentors and their presentations: students from two fall speech classes taught by Charmaine McKissick-Melton presented their best speeches about black people, places, and ideas.

According to "Ms. Mac," the nickname that the students use to refer to McKissick-Melton, students last semester had complained to her in class that the topics in ACES were often boring.

"I suggested that we, as a class, present some interesting topics," McKissick-Melton said. At the end of the fall semester, the 28 students voted for the top 10 speeches to be presented in the upcoming ACES during the spring semester. They also decided that two additional speeches would be included in the program.

Eleven speeches, including one by McKissick-Melton, were presented during the program. The speech topics included how African Americans should feel about themselves as African Americans, Ella Fitzgerald, and Sandy Smith, the Bennett Belle graduate who was slain Nov. 3, 1979 during a union protest.

"During her speech 'Historically Black Colleges and University in the New Millennium,' McKissick-Melton spoke about the negativity that she has observed on Bennett's campus.

"Instead of walking around with a negative attitude, take on a more proactive one in order to solve any issues that surface on campus," McKissick-Melton told the audience.

McKissick-Melton also spoke about how students, staff, and faculty could improve Bennett during the millennium. She said that the campus should "become more user-friendly" and there should be a "push-and-pull relationship" between teachers and students.

The majority of the comments following the program from the Bennett community were positive.

"I thought it [ACES] was going to be another boring ACES," said Donna Satterfield, an education major from Atlanta.

"It was truly a call for the community and very well done," President Gloria Randle Scott said.

23 Belles, 12 staff involved in new mentoring program

By Shamilah Harris
Banner Reporter

"Show me a successful person, and I'll show you someone who has been mentoring," is the slogan of the National Mentor Alliance and the charging force behind Bennett's new mentoring program.

The new program was started this semester. It was initiated by Patricia Stewart, director of Student Support Services, and Lillie Rooks, coordinator of the program.

Mentoring involves a student mentee connecting with faculty and administrator mentors to help with the student throughout her college years.

All the mentees are affiliated with the Student Support Service Program. Mentees are first generation college students, and students who may require extra academic help. A total of 23 mentees and 12 mentors are enlisted in the program thus far.

"I feel it will provide an open opportunity for interaction with administrators on a personal level and not just a professional level," Stewart said.

The mentor and mentee relationship is indefinite because the time spent between the mentor and mentee depends on the compatibility with one another, and can last until the student's sophomore year, until the student graduates, or throughout the student's lifetime.

"I am hopeful that the program will be a success," Rooks said.

She said that she believes an improvement in academics for students will prevail.

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