



Founders Day Committee, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.: seated left to right - Wilma Wheeler, Lynette Hawkins, President Susie B. Nance, Viola Sharpe, Anissa Jenkins; standing left to right - Chloris Shore, Priscilla Green, Vicki Miller, Pat Ford, Janet Wheeler, Debra Grace, Georgiana McCoy, Carolyn Henderson, Hazel McCoy, Annette Wilson, Shonta Moore, D'Walla Burke, Brenda Diggs



Women of One Voice, a choir under the direction of Catherine Williams Chavis ('66), sang various selections during the breakfast.



Newly inducted silver star sorors (25 years) of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.: seated left to right - Marie Matthews, Pat Kennedy, Sandra Pennington; standing left to right - Wilma Wheeler, Lynette Hawkins, Debra Grace.



Left to right: Dr. Caroline Lattimore, Founders Day speaker and director of the 15th Mid-Atlantic Region, and Susie B. Nance, president of Phi Omega Chapter.

### AKA's Phi Omega holds Founders Day luncheon

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Phi Omega Chapter recently celebrated the "Spirit" of AKA with a grand Founders Day luncheon at the Adam's Mark.

Our very own Mid-Atlantic regional director, Soror Caroline L. Lattimore, Ph.D. was the guest speaker. Program co-chairpersons were Lynette Hawkins and Viola Sharpe. The basileus of the chapter is Susie B. Nance.



Newly inducted golden sorors (50 years) of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.: left to right - Alma Joyce, Elsie Foy, Marian Brower, Mattie Clark, Pauline Jackson.

### Bennett

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Cole said Bennett College has enhanced her life greatly. She referred to the history of Bennett College to explain how.

"I also need Bennett. Being needed is one of the most fundamental successes in life. This school began because of a deep desire of free folk in concert with some mighty righteous white folk. It began in the basement of St. Matthews United Methodist Church. I love reading the history," Cole said.

She recognized philanthropist Limon Bennett, who donated \$10,000 when the offering was lifted by free men. According to Cole, this \$10,000 would be comparable to \$20 million today.

"I remind us of the enormous value of philanthropy - giving the best you have. Mr. Bennett went on a fund-raising trip to get the money for the school. In the process of raising money, he died of pneumonia," Cole said. "Philanthropy is a sacrifice in giving. We are called as Bennett Belles to respond to this tradition. When I hear bells, I think of school bells, Sunday School bells, Bennett College. Our tradition is clearly grounded in a belief in education."

Cole quoted the words of a Mississippi slave owner from 1832.

"Knowledge and slavery are

incompatible. You can't have them together. To be free is to be educated," Cole said. "That's how Bennett College began."

Cole pointed out several virtues that will help Bennett College as she is "Soaring Towards the Heights of Her Possibilities." They included faith and service. She also described the Middle College Program at Bennett, consisting of 17-, 18- and 19-year olds who are still in the ninth grade. Half of the students are teen mothers.

"They were about to be left behind. Our young sisters were in trouble. Bennett College is now the place they will complete their high school education. They can then go directly in to Bennett College," Cole said.

The Middle College Program has a five-star day care center and each student is provided with a Bennett College big sister.

Staff members from Bennett College came out to support the White Breakfast. Bea Perdue, director of development; Sandra Johnson-Walker ('86), director of alumnae affairs; and Jacqueline Pollard, vice president - institutional advancement, offered remarks. Johnson-Walker encouraged all in attendance to renew their commitment to Bennett College.

The tradition of the White Breakfast was institutionalized at Bennett College around 1930 by President David D. Jones. He

and Susie Jones wanted to establish lasting values for the students. It usually occurred at Thanksgiving time because the students were on campus during this holiday.

An entire day was devoted to this observance. The students rose early and hiked five miles to the County Home on Market Street, bearing gifts for the elderly residents. Afterward, they returned to campus, dressed to the nines and went to Wilbur Steele Hall for breakfast.

This version of the White Breakfast was observed until 1937. According to Gloria Wilson ('75), president of the Winston-Salem chapter, this tradition was canceled during the fiscal year 1965-66 because the students went home for the holiday. However, it was modified and reinstated as an alumnae weekend activity in 1976 during the golden anniversary of Bennett as a college for women. Today, the White Breakfast is used by many alumnae chapters as a fund-raiser for their chapters.

Several alumni chapters were in the audience such as the St. Paul Alumni Chapter, Asheville, Greensboro, High Point and Winston-Salem. There were also members of the National Alumnae Association in the audience.

Gloria Wilson serves as recording secretary; Marilyn King, financial secretary; and Gwendelin Crawford, treasurer.

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