

The Pen



Vol. A1 No.1

NOVEMBER 1992



Dr. Prezell R. Robinson

"Strive to be the best," says President Robinson

BY TONETTA SPENCER

"Through hard work and perseverance you can be as good as, and better than anybody else," said Dr. Prezell R. Robinson at St. Augustine's College's 126th formal opening convocation in the Emery Gymnasium, October 8.

Addressing approximately 300 students, faculty, staff, and guests, Dr. Robinson encouraged students to strive for the best and realize that it is important for minorities to cultivate a positive self-image in today's competitive world.

"Adversity is no excuse for failure," he said. "You must know your strengths and weaknesses, and be able to take criticism from others. You are somebody and can do anything."

Dr. Robinson, who has led the college for 25 years, is presently away from the college until December, on an appointment from President Bush as Public Ambassador to the United Nations.

He encouraged students to think globally and be aware of

international issues.

He said his appointment to the U.N. was an opportunity of a lifetime and will bring valuable experience to the school. A trip to the U.N. for students was being organized to motivate them to think globally, he added.

Other speakers who featured in the program also urged students to achieve academic excellence.

Dr. George Brown, president of the National Alumni Association, urged students to have hope and never give up.

Student Government Association President Sean Mack emphasized that students should have pride in their school. "Foundation is pride." Students should be proud of what this institution is founded on, he said. He also focused on student support and on helping one another.

Cykeithia Burnette, Miss Saint Augustine's College, said, "Think positive. Be proud to be black and don't let anything get in your way as you work to reach your goals."

President Robinson: ambassador to U.N.

BY ALI IM MILAZI

"As a black man and president of an historically black college, I feel that this appointment will afford me an opportunity to share my experience with students," said President Prezell Robinson.

Dr. Robinson was recently appointed by President Bush to serve as one of four public delegates to the United Nations, after being recommended by the current head of the U.S. Mission to the U.N., Edward J. Perkins. The appointment lasts until The 19, when the current session of the world body ends.

Dr. Robinson is a member of a nine-person delegation, which includes Margaretta Rockefeller and singer Gloria Estefan.

President Robinson said that his primary motivation for accepting the appointment was the students. "I hope that sharing my experience at the U.N. with students will motivate them to think globally. I wish the appointment had come earlier. However, it's better late than never," said Dr. Robinson.

He admits that being president of a college and a diplomat at the same time is very demanding, especially as a 12 hour working day at the U.N. is common. Most of the time

is taken up by attending sessions in the Political, and Economic and Social Committees.

"I use a taping system to maintain contact with the school. At the end of the day, I check my answering machine for messages from the school and respond by calling or dictating letters, statements and memos to my secretary. However, an administrative cabinet, headed by Dr. D. NOell, is running the school. Comparing it to my previous diplomatic missions with the state department, Robinson said it is an extension of the same duties. He said the state department missions dealt with specific problems, while the U.N. agenda is broader and deals with matters such as poverty in third world countries, and the World Health Organization.

Responding to student and faculty criticism about the announcement of his appointment, Dr. Robinson said, "At the time I was not sure whether it was appropriate to publicize my appointment. I did not want to go out on a limb and raise unnecessary attention."

INDEX

St. Aug. prepares for NCATE pg. 3

Black students gather in downtown Raleigh pg.4

Performing Arts Series pg.10

Men's & Women's Basketball preview pg. 12