

Freshmen class makes history, not without problems

By Hope Sawyer

St. Augustine's College Fall 1988 semester has enrolled the largest freshmen class since the colleges inception.

The freshmen count is at a soaring 627, of which 382 are females and 245 are males, compared to the 300 to 400 freshmen admitted in the past.

Some members of the administration do not think that such a large number of freshmen poses a problem.

"This is not an overload, but a balancing out of those upperclassmen who could not meet the obligations of their outstanding bills of previous semesters," said Wanzo Hendricks, Admission Director.

Upperclassmen encountered problems with the enrollment in two ways.

Housing has been one of the biggest issues this semester because of freshmen enrollment. Delany and Latham, dorms used to house freshmen women, did not accommodate the enrollment for these freshmen.

Instead, college officials had to place some of these new students in Baker Hall, a sophomore women's dorm, and even the New Dorm, living quarters used primarily for juniors and seniors.

Mrs. Barbara Broadway, Assistant Director of Housing, said that it was necessary to move upperclassmen around and to relocate their housing status in order to accommodate the freshmen class.

Many upperclassmen returned from summer break and learned that their rooms were revoked because of outstanding balances on their college account.

Natasha McGhee, a senior communications major from New York, said that she learned that she did not have a place to stay after attempts to complete registration.

She added that those students who were sent housing permits for their rooms should be able to keep the room they applied for and place the freshmen in rooms that were vacant or without permits.

Freshmen males had to be housed not only in the dorms normally used to house them, but they were placed in other male dorms used to house the upperclassmen.

An uncommon gesture for the housing authorities were to place some of these freshmen in off-campus housing a privilege only given to students with honors or upperclass status.

For returning upperclassmen, college housing officials sought temporary shelter at community hotels, Econolodge for men and The Days Inn for women.

"I think it's ridiculous," said Miss McGhee. "It is very inconvenient for those who do not have a car because campus transportation is not reliable."

Other students were assigned to the eleven off-campus housing the college had to lease in Washington Terrace, a subdivision across the street from the college on the eastside.

Another problem that upperclassmen encountered was the registration process which took longer than usual.

Waiting lines that took only a few hours in the past, now took days. Offices remained open on Saturdays, and Sundays to ensure full student registration.

Along with registration comes class scheduling and upperclassmen were bumped around in this area. Juniors and seniors, even some sophomores, who failed to take their basic freshmen courses such as Speech, English, Reading and Biology had to have new sections opened to accommodate the freshmen class.

In the past, the size of freshmen classes were limited to about 45 students. This semester some classes under the general education requirements have up to 75 students.

No one from the Registrar's Office was available for comments.

Whether the college plans to construct more housing facilities and classroom space is another subject that needs investigating. However, "We will probably admit the same amount next year," said Hendricks.

Student attends diplomat orientation

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Eric H. Bennett, a native of Orange, New Jersey and a junior in political science at St. Augustine's College was one of 17 minority group students chosen for an orientation program in the nation's capital for prospective diplomats.

Developed by the United States Information Agency (USIA) as a way to encourage more minorities to apply for Foreign Service, the program brought the carefully selected students from 16 colleges and universities to Washington for a series of seminars and demonstrations.

They were exposed to USIA's worldwide Voice of America and television (WORLDNET) operations and to that Agency's books and cultural programs.

One feature of the week-long program was the noon press briefing at the Department of State which the students attended and following which they were given tips on conduction such sessions by Chief Department Spokesman Charles Redman.

They were introduced also to the Foreign Service examination process, which is required of all entrants.

In a follow-up announcement, Ambassador Horace G. Dawson Jr., founding director of the program, noted that this year's Foreign Service Written Examination will be given throughout the country on December 3.

To qualify, all students, including minorities, must apply for the examination by October 14.

Application forms, Dawson said, are

available in the Student Counseling Offices at most colleges and universities or can be obtained by writing directly to: Recruitment Division, Department of State, P.O. Box 9317, Rosslyn, VA 22209; and/or Recruitment Division, U.S. Information Agency, Office of Equal Employment Opportunity and Civil Rights, 301-4th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547.

The telephone number at the Department of State is 703-875-7210 and at USIA is 202-485-7151.

Bennett and other students taking part in the USIA orientation program were selected on the basis of scholastic standing, communication skills, and interest in foreign affairs.

They received briefings by USIA and Voice of America officials, worked in small groups in the USIA's regional offices, and toured the Department of State as well as received briefings on the examination process by the Board of Examiners for the Foreign Service.

The United States Information Agency is responsible for the U.S. government's overseas information and cultural programs, including the Voice of America, WORLDNET television service, and the Fulbright scholarship program.

To explain the diversity and vitality of America society, USIA also distributes books and magazines abroad, mount exhibitions, and administers a variety of exchange activities involving American artists, speakers, sports professionals and high-school students.



Future Diplomats: Leslie Isaac, Program Assistant, Office of Equal Employment Opportunity and Civil Rights, Phyllis Michele Vaughn, Memphis State University senior, Eric Bennett, St. Augustine's College junior, and Warren Obluck, Deputy Director, Academic Programs get together during an informal gathering in Washington, D.C. Phyllis and Eric were selected by the United States Information Agency, (USIA), among 17 of the top students in the country to participate in a Foreign Service Orientation Program for Minority Students. The students came from 16 colleges and universities and 14 states for a week of seminars, lectures, and tours. This innovation program is designed to encourage minority students to seek careers in the diplomatic service.

Two freshmen awarded AROTC scholarships

The Army Reserve Officer's Training Corps four-year scholarship has been awarded to two students at Saint Augustine's College.

Congratulations to Earl Watson Rillington and Derrick Lamar Mitchell for this successful accomplishment. This scholarship is awarded to freshmen students on a competitive basis who apply and possess qualifications.

This scholarship will pay for tuition and required educational fees, and provide a

specified amount for books, supplies, and equipment. Additionally, there is a stipend of \$100 (up to \$1,000 a year) for each year the scholarship is in effect.

Saint Augustine's College provide free room and board to ROTC scholarship recipients. The ROTC scholarship at Saint Augustine's College provide a student an opportunity for a free education.

Earl Watson Rillington is a resident of Savannah, Georgia and a graduate of Windsor Forest High School. Earl had the

chance of attending other Historically Black Colleges to participate in their ROTC program and chose Saint Augustine's College. Earl is eagerly anticipating the continual development of his leadership skills and a challenging school year.

Derrick Lamar Mitchell is a resident of Walterboro, S.C., and was graduated from Walterboro High School.

He was encouraged by a friend to in-

vestigate an ROTC scholarship, since he desired participation in the program. Derrick's decision to attend Saint Augustine's College was based on location and the quality of the institution. It is Derrick's intention to utilize all skills learned from ROTC in his career.

The leaders and members of the Falcon Battalion are commended for the beginning of a successful first semester. Congratulations to the MS IV's on their assignments and promotions for the semester.