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Bennett to Speak at Commencement

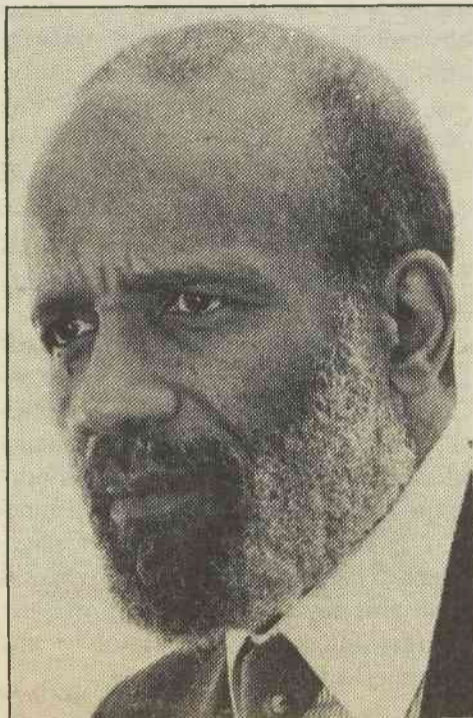
PRESS RELEASE

Dr. Lerone Bennett, Jr., executive editor of *Ebony* magazine, will deliver the keynote address for the 97th commencement exercises of Winston-Salem State University. Approximately 300 candidates will receive bachelor's degrees during the ceremony at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 6, at the Winston-Salem Memorial Coliseum.

Dr. Bennett is a writer, journalist, editor and historian of international renown. A graduate of Atlanta's Morehouse College, he has been awarded 15 honorary degrees. He began his career as a reporter for the *Atlanta Daily World* and advanced to city editor within three years. He joined Johnson Publishing Company in 1953 as associate editor of *JET* magazine. Through the years he has served as associate editor and senior editor of *Ebony*, a visiting professor of history at Northwestern University and a senior fellow of the Institute of the Black World.

A native of Clarksdale, Mississippi, Dr. Bennett's work and interests have carried him across the United States and to Europe and Africa. He has written several books including *Before the Mayflower: A History of the Negro in America*; *The Negro Mood: What Manner of Man: A Biography of Martin Luther King, Jr.*; *Shaping of Black America*; and *The Human side of Reconstruction*. His books and short stories have been translated into six languages.

Dr. Bennett is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Delta Chi and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. An active civic and business leader, he sits on the Board of Trustees of Morehouse College, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Center and the Chicago Public Television station. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Institute of the Black World, Abraham Lincoln Community Center, National Black United Fund and Chicago Black United Fund. He has served as an advisor and consultant to several national organizations and



Lerone Bennett,
Senior Ebony Editor

commissions, including The National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders.

Dr. Bennett's accomplishments have earned him numerous honors and awards. Among them are the Outstanding Magazine Writing Award (1956) from the Windy City Press Club, the Journalism Achievement Award (1963) from the Capital Press Club, the Patron Saints Award (1964) from the Society of Midland Authors for *What Manner of Man* and the Literature Award (1978) from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He is listed in *Who's Who in America*, *Who's Who Among Black Americans*, *Black Historians*, *The Black Press*, *U.S.A., 1,000 Successful Blacks* and *Daring Black Leaders*.

Other commencement weekend activities include:

- Pinning Ceremony for Nursing and Allied Health- Friday, May 5, 8p.m. Kenneth R. Williams Auditorium
- Alumni Board of Directors Meeting- Saturday, May 6, 1-3p.m. Rm. 228, Hall-Patterson Comm. Bldg.
- Alumni Association General Membership Meeting- Saturday, May 6, 3-5 p.m. Rm. 228, Hall-Patterson Comm. Bldg.
- Alumni Dinner- Saturday, May 6, 6-8 p.m. Anderson Center (Tickets-\$12)

Russell-McCloud Speaks at Award Banquet

By Joyce McMillan
SPORTS EDITOR

Arousing, exhilarating, intoxicating and motivating are words that describe the speech delivered at the Student Awards Banquet held on April 25th.

Attorney Patricia Russell-McCloud, the guest speaker, captivated the audience of about 300 people. The moment she began to speak she held them spellbound until she finished her talk.

Her speech, entitled, "There is room at the top, but there's limited space, R.S.V.P.," was very inspirational.

She spoke about some of her experiences and urged each of the members of the audience to know who they are following.

"The importance of knowing who you are following is so you can know where you are going," she explained.

"Often times we involve ourselves in someone else's business (be it voluntary or involuntary) get caught up in someone else's affairs and neglect our own."

"There's no business like your business and that's the bottom line", she stated.

At the completion of her speech she received a standing ovation from the audience.

Following the speech, several awards were presented by outgoing SGA President John Rankins alias "Cleon III." He presented awards to those individuals he felt went beyond the call of duty in performing their jobs. He was assisted by Miss WSSU, Veronica Howard. After the awards presentation portion of the program, Chancellor Cleon Thompson spoke to the students who had received awards for leadership and service in campus organizations or activities.

McCarter Wins Teaching Award

By EuGenia C. Williamson
STAFF WRITER

Dr. Merdis McCarter originally from Homer, Louisiana will succeed Dr. Elwanda Ingram as the 1989 winner of the Wachovia Excellence in Teaching Award.

She received a bachelors degree from Southern University in Atlanta, Georgia, and a doctor of education degree from University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Each academic department nominates an instructor whom they feel exemplifies excellence. These names are given to a committee where they are judged on areas of teaching effectiveness, research and scholarly activities and departmental university and community service.

Dr. McCarter has had the desire to teach since elementary school. When she reached the college levels and witnessed how the instructors teaching habits were so weak, her desire to teach was affirmed. Even though the teachers had the knowledge of the subject, they did not provide the students with the necessary fundamentals. She felt that there must be a better, yet effective way to do it.

"Students at WSSU helped me to do that," she revealed. "Math was sort of like a part of language." McCarter wanted her students to feel relaxed with mathematics and not to be afraid of it but to enjoy it. "I

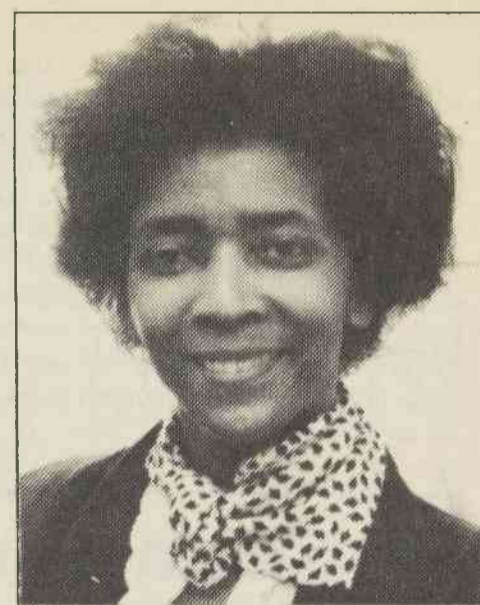


Photo by Tuttle

Dr. Merdis McCarter

try to make complex concepts simple."

She came to WSSU in 1968 after serving at North Carolina Central University for two and a half years teaching lower-level math. She wanted to do something that was more challenging and WSSU gave her that opportunity by allowing her to teach at higher levels and develop other courses.

McCarter has a philosophy of life and teaching. "Each person who is given some talent has a responsibility to share that talent in constructive and creative ways with others," she said. "When it comes to teaching, I try to create a learning setting in which students feel comfortable about themselves and about mathematics."