



One Book, One Community By: Danielle Heider

"There is a difference between writing and writing well." stated acclaimed novelist, Kaye Gibbons, when she gave her keynote speech on September 21st in the Avinger Auditorium. Gibbons spent the day in Laurinburg, visiting Scotland High School, Scotland County Memorial Library and St. Andrews discussing her debut book, "*Ellen Foster*." Within its first year, the "One Book, One Community", not only allowed the freshmen Quest classes to read, "*Ellen Foster*" but the entire Laurinburg community, helping alleviate the issue of illiteracy throughout the county. Four hundred free copies were passed out to those that wanted to be a part of the new program.

Kaye Gibbons was born in 1960 in Nash County, North Carolina. She studied American Literature at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. At the age of 26, her debut novel, "*Ellen Foster*" was written. In 1987, "*Ellen Foster*" was published and captured the hearts of many individuals; it has sold over 4 million copies and has been translated in several different languages. Critics across the globe have been astonished at the obstacles that Mrs. Gibbons has overcome throughout her life. The New Republic states, "The voice of this resourceful child [Ellen Foster] is mesmerizing because we

are right inside her head. The words are always flowing right... Thus does Gibbons persuade us, as few writers can, that even a terrible childhood can be a state of grace."

Throughout the years, Kaye Gibbons has published eight novels and various short stories. In 1997, "*Ellen Foster*" and "*A Virtuous Woman*" were selected to be a part of the Oprah Winfrey book club. This exposure allowed both books to be spotlighted on the best sellers list and launched Mrs. Gibbons into the public eye. In an interview with Bob Summers for *Publishers Weekly*, she stated, "Nobody ever told me it was going to

be easy. If I weren't a writer, I'd probably be a lawyer or an architect. I wouldn't want to do anything easy, and I choose to be a writer. As a writer, it's my job to come up with three hundred pages or so every two years. Each time I begin, I know it's going to happen, but I'm scared it won't. It's working with that element of fear that keeps a book going."

People throughout Scotland County came to see the acclaimed author when she began her day visiting with high school students at Scotland High and then at Scotland Memorial Library. She finished her day on the St. Andrews campus, first visiting with the freshmen Quest classes and lastly having an open keynote speech in the evening. Gibbons discussed different aspects of her book, "*Ellen Foster*"; however, she did not limit herself to her debut book. After her speech, she opened the floor to questions that the audience had. When asked where she gets her ideas, she proclaimed, "I get my ideas from anywhere and everywhere." While intriguing, Gibbons described the writing process as a "journey into something" rather than writing being an escape.

Through the program, "One Book, One Community" the challenge of fighting illiteracy was distinguished and precisely defined. The presence of the acclaimed novelist served as a reminder that even a small community has the power to fight.



(Author, Kaye Gibbons talking with Students. Picture courtesy of Rooney Coffman)

ST. ANDREWS REPORTS SECOND HIGHEST ENROLLMENT IN 35 YEARS

"This Fall's enrollment at St. Andrews Presbyterian College has been exceeded only once in the past 35 years," College President Dr. John Deegan, Jr., announced Monday. He reported 808 students are enrolled this Fall at St. Andrews, a figure exceeded only by the 1987 enrollment of 833 students.

Since the Fall of 2002, enrollment at the college has grown by a remarkable 32 percent along with a significant increase in the academic quality of the students who have enrolled.

"We are pleased and excited that our student retention and recruitment efforts have taken us over the 800 students mark," said Deegan. "Our faculty and staff have collectively worked hard to serve our present students and have worked diligently to recruit more outstanding students to our fine college."

The St. Andrews student population breaks down into 703 students at the Laurinburg campus and 105 in the college's baccalaureate program at Sandhills

Community College in Pinehurst.

This year's enrollment marks only the third time since 1972 that the school's enrollment exceeded 800 students. The number of students enrolled in 1988 was 801.

"We continue to enhance the quality of education for our students here at St. Andrews," said Deegan. "This year, we recruited additional faculty members to expand our offerings in sport studies, biology, education, business, and other areas. We have been highly successful in bringing additional top-flight professors onto our campus and we fully expect to continue to attract high quality students here as we advance to our targeted enrollment of 1,100 students by the year 2011."

Sport and Recreation Management is the newest major being offered by St. Andrews. This follows other recent new majors such as Forensic Science, Southern Studies, and Public History. The college also continues to grow its music program; this year's choir now has 45 members as compared to twelve members just three years ago. The college's newest intercollegiate

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(In Courtesy of Rooney Coffman)

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