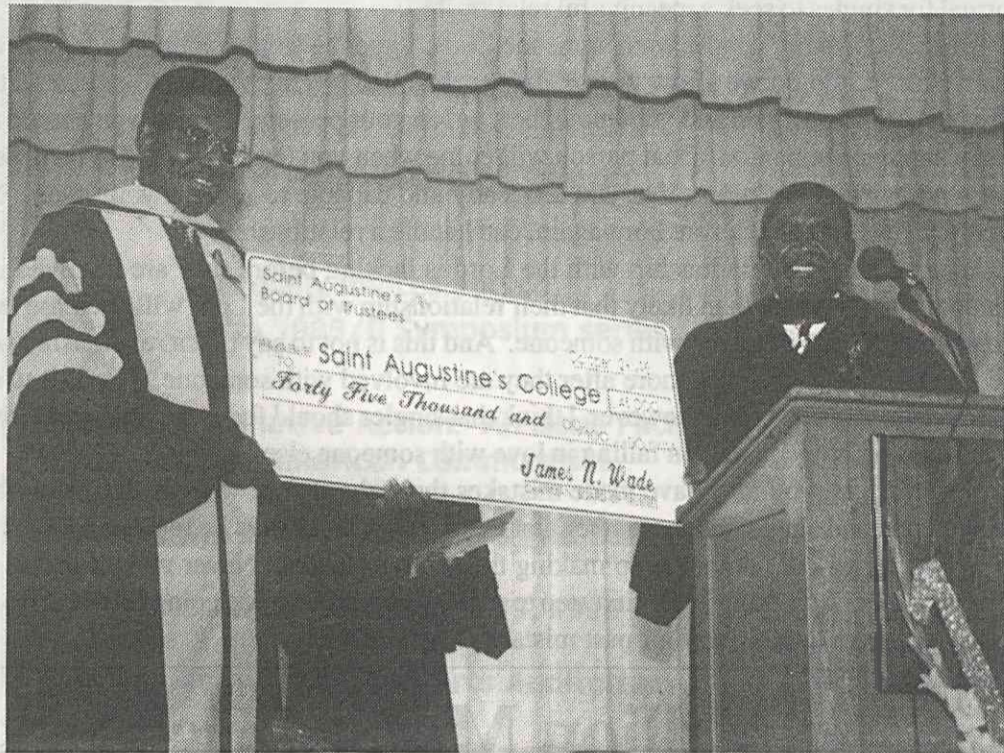




Many students attend opening convocation

by LaTonya James



President Bernard Franklin accepts a check for \$45,000 from the chairman of the Board of Trustees, Mr. James Wade, at the convocation.

This year's convocation, held October 12, had the largest attendance from the student body seen here at Saint Augustine's College in a while.

Among the many distinguished guests were Mrs. Carolyn Coleman, special assistant to the governor, the chairman of the college's board of trustees, Mr. James Wade, the SGA president, Ms. Stepheca Sawyer, and Miss Saint Augustine's College, Rashima Brooks.

The theme of the convocation's theme was "Preparing yourself for the 21st century." SGA President Sawyer stressed that administrators, faculty, and students should strengthen their focal and mental vision, "working collectively," because "that's the Falcon Way."

Brooks stressed that having the right attitude would help everyone to succeed in life.

A brief part of the ceremony was dedicated to the late Senior Vice-President and Provost, Dr. Paul Vandergrift, Jr. Dr. Bernard Franklin presented the Vandergrift family with a plaque for the services Dr. Vandergrift rendered to the college.

After the tribute, the college concert band, directed by Dr. Harold Jeffreys, gave an outstanding rendition of "Pageants of Light".

Then President Bernard Franklin introduced the chairman of the board of trustees, Mr. James Wade, who gave an informative and inspiring but brief convocation address. Chairman Wade stressed the obligations and responsibilities of the school, the students, and parents in preparing "morally grounded and spiritually based" graduates for the 21st century.

After the completion of his speech, Mr. Wade, on behalf of the board of trustees, presented a check of \$45,000 to the school. In addition, Mr. Wade gave a gift of \$100,000 to the college.

The college choir, gospel choir, and the concert band performed a joint arrangement of "America The Beautiful".

After the convocation, there was a ceremony for the naming of the new men's residence hall as the James A. Boyer Hall.

New administration, new policies

Dr. Graham Watt, the executive assistant to the president, recently spoke to LaTonya James on some of the aims and goals of the Franklin administration in preparing Saint Augustine's College for the 21st Century.

On revitalizing the organizational structure, Dr. Watt said, "One thrust was to evaluate the intricate components of operation and institute changes that would greatly improve the effectiveness and efficiency. Our approach was to restructure the organization of hierarchy that would empower leadership positions to carry out what we intended."



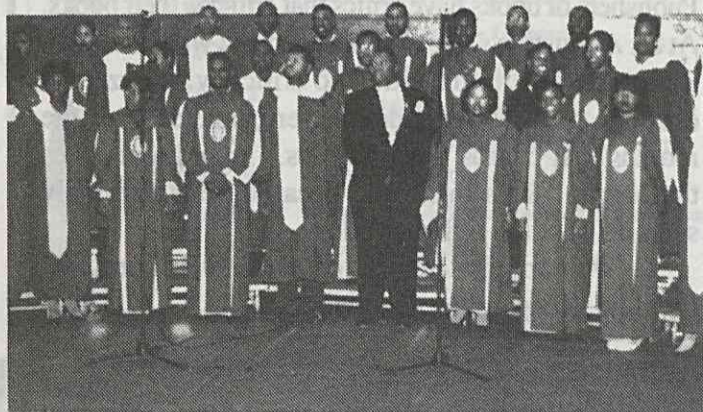
He said that the new organizational structure included a senior vice-president and provost position, to which Student and Academic Affairs would report. In addition, the provost would have responsibility for running the institution in the president's absence.

"The structure put into place September 1, 1995, was short-lived with the death of the newly appointed Senior Vice-President and Provost, Dr. Paul F. Vandergrift Jr. Despite this setback, the institution continues to move forward and the search for a new Senior Vice-President and Provost is ongoing," Watt noted.

"We (administration) want to implement changes to make this institution what we feel it should be in the 21st Century," he said.

Dr. Watt observed that one of the first things the president has in mind is to set up a committee to conduct a program review with a view to revising the curriculum. "It is important for this review to be made in order to ascertain that our graduates are competitive in an ever changing technological workplace," he said.

On working together, Dr. Watt said, "We cannot afford to make our decisions in a vacuum. We must solicit ideas from faculty, staff, and students in order to ensure that we're doing the best we can."



The College Concert and Gospel Choirs as they get ready to perform at the convocation.

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