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## Allied Health Center accredited by NAACLS

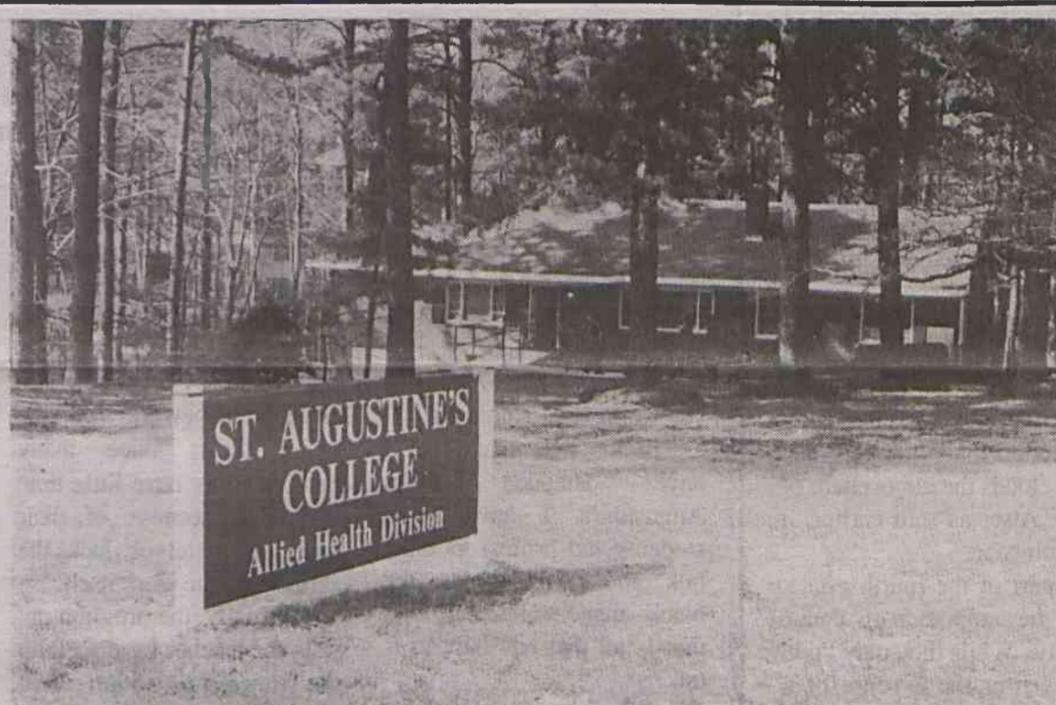
By TONETTA SPENCER

"You have to be a serious and dedicated student to go into the medical technology or phlebotomy program," said Hengameh Allen, Medical Technology Department Head, and wife of Dr. Cyril Allen, Campus Physician and Chairperson, Division of Allied Health, located on New Bern Avenue.

The Allied Health Center just recently received accreditation from the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS) for B. S. degrees in its Phlebotomy and Medical Technology programs. The last stage of the accreditation process, which is the site visit, still has to be carried out.

The center is geared towards bringing more blacks into the medical health field, and serving the community.

"The percentage of blacks in the medical technology field



The Allied Health Center located at New Bern Avenue in Raleigh. Pic: Courtesy of St. Aug Public Relations Office.

is only one percent. But when children see blacks rarely seen portraying prominent professional roles, they think they aren't capable of doing these things. That's the reason not many blacks go in the medical profession," Allen said.

Presently, there are only seven students that are in the last stages of the medical technology program, and 14 pre-medical technology majors.

"Our program is ideal for biology majors. The jobs are out there and there are many job agencies who want to be affiliated with us. You have to have compassion to work in this field. When we interview students who want to major in our program, we can determine whether or not they care about an individual. We

want students who are dedicated," she said.

"Students who have opted to major in medical technology need to come to the center and see me. They need to know what courses to take to receive a degree in phlebotomy or medical technology. That's mandatory. You have to apply to the program, have a minimum of 2.5 GPA, good communication skills, be responsible, and have the right attitude," she added.

According to Allen, students don't realize that this is a part of the science department on campus and that it is neither hers nor Dr. Allen's, and that it belongs to Saint Augustine's.

Allen said she treats the Center as if it were her own home. "I care about my students. I get the top instructors

to teach them, so they can feel that their education is just as good as UNC, Duke, and Harvard," she said.

She also said that students don't take advantage of their educational opportunities. "They have to realize they are in college to learn, and need to stop wasting their parents' money," she said.

Students in the programs will do some of their clinical work at Wake Medical, where Allen said the students perform well.

"We have a good name in the community," she said.

Allen also said Dr. Robinson helped a lot with the program.

The center hopes to start a clinical nursing program this September and is trying to hire a director of nursing who will develop the curriculum.

## The Healing Force performs in Arts series

By STEVEN MINGO

The Healing Force presented "The Rhythm of the Drum" on March 18 in the Seby B. Jones Fine Arts Building. Their performance utilized African culture music, dance and stories.

The Healing Force is a family group consisting of Joseph, Gail, Karim and Sonji Anderson. Sonji attends Appalachian State University and participates in performances only during college vacations and breaks.

Many students and faculty came to see "The Rhythm of the Drum", which opened with a West African welcome song: "Funga" (welcome).

After the introduction of various instruments, such as the thumb piano, the talking drum, the *djun-djun*, and many more, the audience was asked to participate in playing the instruments.

"Audience participation is our main objective when performing. Through this exchange, we get encouragement," said Gail.

Storytelling is another aspect of the group's talents. Their stories come from West African folk traditions that tell about the drum.

This summer the group plans to travel to West Africa for 15 days. The trip will allow them to see the culture at first hand and get information straight from the people there.

The group wants to expand their presentations to all areas of the country, and invite more talented people to join them.

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