Greetings:

Bennett College’s early beginning started in 1873 when emancipated slaves founded an institution to educate men and women at the elementary and secondary levels. Nearly 50 years later, Bennett College was founded to train young ladies to become cultured members of society. Our College with its traditions, White Breakfests, ACES seminars and other activities that foster sisterhood, has evolved into one of the nation’s only two historically black women’s college. It survived the depression, segregation, the great migration to the North, the separatist movement, the civil rights movement, integration and remains a place where women who come in ready to learn and change their lives, leave competent, competitive, and cultured – ready to make their mark on the world.

In this issue of the Belle Ringer we highlight some of these women, who provided their information, as we celebrate the 90th anniversary of Bennett as a women’s college. Our graduates have achieved remarkable success in politics, education, law, medicine, engineering, communications, social work, business and all walks of life. Among the alumnae featured is Marissa Jennings, ’03 who was recently honored at the White House as a “Champion of Change” for providing a platform where African-American girls can have a voice in modern technology.

The 2016 Bell Ringer also includes an article written by Theresa Bennett Wilkes, ’72, that chronicles Bennett College “Striving and Thriving” through various times in the history of the U.S. Theresa includes interviews with several alumnae from various periods about their Bennett College experiences. We have included several other features about faculty and students as well as our standing features such as “News from Bennett College,” “Alumnae/Commencement Weekend 2015,” “Chapter Happenings,” and “Belle Notes.” Please enjoy this special edition as we recognize Bennett’s 90th Anniversary.

Yours In Sisterhood,
Audrey Demps Franklin, ’72
Executive Director, Alumnae Affairs

Sharon Saunders
Chief Communications and Marketing Officer
President: Rosalind Fuse-Hall, J.D.
Vice President for Institutional Advancement: Evelyn P. Leathers
Co-editors: Audrey Demps Franklin ’72, Sharon P Saunders
Contributing Writers: Chelsea Moore ’17, Theresa Bennett-Wilkes ’72
Photography: Howard Gaither, Sharon Saunders
Graphic Artist: Sherry Poole Clark
Printer: Whistle Stop Press

CONTENTS

2  The Sound of the Belle
3  Message from the President
4  Vice President for Advancement
6  Striving, Surviving and Thriving
23  90th Anniversary Schedule of Events
24  Honoring Legacy Belles
38  75th Anniversary of the Chapel
39  Black Girl Magic
40  Miss Bennett College
42  Student Interns
44  Belle Notes
46  Chapter Happenings
48  Belle Necrology
49  Chapter Presidents/Chapter Giving
51  NAA Honorees
52  Reunion Classes
54  Commencement Weekend
56  News from Bennett
59  Alumnae Coordinators
60  Faculty Members
63  Forms
64  Belle Merchandise
Greetings My Bennett Sisters and Supporters of Bennett College:

As always, I must start this letter by expressing my gratitude to you for your continued support of Bennett College with your time, talents and treasures! I am so very proud that we have been named the #2 HBCU with our percentage of giving.

Our goals for this year are to increase our percentage of giving, increase our total giving (I know we can hit the million dollar mark again) and to increase our support with recruiting and helping to retain students. As a small private College, we are “tuition driven,” so that means that we need financial support and increased enrollment/retention. We have our sisters in the Admissions Office and they are led by Jocelyn Biggs ’94 and Evelyn Bryant-Rogers ’13. We have some challenging times and need your support!!!

I also want to remind you that the National Alumnae Association (NAA) need your support. We contribute greatly to our students and student activities; however, this cannot be done unless we receive your National dues. You will find information in this edition of the Belle Ringer.

So far this year, Executive Committee members have made visitations to Chapter events/meetings and an event honoring one of our illustrious Alumnae. These include Metro Atlanta, Baltimore, Durham, Winston-Salem, Gastonia, and Philadelphia. More visitations are planned for this Spring. Please make sure you advise us of your activities.

This year, Bennett has two celebrations, our 90th year as a Women’s College and the 75th year of the Chapel. Various celebratory events are under way and you will be hearing more information.

The NAA is announcing two contests. **Contest One** is to write and submit a new traditional song to join the repertoire of songs including “Tell Me Why,” “The Bennett Ideal” and “The Preference Song.” **Contest Two** is to write and submit a litany that can be used at various Alumnae events. Information about these contests are found in this edition of the Belle Ringer.

Finally, we welcome you back for Alumnae Weekend 2016.

Thank you so much again for your support!

Sisterly,
Deborah Tillman Love ’79
National President.

---

Note: For online payments go to www.bennett.edu and press online giving. Do not forget about matching gifts (check with your company for more details.)
Message from the President

Dear Bennett Alumnae:

Greetings to each of you on behalf of the Board of Trustees, faculty, staff and students of Bennett College where we provide an education for the future of our students. This year is significant in that we are celebrating our 90th year as a women's college. Transitioning from a seminary founded by emancipated slaves in 1873, to a college under the Freedman's Aid Society, to the re-establishment in 1926 as a Women's College, has been a bold and often courageous journey. But, we arrive today standing erect, firmly planted upon our historical beginning and facing a bright future. As we recognize this milestone, we have a host of activities planned and hope you will enjoy the celebrations, seminars and lectures.

Today, Bennett College remains an institution full of promise. It has evolved into the U.S. News and World Report’s Best No. 1 private Historically Black College in North Carolina, educating about 500 undergraduate women each year.

Our work prepares women who are competent, confident, cultured and committed to social justice. Ninety years after its founding, we are preparing our students for a complex and competitive world by endowing them with communication and leadership skills; enhancing their global acumen; and refining their entrepreneurial prowess.

As we celebrate 90 years, we must remember that we were built on the shoulders of giants who always understood that a good education compliments the Christian experience. In the spirit of this celebration, let us join forces and work toward continued growth and success of our beloved Bennett College.

Sincerely,
Rosalind Fuse-Hall
President
Greetings Bennett Belles:

In the Division of Institutional Advancement, we are looking forward to a great year as we work to augment the college’s finances through various fundraising initiatives. As one of the newest administrators on the team, I must admit that I am excited about the opportunity to serve at Bennett College. I have worked as a development officer and executive in fund raising for more than 20 years and I want to make a significant difference at Bennett College and in the community.

I also think it is appropriate to applaud the leadership of the National Alumnae Association, Deborah Love, and the Executive Director of Alumnae Affairs, Audrey Franklin, for their outstanding work. Congratulations on being ranked No. 2 among HBCUs in alumnae giving with a rate of 38.2 percent – that is outstanding.

During my tenure in development, I have worked with various foundations to garner support for educational institutions and I will continue those efforts and others that will help build Bennett College’s financial resources and its endowment.

As we prepare for success in fundraising, we must remember that teamwork is essential. While I have generated reliable sources throughout the years for networking in this area, I will still need your help in cultivating donors. I want to also support Bennett College’s effort in creating a culture of philanthropy. This year, we have asked our faculty and staff to increase their giving efforts. We want to make sure that the individuals who benefit greatly from Bennett College see the value in giving back. Additionally, we want all of our donors to see how we are great stewards of the funds we receive through action and follow through.

As we celebrate our 90th Anniversary, let’s join forces to make 2016 one of the college’s best year ever in the area of fundraising.

Sincerely,

Evelyn P. Leathers
Vice President for Institutional Advancement

Bennett College is a United Methodist Church-related institution.

Bennett College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033; 404-679-4500, www.sacscoc.org; the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE); and the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). Bennett College is a United Methodist Church-related institution.

Bennett College prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age or status as a disabled veteran in admission, access to, treatment of, or employment in its programs or activities.
CELEBRATING 90 YEARS AS A WOMEN’S COLLEGE
BENNETT COLLEGE:

STRIVING, SURVIVING AND THRIVING

Written by Theresa W. Bennett-Wilkes, ’72

"The true worth of a race must be measured by the character of its womanhood."

MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE

More than one hundred forty years after its founding Bennett College is striving, surviving and thriving. The campus, a collection of stately red brick buildings, located in southeast Greensboro between East Lee Street and the railroad tracks, has weathered storms of every kind: physical, social, managerial, administrative, and academic. The steeple of the Annie Merner Pfeiffer Chapel is a reassuring reminder of her presence and staying power.

Her story is intertwined with the history of this nation. Her value, meaning and appeal are best understood - and appreciated - from the vantage point of graduates whose reminiscences offer insight into what makes Bennett special. Six Belles, Lois Joseph McGlockton, ’08, a benefits specialist with Aetna Insurance; April Gordon Dawson, ’88, an assistant professor, North Carolina Central University Law School; Bertha Irene Burris McLendon, ’68, assistant director, Sponsored Programs, North Carolina A & T State University; Dr. Linda Beatrice Brown, ’61, retired professor of Humanities and the Willa B. Player Professor, Bennett College; Loretta Free McKee, ’56, a retired educator; and Blanche Graves Williams, ’46, also a retired educator, whose association with Alma Mater Bennett span nearly 70 of those years shared their thoughts, memories, assessments on the college’s longevity and hopes for its future.
Striving, Surviving

and thriving

Written by Theresa W. Bennett-Wilkes, '72
Why Bennett?

“Mom strongly encouraged me [to attend Bennett]. She wanted all of us to leave California and go to school. She was a fan of HBCUs and a particular fan of Bennett College,” explained Belle April Dawson ‘88. “I wasn’t very diligent about applying to colleges – I didn’t even take the SAT. I think Bennett was the only school I applied to.”

“I was a student at William Penn… in High Point. A recruiter came to my high school and talked to the guidance counselor who recommended me,” recalled Belle Bertha McLendon ‘68. “I didn’t want to go to an all girls’ school. The guidance counselor spoke to my mother, who was a domestic worker, and she thought it was a good idea. I never applied to any other colleges. I am the first person in my family of seven children to go to college…”

“I didn’t choose [Bennett]. Some white Methodist women went to the pastor of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Portland, OR - Rev. Browning C. Allen - and told him they were looking for a colored girl to attend Bennett College in Greensboro. They had a scholarship. The Allen’s told them about me and I was given the scholarship…,” explained Belle Blanche Williams ‘46.

“I chose Bennett because of [a] family tradition,” stated Belle Loretta McKee ‘56. “I’m United Methodist. My mother went to Bennett when it was a high school. Living on campus was attractive to me…”

Belle Linda Brown ‘61 recalled her decision to become a Belle as “Mostly… a family affair. My aunt, Dr. Willa B. Player, was here as president and my two older sisters, Dolores… and Barbara ‘56…had already graduated. I had been here a lot as a child visiting… I was very familiar with the campus and I really liked it. I didn’t have any problem coming behind my sisters. It was the natural thing to do…”

“I chose Bennett because it was an all women’s college in the south and also I wanted to get away from the North. I’m from Boston, MA,” said Belle Lois McGlockton ‘08.
“An education...about ourselves would empower black women because it would help us understand the source of our powerlessness. And, understanding is always the first step towards change.”

DR. JOHNNETTA BETSCH COLE
14TH PRESIDENT

Bennett College has, for the past one hundred forty-one years, been committed to educating the progeny of former slaves. Its continued existence is a testament to the vision of its founders and the combined energy and efforts of its leadership, administrators, faculty, staff, students, alumnae, and friends. An awareness of the historical context within which this school came into being is crucial to understanding its resilience. From 1873 to 1926 it was coeducational, providing access to education in a nation which prided itself on being a democracy even as it unabashedly - and systemically - disenfranchised, abused, ostracized, and terrorized the descendants of the former slaves who built it.
Bennett has survived and thrived through twenty-five presidential administrations. Ulysses S. Grant, the eighteenth president, was in his second term when the college was founded. North Carolina, which seceded – in the wake of the Civil War – on May 20, 1861, rejoined the Union July 4, 1868. The U.S. was a federation of thirty seven states whose boundaries extended west of the Mississippi to Oregon, admitted February 14, 1859 as the 33rd state. Nebraska, the 37th state, was admitted March 1, 1857.

Newly freed Blacks began the process of integrating into American society as citizens of the nation built with their labor and little or no recognition or compensation – a debt which remains unpaid. As the War Between the States ended and the Confederacy unraveled, an insidious form of domestic terrorism – whose reach and ramifications continue to have a pernicious impact – emerged. Formed by white supremacists, and supported by political, social and religious organizations, the most prominent group, founded in 1865, was the Ku Klux Klan. It grew out of a club for Confederate soldiers in Pulaski, TN. Although congress passed the Ku Klux Klan Act in 1871 granting states the power to combat terrorist acts, the Supreme Court declared it unconstitutional in 1882.

Despite the increasingly hostile environment, the future looked promising during Bennett’s early years. The first African-Americans were elected to congress: Joseph Rainey, born into slavery in Georgetown, SC, was a successful barber whose father purchased the family’s freedom. Rainey became the first Black to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives. Elected to the 41st Congress in 1868, he served for a decade before being defeated. Hiram Rhodes Revels, an ordained itinerant elder in the A.M.E. Church was the second Black elected to congress. He was the senator from Mississippi from February 23, 1870 to March 31, 1871.

Blanche Kelso Bruce was the first African-American to serve a full term in the U.S. senate: from 1874 to 1881. He was also the first African-American to preside over the senate. Meanwhile, Pinckney Benton Stewart Pinchback was elected to the Louisiana State Senate in 1868. He became Lieutenant Governor in 1871 and governor on December 8, 1872. Pinchback served in this capacity for 36 days.

“It grew out of a club for Confederate soldiers in Pulaski, TN. Although congress passed the Ku Klux Klan Act in 1871 granting states the power to combat terrorist acts, the Supreme Court declared it unconstitutional in 1882.

“…I participated in the Long Walk [August 2012]. I listened to the speakers and observed the students. This school is built on love,” says Belle McLendon. “We have wonderful administrators. I think the future is filled with fantastic and outstanding opportunities for Bennett graduates. That’s my prayer – that it will continue to be a college that requires the best.”
Segregation was a way of life by the turn of the century, having been firmly established by the federal judiciary in *Plessy v. Ferguson*, a ruling whose aftermath continues to highlight the uneasy relationship between white America and an increasingly non-white populace. Homer Plessy, a free black born in New Orleans in 1862 was arrested June 7, 1892 for violating Louisiana’s Separate Car Act. He was characterized as 7/8 white, or an octoroon, under the state’s feudal caste system. Plessy agreed to participate in a test case whose outcome formally legalized segregation and discrimination through a policy known as separate but equal.

His role was part of a planned challenge mounted by the Citizens’ Committee to Test the Constitutionality of the Separate Car Law, a small group of black professionals in New Orleans, formed in 1891. They retained Albion Tourgée as their legal representative. After successfully leading a test case in which a state district court declared forced segregation in

In view of the Constitution, in the eyes of the law, there is in this country no superior, dominant ruling class of citizens.

ASSOCIATE SUPREME COURT JUSTICE JOHN MARSHALL HARLAN
DISSENT, PLESSY V. FERGUSON
railroad cars traveling between states to be unconstitutional, the committee was eager to take on the constitutionality of segregation on railroad cars operating solely within a single state. Their strategy was to have someone with mixed blood violate the law thus enabling Tourgée to question its arbitrariness. Plessy, a native of south Louisiana who could pass for white, agreed to participate. The committee arranged with the railroad conductor and a private detective to detain him until he was arrested. When Plessy appeared before the Louisiana District Court, the ruling handed down affirmed the state's constitutional power to regulate railroad companies operating solely within its borders. It upheld the Louisiana Separate Car Act. The decision was appealed to the state supreme court in 1893 and the US Supreme Court in 1896.

Tourgée and his colleagues had solidified their approach by the time the case reached the Supreme Court. He argued Plessy was denied his equal protection rights under the Fourteenth Amendment and his rights under the Thirteenth Amendment were violated through the perpetuation of the essential features of slavery. Six of the seven justices who heard the case were unconvinced. They decided neither the Thirteenth nor the Fourteenth Amendments were applicable. The majority opinion, written by Justice Henry Billings Brown attacked Plessy's 13th Amendment claims by distinguishing between political and social equality.

“…The constitutionality of this act is attacked upon the ground that it conflicts both with the Thirteenth Amendment of the Constitution, abolishing slavery, and the 14th Amendment, which prohibits certain restrictive legislation on the part of the State.

Associate Justice John Marshall Harlan questioned the constitutionality of the Louisiana Separate Car Act in his dissenting opinion.

“I am of the opinion that the statute of Louisiana is inconsistent with the personal liberty of citizens, white and black, in that State, and hostile to both the spirit and letter of the Constitution of the United States…”

Dr. Esther Terry, '61, is the only Bennett College graduate to serve as president.
Bennett College continues to strive, survive and thrive absorbing the changing attitudes and vicissitudes of a country in transition. Throughout its history, this institution of higher learning has been a fertile staging ground. It facilitates an environment conducive to broadening horizons and stimulating intellectual growth as demonstrated through memories of life on campus.

“I remember] the sisterhood with other Belles,” said Belle McGlockton. “… the camaraderie. The professors … who tried to help any way they could. I also recall how we came together and rallied until our voices could be heard when we thought Dr. Cole was being asked to leave or was planning to leave. We put our differences aside – whatever came between us and came together and I’ll never forget that.”

“I know what Bennett was then, what it is now, and I have a good idea of what it can be in the future. Bennett is a growing college, destined to be a first-rate performer on the world stage.”

DR. ESTHER TERRY, ’61, 16TH PRESIDENT OF BENNETT COLLEGE

DCF 16.jpg

“[I remember] how wonderful it [Bennett] was,” said Belle Williams. “My parents didn’t want me to go. My mother thought I had a big mouth and would say something that would get me lynched. I talked an awful lot.”

“The sisterhood,” affirmed Belle McKee. “We had exposure [to] all the speakers who came: Benjamin Mayes, Mordecai Johnson. I was very much impressed with Prexy. It was just that he knew … and loved all of us. And Dr. Player, of course, didn’t miss a beat. She moved right in and kept the traditions … [and] … the legacy going.

“I remember] how wonderful it [Bennett] was,” said Belle Williams. “My parents didn’t want me to go. My mother thought I had a big mouth and would say something that would get me lynched. I talked an awful lot.”

“The sisterhood,” affirmed Belle McKee. “We had exposure [to] all the speakers who came: Benjamin Mayes, Mordecai Johnson. I was very much impressed with Prexy. It was just that he knew … and loved all of us. And Dr. Player, of course, didn’t miss a beat. She moved right in and kept the traditions … [and] … the legacy going.
Vespers, I loved that exposure…. We respected our chapel – we had chapel every day except Wednesday. We left our books outside. It didn’t matter, they were in place when you got out. I thought that was interesting. I remember wearing the hats and gloves to go downtown… The beauty work, chores, educational pillars. We also had the skills that led you to seek work – gainful employment and careers. Prexy thought you needed practical skills to live. We bussed tables and worked as waitresses.”

“For the first time in my life I was in the majority in terms of race and gender,” recalled Belle Dawson. “That…took an adjustment. In terms of… being 3,000 miles from home and making the trip on the bus…Greensboro is … culturally different from southern California…I was a curiosity…even [when] interacting with other young black women…the way I talked, the way I dressed was a curiosity. I was an outsider…[yet] I recall feeling very comfortable, very at home, very supported…the faculty, the administration were looking out for my best interests. They were invested in my success…” “There’s a long list of things,” said Belle Brown. “The friendships, some of which have lasted all these fifty years. The wonderful professors. The vesper services and chapel, which was inspiring to me and being a member of the choir.”

“It was drilled in us that we represented this college,” recalled Belle McLendon. “…they admonished us to wear hats and gloves off campus. The classes were small enough that you weren’t afraid to approach your professors. We were expected to have a career. Even though we went to chapel every day, we were still expected to go to church on Sundays. We had big balls when the boys from Morehouse came. I stayed on campus during the summer. I met girls from all across the country. I learned to wear make-up and got my ears pierced. While I was [at Bennett] a new dorm for seniors was built. I had the same room-mate for four years. Her name was Juanita White.”
Bennett College continued to strive, survive and thrive as it approached its golden anniversary. The U.S. Constitution was amended three more times. The most significant was Article XIX which granted women the right to vote. North Carolina was poised to become the 36th – and final – state to ratify, however, members of the general assembly, and the governor opposed it. On August 20, 1920, state senator, Lindsay Warren proposed postponement of the ratification vote until the next legislative session. His motion passed and two days later the House of Representatives rejected ratification. North Carolina did not officially ratify the XIX amendment until 1971, more than fifty years later. Mississippi is the last state to ratify.

Perhaps the single most important event of the early twentieth century was commencement of the mass exodus of Blacks from the south known as the Great Migration, which, according to Isabel Wilkerson, in her groundbreaking study, *The Warmth of Other Suns*, began around 1915 and ended around 1970.

“From the early years of the twentieth century to well past its middle age, nearly every black family in the American south, which meant nearly every black family in America, had a decision to make… It was during the First World War that a silent pilgrimage took its first steps within the borders of this country … It would

Only the black woman can say, “When and where I enter, in the quiet, undisputed dignity of my womanhood, without violence and without suing or special patronage, then and there the whole Negro race enters with me.”

ANNA JULIA COOPER
not end until the 1970s and would set into
cision changes in the North and South
that no one, not even the people doing
the leaving could have imagined. It would
become perhaps the biggest underreported
story of the twentieth century. It was vast. It
was leaderless …

Over the course of six decades, some six
million black southerners left the land of
their forefathers and fanned out across the
country for an uncertain existence in nearly
every other corner of America …” Bennett
College continued to strive, survive and
thrive. Fifty-three years later, David Dallas
Jones, affectionately dubbed Prexy, became
the ninth president. Bennett was now
officially a college for women.
We live in a culture which celebrates youth. Aging – which occurs daily – is approached as something which should be accomplished in a specific way. Graceful is a popular adjective used to describe a process which is often anything but. Growing older, reaching milestones marked by the passing of time is a gift. Anyone who appreciates the value of having been around for a while, understands growing older has meaning.

The late comedian, Richard Pryor once quipped, “You don’t get to be old by being no fool.” Hidden in plain sight is a profound understatement which speaks to the wisdom of lessons learned, the grace of mistakes forgiven and the dignity of persevering. Why and how has Bennett College continued to strive, survive and thrive for more than one hundred and forty-three years against a backdrop of racial, sexual, and religious intolerance, state sanctioned discrimination, exclusionary laws couched in codes, covenants and restrictions, economic and political disenfranchisement, and an unrelenting wealth gap which just keeps growing? How, then, has a Bennett College education impacted the lives of its graduates?

“This value-centered education, in a nutshell,” says Belle Brown. “We have something here that people want. Sometimes they don’t even know they want it. This regard for the individual, this caring, this sense that you are somebody. People need this more than ever. This is why I think we have lasted. And the graduates know it ... [but] ... the world doesn’t ... Service at Bennett went from visiting the old folks’ home on Thanksgiving to going to jail.”

“In so many ways,” said Belle Williams. “I was so glad to go to college. It opened up opportunities for me to express myself ... It gave me something to want to do. I met people I wouldn’t otherwise have met.”

“In two ways,” explained Belle Dawson. “My first job after graduating was a programmer at Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico. I worked there two summers. The ... program was geared toward students attending HBCU ... [and] ... led to full time employment.
“Profoundly,” asserted Belle Brown. “In the first place, it prepared me for graduate school. I found I was very well prepared – I was confident. In practical terms that was probably the most important thing…It’s a value-centered education as opposed to just the facts. Equally, the way of life at Bennett has been very important. By that I mean the emphasis on service and excellence. There’s so much it’s difficult to summarize.”

“I have a college degree,” Belle McGlockton stated with pride. “I’m one of those who is fortunate [enough] to say, ‘I graduated from a Black woman’s college.’ I was able to build a stronger sisterhood with more seasoned Belles and the alumnas body.”

“…It’s an honor to be a graduate of Bennett College because people have confidence in your ability…With a college degree you’re able to get better paying jobs and my family was so proud. I thank God for putting Bennett in my path,” explained Belle McLendon. “I think my faith grew stronger at Bennett and helped me as a married woman and later as a single parent. From humble beginnings to having two beautiful children, Nicole and Martin, who are both college graduates doing well in their chosen professions…”

“It’s as simple as the confident, accomplished, productive Black women the school [graduates],” said Belle Dawson. “It’s not just career – even the ones who go on to make great mothers. We have a core group who are… training their daughters…and] nieces in the Bennett tradition of can do. My two daughters, regardless of where they go to college, have benefited from me being a Bennett Belle and they know about Bennett. The same is true for my two sons. They are better young black men because I’m a product of Bennett.”

**History belongs to she who holds the pen… If we don’t tell our stories, they won’t be told.**

JULIANNE MALVEAUX, 15TH PRESIDENT OF BENNETT COLLEGE

**W**

hat has contributed to Alma Mater Bennett’s longevity?

“Determination,” says Belle McGlockton. “Determination of the students, faculty, staff, alumnae. This determination just helped Bennett to strive to be better. Also, its history – because of what Bennett stands for. During the sixties Bennett empowered students…[with] love and [encouraged] them to stay strong – there’s so much history there…”

“Her ability to embrace women of all backgrounds and for them to graduate and have a successful life,” adds Belle McLendon. “Bennett College has a knack for pulling women in and encouraging them to be better people…the beautiful campus offers a loving environment and a quiet place where you can think. [The] expectation [is] to do the best you can and be the best you can.”

“The quality of education,” says Belle Williams. “The interest Prexy had in his students.”

“The early leadership…[of] President Jones and Dr. Player,” offered Belle McKee. “The United Methodist Church has done its part, endowing her with purpose. Strong traditions – its purpose being fulfilled in educating and training young women.”
Have you grown to the point where you can unflinchingly stand up for the right, for that which is honorable, honest, truthful, whether it makes you popular or unpopular? Have you grown to the point where absolutely and unreservedly you make truth and honor your standard of thinking and speaking?

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON

Bennett College has survived – and thrived – because of her contributions. She isn’t growing old gracefully, rather she is continually adapting to a rapidly changing globally interconnected community by remaining true to her mission.

“To continue to carry on the tradition of producing strong black women,” says Belle Dawson. “I am incredibly grateful that I went to Bennett, was nurtured by Bennett and I hope I am making the institution proud. I am living my life consistent with the Bennett ideal. It’s not just the moral aspect – it’s also the notion of empowerment … pride in culture … self and community. I know I am a more nurturing professor because I’m the product of an HBCU. My students appreciate that I am a double HBCU graduate. I think there will always be a need for HBCUs; there will also be a need for institutions to nurture Black women. There’s never going to be a one size fits all. There will always be some young women who will especially benefit from what Bennett has to offer.”

“I think it’s the one place where a girl who has the desire can be molded into a success,” observed Belle Williams.

“Just the thought of being a Bennett Belle makes you feel you can do anything,” says Belle McLendon. “You feel strong and empowered because you have so many role models and you see them doing mighty works in their communities, on their jobs and in their homes. Bennett teaches us to reach out and help others. And as long as we keep doing that God will bless us.”
What does the future hold? For many it is the promise of something better, nobler and more worthy. It’s frame of reference to embrace and a state of being to aspire to. What is ahead for Bennett?

“…Expansion, growth, success,” says Belle McGlockton. “So many of us have grown to love its history and culture. If they continue to do outreach around the world, and promote Bennett, I feel like a lot of people will start gravitating to Bennett.”

“Keep the traditions…worth remembering alive – those…on which the future is based – [keep them] in the forefront. Traditions such as emphasizing self-worth, the feeling that you have the ability to advance in society,” says Belle McKee.

“If you give Bennett a chance, you’ll definitely come to love it,” asserts Belle McGlockton.

Bennett College remains committed to its mission and in the process produces graduates who are competent, well-prepared, capable, confident, and concerned. Women who are ready, willing and able to serve, lead, guide, manage, and direct. Bennett College: striving, surviving and thriving.

Without a doubt, Bennett College was built to make a difference and she has made a difference and with all of our assistance, she is prepared to make a difference in the future.

ROALIND FUSE-HALL
17TH PRESIDENT

Note: Since this article was written, Bertha McLendon has retired from A & T State University. Blanche Graves Williams made her transition April 24, 2015.
Greensboro — Bennett College celebrates its 90th anniversary this year as a women’s college and has a series of events scheduled to mark the milestone.

“Here at Bennett College we develop young women into future teachers, scientists, journalists, entrepreneurs, social workers, and the list goes on—because we go on,” said Bennett College President Rosalind Fuse-Hall. “As we celebrate 90 years of Bennett College, we also celebrate 90 years of sisters who have come together on this campus, sisters who developed into more than just graduates and achievers. Bennett Belles know that there is no limit to what they can do, because no does not mean never.”

Bennett College was founded in 1873 by emancipated slaves in the basement of Warnersville Methodist Episcopal Church. Seventy young men and women started a school of elementary and secondary level studies. In 1874, the college was under the Freedmen’s Aid Society for the next five years and in 1926, Bennett College was officially named a Women’s College. Although Bennett College is a historically Black college, the college has both faculty and students who are from very diverse backgrounds.

Ms. Deborah Love, who is the President of Bennett College National Alumnae Association, and Ms. Keri Petersen, assistant professor of history in the College’s Department of Humanities are chairing the planning committee. The events planned to highlight the anniversary are as follows:

**FEBRUARY**

2/25, 26, 27
7:30 p.m.
Little Theatre
*The Spirit of Harriet Tubman*

2/22 - 2/26
Gordon Parks Film Festival, hosted by the Journalism and Media Studies Department, will feature Antonio Fargas, David Parks and rare historical films.

**MARCH**

Beginning of retrospective film series screening of path breaking films that were produced by young, Black women filmmakers, highlighting Black women and social justice. Many of these films made their premiere at Bennett College. This month’s film will be “Silent Choices.”

3/19, 8 a.m.
There will be a seminar by United Methodist Women - Northern Piedmont District on immigration, with an opening segment on the relationship between the Women’s Division and Trustee’s, and the Bennett Community to transform Bennett from a coed institution to a women’s college.

3/23, 7 p.m.
GLC AUDITORIUM
*“Beekeeper: Performing Black Southern Women Who Love Women,”* by E. Patrick Johnson, Carlos Montezuma Professor of Performance Studies and African American Studies at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill.

**APRIL**

Africana Women’s Studies (AWS)/History, Philosophy, Religion and Interdisciplinary Studies (HPRIS) presents Retrospective Film Series, No! *The Rape Documentary*. (Date and Time TBA)

Program by Sociologist, and Director of Africana Studies, Dr. Ellington Graves, from Virginia Tech. (Event, Date and Time To Be Confirmed)

**SEPTEMBER**

9/26 - 9/28
Historic Site Tour of Bennett College, as part of the North Carolina Preservation Statewide Conference, highlighting Bennett College’s history as a women’s college, and the 75th anniversary of the Annie Merner Pfeiffer Chapel.

**Other Events (dates and time TBA):**

Fall 2016
Black Women and Public History - features a panel of young Black women preservationists led by the Director of Programs and Collections at the Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, TN.

Presentation by Bennett Alumna, Dr. Tia Smith, head of communications at Xavier University

AWS/HPRIS Retrospective Film Series continues with: Susie Powell’s “The Loving Story”; “Black./Woman. Conversations with Lesbians of African Descent” and “The New Black.”

For more information on the Anniversary Celebration events, www.bennett.edu
Cherishing the Legacy of our Past and Acknowledging the Achievements of our Present

Bennett College Belles in Motion
1930's

The Bennett Four - the first women who graduated from Bennett College as a four year liberal arts college for women. Ruth Artis Whitfield - the first librarian at Bennett. Maggie Simpson Matthews - the first African American Director of the YWCA in Detroit, Michigan. Margaret Dean Freeman - the first African American hired as a retail sales person who later joined her husband to establish their own clothing business. Alma Tarpley Taylor - the first President of the National Alumnae Association.

MAIDE RUTH GAMBLE NORMAN ‘38

Belle Norman was an actress who appeared in various movies such as Whatever Happened to Baby Jane, Airport 77, Halloween III, A Raisin in the Sun and also in the television series Dragnet and Days of Our Lives to name a few. Belle Norman’s acting career began in the late 1940’s at a time when African-American actors were not given many opportunities to showcase their acting skills and talent. She was known for refusing to play her character in What Ever Happened to Baby Jane? in a stereotypically demeaning manner and even rewrote some of her lines to eliminate “old slavery-time talk.” While Hollywood offered her limited parts, Maide was able to play leading roles on the stage; she also appeared in numerous made-for- television films and mini-series. In addition to her acting career, Belle Norman taught drama at Stanford University and the University of California at Los Angeles, where she established a pioneering course on the history of blacks in American theater. Over the course of her long career, Belle Norman received numerous awards for her acting, including the Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame Award in 1977 which was one of the highlights of her career. Even though her experience of acting in early Hollywood cinema was typical for African-American actors, she was able to bring dignity to the characters she played.

1940’s

CLARICE GAMBLE HERBERT ’40

Belle Herbert was the first African-American woman to assume directorship of a YWCA in Philadelphia. Herbert was part of a remarkable family that moved to Lima from Villa Rica, Georgia, in 1916. Her father, L.C. Gamble, was one of Lima’s first black policemen, served as a trustee of Wilberforce College and helped found Bradfield Center when his sons, James and Louis Jr., were not allowed to join the YMCA. He also was active in Republican Party politics for 37 years before his death in 1961. Her sister, Maide Norman was a stage, film and television actress, who, among her many roles, appeared with Bette Davis and Joan Crawford in Whatever Happened to Baby Jane? In 1920, when the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote was ratified, her mother, Lila Graham Gamble, was the first woman in Lima to cast a vote. Belle Herbert, who, during her high school and college years was involved with the YWCA, became a volunteer desk clerk with the YWCA in Lima in the early 1940s. “Growing up black and having goals that, for a while, I thought were unachievable, the YWCA sort of helped me reach some of the goals I had for myself,” Belle Herbert said in a Oct. 19, 1997 news article, when she became one of 11 women inducted into the Ohio Women’s Hall of Fame.

DR. DOROTHY BROWN ’41

Belle Brown was the first woman to practice general surgery in the South and eventually being made chief of surgery at Nashville’s Riverside Hospital. She interned for a year at Harlem Hospital in New York City, but was rejected when she applied for a surgical residency. At the time, many in the medical profession did not believe a woman, let alone a black woman, could handle the rigors of surgical training. Dorothy turned to Dr. Matthew Walker, Meharry Medical College’s longtime chief of surgery, for help. Against the advice of his staff, Walker asked Brown to join the faculty and she became a professor of surgery in 1957, a job she held until 1983. She was also the first African American woman to be made a fellow of the American College of Surgeons. Dorothy’s determination, beliefs, and values helped her to break through barriers in other aspects of her life. In 1956, she became the first single adoptive parent in Tennessee and then, in 1966, when redistricting opened the door for an African American candidate, Belle Brown was asked to run for a seat in the state legislature and won becoming the first black woman representative to the state legislature. She was successful in getting a law passed that allowed single women to adopt children in the state of Tennessee. Among Brown’s many honors are the Dorothy L. Brown Women’s Residence at Meharry College in 1970, the humanitarian award from the Carnegie Foundation in 1993 and the prestigious Horatio Alger Award in 1994. As she often said, she was proud to be a role model, “not because I have done so much, but to say to young people that it can be done.”

DR. LUCILLE COLE THOMAS ’41

Belle Thomas serves on the 38-member Board of Trustees of the Brooklyn (NY) Public Library. She was appointed to this position by the Mayor of the City of New York. Each mayor has reappointed her since 1983. During that time she has served as president, vice president and chair of committees of the Board. Just recently, the Brooklyn Public Library named an award in her honor. The Lucille Cole Thomas award will be given annually to a staff member who meets the established requirements of excellence. She served as director of libraries for all elementary and middle schools for the City of New York. She is a certified librarian with a Master of Library Science degree from Columbia University. She is an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. where she is an active member of Eta Omega Omega Chapter and has served as President and Co-Coordinator of their cluster.

DR. ALICE HOLLOWAY YOUNG ’44

Belle Young is a gifted teacher, an untiring advocate and administrator. As a founding trustee of Monroe Community College, and as the chair from 1978 to 1998, she provided leadership that helped MCC become a premier institution. Belle Young was among
the first African-American teachers, and the first African-American reading specialist, vice principal, and principal respectively in New York State retiring in 1985 as supervising director of elementary instruction. Other “firsts” include the first African-American Title I Director of programs for educationally and economically deprived children and the author and supervisor of the District’s first integration programs, the Urban Suburban Program, which is still in existence today. Her list of awards include but the About Time Exemplar Community Uplift Award; Urban League of Rochester’s Distinguished Community Service Award; Award for Humanitarian and Distinguished Achievement in Community Service; the Civic Award from the Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce for Meritorious Contributions in the Field of Education, the University of Rochester Distinguished Alumna Award; and the highest honor conferred by the State University of New York Association of the Boards of Trustees of Community Colleges, the Anne M. Bushnell Memorial Award for Special Achievement. Dr. Young is a former fellow at R.I.T.; and a former president of the five counties Rochester Area Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa Fraternity and the Delta Kappa Gamma International Education Society.

CAROLYN ROBERTSON PAYTON '45

Belle Payton was chosen by President John F. Kennedy to help develop the procedures for trainee selection for the Peace Corps. She was the director of the Caribbean region and was later appointed by President Jimmy Carter as the director of the Peace Corps. She was the first woman and the first African American to hold this position working as an overseas country director, supervising 130 volunteers working on projects on eight islands in the eastern Caribbean. As one of only two female country directors, Payton’s success was critical in demonstrating that women were equally effective could effectively do the job which resulted in gender being eliminated as a qualification for overseas staff positions. Payton was an active member of American Psychology Association and a fellow of Division 35. She was one of the original members on the Task Force on the Psychology of Black Women in 1976, now the Section on the Psychology of Black Women. The Section’s Early Career Award is named in Belle Payton’s Honor (The Carolyn Payton Early Career Award). Payton also served on many APA boards and committees including the Committee on Women in Psychology (CWP); the Membership Committee; the Committee of Scientific and Professional Ethics and Conduct; the Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Concerns Committee; and the Policy and Planning Board. Her list of awards include the Distinguished Professional Contributions to Public Service Award, the APA Committee on Women in Psychology Leadership Citation Award honored her for her role as “an outstanding teacher, role model, and mentor for women and ethnic minorities. In 1997, Belle Payton received the APA Award for Outstanding Lifetime Contribution to Psychology for her “dedication to using psychology to promote better cross-cultural understanding and to end social injustice by influencing political process.

GLEN DORA M. PUTNAM '45

Belle Putnam served as assistant attorney general for civil rights in Massachusetts before serving as chair of the Massachusetts Commission against Discrimination. She extended her work, serving as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington, D.C., and as an equal opportunity officer for the Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency. She was the first national president of the YWCA. She received her law degree from Boston University.

DR. MARION LEE BELL '53

Belle Bell is a retired educator who spent the second semester of 2014 teaching Transformational Leadership at Africa University, which is United Methodist affiliated, in Mutare, Zimbabwe. Bell taught 180 students during two successive six weeks periods. Marion’s students developed a prototype of a school, business or organization. The students’ oral and written presentations included their budget, fundraising, staffing and an execution of a detailed plan of operation. Bell taught similar courses to UNLV students in the last semester of its master’s program. Bell previously served as the Bennett College NAA President and on the Board of Trustees. Under her leadership, the alumnae raised their first million dollars collectively. She is a member of the Las Vegas Chapter.

JANOL WHITFIELD '53

Fred and Belle Janol Curry Whitfield ’53 received the Lifetime Community Service Award at the recent 56th Anniversary of the Sit-In Movement sponsored by the International Civil Rights Center and Museum in Greensboro recently. They have been residents of Greensboro for over 60 years and married for as many years. At their 50th anniversary party her sons Fred and Charles honored them with an endowed scholarship in their name at Bennett. Janol holds a Masters of Education from North Carolina A&T State University and retired after 30 years of teaching elementary school. They both have been longtime (over 40 years) contributors, volunteers and supporters of the Hayes Taylor YMCA where they have the “Teen Room” and classroom named in their honor. Belle. Whitfield was instrumental in assisting her class raise over $100,000 for their 50th class reunion in 2003 which was a record held until four years ago.

DR. JUANITA PATIENCE MOSS '54

A past recipient of the National Alumnae Association Presidential Award and an honorary doctorate from King’s College in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania; Belle Moss is an author of three books about black soldiers serving in the Civil War. One of which highlighted her great-grandfather from Edenton, North Carolina who, as a runaway slave, joined the Union Army to gain his freedom. Belle Moss is currently receiving submissions for her second volume of Tell Me Why Dear Bennett: Memoirs of Bennett College Belles. She was also the featured speaker this fall for Descendant’s Day.
at The African American Civil War Museum in Washington, D.C. At this event, she shared information on Thomas Patience and Samuel James Patterson, U.S. Colored Troops soldiers who are listed on the African American Civil War Museum (AACWM) Monument as well as Crowder Patience, her great-grandfather who fought in a white regiment during the Civil War.

MARIAN TASCO ’54
Belle Marian is historically known as Pennsylvania’s first African-American County Commissioner. Tasco is widely recognized as one of Philadelphia’s most influential, politically savvy, and pro-active public officials. Elected to serve her seventh term as City Council Representative for the Ninth District in November 2011, the Councilwoman represents more than 155,000 residents in Philadelphia. Belle Tasco is the 50th Ward Leader. Tasco, who lives in East Mount Airy, was the second woman and first African American elected to the City Commissioners. She leaves the City Council with the distinction of service as one of its longest-tenured members.

A member of Democratic National Committee, Councilwoman Tasco is on the Host Committee for the 2016 Democratic National Convention. She has an endowed scholarship at Bennett in her name. Belle Tasco retired January, 2016 after 30 years of service and requested that all funds from her retirement bash be given to Bennett College. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

DR. JOYCE MARTIN DIXON ’56
Belle Dixon is a former member of the Bennett College Board of Trustees. In 2011, Dixon’s one million contribution marked the largest alumna gift in the history of Bennett College. The Martin Dixon Intergenerational Center is named in her honor. She continues to be a strong supporter of Bennett College. In 2015, she donated a 14-passenger bus to the center and college to use for field and road trips. Belle Dixon, along with her late husband, were co-owners of Creative Management Technology, Inc., a well-established federal services contracting firm headquartered in Cocoa Beach, Florida. They had two children, both whom died at early ages: the daughter of an incurable kidney disease and the son in a plane crash. Dixon initiated Linkages of Life, an organ, tissue and bone marrow donation awareness program, through The Links, Inc., in memory of their daughter. The international program is credited with saving thousands of lives. An annual scholarship is given in their son’s memory at the high school from which he graduated in Wiesbaden, Germany. Belle Dixon is a member of many service and community organizations including the Astronauts Memorial Foundation, Commission on the Status of Women, Junior Achievement Board of Directors, and the American Red Cross. She is a member of the Greensboro Public Library Foundation, the Leadership Council of the American Cancer Society, The Links, Inc., Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., Providence Baptist Church and the Bennett College Alumnae Association.

HIDÉKO TAMURA-SNIIDER ’56
Belle Tamura-Snider currently serves as the Ambassador of Peace for the City of Hiroshima, Japan and was 11 years old in Hiroshima when the city was destroyed by an atomic bomb on August 6, 1945 at the end of World War II. For many years, Belle Tamura-Snider has been appearing before professional organizations, universities classes, and community groups across the United States and in her native Japan, telling her story and encouraging people of all cultures and nations to examine the consequences of the use of nuclear weapons and to work toward peace and nuclear nonproliferation. She tells of the challenge of peace and of lessons we have learned from Hiroshima since the war. She recently was a guest of the City of Hiroshima for its 70th anniversary where she gave the opening message to the children. A portion of her talk was about Bennett College and how she holds a special place for a College that was her first destination and refuge in troubled times.

1960’s

The historic Greensboro, North Carolina lunch counter Sit-in on February 1, 1960 is one of the most well-known incidents in Civil Rights history. This singular event was universally credited to four young men from North Carolina A&T State University. Significantly, the integration of public accommodations of that city and many cities followed. What historians overlooked, according to Belles of Liberty: Gender, Bennett College by Dr. Linda Brown, ’61, was that the first Sit-in in Greensboro was carefully planned on Bennett College’s campus, and without hundreds of women who sat down, marched and were incarcerated from 1960 to 1963, the Sit-in effort and subsequent desegregation of Greensboro and even other cities, might not have succeeded. Bettye Davis McCain, class of 1963, committed to sitting at the “white-only” lunch counter of F. and W. Woolworth’s variety store with students from A&T and to return until it was integrated. On February 4, 1960, close to a dozen “Bennett Belles” were arrested due to their continuing protest at Woolworth’s. Among the Belles participating in the Sit-ins were: Yvonne Lyons Revell, ’63; Gwendolyn Mackel Rice, ’61; Roslyn Smith, ’61; Esther Terry, ’61; Von Deleath Kersey, ’61; Mary Ellen Bender, ’60; Shirley Dismuke Graham, ’61; Dolores Finger-Wright, ’61; Jean Neff, ’62; Rosalyn Cheagle, ’62; and Nancy Kirby, ’60.

DR. LINDA BROWN ’61
Belle Brown is an author, educator, and civil rights activist. She has taught at Kent State University, University of North Carolina-Greensboro, Guilford College and Bennett College. At Bennett, she was the Willa B. Player Distinguished Professor of the Humanities where she taught African American Literature and was the director of the Honors Program. She is the author of the following books: Black Angels, Rainbow ’Roun Mah Shoulder, Crossing Over Jordan and The Long Walk, A History of the Presidency of Willa B. Player at Bennett College. She was awarded a Headlands Center for the Arts Residency by the N.C. Arts Council in 1992. Belle Brown has been a guest lecturer
for the Greensboro Public Library Celebration “One City One Book,” where she gave a three part lecture series on Ernest Gaines’ *A Lesson Before Dying*, and a three part lecture series on the novels of Toni Morrison. Her poetry appears in anthologies and magazines such as *The Black Scholar, Ebony Junior*, and the children's magazine, *Cricket*. At 14 she began writing and published first in *Beyond the Blues*, a poetry anthology, when she was only nineteen. Her plays include *Wildfire: Black Hands, White Marble*, which is the story of Edmonia Lewis, a black Indian sculptor who broke historical barriers with her art; *Kitchen Talk* which details the ordinary lives of African American families; *Congo’s River Song* that was produced by the North Carolina Museum of Art; and *Dangerous Pretty*, a short story based on the musical life of New Orleans at the turn of the century. In addition, *Black Angels* was the “Okra” pick for the 2009 annual conference of the South Carolina Independent Booksellers and was named one of the Best of the Best Books of 2009 by the Chicago Public Libraries.

**DR. ESTHER TERRY ’61**

Belle Terry was the first alumna to ever serve as President of Bennett College., N.C. She served as provost and vice president for academic affairs beginning in 2009 and was named interim president in 2012 after the resignation of Dr. Julianne Malveaux. During her tenure as provost, Terry oversaw a redesign of the general education curriculum and the establishment of an honors program that produced a finalist for the Rhodes Scholarship. During the May 2012 commencement ceremony, the trustees wanted to honor Esther’s good work over the past year by removing “interim” from her title and she was named Bennett College's 16th President. Esther was a young student at Bennett in 1960 when she participated in the sit-ins at the local Woolworth lunch counter. She often recalled the planning of the Greensboro Woolworth’s sit-ins with students from the Agricultural and Technical College of North Carolina (later North Carolina A & T University), being arrested for her participation, and the support of then Bennett College President, Dr. Willa Player. Prior to joining Bennett, she spent four decades as a faculty member and administrator at University of Massachusetts - Amherst in the W.E.B Dubois Department of Afro-American Studies and helped to establish a premier graduate program. Esther was one of the founding faculty of the W.E.B. Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies, and was tapped to serve as its Chair in 1988. In 1996, the department inaugurated its doctoral program and she continued to serve as Chair until 2007. The department also developed The Esther M. Terry Award for the Distinguished Dissertation in Afro-American Studies in her honor. After her retirement in 2009, she became Provost at her alma mater.

**BEVERLY BUCHANAN ’62**

In the summer of 1977, following a ten-year career as a public health educator in the Bronx and East Orange, New Jersey, Belle Buchanan exhibited a selection of cast concrete sculptures at Truman Gallery on 38 East 57th Street. Three years later, in 1980, she received a Guggenheim Fellowship to create a large-scale public artwork using similar techniques in the Marshes of Glynn in Brunswick, Georgia. There was also a book written by Lucy Lippard titled, *Beverly Buchanan, 1978 –1981*, that looks at the social and aesthetic propositions of Buchanan’s art practice from these formative years. Through the economic, social, and historical networks that constitute Buchanan's sculptures, this book explores how the artist’s memorials, mounds, and living fields intersect with life in the American South. Belle Buchanan explores Southern vernacular architecture in multiple mediums, encompassing sculpture, photography, drawing, and site-specific installation. Her work is held in the permanent collections of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; and the High Museum of Art, Atlanta.

**MARGARET S. FORTUNE ’62**

Belle Fortune operates six K-8 charter schools, five in Sacramento and one in San Bernardino, California. The schools are college prep schools and are designed in every way to close the achievement gap between African American students and their White and Asian peers. Each of the classrooms adopts a college to model as a goal the young scholars are going to reach. They post t-shirts and pennants of each college beside the doors entering the classrooms. Bennett College is one of the colleges featured. Their network of schools is under the name of Rex C. and Margaret S. Fortune School of Education and the Fortune Schools.

**YVONNE JEFFERS JOHNSON ’64**

Belle Johnson was the first African American elected to City Council in Greensboro and later became the first African-American mayor of the city. A native of Greensboro, she grew up on what was once North Carolina A&T State University’s farm on East Market Street, is now owned by the tobacco giant Lorillard. Her uncle, W.L. Kennedy, was the first African American to receive a Ph.D. in dairy science. He owned the farm and paid for her education at Bennett College. Johnson was heavily involved in the Bennett community during her matriculation and her extracurricular activities included singing in the choir, leading a Girl Scout troop and participating in the Student Government Association. She was chair of the Bennett College Board of Trustees for ten years, served on the Board of Directors for the local United Way and served on the boards of the Malachi House, Triad Sickle-Cell Anemia Foundation, the Youth Services Bureau, the YWCA, Greensboro Cerebral Palsy School, and the Greensboro Child Advocacy Board. In addition, Yvonne was a board member of the local Commission on the Status of Women, the Black Child Development Institute, Goodwill Industries, Greensboro Education and Development Council, the North Carolina Community Sentencing Association, the Greensboro Arts Council, the Greensboro Housing Coalition, and the Sherri Denise Jackson Foundation. She has received numerous recognitions including the African-American Women of Distinction Award in 1993, the Girl Scouts of America: Wing Scout, the Curved Bar Award from Omega Psi Phi Fraternity,
A black woman who was once denied the right to vote in rural North Carolina, Powell passed the Ohio Bar Examination and immediately set out to right the wrongs of our nation. After a full career dedicated to poverty law, Belle Powell began exercising her talent for writing. She has published many short stories. While the documentary periodically shows on HBO, it can now be purchased on Amazon at http://www.amazon.com/The-Loving-Story-Jane-Alexander/dp/B00BD5GGI6.

FAY LEE ROBINSON '64
Belle Robinson is an internationally acclaimed opera singer and a professor at the University of Arizona. Her spectacular career has been highlighted by performances in the major musical centers of Europe, North and South America. Opera houses include Paris, Berlin, Vienna and Argentina. Belle Robinson is equally renowned as a concert artist having performed with the Orchestras of Chicago, Cleveland, New York, Boston, London and Berlin. She has become known as a specialist in the interpretation of works by Sir Michael Tippett.

BARBARA REEVES HART '64
Belle Hart was one of four recipients of Appalachian State University's Faces of Courage Award. She came to Appalachian to earn a master's degree in special education and became the first African-American to receive a master's degree from the university. The Faces of Courage Award recognizes those who were instrumental in Appalachian State University's early diversity efforts. Since retirement, she helped established the African American Quilt Guild of Gaston County in 2005. The guild has presented several community programs about the story of the Underground Railroad and the secret codes of the slave quilts correlating this story with the secret codes found in the Negro spirituals. For more than 30 years she served in various educational capacities including teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing in the states of California and North Carolina.

DR. JOYCE GARRETT '65
Belle Garrett received her M.M from Catholic University and Honorary Doctorates from Bennett College and West Virginia Wesleyan College, Buckhannon, WV. She is an honored educator and choral director whose award-winning choirs have performed for Presidents Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, George W. Bush, William Clinton, and Barack Obama at annual televised specials including “Christmas in Washington” and the “Kennedy Center Honors.” Belle Garrett also currently serves as Music and Worship Arts Ministry Director, Alfred Street Baptist Church, Alexandria, VA.

DR. DOROTHY C. BROWNE '69
Belle Browne joined Jackson State University in 2015 as its inaugural dean of Mississippi’s first School of Public Health. Since 2012, Browne has served as an adjunct professor of maternal and child welfare at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Gillings School of Global Public Health while also working with colleagues from UNC-CH and Duke University (Consortium for Social Equity) conducting workshops, teaching courses in health disparities and planning the National Health Equity Research Webcast (formerly the Annual Summer Public Health Research Institute and Videoconference on Minority Health). In 2009, Browne became the Special Assistant to the Chancellor and the Director of the Public Health Institute at North Carolina A&T State University. From 2001 to 2009, Belle Browne was the senior scientist for Morgan State University’s NIH-funded Prevention Sciences Research Center (which subsequently housed the Drug Abuse Research Program, the Summer Research Training Program for Undergraduate Students, the Health Services Research Training Program, and the Faculty Fellows Research Program in Drug Abuse Prevention). In addition, Belle Browne was co-director of the Morgan-Hopkins Center for Health Disparities Solutions – a collaborative venture with the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. She received her B.A. from Bennett College in sociology, M.S.W. degree from the University of Pittsburgh and the M.P.H. and Dr.PH from Harvard University. Browne began her public health career at the School of Public Health at UNC-CH, where she gained tenure and was promoted.

DR. GWENDOLYN SNEED O’NEAL ’69
Belle O’Neal is heading a commission to establish an accrediting agency for the International Textiles and Apparel Association, an organization of academic and apparel industry professional from more than 20 countries. The agency will assure quality and accountability in apparel and textile programs in higher education. Belle Sneed retired in 2014 after 43 years in higher education with numerous honors, awards and academic publications. She

SUSIE POWELL ’64
After receiving three nominations at the 34th Annual News and Documentary Emmy Awards in 2013, The Loving Story took home the award for Outstanding Historical Programming (Long Form) of which Belle Powell wrote the screenplay. In 1967, Richard and Mildred Loving challenged the Supreme Court to legally live in Virginia and have their marriage recognized by the state. The documentary examined the history and current tolerance for interracial marriages throughout the United States. Also nominated for Outstanding Documentary and Outstanding Editing at the News and Documentary Emmys, The Loving Story has had a history of critical acclaim since its premier at the Full Frame Documentary Film Festival in April 2011. It has won the Writer’s Guild of America (WGA) Documentary Screenplay Award at the AFI Discover Channel Silverdocs Festival in 2011 and the Gabrielle Award and the George Foster Peabody Award, both in 2013. Co-produced by HBO Documentary Films, The Loving Story first aired on HBO in February 2012.
is an ordained minister who serves on the Board of Trustees of Central Baptist Theological Seminary.

1970’s

**DR. HATTIE CARWELL ’70**

Belle Carwell, ’70, grew up in Ashland, Virginia where she was encouraged by her community to become a scientist. After graduating high school Hattie enrolled in Bennett College. She graduated from the college in 1971 with a bachelor’s degree in chemistry. In the fall of 1971, Carwell was enrolled in Rutgers University New Brunswick where she earned a M.S. degree in health physics. After graduating from Rutgers University, Belle Carwell obtained a position with the U.S. Department of Energy and the International Atomic Energy Agency as a health physicist and nuclear safeguards group leader. She worked both nationally and internationally for the agency. Belle Carwell went on to work in Vienne, where she served as a nuclear safeguards inspector and group leader at the International Atomic Energy Agency from 1980 to 1985. In 1990, she moved to San Francisco, California and worked with the Department of Energy as a program manager for high energy and nuclear programs. Later, Belle Carwell became a senior facility operations engineer at Berkeley in 1992. In 1994, she was promoted to operations lead, a position in which she held until 2006. She later became a senior physical scientist before retiring in 2008. Belle Carwell has written two books and numerous articles. One of her books is titled “Blacks in Science”: Astrophysicist to Zoologist.” Belle Carwell is a board member and served as President of the Northern California Council of Black Professional Engineers. She is a treasurer for the National Council of Black Engineers and Scientist, co-founder and chair of the Development Fund for Black Students in Science and Technology, and Director of the Museum of African American Technology Science Village.

**DR. JACQUELYN GRANT ’70**

Belle Grant became involved with the Women’s Studies Program at the Harvard Divinity School within the Women’s Research Program in 1977. Her involvement there led to the creation of the Women’s Studies in Religion Program, and she remained there until 1979. She also founded the Center for Black Women in Church and Society at the Interdenominational Theological Center in 1981, where she continues to serve as director and professor. A successful author, Belle Grant has written or edited several books, including *White Women’s Christ and Black Women’s Jesus: Feminist Christology and Womanist Response*, the all-time best-selling book released by Scholars Press, and her most recent book, *Perspectives on Womanist Theology*. Belle Grant was the recipient of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Ministry Award in 1986 and has been nominated as the Woman of the Year in Religion by the Iota Phi Lambda Sorority. She also appears in Who’s Who Among African Americans.

**DR. ANDREA HARRIS ’70**

Bennett College Trustee Belle Harris transitioned to Senior Fellow after serving 28 years of outstanding service to the North Carolina Institute of Minority Economic Development (NCIMED) and 26 years as its director. Her life has been dedicated to overcoming barriers to economic growth and opportunity. Growing up in the rural community of Henderson, North Carolina, during the heart of the Civil Rights movement, she had seen more than her share of inequality. After graduating from Bennett College, she chose to become a community organizer, rather than attend graduate school. In addition, she is a past recipient of the Abe Venable Award for Lifetime Achievement by the United States Department of Commerce Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA). Appointed by President Nixon, Abe Venable was the first person to head the Office of Minority Business Enterprise and this national award is given to an individual who has played an integral role in the creative, technical or professional progress of the minority business over the course of their life. Under Belle Harris’ leadership, in the past decade alone, NCIMED has provided consulting and technical assistance to nearly 11,000 companies and trained nearly 28,000 business people. Companies receiving NCIMED assistance have been awarded more than $256 million in contracts, completed nearly $197 million in financial transactions and created more than 21,000 jobs. In addition to the Abe Venable Award, her achievements have garnered her numerous awards such as the Triangle Business Journal’s Leaders in Diversity Award in 2014.

**IRMA BIVENS JACKSON ’70**

Belle Jackson was featured in the Winston Salem Journal for her work as a master gardener. Jackson began volunteering at her grandson’s school, Diggs-Latham, when he was in pre-kindergarten and decided to start a community garden at the school. In the beginning, she was a committee of one. A few teachers, parents and students would drop by and help on occasion, but no one stayed long-term. Determined, Jackson was not ready to give up on her idea of a garden where children could learn about growing things. It was hard in the beginning because when the soil was first turned, it was discovered that building debris had been buried where the garden was to be. As the soil was tilled, often rocks, bricks and other items turned up, making it difficult to prepare for planting. But Belle Jackson was not deterred. She applied for a grant from the Whole Foods Foundation and received $2,000 to help purchase a much-needed tiller. Her first plants were donated lettuce that was too wilted to sell. Through people she met at Old Salem who were starting a children’s garden, she learned about seed collections and helped to launch the Homowo seed collection project, which collects seeds primarily from Africa or with African-American roots. Her grandson is now grown, but Jackson continues to maintain the community garden. Some of the produce from the garden goes into the school’s Backpack Program to feed hungry children. The garden has yielded strawberries, cherry tomatoes, carrots, peanuts, asparagus, and even green cotton. Although green cotton isn’t a food, it teaches children what cotton looks like before it is cleaned, spun and woven into cloth.
Becoming a Master Gardener was never part of Jackson’s plan. A friend who was taking the Master Gardening class through the NC Agricultural Extension Agency asked Irma to come with her. Since she happened to have some free time, she took the class, became a Master Gardener, and recently was honored as the Agricultural Volunteer of the Year.

**VERNELLE CLEMENTS BOYKIN ’71**

Belle Boykin is transforming lives by volunteering at five schools in Haiti. As an Education Team Mathematician and Chairperson for Community Coalition for Haiti (CCH), she works with principals, teachers, students and their families to promote student learning. She takes educational supplies, presents professional development seminars modeling proven teaching techniques and mentors teachers and students in their classrooms. Boykin photographs and collects background information for student financial sponsorships. She also compiles students’ health data (vaccinations, dental, height, weight) supporting CCH’s Medical teams.

**ROSE JEWELL JORDAN ’71**

Belle Jordan was named Volunteer of the Year 2015/16 by the Susquehanna Township School District Volunteer Program in Harrisburg, PA. Belle Jordan is the founder and program coordinator of Youth Mentorvention, a school based mentoring program for at risk youth in grades 4 through 12. Belle Jordan and her five mentors meet with small groups of girls once a week at school for 1 to 2 hours. The mentors make an eight-year commitment to stay with the same group of girls from the 4th grade until they graduate. The young ladies who began the program six years ago are now in the 11th grade and are making plans to further their education. Rose has been a volunteer in the school district for 18 years. Belle Jordan received a Master’s Degree in Social Work from the University of Pittsburgh, and has taken additional classes in clinical psychology at Penn State University in Harrisburg. Belle Jordan is married to Wendell Jordan and has four adult children.

**DR. GLADYS ASHE ROBINSON ’71**

Belle Robinson joined Piedmont Health Services and Sickle Cell Agency as Executive Director in 1982. Her roles as Executive Director are many, including the overall management of the agency, agency and program development, grant writing for new and existing projects, fundraising, chief liaison to the Board of Directors and directing the overall mission and vision of the organization. In addition to her management duties, Robinson is involved in several adjunct projects. She is currently serving as the Principal Investigator for grants funded through the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), among others. She has served as an instructor at the Duke University Nonprofit Management Center, Triad Region; and is a Grants Reviewer for CDC and HRSA. Prior to her tenure at Piedmont Health Services and Sickle Cell Agency, Gladys served as Interim Executive Director and Program Director at United Services for Older Adults and as Director for the Retired Senior Volunteer Program. Dr. Robinson is currently serving as a Senator representing District 28 in the North Carolina General Assembly. Other professional and civic affiliations include serving on the University of North Carolina Board of Governors, where she is vice chair of the Committee on Education, Planning and Policy and chair of the Health Affairs Committee. In addition, Dr. Robinson serves on the Board of Directors for the North Carolina Teacher Academy and on the SETRAC (grants) Committee of the Greensboro Convention and Visitors Board. She chaired the North Carolina Council on Sickle Cell Syndrome for 12 years and does training for the membership of the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America.

**DR. JOAN YVETTE DAVIS ’72**

Belle Davis is the Chancellor of Delgado Community College located in New Orleans, Louisiana. Davis was the unanimous choice of the 17-member board of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System. Delgado is the state’s second largest college, serving over 30,000 degree-seeking and non-credit students at eight locations, including two new Technical Division sites. Prior to this appointment, she served as General Counsel, Vice Chancellor for Legal and Human Resources and Chief Executive Officer of the Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education which provided workforce-development training and assistance and as an Interim Chancellor of the Alabama Community College System.

**THERESA BENNETT-WILKES ’72**

Belle Bennett-Wilkes is a self-published author of *Anna May and the Preacher: A Collection of Short Stories, 2nd Edition*, which is available on Amazon. Belle Bennett-Wilkes is collaborating with Jovelyn Richards, actor and comedian, on *Up All Night*, a one-woman improvisational show, featuring Anna May and the Preacher. She is currently at work on her next literary offering, *Unfinished Business: A Novel*, due out in 2017. Belle Bennett-Wilkes grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area. She currently resides in High Point and teaches writing classes at Guildford Technical Community College, Jamestown, N.C.

**JOHANNA LEE WRIGHT ’74**

Belle Wright is a well-known former basketball coach with the South-Orange-Maplewood (NJ) School District. During her 31 years of service at Columbia High School, her teams won eight conference championships, four Essex County championships and were a State Tournament of Champions finalist on two occasions with an 86 game winning streak. It is one of the longest winning streaks for any sport - girls or boys in the state’s history. Coach Wright has the distinction of being named the head coach in the inaugural McDonald’s High School All-American game at Madison Square Garden. Under her leadership, 60 of her players have attended college on full basketball scholarships. Belle Wright is not only a coach but taught health/family life and physical education at Columbia High School. She is the founder/advisor...
DEBORAH TILLMAN LOVE ’79
Belle Love currently serves as President of the Bennett College National Alumnae Association. This is her second time serving in this capacity (she served in 2013 when she was the youngest National Alumnae President). Belle Love is retired after 40 years with the Internal Revenue Service. Deborah is an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

1980’s
RANDYE JONES ’80
In March 2015, Belle Jones launched The Spirituals Database, a resource that provides searchable information of over 1,600 tracks from recordings of spirituals written for the solo voice. As a part of The Art of the Negro Spiritual, it carries on the efforts to discover and share information about this music’s potential role in developing a singer’s repertoire. The project’s goal is the eventual publication of a discography of Spiritual art songs. The primary—but far from exclusive—audience for The Spirituals Database is the voice student and coach/teacher who are looking for these recorded resources. All too often, recordings may be the first exposure a vocalist has to the repertoire. That person, likely unfamiliar with the genre and with the singers who have recorded these art songs, can use The Spirituals Database to find these recorded resources for the study of how Spirituals can be performed in a concert setting. Even the more experienced performer of this repertoire will have reason to seek out information about the wide range of recordings—including a number of rare or out-of-print long-playing (33 1/3 rpm) and 78 rpm albums, audio cassettes and 45 rpm discs.

DR. VALERIE CALLENDER ’82
Belle Callender is President of the Women’s Dermatologic Society (WDS) and a member of the Board of Directors. In addition to her various leadership roles with WDS, she is also a founding member and immediate past president of the Skin of Color Society. Belle Callender, an internationally recognized Board Certified Dermatologist, is known for her sensitive and cutting-edge approach to the management of female hair loss, the treatment of pigmented disorders and is also a prolific contributor to dermatology literature. She has co-edited a textbook on Treatment of Skin of Color, has written 18 textbook chapters and more than 45 peer-reviewed articles for academic journals. She has made more than 160 presentations, including presentations in Australia, Brazil, Canada, the Czech Republic, Germany, India, Portugal, South Africa, United Kingdom, and many others. Belle Callender has been a Visiting Professor at many dermatology programs, including the Mayo Clinic, Brown University, Boston University, Tufts University, The State University of New York, University of Maryland and the Henry Ford Health System. She has conducted and participated in over 40 research studies and clinical trials for both therapeutic and cosmetic products and is a consultant for some of the world’s leading cosmetic and consumer brands. Belle Callender is the medical director of the Callender Dermatology & Cosmetic Center in Glenn Dale, MD, which combines medical and surgical dermatology, clinical research, medical skin care, and aesthetics procedures and is currently an Associate Professor of Dermatology at Howard University.

DR. MARCIA STRONG MILLETT ’84
Belle Millett is the first lady at Stiillman College in Tuscaloosa, AL where her husband Dr. Peter Edmund Millet serves as the sixth President. She earned her Ed.D. at Tennessee State University, Nashville, and her master’s degree from The Ohio State University. She currently serves as the associate dean for the Division of Professional Education and Director of Teacher Education at Stillman College. She was instrumental in the effort to secure an $8 million grant for Tennessee’s Race to the Top application. The funding supported a statewide consortium of teacher preparation programs which focused on improving K-8 mathematics learning. Belle Millett is also an author and has a chapter titled, Cultivating a Spirit of Joy, featured in Under the Magnolia Tree, by Richard Ashe. She serves on the following boards:
Temporary Emergency Services of Tuscaloosa, AL; Big Brother Big Sister of West Alabama; Allocation Committee for United Way of West Alabama; and Nordstrom Advisory Panel.

FLORENTIA SPIRES ’85
Belle Spires is a Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) Educator at Howard University Middle School of Mathematics and Science in Washington, D.C. She was selected as an Albert Einstein Fellow out of a pool of 200 applicants. This is one of the federal government’s most elite opportunities for advanced professional development for STEM educators. Belle Florentia is working full time at the National Science Foundation and will be immersed in opportunities that weigh in on public policy as it relates to K-12 education specifically in computer science. She worked on several projects that promoted an increase in the number of well-trained teachers in Computer Science Education to 10,000 to be placed in 10,000 schools across the nation. Her greatest accomplishment was the creation of the CE21 booklet of Computer Science projects that was disseminated to all of the Principal Investigators during the 2014 CE 21 National Conferences. This experience has inspired Belle Florentia to work more fervently to ensure that students have access to quality S.T.E.M. programs for learning that ultimately impact their future endeavors. She began her science-teaching career as a U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer in Botswana, Southern Africa. She also taught in the Prince George’s County Public Schools in Maryland, in a College Preparatory School, The Edmund Burke School before joining The Howard University Middle School. Spires has been teaching for more than twenty years.

LISA LUNSFORD ’85
Belle Lunsford is the CEO and co-founder of Global Strategic Solutions LLC (GS3 Global) which was a finalist for the Michigan Supplier Development Council’s
2014 Minority Supplier of the Year Award in Detroit, Michigan. GS3 Global is a comprehensive supply chain management company she co-founded in 2010. The award recognizes outstanding achievements among Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs) in business growth, development and operations. GS3 Global provides efficient, focused, successful management of materials, manufacturing, assembly, and distribution for companies - large and small, domestic and international. In addition to leading GS3 Global, Lunsford is also the vice president of sales and marketing for Deshler Group, GS3 Global’s parent company, and executive partner and co-founder of I Thine LLC, a software development company. As president of I Thine LLC, she developed an effective intermodal container management system and created a diversity monitoring system to track spending by OEM’s and suppliers. Her experience includes a decade as a research and product development engineer at Ford Motor Company where her first project was the 1988 Mustang.

SONJA CAMBRIDGE WISE ’89
Belle Wise currently serves as a Homicide Detective in Tampa, Florida. She is a member of the Honor Guard, past president of the Association of Black Law Enforcement Officers - Tampa Chapter and was the first African-American female Robbery Detective in Tampa. In her spare time, she is the lead vocalist for the local jazz ensemble “Ladyfingers.” Her sophomore CD project “It Is What It Is” debuted in 2012. Sonja is also the co-founder of a theatrical production company named Encore Productions. A16-year veteran of the police department, Belle Wise is known not only for her character, integrity and work in law enforcement, but also for her singing talent. She is frequently asked to perform at city functions, from mayoral inaugurations to award ceremonies to memorial services. She has performed at athletic games and sang once for President Barack Obama when he visited Tampa. During her years with Tampa police, she has obtained experience in almost every unit, including patrol, homicide and gangs. Currently, she works as a detective in the department’s Professional Standards Bureau, investigating complaints against officers and reviewing their use of force. Her sister, Stephanie Cambridge Mardis ’00 was recently promoted to Lieutenant with the Greensboro Police Department.

1990’s

DR. TALIA MCCRAY ’90
Belle McCray was selected as a Fulbright Scholar in the United Kingdom a Visiting Professor at Glasgow Urban Lab for 2012-2013. Belle cray is an Assistant Professor in the Community and Regional Planning Program at the University of Texas at Austin, specializing in transportation planning for the transportation disadvantaged population. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in the Urban Technological and Environmental Planning Program. During her time as a graduate student, she was an Eisenhower and Eno Fellow. Her dissertation work modeled prenatal care and transportation access challenges in rural South Africa. In September of 2003, Belle McCray won a Ford Foundation Post-doctoral Fellowship at the University of Laval in Quebec City, where she directed a study on the accessibility needs of low-income women, primarily dependent on public transportation. From June 2006 – September 2007, she directed a large interdisciplinary research and outreach project, funded by the University of Rhode Island Transportation Center, that addressed the activity and travel patterns of low-income teenagers in Providence, RI. Belle McCray has written several articles and papers addressing perceptions of violence and the use of space by urban youth, developing methodology to address the transportation needs of disadvantaged populations, and analyzing the effects of culture on healthcare access. In addition, she has served on the Board of Trustees at Bennett College, Greensboro, NC, for nine years and received the 2000 Bennett College’s Outstanding Young Achiever Award.

MJII BELL, ’92
Belle Bell is Director for Communications at Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service in Baltimore, Maryland. Making a difference in the world has always been a focus of this group. Bell currently leads the communications efforts for the second largest refugee resettlement agency in the United States. There, she is striving to make a difference as the organization contributes to the ongoing national conversation around immigration policy, and heightens awareness of the plight of refugees from all corners of the globe including the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burma, Central America and Syria.

JEN-AI CHILDRESS ’94
An elementary school teacher, Belle Childress is the author of two books, London Giselle Hall presents My Beautiful Mommy and Kids Wear Pink Too which was inspired by a four-year old little girl whose mother is battling breast cancer. Both books were written to help other children to sort out their feelings and learn how to cope with this deadly disease. The books will serve as a catalyst to jump start a non-profit organization that will assist the needs of children whose parent(s) are battling cancer and will give scholarships to students at historically black colleges and universities whose parents have had breast cancer. Childress’ mother and her Bennett sister Melody Hall ’94 were both diagnosed with cancer in 2006. Unfortunately, she lost her mother in 2010 but Hall continues to fight with stage 4 Metastatic Breast Cancer. Every year, Childress and her Bennett sisters walk for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Walk and raise money for the group they created - Melody’s Divas. The goal for this group is to foster a legacy for Melody’s now five year old daughter, Lauren Hall. It is a fun-filled weekend to honor their Bennett sister. More information about this project can be found at www.crowdrise.com/childrenandcancer or visit http://musabooksllc.wix.com/kidswewearpinktoo.

TAMMI MCCALL ’94
Better known in Los Angeles as “Tammi Mac,” Belle McCall has produced a one woman show, “Bag Lady,” which
premiered in Hollywood, California in 2014. During the second weekend, the show included a Bennett Night. She has also created broadcast intern opportunities for Bennett students in the Los Angeles area. If it had not been for being terminated from her job at an urban adult radio program in Birmingham, Alabama, Belle McCall may not have found the courage to pursue her dream to become an actress. Today she hosts the “Mac and Amiche Afternoon Show” on Stevie Wonder’s radio station 102.3 KJLH FM which is rated number one in the African American community. She also hosts one of the top-rated adult urban evening urban night radio shows in the city. McCall has appeared in August Wilson’s “The Piano Lesson, on Lifetime’s “Strong Medicine,” the Don B. Welch productions of “Idella’s Soul Shack” and “The Bachelorette Party.” She can also be seen in over a dozen national television commercials under the Don B. Welch productions, and a dozen national television series. Farris transitioned from entertainment public relations back into film and television which was the basis of her mass communications studies while at Bennett. A culture enthusiast since the 1990’s, she has educated audiences about nationally-recognized creative arts projects surrounding music, public art, dance, visual art, film, and television through street promotions, direct marketing, publicity, journalism, broadcast production, and most recently, content creation. Her clients have ranged from the Atlanta Office of Cultural Affairs, FunkJazz Cafe’s Arts & Music Festival, The Atlanta Ballet, Woodridge Productions for Sony Pictures Television and New Remote Productions, Inc. for MTV Networks. She was given the nickname “the research renegade” by her colleagues because of her ability to swiftly locate treasures and information. She credits the ability to garner quick results (under pressure) to her decade-plus career/training in the arts and entertainment business where “Make It Happen…Yesterday” was a daily mantra. She has also received recognition as one of the “Top 25 Most Influential Woman in Atlanta” by Rolling Out Urbanstyle Weekly.

LASHENA SHEFFIELD SMITH ’95
Belle Smith has made her mark in the world. She appeared as a guest on the Worldwide Radio Show to discuss her best-selling book, “Spiritual Morsels That Edify Your Soul.” She has participated in the CBGF - Congressional Black Caucus Annual Conference, The Author’s Pavilion and has started her own publishing company, Jeremiah Publishing LLC (JeremiahPublishing.com). She hosted a book signing at Bennett College and hosted a weekly radio show “Spiritual Morsels That Will Edify Your Soul with Lashena Smith” which debuted in October 2013.

JENNIFER FARRIS ’96
Belle Farris served as a location scout for two major television network shows: BET’s Being Mary Jane and NBC’s Constantine and has scouted for other films and television series. Farris transitioned from entertainment public relations back into film and television which was the basis of her mass communications studies while at Bennett. A culture enthusiast since the 1990’s, she has educated audiences about nationally-recognized creative arts projects surrounding music, public art, dance, visual art, film, and television through street promotions, direct marketing, publicity, journalism, broadcast production, and most recently, content creation. Her clients have ranged from the Atlanta Office of Cultural Affairs, FunkJazz Cafe’s Arts & Music Festival, The Atlanta Ballet, Woodridge Productions for Sony Pictures Television and New Remote Productions, Inc. for MTV Networks. She was given the nickname “the research renegade” by her colleagues because of her ability to swiftly locate treasures and information. She credits the ability to garner quick results (under pressure) to her decade-plus career/training in the arts and entertainment business where “Make It Happen…Yesterday” was a daily mantra. She has also received recognition as one of the “Top 25 Most Influential Woman in Atlanta” by Rolling Out Urbanstyle Weekly.

VICKI ROSE MERRITT ’96
Founder of Teacher Paradigm, LLC, Belle Merritt has been in public education since 1996 serving as a teacher, principal and now founder of Teacher Paradigm, LLC. Teacher Paradigm is a web based teacher portal for teachers to connect from across the country to share ideas, resources and grow as professionals.

ARDENA N. GITHARA ’97
Belle Githara has been appointed to the Women’s Law Center in Maryland as a member of the board of Directors. With more than 10 years of distinguished experience in the area of community building and youth engagement/development, Belle Githara is touted as a great asset to the Women’s Law Center as they advocate for women and children in Maryland. She currently serves as a Senior Grants Manager for a Federal agency. Belle Githara is also the founder and president of PENN Training Consultants which provides tailored one-on-one development and management consultation sessions to individual clients from a variety of fields.

MICHELLE HUFF ’97
Belle Huff is the founder of Huff Entertainment, a boutique firm that produces events, public relations and marketing campaigns with unparalleled quality and service. Since 1999, Belle Huff has provided New York, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Chicago, Atlanta and London with some of the most revered events, launch parties, strategic marketing plans and public relations services. HUFF team has a history of ground breaking success by turning event ideas into masterful productions, building and executing strategic marketing and public relations plans and providing concierge and premier services to companies and celebrities, the. Current and past clients include: American Black Film Festival, Kevin Liles, Ashanti, Tamia, Ford Motor Company, Style Week Jamaica, Casio, BET Networks, Vital Marketing, Cove Lounge NYC, Imani Music Group, K.Milele Clothing, Algebra, Eric Roberson and the Hip Hop Hall of Fame.

Some of Huff’s key campaigns and events have been:
- BNPY Awards Department Opening in New York City
- Vh1’s “Conussions” Appearances in NY and Los Angeles
- American Black Film Festival 2012, 2013, 2014
- Soul Train Music Awards 2011, 2012
- Oceanus Couture Watch Launch for Casio Electronics
- HHFA Awards Celebrity Procurement
- A Michael Couture Fashion Show during Spring NYC Fashion Week
- Museum for African Art Fundraising Gala and Silent Auction
**DR. JENORA TURNER WATERMAN ’97**

An assistant professor of Functional Genomics in the Department of Animal Sciences at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, Belle Waterman made a key discovery in the treatment of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) among agricultural workers. COPD is a major cause of death in the United States, most typically found among smokers. A less studied aspect of the disease is the 7% of its United States victims who are agricultural workers. They can develop COPD as a result of long-term exposure to animal production facilities containing dust that contributes to respiratory diseases. Her first key finding came from comparing pigs raised indoors with those raised outdoors. Pigs aren’t as severely affected by the dust as humans are, but her work demonstrated that their respiratory systems are uniquely adapted to their housing type. As a result of her work, she is currently a recipient of a professional development honor for junior faculty members funded through the Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) program of the National Institutes of Health which will help to advance her research. Belle Waterman will receive funding and mentored training. In addition, she is also the director of the Respiratory Biology and Toxicology Laboratory at North Carolina A&T State University.

**DR. TIA SMITH ’97**

Belle Smith is an assistant professor and department head of the Mass Communication Broadcast Sequence at Xavier University of Louisiana. She earned her graduate degrees at Ohio University’s Scripps College of Communication. Her research interests focuses on intersections of gender, media and sexual culture. Dr. Smith has lived and worked in diverse cultural and learning environments in the United States, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Brazil and Trinidad and Tobago giving her first-hand knowledge of the sensitive nature and challenges associated with issues of media, diversity and inclusiveness. Dr. Smith’s first book, Contradictions in A Hip-Hop World: An Auto-ethnography of Black Women’s Lived Experiences comprises of narratives of black women about their experiences as hip-hop fans and how they negotiate identity and sexuality in a culture that oftentimes pushes them to the margins.

**LETRESA SWEARINGEN WILLIAMS ’97**

Belle Williams is the CEO of Infinity Consulting Group, LLC. Glitz & Glam Jewelry by LJ-a division of Infinity Consulting Group. She creates custom jewelry for women, men, children, and organizations. Williams has grown her company through making positive impacts to the community. She has incorporated Give-Back GLAM – scholarships, donations and mentorship. Williams also has a book scholarship at Bennett College in her name.

**DR. KEISHA BROWN ’98**

Belle Brown graduated from Bennett College with a bachelor of science degree in biology. She attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Dentistry and earned her Doctor of Dental Surgery degree in 2002. At UNC, she served as president of the Student National Dental Association. In addition, she was one of 10 students selected to travel to Mexico to treat needy children in the Neustros Pequenost Hermanos orphanage. Upon graduation, she was given the prestigious Dr. Henry Zaytoun Award that is presented to a graduating student who exemplified superior professional and ethical demeanor. In 2003, she completed a general practice residency program at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Washington, DC. Presently, Dr. Brown resides in Raleigh, NC where she has her own private dental office treating children and adults. She also serves as president of the Raleigh Chapter of the Bennett National Alumnae Association.

**TAKIYAH STARKS ’98**

In the Department of Biology at North Carolina A&T State University, Belle Starks ’98 was one of the guest panelists in honor of a National Alzheimer’s Month program. The event was hosted by the International Civil Rights Museum in Greensboro, North Carolina. Takiyah is the clinical research coordinator for the program at North Carolina A&T State University and has been featured in the local newspaper, the Greensboro News and Record for her efforts. The African American Alzheimer’s Disease (AAAD) Research Study at North Carolina A&T State University is a genetic research study that combines both research and outreach to better understand why African Americans suffer disproportionately from Alzheimer’s Disease and to educate the community about the effects of this devastating disease.

**STARR ALLEN-PETTAWAY ’99**

Belle Allen-Pettaway is the founder of “Sisters Standing Strong Together” in Detroit, Michigan. The program provides mentorship/sponsorship services, therapeutic services, training, education, support groups for women confronted with everyday life struggles. These challenges can range from, but are not limited to; parenting issues, substance abuse, domestic violence, finances and any other barriers that may be hindering their personal and professional success. “Sisters Standing Strong Together” earnestly works to ensure that all women have the tools to win. Its mission is to provide women in the Detroit Metropolitan area, nationally and globally an opportunity to be successful with the necessary support and guidance in order to make their dreams a reality. As a Detroit native, she also serves as the Branch Director for Bethany Christian Services in Madison Heights, Michigan. For nearly 15 years, Belle Allen-Pettaway has had varied experiences with AIDS Service Organizations (ASO), delinquency cases, therapeutic foster care treatment, substance abuse treatment, the homeless, and general health care. Starr has executive leadership experience, having served as the chief operations officer for a federally qualified

**REFERENCES**

- Alicia Keys Half-Time Performance at the US Army’s American Bowl
- Neptunes’ Album Release Event in NY (Production)
- Style Week Jamaica 2008
- Hip-Hop Hall of Fame Foundation
- Delicious Curves by MUDD Jeans In-Store Events and PR Campaign
- Lexus Launch Events in Chicago PR Campaign
investigator, tactical special enforcement team member, vice, internal affairs and trainer. In November of 2015, she was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant being the first African-American female to receive this distinction in her division. Stephanie's list of awards includes Rookie of the Year, 2004, Officer of the Month - March and April 2005, Outstanding Public Servant Award by the Greensboro Jaycees, Commendations, 2011 and 2012 and Officer of the Month 2014. She is also involved in the community with Junior Achievement of Greensboro, the African American Male Initiative, Wheels for Hope; Feed the Hungry and the American Red Cross. Belle Mardis is a highly sought after speaker for New Orientation Week at Bennett College and her sister; Sonja Cambridge Wise ’89 is a Homicide Detective with the Tampa, Florida Police Department.

DR. JANELL N. CATLIN ’00
Belle Catlin has recently joined Teach for All as the Director of the STEM Initiative (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). In this role, she will lead the strategy and vision for STEM education in supporting nearly 40 different international education partners around the world. She is extremely passionate about improving global P-20 STEM education, and has been awarded for her scholarship by the National Association for Research in Science Teaching (NARST), and her alma mater, Bennett College.

NEDA BROWN ’01
Belle Brown is acting deputy chief of mission for the United States Embassy Nassau, Bahamas and prior to this appointment, she served as the Embassy Nassau’s Public Affairs Officer. While working in the Public Affairs Section (PAS), she led a dynamic team that whose goal was to engage and educate Bahamians on the work and priorities of the United States government. During her tenure, Brown built on the Embassy’s strong and vibrant friendship with the people of The Bahamas through the promotion of academic, cultural, sports, and professional exchanges, as well as public-private partnerships. Brown joined the U.S. diplomatic corps in 2003 and has served as a media relations officer at the Foreign Press Center in New York City, under President Obama at the White House Situation Room, and at the State Department’s Operations Center where she provided 24-hour support to former Secretaries of State Condoleezza Rice and Hillary Clinton. Neda has also served overseas at the U.S. Embassies in Bogotá, Colombia and Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic and has completed temporary assignments in Mumbai, India and Santiago, Chile. Prior to joining the U.S. diplomatic corps, Brown worked briefly in the office of Senator John Edwards at the Department of State African Affairs Bureau/Office of Public Diplomacy. In 2006, Brown and her sister co-founded Brownskin Apparel LLC, a company designed to create and enhance positive self-images for people of color and she also assists her Bennett sister, Marissa Jenkins ’04 as the site expert for SOCIALGrlz LLC.

MARISSA JENNINGS ’03
During her senior year at Bennett College, Belle Jennings was required to complete a senior project and she chose to design a magazine for young African American women. However, during her research of the magazine market she realized that there were limited reading options for these women. Simultaneously, Jennings saw that while the Internet was booming, there were no websites that related to young African American women, either. As soon as she began watching the app market, she knew that the future of her project was in a mobile app. That road has led Belle Jennings to be the CEO of SOCIALGrlz LLC; a mobile app designed for young girls aged 13 to 17 that specifically highlight African American women across multiple sectors like STEM, finance, and beauty. The first of its kind, the app’s mission is to provide positive images and stories that young girls can relate to, as well as a platform for their own voices to be heard. Jennings has geared SocialGrlz to operate on a 3 ’D’ vision: doers, donors, and door openers. She has obtained fantastic partnerships with the BET Foundation, Girl Scouts of America and the White House. Along with an extensive team, Jennings leads SOCIALGrlz to operate on a platform for their own voices to be heard. Jennings has geared SocialGrlz to operate on a 3 ’D’ vision: doers, donors, and door openers. She has obtained fantastic partnerships with the BET Foundation, Girl Scouts of America and the White House. Along with an extensive team, Jennings leads SOCIALGrlz LLC with the assistance of some Bennett sisters, Natalie Jordan ’04 who serves as the communication director and Neda Brown ’01 is the site expert. Among her other accomplishments, Belle Jennings was also one of the recipient of the White House “Champion of Change” Award for her work. For more information about SOCIALGrlz, please visit http://socialgrlz.com/.

NATALIE RENEE PARKER ’01
As an entrepreneur and small business owner, Belle Parker leads five Talents Consulting
LLC to develop leaders and strategic thinkers. Since 2010, Parker has worked with church leaders in developing organizational systems and training programs to strengthen Christian discipleship and stronger relationships between church pastors and members. Equipped with more than a decade and a half of professional experience working with major Fortune 500 companies in the government defense and transportation industries, Belle Parker has acquired a wealth of proven knowledge, skills and abilities in human resource management and organizational effectiveness. Her expertise in coaching, team building, and training design have aided her in the quest. She currently serves as senior human Resources Business Partner at America’s Railroad, Amtrak.

KIANDRA PARKS '04

It was in 2000 when Belle Parks had a chance encounter with famed filmmaker Spike Lee, unknowingly setting herself on track as a future filmmaker. At the time, she had just read “Black Girl in Paris,” the debut novel by writer Shay Youngblood, and had been thinking of creating a film version of the story. When she spotted Lee after the Morehouse Homecoming football game, she went up to him and told him about her film idea. She asked for his guidance and he encouraged her to apply to the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University. Now, many years after asking Lee for advice Kiandra’s debut short film, “Black Girl in Paris,” was picked up by HBO and Lee became her adviser while in graduate school. She had her film directing/writing debut in Black Girl in Paris on Kickstarter. She used this film as her thesis which starred Tracey Heggins and Zaraah Abrahams and was filmed by award-winning director of photography, Shlomo Godder. After filming in 2012 and touring the festival circuit in 2013, winning the American Black Film Festival’s Short Film Award, the twenty-minute movie is was available to view on HBOGo.

SHARNIKYA HOWARD '05

Belle Howard is the founder of The Belle Connection, a mentoring program for young ladies in middle school which focuses on STEM, self-esteem, and service. She serves on the board of directors for two local non-profits and recently launched the iEvolve program for single mothers in underserved communities where she provides life-skills/training workshops. Earlier this year, her company, Life Abundantly Coaching partnered with Empowerment Station and the DC Mayor’s Office on Returning Citizen Affairs (ORCA) to provide a vision and purpose workshop to returning female citizens. She is a recipient of the Women of Color in Technology (WOC) - All Star Award, an award reserved for accomplished women of color at an advanced stage of their careers that have demonstrated excellence in the workplace and in their communities. As a finalist for the Women in Technology (WIT)-Rising Star Award, Belle Howard has been recognized for not only succeeding in her career but for also mentoring the next generation of leaders. When asked why she spends so much of her time serving the community, Howard’s response is “I am the best me when I am serving others.”

CHAUNdra LUCKETT '06

Belle Luckett is the Executive Producer of Fox 5/WAGA-TV, Atlanta, Georgia’s weekend newscast where she leads a team of more than 25 people each Saturday and Sunday. In addition, Luckett edits and approves stories covered in the newscasts, on social media channels and on their website. For the past three years, she has produced a three-hour webcast on election night, coordinating coverage and executing an online newscast featuring eight analysts, four anchors and up to ten reporters with live up-to-the-minute coverage. Prior to moving to Atlanta, she worked at Fox Carolina in Greenville, South Carolina for three years and was nominated for two Southeastern Regional Emmy Awards and was the recipient of the South Carolina Associated Press Award for “Best Newscast” in 2011.

LORI SHERMAN '07

Belle Sherman, a native of Evansville Indiana, is running for the Democrat nomination for the Indian House in District 77. If elected, she will be the first African-American woman to serve as State Representative in District 77. After graduating from Bennett College with a degree in interdisciplinary studies, Belle Sherman was admitted to a number of top-tier law schools, but enrolled at Indiana University’s Maurer School of Law in Bloomington. She is one of five African-American attorneys currently practicing in Evansville. She works for the Indiana Department of Child Services.

CARMEN SMITH ’11, JAYNE WALTON ’11, BRIANA BARNER ’11, EVETTE BROWN ’11 AND MYEISHA ESSEX ’11

These sister-friends teamed up to produce an online publication named Nice Entertaining Magazine. Nice Entertaining Magazine is the home entertainment guide for women who value their real-life social network. The content is centered on the elements of entertaining—
This year, Bennett College will celebrate the 75th year since the construction of the Annie Merner Pfeiffer Chapel and Little Theater. The buildings were completed in 1941, replacing the Carrie Barge Chapel that was torn down in 1926. The Chapel and Little Theater was one of several building at Bennett College whose construction was funded through a donation from Henry and Annie Merner Pfeiffer. The architect was Odis Clay Poundstone of Atlanta, Georgia, who also designed Ethel Black Hall, Annie Merner Pfeiffer Hall, Thomas Holgate Library and Carrie Barge Hall.

Having been established under the auspices of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Bennett College continues to maintain a close relationship with the United Methodist Church. Attendance at Chapel is and has always been a requirement. With the growth of Bennett College in the 1930's the Carrie Barge Chapel could no longer accommodate the members of the Bennett College Community. The new chapel provided superb facilities for religious services as well as a separate theater that was constructed as part of the building.

The Chapel and Theater building sits at the head of the historic quadrangle. In many respects it is the spiritual heart of campus and certainly is the visual anchor of the quadrangle. This prominent location gives the building an exceedingly public presence placing it in the forefront of the public’s perception of the campus as well as in the memories of the students, faculty and staff of Bennett College.

The story told by The Chapel and Little Theater begins with David Dallas Jones, the first president of Bennett College for Women, whose vision for the institution began a journey of academic growth, excellence and national recognition for Bennett College.
As I start to write, I cannot stop thinking about my grandmother, Odessa McClary, a journalist. When I would call her, she would greet me with her famous words, “Marissa, what’s the headline?” If she were still alive, I am sure I would say, BLACK GIRL MAGIC IS REAL!

Over the last few weeks, the world has watched black girl magic move in ways that no one could imagine. From Serena Williams playing her heart out at the U.S. Open; Viola Davis, Regina King and Uzo Aduba winning Emmy Awards; President Obama identifying the importance of African-American women at the Congressional Black Caucus dinner to me, Marissa Jennings, receiving an award as a White House Champion of Change for Young Women Empowering Communities. It’s hard to imagine that my senior college project would land me a nomination and an award at the White House.

I am no stranger to the White House, however it was definitely a new experience to be honored in the highest building of power. I had the pleasure of meeting 10 dynamic women who are changing their communities through technology, music, mentorship and programs for the disabled. These women are not only phenomenal, but each and every one inspired me!

We started our day by meeting Valerie Jarrett, senior advisor to the president. She knew each of our stories and was excited to meet us. When she shook my hand, she asked, “Now is it SOCIAL Gurlz or SOCIALgrlz?” I explained that it was indeed SOCIALgrlz. She said she didn’t want anyone to get it wrong, so she was going to say “SOCIAL G-R-L-Z” when she introduced me. We laughed about that, and then she added, “our girls need you.”

All I could think was “Is this really happening?” I shared my story about SOCIALgrlz, mentorship, leadership and the importance of positive imagery in the media. Our dialogue was fun and educational.

To add to the excitement of the day, I had the opportunity to meet Megan Smith, the chief technology officer of the United States. Her words were inspiring. She said that the future was being written in CODE. It was further justification that this app is needed.

This day was probably one of the best days of my life! It would be remiss of me to not mention that I had the honor of being nominated by Susan Taylor, the former editor-in-chief of Essence magazine. I was further honored to have my mother, godmother and my Sister President Dr. Johnetta B. Cole in attendance to witness this day. Dr. Cole is the reason I moved to D.C. after my graduation from Bennett College for Women. I remember that in my senior year of college, I told her “everyone says I need to know you, but you need to know me. … I am going to run something one day.” And now, here I am, the CEO of a small tech start-up.

Once the program concluded, I was whisked away for press interviews. You would think I hit the jackpot just being honored at the White House, but to be escorted to the press area was the best ever! This was not only thrilling and exciting, but you must not forget I am a communications major! Giving live interviews to NBC, NBC.com and MTV seemed unreal. Everything my former professor, Dr. Charmaine McKissick-Melton, taught me kicked into gear. My experience at the White House was amazing, humbling and one I don’t think I could have prayed for.

I am extremely excited to be nominated and then honored at the White House for something I truly believe in – African-American girls not being overlooked in modern technology.

As the days speed by, I wanted to make sure I connect to the very people who have been supportive of this process. Hold on tight because we are just getting started.

#BLACKGIRLMAGIC, is real!
MISS BENNETT COLLEGE SERVES IN MANY ROLES AS SHE PURSUES HER DEGREE
This year, Kee’Aera Hood became one of the busiest students at Bennett College. She is a full-time student, member of multiple extra-curricular activities and a mother. In addition to those roles, she now serves as Miss Bennett College for the 2015-2016 academic year.

Hood, a native of Indian Trail, North Carolina says she never thought about running for Miss Bennett.

“I thought it wasn’t for me,” said Hood, “I didn’t want to be on a high pedestal, I just wanted to make a difference.”

She was already engaged in campus life. She was a student ambassador and a member of the Biology Club, Southern Belles, Queens Association, Student Christian Fellowship, North Carolina Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation and Honors Club. Along with her campus involvement, Hood maintained her standing on the Honor’s and Dean’s lists since her freshman year and had been inducted into the Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society.

However, after much encouragement from former queens, contemplation, and the desire to be a voice for her Bennett sisters, Hood soon declared that she would run for the title. She says, “I stood up for myself and said yes this is what I want and this is what I am going to be and no matter what people may say or do I am going to conquer it.”

Since attaining the title she has a new understanding of what she means to Bennett’s campus and the Greensboro community. “I thought I was just another student leader. I really didn’t understand the impact I have on campus and off campus. “

Hood sees her son Jaylin Harrell as both a blessing and motivation when she finds herself in the midst of an obstacle. “He is a gift from God and without him I would not be pushing myself every day.”

During her reign, her goal as queen is to raise awareness for community service and community involvement. Near the end of her reign, she wants to establish a scholarship to encourage all women, regardless of their past, to return to school to better themselves and to help those who will come behind them.

“When I leave Bennett College I want to leave behind a legacy and that legacy will be an understanding that no matter where you come from or where you’ve been, greatness is coming, but it will come only if you seek God first in everything you do,” she said.

In May, Hood will be receiving a bachelor’s degrees in biology. She plans to enroll in medical school with hopes of one day becoming an OB/GYN.

Ms. Hood is the daughter of Pastor Robert and Lady Lora Capters.
Adera Toye’s favorite quote is “The only thing distinctly different about me is that I am not afraid to die on a treadmill. I will not be outworked period.” This quote by Will Smith inspires Toye mostly because she has major aspirations she plans to fulfill in her life and she is not afraid to work hard in order to do so.

“I have major goals and dreams,” said Toye. “I can not be outworked, this is my passion.”

Toye, a senior Journalism major from Washington DC., has participated in several internships since her freshman year such as: Save The Arts Foundation, FOX 5 News in Washington DC, and Cumulus Media: DC’s 107.3 radio station. She is currently interning with FOX 8 News in High Point, NC.

Her dream is to become a television producer with hopes of one day opening up a non-profit program assisting young women who desire to have a career in the media industry.

She has received awards such as Honors & Dean’s List, Outstanding Journalism and Media Studies Student Award and The Belle Ringer Scholarship presented by Dr. Sybil Wilkes of the Tom Joyner Morning Show.

Olivia Leaven is in her junior at Bennett College and was named the Robert Kantor Scholar. She is participating in the SIT (School for International Training) Study Abroad Program in Tanzania this semester.

Toye
This spring she will be conducting research with a focus on coastal ecology, natural resource management, and sustainable develop in Zanzibar, Tanzania with the School for International Training.

After she graduates from Bennett College, Leaven plans to pursue a master of the arts in sustainable development: Advocacy, Leadership and Social Change with a specialization in social innovation and management at the SIT Graduate Institute in Brattleboro, Vermont. Eventually, she wants to earn her Ph.D. in community sustainability with a specialization at Michigan State University where she participated in the summer Research Opportunities Program in the summers of 2014 and 2015.

The biology major and international affairs minor, wants to help indigenous groups grow healthy crops that will ultimately result in reduced incidents of diabetes and high blood pressure. She wants to create and manage a non-governmental organization that acts as an ombudsman between indigenous and underrepresented communities encouraging self-sufficiency. Her current project in Greensboro is the establishment of SanKofa Sprouts. Sankofa is a word in the Akan language of Ghana that translates as “reach back and get it.”

“We plan to address the problems of refugee unemployment, food deserts, food biodiversity and non-communicable diseases in Guilford County,” said Leavens.

According to Leaven, Guilford County houses the largest and most diverse group of refugees in the state of North Carolina. According to the center for New North Carolinians, Guilford...
County becomes home for an average of approximately 700 new refugees per year.

“Unfortunately, refugees are entering the city of Greensboro where the unemployment rate was 5.1 percent as of April 2015,” said Leaven.

“With a growing population, limited jobs, and limited natural resources, it is vital that jobs are created and sustainable development initiatives are implemented within the city.”

A food desert is defined as a residential area where at least one-third of its residents live more than a mile from a grocery store. According to Leaven, there are currently 17 food deserts in Greensboro, and a total of 24 in Guilford County.

“There are several organizations working to eradicate food deserts through the dispensation of produce in those communities, but how many of those organizations distribute genetically modified produce (GMOs)?” said Leaven. “The majority of chain grocery stores sell GMOs because of their prolonged shelf-life and visual appearance.”

Introducing heirloom seeds to Guilford county, Leaven noted could decrease the rate of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, and high blood pressure.

“SIT is like a beacon of light that directs me to my goals,” said Leaven.

Ke’Yona Barton is a senior biology major from Warner Robins, Georgia. This past summer Ke’Yona Barton conducted research in the Biology Debarment of Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts.

The research dealt with regeneration and circadian rhythms. Her model organism was the axolotl, a type of newt. These organisms have the amazing and very effective ability to regenerate almost any body part, even organs and their spinal cord.

This research explored how circadian rhythms could affect their regenerative capabilities. She particularly looked at if she disrupted their sleep wake cycles how that affected their ability to regenerate their tails. Barton says the his research was very intriguing and allowed her to gain insight into regenerative medicine, while also helping to contribute to the field of regenerative medicine.

After Bennett College Barton plans to work as a pharmacy technician for a year and prepare to take the medical college admission test. She also plans to shadow a local pediatrician with hopes of one day becoming a pediatric surgeon.

While at Colorado State University she worked on a project titled “Is Filamin C-a required for cardiac development.” Under the direction of Dr. Deborah Garrity, she used zebra fish as an animal model to study the cause of dilated cardiomyopathy, chronic disease of the heart muscle.

Collaborators at The University of Colorado Denver School of Medicine noticed that many families are suffering from the reoccurrence of heart disease and her research will help society gain a deeper understanding as to why this disease keeps reoccurring in certain families.

During her internship, she increased her competency in the areas of developmental genetics, molecular biology and fluorescent and histochemical imaging techniques.

“Expanding my knowledge through active learning was an eye opening experience that has given me the confidence to pursue a graduate degree,” said Daniel. Participating in undergraduate internships have aided me tremendously in preparing for graduate studies and the workforce in general. I am proud to say Bennett College gave me the great foundation I needed to do well while learning new things through working in labs at larger research intensive institutions. It was a truly eye opening experience to see how my small oasis prepared me for a sea of opportunities at larger schools I visited.”

After seeing the impact of her research, Daniel feels she cannot pursue anything less. After graduation Daniel plans on entering a DO/Ph.D. dual degree program. Ultimately, she wants to own a birthing center that operates from a holistic approach while offering alternative means of pain management by utilizing a combination of birthing techniques and complimentary and alternative medicine.

Miranda Daniel is a senior biology major from Albany, Georgia. Throughout her matriculation at Bennett College she has had the honor of being selected for many internships experiences. One in particular that has left a lasting impression on her was her internship at Colorado State University. The setting allowed her to apply her learning while enhancing her skill set and also sparking a new love for her subject of study, biology.

After Bennett College Barton plans to work as a pharmacy technician for a year and prepare to take the medical college admission test. She also plans to shadow a local pediatrician with hopes of one day becoming a pediatric surgeon.

While at Colorado State University she worked on a project titled “Is Filamin C-a required for cardiac development.” Under the direction of Dr. Deborah Garrity, she used zebra fish as an animal model to study the cause of dilated cardiomyopathy, chronic disease of the heart muscle.

Collaborators at The University of Colorado Denver School of Medicine noticed that many families are suffering from the reoccurrence of heart disease and her research will help society gain a deeper understanding as to why this disease keeps reoccurring in certain families.

During her internship, she increased her competency in the areas of developmental genetics, molecular biology and fluorescent and histochemical imaging techniques.

“Expanding my knowledge through active learning was an eye opening experience that has given me the confidence to pursue a graduate degree,” said Daniel. Participating in undergraduate internships have aided me tremendously in preparing for graduate studies and the workforce in general. I am proud to say Bennett College gave me the great foundation I needed to do well while learning new things through working in labs at larger research intensive institutions. It was a truly eye opening experience to see how my small oasis prepared me for a sea of opportunities at larger schools I visited.”

After seeing the impact of her research, Daniel feels she cannot pursue anything less. After graduation Daniel plans on entering a DO/Ph.D. dual degree program. Ultimately, she wants to own a birthing center that operates from a holistic approach while offering alternative means of pain management by utilizing a combination of birthing techniques and complimentary and alternative medicine.
On Saturday, 30 May 2015, the Montgomery County, MD Section of the National Council of Negro Women honored Mrs. Doris Elizabeth Herbin Tarpley ’49 as its “Senior of the Year.” A native of Greensboro, Mrs. Tarpley retired as head children’s librarian from Aspen Hill Library, Silver Spring, MD, one of larger library facilities in the county. Below are photos from the 16th Annual Senior Citizens Recognition Program of the NCNW Section, that Alice Scipio ’57 chaired for 16 years, in addition to serving as chair for 10 or more years. The event was the brainchild of Alice Scipio ’57 who has chaired this event for over 16 years. Alice Scipio ’57 also received an award from Congressman Chris Van Hollen, the local representative in Congress and also one from the state senator Roger Manno for her work with this organization.

Delores Isley Noble ’57 and her husband Willie celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary June 24 in Atlanta Georgia. Velma is a retired school teacher in the Greensboro City Schools System.

Alice Airall Owens ’63 is a Clinical Instructor at the College of Southern Maryland. She received her Master of Science in biology from American University and a Bachelor of Science in nursing from University of DC. Owens also serves on the Board of Child Care for the Baltimore conference of the United Methodist Church.

Pensal Winston McCray ’63 and her husband Dr. Christophe J. McCray were both honored posthumously for their work with the ECCC (The Ethnic College Counseling Center) by Colorado’s African American Politicians. They were named honorary chairs of the 2015 College Fair in Denver. The ECCC continues to operate under the auspices of their children, a Board of Directors, and devoted volunteers. Now in their 32nd year of introducing students to careers and colleges through various workshops, summer enrichment programs, college tours, college fairs, and family retreats, the Center has assisted over 3,000 students nationwide. Previous HBCU College Fairs have welcomed over 900 students, parents and teachers.

Beatrice Perry Soublet ’65 has a new book of poetry that is available on Amazon. com. The title is Always Bring Your Sunglasses.

Jewel Merritt Johnson ’66 has always been a strong educator in Washington, DC and a passionate Civil Rights Activist. She has been able to contribute to alumnae Chapters in Durham, NC as an organist for our White Breakfast and in Washington, DC as a supportive member. She is a life member of the Bennett College National Alumnae Association.

Dr. Audrey Jenkins Slade ’70 earned the Master of Education, Boston University, 1985 and Ph.D. in Biblical Counseling, Trinity College of the Bible and Theological Seminary, 2015. Married to Colonel Jimmie Slade, USA Retired, she traveled extensively working professionally in education, human services, and ministry throughout America and Germany. She is first of a Belle legacy: cousins Brenda Parker Jarra ’72, Christine Lloyd Marshall ’80; daughter Rhonda L. Slade ’92; niece Meteea Jenkins Garner ’2003; and granddaughter Amber P. McGill ’2016.

Velma Noble ’75 recently retired after 37 years of service as a teamlead specialist in the antimicrobial division, environmental protection agency. She received her bachelor’s degree from Bennett in biology and her MS in healthcare administration from the University of Maryland. A former resident of Silver Spring, Maryland, she now resides in Greensboro, NC.

Marilyn King Lewis ’76 received the Doctorate of Theology from Andersonville Theological Seminary, Camilla, GA. and a Bachelor of Ministry, from Vintage Bible College, Winston-Salem, NC. She was also ordained by the Rowan Baptist Association.

Dr. Sharon J. Buckner Moody ’76 is from Washington, D.C. Belle
Moody received a Bachelor of Science in medical technology with a minor in chemistry from Bennett, she received her Master of Divinity (MDIV) at the Maple Springs Baptist Bible College and Seminary (MSBBCS) in Capitol Heights, MD in 2012 and received her Doctor of Ministry (DMIN) at MSBBCS in May, 2015. Currently, she is a member of the Board of Directors and serves as Corresponding Secretary of the Alumni Association of the MSBBCS. Belle Moody is a contract chaplain at the Washington Hospital Center (WHC). She is also a volunteer at the WHC with the “Not Alone Transition Companions,” where she shares her time with the lonely, give the gift of companionship to the sick without family and accompany those transitioning to another life. In November, she will have 35 years in as a Medical Technologist in Hematology at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Belle Moody is married to Mr. George Putnam Moody Jr. She has one son, Craig Eugene Moody and one daughter, Ivy Clarice Smith.

Joyce Bass Valentine, ’78 presented a workshop “You Gotta Hold my Attention: 5 Tips for Delivering to Millennials” at the NC Community College Adult Distance Learners conference in Raleigh. Belle Valentine has submitted a proposal on her research to the Adult Educators Research Conference in Charlotte for 2016. Belle Valentine is a graduate student in the College of Education at NC State University. She completes her Ph.D. in Adult Learning and Community College Education in 2017.

Randye LaVonne Jones ’80 was this year’s convocation speaker at William Penn University. Belle Jones is an acclaimed soprano singer. The convocation coincided on the week of Martin Luther King Day, such that by serendipity the civil rights era was highlighted throughout the day. Belle Jones a native of Greensboro, N.C. pursued her love for music into higher education. After receiving her bachelor of arts degree in music education from Bennett, she earned a masters’ degree in vocal performance from Florida State University in Tallahassee.

“Africa is a part of our culture, it was the one thing we could bring from Africa, it played a key aspect in the African lives. One of the things that Martin Luther King realized is that we have people coming down from the north and all over and they do not have a cultural connection, so they need something to bring together,” said Belle Jones on the importance of music. In the past, Penn’s speaker had a sports affiliation. This year, Jones was a change in pace from the usual speakers.

Wanda Edwards Mobley ’83 has been name the new Director of Communications for Guilford County Schools (GCS). In her new position, Belle Mobley will oversee the communication department and work to communicate what is happening in GCS schools to the public as well as opportunities available to students, parents and staff. She brings with her more than 25 years of experience in communications and media relations. In that time, she oversaw all aspects of communications from social media and website management to public information and event planning, including appearances by national figures like Oprah Winfrey and Bill Clinton. In addition to her professional accomplishments, Belle Mobley has strong ties to the community, serving on the board of Triad Region Cares, a mentoring organization for African American children, and as an officer for the Bennett College Alumnae Association, Greensboro Chapter. She is also the proud parent of two GCS graduates. Before joining GCS, Belle Mobley worked as the director of public relations and communications at Bennett College in Greensboro.

Elayne Gibbs Jones ’88 was the recipient of the 2015 UNCF-NAC Hall of Honor recipient presented at the annual UNCF Conference in Charlotte, NC. Belle Jones also completed the Supervisory Development Program at North Carolina A & T State University.

Gillian Hodges Phillips ’90 received her Master’s of Social Work degree from George Mason University on December 18, 2014. She is currently employed at Life with Cancer, at INOVA Loudoun Hospital in Leesburg, Virginia. She provides counseling, psychosocial care and emotional support to cancer patients and their families both inpatient and...
outpatient. Her long term goal is to pursue certification in Life Coaching as well. She is married with three boys ages 13, 11 and 3.

Melissa Watson ’13 received the Young Alumnae Award at the 2016 United Negro College Fund national National Alumnae Conference. Belle Watson currently serves as the Vice President of the Raleigh Chapter of the NAA and is a full time graduate student in the Masters of Adult Education Program at North Carolina A&T State University.

Dr. Leondra Radford ’96 is the new assistant principal at Raymond Park Middle School. Dr. Radford comes to Raymond Park with secondary administrative and teaching experiences in traditional, charter, and alternative education schools. Most recently, she served as the Director of College and Career Readiness Services at University Heights Preparatory Academy and the AVID District Director for Community Charter Network. Belle Radford earned a Doctorate in Theology in June, 2011.

Shareka R. Brown, ’97 received her Masters of Higher Education and Educational Leadership in May, 2015 from Appalachian State University. Belle Brown currently works as an Elementary Testing Coordinator for State and District Level Assessments for the Winston-Salem Forsyth County School System. She was a finalist for the 2015-2016 Classified Employee of The Year for the Winston-Salem Forsyth County Schools and the 2008-2009 Teacher of the Year at Griffith Academy (Winston-Salem Forsyth County Schools). Belle Brown also currently serves as the President of the Winston Salem Alumnae Chapter.

Dr. Carla Walls Williams ’98 received her Ph.D. in Public Health with a concentration in Community Education and Health Promotion from Walden University in July, 2015.

Kenya Samuels Gray ’99 received the 2016 Outstanding Alumnus Award in New Orleans at the national conference for United Negro College Fund. Belle Gray is employed with UNCF as a Relationship Manager and is currently the President of the Metro DC Alumnae Chapter for Bennett. Bell Gray holds a master’s degree from American University.

Tiffany Hanshaw ’01 received her Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from Brenau University in Gainesville, Georgia.

Ashley Turner ’07 graduated from Albany State University in May, 2015 with a Bachelor of Science in nursing. She also became the proud parent of a baby boy, Jaacob Ashton Lewis October 18, 2015.

continued on page 48

scholarship established in honor of Dr. Streat

As a result of the passing of Dr. Florence Louise Guenveur Streat, a scholarship has been established in her honor. Dr. Streat was a professor and chair of the Department of Home Economics at Bennett College. She retired in 1984 after 40 years of service. Contributions can be sent to: Bennett College, 900 E. Washington Street; Greensboro, NC 27402. Please include in the memo section: Louise Streat Scholarship Fund.

Naming Opportunities

As a reminder, we still have naming opportunities available with the following options:

1. Honors Residence Hall
   a. The Lobby - $65,000 (payable over 3 years)
   b. Parlor - $25,000
   c. Furnishing Guest Suites - $5,000
   d. Bedroom Suites - $5,000 a few left
   e. The Laundry Room - $5,000

Note: Information is available on other rooms by request. Contact: Audrey Franklin at afranklin@bennett.edu

North Carolina Resident’s – an Opportunity to have Bennett College Personalized License Tags!!!

The National Alumnae Association would like to show Bennett pride by having North Carolina license tags for all Bennett College alumnae. Here are the qualifications:

1. We must have at least 300 interested applicants
2. The initial price is $25 per car

We are working on a design now and once that is done, we will send out the information. If you are interested and want to be a part of the first 100, send your $25 deposit to Bennett College and mark license tag in the memo line. This does not count as a part of the Annual Fund donation.

For additional questions, contact: Audrey Franklin: afranklin@bennett.edu
The Durham Alumnae Chapter of Bennett College hosted its “Twenty-fifth White Breakfast and Scholarship Fundraiser” on Saturday, December 5, 9:30 a.m., at the Hilton Durham Hotel, 3800 Hillsborough Road. Over 150 friends, Bennett Belles and community supporters attended. “Women of Vision Awards of Excellence” were presented to distinguished honorees in the Durham area as follows:

**Bennett College NAA Durham Chapter at their 25th White Breakfast.**
Chapter Pres. Bernadette Gregory Watts, ’71, President.

**Audrey Franklin and Dianne Jackson, Event Chair and the honorees.** From left to right are: Belle Bernadette G. Watts, President Durham Alumnae Chapter; Belle Elayne Gibbs Jones, National BCNAA Treasurer; Ms. Carolyn E. Henderson-Honoree; Dr. E. Lavonia Allison-Honoree; The Honorable Senator Eleanor “Ellie” Kinnaird - Honoree; Ms. Fran Ellison, President - Ebonettes Service Club, Inc. - Honoree; Mrs. Carolyn J. Thomas, Ebonette Founder-Honoree; Dr. Susanna G. Bell - Ebonette Founder-Honoree; Ms. Judy B. Dillard - Ebonette Founder-Honoree; Mrs. Audrey D. Franklin, Director of Alumnae Affairs and Belle Dianne Jackson, Event Chairperson.
Mar’Kayla Walker Jones ’08 received her master’s degree in Social Work from Columbia University. She has been accepted in the doctoral program at Howard University in Counseling.

Siera Toney ’14 from Washington, holds a Bachelor of Arts and Sciences in interdisciplinary studies with concentrations in vocal performance, womanist theology, and global studies. She is now pursuing a Masters of Theological Studies at Wesley Theological Seminary where she is a leading member of the Association of Black Seminarians and the Chicago this summer. Amra and Shemiah were there conducting summer research.

Amra Marshall ’16, Dr. Amber Bradshaw Hodges ’98 and Shemiah Curry ’16 at the University of Chicago this summer. Amra and Shemiah were there conducting summer research.

DEATHS
Hattie Bailey ’38
Edith Howard Bowman ’38
Evelyn Love Reid ’42
Sylvia Wallace Heggie ’44
Doris Lowery Akin ’46
Blanche Graves Williams ’46
Louise Johnson Gordon ’46
Gwendoline Young Fortune ’46
C. Marcheta W. Hamlin ’47
Gwendolyn Scott ’50
Laverne Hardy Barnes ’51
Betty Mooney Mauney ’52
Florence Simpson Breathett ’53
Margine Clapp Watson ’53
Zepplyn Stepp Humphrey ’54
Ruth Fuiczynski ’56
Gwendolyn Harris White ’57
Gloria Brown Ramsey ’60
Jeanette Napper Combs ’61
Millicent White ’61
Virginia Smith Little ’62
Pauline Wright Bowie ’62
Beverly Buchanan ’62
Gwendolyn Donnell Cobb ’64
Sherryl Isle Venable ’68
Joyce Webb Isaac ’71
Marsha Dalton ’72
Carol Boulware ’72
Pamela Pennix Green ’72
Louvenia McDonald ’76
Eunice Franklin Morgan ’76
Yvonne George ’77
Anita Grant ’84
Victoria Dunn ’87
Nakia Spriggs Jenkins ’96
Michelle Gaillard Roberts ’97
Asia Bobbitt ’19

FORMER/CURRENT FACULTY AND STAFF
Dr. Johnson Adefila
Mrs. Joyce Johnson Bembry
Dr. Cynthia Clemons
Mr. Stephen Crater
Mrs. Evelyn Jones
Dr. James Sayles
Mrs. Louise G. Streat
Ms. Mildred ‘Ma’ Tucker

MARRIAGES
Isis Bell ’98 to Michael Kofi Agyei Jr. in Newark, NJ on July 18, 2015

KEEP IN TOUCH
CALL: Audrey Franklin ’72, Director of Alumnae Affairs, 336-517-2247
EMAIL: afranklin@bennett.edu
FAX: 336-517-2244
WRITE: Bennett College, Office of Alumnae Affairs
900 East Washington Street, Greensboro, NC 27401
WEBSITE: www.bennett.edu
CHAPTERS

BENNITT COLLEGE NATIONAL ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION

Executive Committee and Chapter Presidents
P.O. Box 20321 • Greensboro, NC 27420

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT
Mrs. Deborah Tillman Love ’79
dlbncnaa@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT
Mrs. Nichelle Gordon Scott ’90
ngoardcscott@aol.com

RECORDING SECRETARY
Ms. Brooke Walker ’94
ladyvenoms@yahoo.com

FINANCIAL SECRETARY
Mrs. Josefa Bethea Wall ’87
abaj_99@yahoo.com

TREASURER
Mrs. Nichelle Gordon Scott ’90
ladyvenoms@yahoo.com

PARLIAMENTARIAN
Atty. Brandy Jones Osimokun ’00
baristerbrandy@yahoo.com

DIRECTOR OF ALUMNAE AFFAIRS
Mrs. Audrey Dumps Franklin ’72
afranklin@bennett.edu

ALUMNAE CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

ALBANY, GEORGIA
Dr. Judith Hatch ’77
judehatch@yahoo.com

Baltimore, Maryland
Mrs. Norita Phillips ’91
norita68@msn.com

CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA
Mrs. Eugenia D. Johnson ’48
ej122501@aol.com

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA
Ms. Pamela Reid ’82
preid22@gmail.com

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
Mrs. Tirshatha Derricks-Bey ’99
tirshatha830@yahoo.com

CINCINNATI, OHIO
Rev. Jeannine Lewis Walker ’85
necan727@juno.com

COASTAL CAROLINA
Ms. Renee R. Purvis ’85
msnicet@yahoo.com

NEW ENGLAND
Ms. Lensey Gay ’75
lensl9@aol.com

DELAWARE VALLEY
Elizabeth Van Beverhoudt ’88
dvbca@gmail.com

DETROIT, MICHIGAN
Mrs. Sandra Philpott-Burke ’70
spphilpottburke@yahoo.com

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA
Dr. Bernadette G. Watts ’71
wwatts.bernadette@gmail.com

EASTERN NEW YORK
Ms. Sarah B. Sharpe ’87
brodiesheppard1@yahoo.com

GASTORIA, NORTH CAROLINA
Mrs. Donna Brown Washington ’77
donna77255@yahoo.com

GREATER NEW YORK
Mrs. Lenore Brathwaite ’89
lenore72lab@aol

GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA
Ms. Deanna Wynn ’01
deanna_wynn@yahoo.com

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA
Ms. Tisha Harris ’62
tharris60@aol.com

METRO ATLANTA, GEORGIA
Ms. Francena Brown ’86
fbrownbe86@comcast.net

METRO WASHINGTON, DC
Mrs. Kenya Samuels Gray ’99
Kenya.gray@gmail.com

NORTHERN VIRGINIA
Mrs. Brenda Morgan Nicholson ’69
bnmnickert@aol.com

NORTH JERSEY
Ms. Samantha Dow ’97
Samantha_dow08@yahoo.com
NJBelles@msn.com

ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA
Dr. Grace Heyward Salters ’55
gsalters@bellsouth.net

RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA
Mrs. Keisha Reed Brown ’98
reed56@hotmail.com

ROCHESTER, NEW YORK
Ms. Lillie Stone ’74
Lillie.Stone@rcsdk12.org

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA
Ms. Meredith Simmons ’96
msimmons@shipyardhhi.com

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
Ms. Brooke Walker ’94
ladyvenoms@yahoo.com

TIDEWATER AREA, VIRGINIA
Mrs. Rita Dean Simpson ’72
rdsimpson8@gmail.com

WESTCHESTER, NEW YORK
Ms. Fay L. Fagan ’55
fayfagan@aol.com

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA
Mrs. Doris Luck Fullwood ’61
fullwoodda@bellsouth.net

WINSTON SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA
Ms. Shareka R. Brown ’97
srbrown28@yahoo.com

AREA CONTACT PERSON:

KINSTON, NORTH CAROLINA
Mrs. Joyce H. Raye ’59
Home: (252) 523-4991

HOUSTON, TEXAS
Ms. Charmaine D. Wilson ’99
cdwilson5@hotmail.com

DETROIT, MICHIGAN
Elizabeth Van Beverhoudt ’88
dvbca@gmail.com

HISTORICAL TOTAL

2015-2016

Class of 1945 $12,236.00
Class of 1950 $15,050.00
Class of 1955 $19,742.98
Class of 1960 $10,864.72
Class of 1965 $50,798.58
Class of 1970 $33,886.68
Class of 1975 $26,882.00
Class of 1980 $6,739.00
Class of 1985 $2,150.00
Class of 1990 $7,010.98
Class of 1995 $270.00
Class of 2000 $2,200.00
Class of 2005 $1,160.00
Class of 2015 $160.00

Albany, GA Chapter $900.00
Baltimore Chapter $4,935.00
Charleston, SC Chapter $5,550.00
Chicago Chapter $5,650.00
Cincinnati, Ohio Chapter $20,372.00
Coastal Carolina Chapter $675.00
Delaware Valley Chapter $8,732.00
Detroit Chapter $5,260.00
Durham Chapter $27,707.00
Eastern NC Chapter $13,905.00
Gastonia Chapter $3,346.00
General $37,780.43
Greater NY Chapter $11,897.00
Greensboro Chapter $117,436.73
Houston, TX Chapter $200.00
Kinston, NC Chapter $970.00
Las Vegas, NV Chapter $1,676.98
Metro Atlanta Chapter $29,036.00
Metro Charlotte Chapter $32,481.00
Metro Florida Chapter $50,694.10
Metro Washington DC Chapter $70,355.96
Midlands/Columbia SC Chapter $5,675.00
New England Chapter $7,135.00
North Jersey Chapter $16,032.00
Northern Virginia Chapter $26,189.00
Orangeburg, SC Chapter $755.70
Raleigh, NC Chapter $17,240.63
Rochester, NY Chapter $650.00
San Francisco Bay Area Chapter $4,107.20
Savannah, GA Chapter $2,026.00
Southern California Chapter $30,763.50
Tidewater, VA Chapter $18,984.00
Winston-Salem, NC Chapter $13,575.00
Winston Salem, NC Chapter $117,436.73

TOTAL $787,037.47
UNUSUAL Heroes

ADVERTISEMENT

"the TRADITION Brand"

TRADITION Ever Since Lifestyle Apparel Brand
Visit TraditionEverSince.com/Bennett to preorder for Fall 2016 Delivery

Follow us on IG, Twitter and Facebook
NAA 2015 HONOREES

Ellease Randall Colston
Service Award
Kenya Samuels Gray, ’99

Susie W. Jones Award
Elizabeth Patterson White, ’70

The NAA President’s Award
Alvah Taylor Beander, ’73

The NAA President’s Award
Marilyn Mackel, ’55

The NAA President’s Award
Esther Carty-Barnes, ’76

The NAA President’s Award
Brandy Jones Osimodun, ’00

Achievement Award
Natalie Renee Parker, ’01

Young Alumnae Award
Melissa J. Watson, ’13

Friend of Bennett Award
Dr. Joyce Perry Edwards

Faculty Service Award
Tennille Foust

Staff Service Award
Juliette Beard

UNSUNG HEROES

Greater New York Chapter
Valerie Wills Fleming, ’82

Greensboro Chapter
Paulette Evans, ’74

Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Chapter
Pia Holland, ’00
REUNION
CLASSES

Celebrating 90 years as a women's college
BENNETT COLLEGE NATIONALLY RANKED FOR ALUMNAE GIVING

Bennett College is No. 2 in a U.S. News and World Report 2016 ranking of alumni giving at historically black colleges and universities.

“Our Alumnae population is small in number but our time at Bennett gave us life-changing experiences and formulated lifelong Sister friends,” said Deborah Love, president of the Bennett College National Alumnae Association. “Our desires are that other young women can benefit from being educated at Bennett and that our Alma Mater will last forever. With this, we know that we must give back and we take pride in giving back. We love Bennett.”

Bennett College was right behind Claflin with an average of 38.2 percent of alumnae who donated during a two-year period. According to U.S. News and World Report, the list, separate from overall rankings, is a regular series that magnifies individual data points in hopes of providing students and parents a way to find which undergraduate or graduate programs excel or have room to grow in specific areas.

“I would like to commend the alumnae, President of our National Alumnae Association Deborah Love, and our executive director of Alumnae Affairs Audrey Franklin, for providing leadership and success in this area,” said Bennett College President Rosalind Fuse-Hall. “I believe that Bennett College continues to thrive because our alumnae understand the value of the Bennett experience and want to make sure it exists for future generations.”

President of Wells Fargo Advisors Solutions Keynotes Spring Convocatum Est and Kicks Off New Initiative

Diane Gabriel, president of Wells Fargo Advisors Solutions, keynoted Bennett College’s Spring Convocation Est, on Thursday, January 14 at in the Annie Merner Pfeiffer Chapel as the college kicked off a new initiative with Wells Fargo Advisors (WFA).

WFA has partnered with Bennett College to offer the Securities Training Corp Program which prepares students to take the examination for a Series 7 license, also known as the general Securities Representative Exam. Bennett College is the first historically black college to offer the program to its students through a partnership with Wells Fargo Advisors. Fifteen students have enrolled in the class which started this semester.

Gabriel joined Wells Fargo Advisors through the merger of Wheat First Butcher Singer and First Union in 1998.

In August 2013, Gabriel was named head of WFA Solutions where she remains today leading a team of over 200 Financial Advisors.
During her senior year at Bennett College Anai Harley was given an assignment in her art class to create a painting she felt best-represented Bennett College. Harley chose to paint a picture of the school’s quadrangle. The very next day Harley presented her work to her class, the class loved it so much that the professor Harry Swartz-Turle entered it into a local contest. Through the contest, the painting would represent Bennett College by being displayed at the construction site of the Carolyn and Maurice LeBauer in Greensboro, NC. along Davie and Church Streets. Though her degree is in business, Harley has always had a passion for art. Now that she has attained a degree in business she plans to use what she has learned and apply it to her art business. Harley has created a website where current students, alumnae, and the community can purchase the painting. For more information visit www.artpal.com/anaih.

STUDENTS AT THE MARTIN DIXON INTERGENERATIONAL CENTER (MDIC) on the campus of Bennett College donated $1,000 to the American Cancer Society recently through its “Change for Change” program in honor of the Bennett’s president, Rosalind Fuse-Hall, a cancer survivor. The community service project, in its fourth year, was initiated by Shavon Pulley-Baker, lead teacher in one of the N.C. Pre-K classrooms at the MDIC, a laboratory preschool. The first walk began in 2012 to bring awareness to preschool age children about cancer. This year the children raised $251. This amount was matched by President Fuse-Hall and her husband Dr. Jarvis Hall. In addition Mrs. Joyce Martin Dixon, an alumna of Bennett College and members of The Links, Inc. also contributed a donation, bringing the grand total to $1,000. Also as part of this year’s effort, the MDIC staff, parents, and women from The Links, Inc. participated in the American Cancer Society’s annual “Making Strides Against Breast Cancer” walk in October.

President Rosalind Fuse-Hall, president of Bennett College (center); is shown with Joyce Martin Dixon, an alumna of Bennett College and member of The Links, Inc.; Demetria G. Craven, director of the Martin Dixon Intergenerational Center (MDIC); and staff and students of MDIC. On display in the photo is the sign used when the center joined forces with The Links during the “Making Strides against Breast Cancer” walk Saturday, October 31, 2015.

President Rosalind Fuse-Hall, president of Bennett College (center); is shown with Joyce Martin Dixon, an alumna of Bennett College and member of The Links, Inc.; Demetria G. Craven, director of the Martin Dixon Intergenerational Center (MDIC); and staff and students of MDIC. On display in the photo is the sign used when the center joined forces with The Links during the “Making Strides against Breast Cancer” walk Saturday, October 31, 2015.

BENNETT PROFESSOR ELECTED MEMBER OF NC-ACTE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Henry Vanderbilt Johnson, chair of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at Bennett College, was elected as an Executive Committee member of the North Carolina-Association of Colleges and Teacher Educators (NC-ACTE). This organization unites teacher educators in both public and private colleges and universities, staff and faculty in state created initiatives and consortia. NC-ACTE is the lead advocacy group for policy issues regarding teacher preparation in the state of North Carolina. Dr. Johnson was elected for the post at the NC-ACTE Annual Fall Forum in Raleigh, North Carolina in September 2015.

ART ASSIGNMENT TURNS INTO A WORK OF ART FOR

ANAI HARLEY

STUDENTS AT INTEGENERATIONAL CENTER DONATE $1,000 TO THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY
ZURAW FINANCIAL SERVICES RAISES $10,000 FOR BENNETT COLLEGE AT SCHOLARSHIP BRUNCH

Bennett College is $10,000 stronger thanks to the recent efforts of Ann Zuraw, President of Zuraw Financial Advisors.

Zuraw, with the support of Bennett College and several sponsors, raised $10,000 at the Bertha Sternberger & Bennett College Scholarship Fund Brunch at Greensboro Country Club in September 2015. Zuraw’s great-grandmother, Bertha Sternberger, established a fund in 1925 to support education which is currently providing scholarships to Bennett Belles. Bertha Sternberger was also a supporter of Bennett College’s transition to a woman’s college in 1926.

“The goal for the fundraiser was to raise $10,000 for Bennett College” said Zuraw, a friend of President Rosalind Fuse-Hall, who were classmates at UNC-Chapel Hill. “We are ecstatic about the community support for Bennett College. With 200 attendees, it confirmed Greensboro’s support in the educational pursuits of women and the mission of Bennett College under the leadership of Rosalind Fuse-Hall.”

The brunch featured as the speakers Linda Beatrice Brown, a graduate of Bennett College Class of ‘61, and Bennett College President Rosalind Fuse-Hall. Brown discussed traditions set in place by her aunt, Willa B. Player, who served as president of Bennett College. President Fuse-Hall recognized the faculty, staff, trustees and students who attended the brunch. She also provided highlights of the initiatives and accomplishments of faculty, staff and students.

ALUMNAE CONNECT WITH STUDENTS THROUGH HEALTHY LIFESTYLE CHALLENGE

Members of the Bennett College National Alumnae Association and the Greensboro Chapter are discovering the benefits of early bonding with college students one step at a time through a newly organized Fitbit Challenge.

The National Association and the Greensboro Chapter have formed 10 teams comprised of students and alumnae that will compete through the end of the academic year on the most steps taken as measured by Fitbits donated by Sodexo Food Service.

“We see this challenge as a way of helping our student sisters and ourselves,” said Deborah Love ’79, president of the Bennett College National Alumnae Association, who reported that she personally clocked in 72,000 steps the week as of December 6-12, 2016. “Exercise can be fun. We want to help keep students and alumnae keep moving in a healthy direction.”

As part of the challenge, the group, which has 100 student participants, engages in monthly activities centered around fitness. This year, they have sponsored Zumba and Urban dancing events.

“Our main goal is to instill in students and alumnae a healthy lifestyle,” said Deanna Wynn ’01, president of the Greensboro Chapter of the Bennett College National Alumnae Association. “This program gives us an opportunity to connect with the students, bridging some of the gaps that they have in their lives while providing that mentoring component.”

Having the Fitbit, which fits on the wrist, is vital to the success of the challenge. Each member of the team is able to track the steps of team members. Using the Fitbit, a high performance, wireless connector, participants can check their movement stats in their smartphone or computer.

Members of the Bennett College National Alumnae Association and the Greensboro Chapter are discovering the benefits of early bonding with college students one step at a time through a newly organized Fitbit Challenge.

From left to right are: junior, Aja Baldwin, biology major; senior, Ke’Yona Barton, biology major; junior, Chasity Dorsett, mathematics/psychology major; Ann Zuraw, president of Zuraw Financial Advisors; Bennett College President Rosalind Fuse-Hall; senior, Brea Fields, business administration/theater major, mathematics minor; and junior, Ebony Smalls, biology major.
BENNETT COLLEGE SELECTED AS MEMBER OF SAY YES HIGHER EDUCATION COMPACT

Bennett College Becomes the Only HBCU of the National Private College Consortium

Bennett College is one of the newest members of the Say Yes to Education Higher Education Compact. Bennett is among the list of the organization's 31 newest higher education partners which includes institutions such as California Institute of Technology (CalTech), George Washington University and Johns Hopkins University. The selection was in conjunction with Guilford County selection as a site for Say Yes newest chapter.

In joining the Say Yes Higher Education Compact, private colleges and universities agree to ensure that students whose annual family income is at or below $75,000 are typically eligible, at a minimum, to attend tuition-free, provided they successfully navigate the institution’s regular admission process.

Say Yes students whose family income is above $75,000 and who are enrolled in a Compact institution are eligible to receive annual grants, from the local scholarship fund, of up to $5,000.

Guildford County becomes Say Yes’ third community chapter, joining the upstate New York cities of Buffalo, which began implementing the Say Yes community strategy in 2012, and Syracuse, which began a pilot program in 2008.

Through their Say Yes chapter, Guilford County Schools’ students will have access not only to last dollar tuition scholarships, but also a menu of supports and services—academic and social-emotional, as well as medical and legal—to ensure that they progress successfully along the pathway to post-secondary readiness.

2016 Alumnae Class Reunion Class Coordinators

Class coordinators have been assigned to assist with class activities. If you know of any missing classmates or have ideas for fundraising, please contact your coordinator or the Office of Alumnae Affairs.

1941 Lucille Cole Thomas: lucillethomas@aol.com
1946 Office of Alumnae Affairs
1951 Bernice Johnson: (252) 357 - 1142
Daisie McCallum Johnson: (910) 843 – 4745
1956 Office of Alumnae Affairs
1961 Roslyn Smith: virgobelle61@aol.com
Barbara Miller Moore: brbrm@bellsouth.net
1966 Geraldine Kearney Warren: Gwarren6@triad.rr.com
Brenda Walker Williams: bbwrrw31@aol.com
Carolyn Maddox McKie: cookie66@cox.net
1971 Sherry Peterson Keith: spkeith@yahoo.com
Jimmie Gravely: jagravel@davidsoncc.edu
Bernadette Gregory Watts: bernadette.watts@frontier.com
1976 Renee Saunders: rsaunders55@gmail.com
Crystal Phifer: crysphi@att.net
Ettie Collins: eis554@aol.com
Gail P. Williams: gailp25@yahoo.com
1981 Dr. Lisa Johnson, drjnaaprez@comcast.net
Betty Brown Wilson, wilson7273@bellsouth.net
1986 Francena Brown: fbrownbc86@comcast.net
Paula Peek Roberts: ppeek@bellsouth.net
Mary Junious-Thrower: mjthrower3821@gmail.com
1991 Adonica Smith Williams: awill1323@bellsouth.net
Wendelin Douglas: pendie1@yahoo.com
1996 Sereta Coleman Moore: seretacmoore@gmail.com
Dara Wilson-Izzard: wilsondee47@aol.com
Shantisse White Mason: Shantisse01@gmail.com
Teressa Campbell: Otentrcoten@mail.com
Michelle Taylor: michelletaylor222@gmail.com
2001 Tiffany Harshaw: tiffany_atl@yahoo.com
Jerica Keeton Hamilton: msjiki@hotmail.com
Deanna Wynn: deanna.wynn05@gmail.com
2006 Chaudria Lockett: bnttbell@yahoo.com
Latisha Wright: latishawright@gmail.com
2011 Tonisha Coburn: tonisha.coburn@gmail.com
Ebony Edwards: ebonyedwards11@gmail.com

Bennett College President Rosalind Fuse-Hall and President of Guilford College Jane K. Fernandes celebrate Guilford County Schools new partnership with Say Yes to Education with Bennett College students. (Photo by Kai Slaughter)
"I was living in the Bahamas for four years and it was time to leave due to residency issues," said Lyansky, who is in his third year of teaching. "We had to come back to the states and luckily I was given an offer by Bennett to come. I am VERY thankful to be here. Greensboro is a beautiful town for my children to grow and Bennett is like an extended family for me."

He said education is sacred, not something that can be bought and sold for money. He also began designing bikes in 2003. However, he said, his experiences as a business owner has helped him achieve strong results in the classroom.

"Students like to hear stories about me and my business, their curiosity creates motivation...so they do more work," said Lyansky.

A national chess champion in the Bahamas, Lyansky is advisor to the chess club on campus. He also receives funding from Susan Polgar, former women's world champion, in the form of chess sets to start the club on campus.

BENNETT COLLEGE prides itself on producing phenomenal, ambitious, and successful women. Teaching these young women are a cadre of faculty, some with exceptional real life work experiences that compliment what they bring to the classroom.

DR. YAN LYANSKY biked across the country during his second year in graduate school at Temple University. After his trip he knew he wanted to be a mathematician and own a bike company. Lyansky started the Downtube soon after his first cross-country bike tour in 1995. The Downtube quickly evolved into a complete bicycle resource center including: classified pages, recycle bin for old used up parts, review pages, sponsor database, stolen bike database, chat room, bulletin board system, and much more.

He also began designing bikes in 2003. Lyansky, who teaches pre-calculus and linear algebra, had his first folding bike sample, the Downtube VI. His first 20-feet container of folding bikes arrived in the summer of 2003. In 2005 Lyansky introduced the VIII, and VIIIIFS and the bikes have been selling like hotcakes ever since. He is most proud of the 2015 line-up with belt drives. At his company’s peak he grossed over $2.5 million with distribution in the USA, UK, and Indonesia.

After Lyansky received his Ph.D. in 2001 he started his teaching career.

PROFESSOR TAMMY MCNEIL has over 20 years of Management and Business Ownership experience and received her Masters of Science in Management degree from High Point University in 2002. She has held management positions with corporations, such as, American Express, Bank of America (formally NationsBank), Wachovia Bank, First Atlanta Bank, Deluxe Financial Services and Pepsi Bottling Group.

Currently she serves as the 2015-2017 Faculty Senate President and is a non-voting member of Bennett College Board of Trustees. She also serves as a business Counselor for the Greensboro SCORE office located in the Nussbaum Center for Entrepreneurship.

Each year she and her business partners present "Strategic Business Plans that work and New Age Marketing Strategies" to the participants in the REAL Entrepreneurship program, which is sponsored by the EMSDC Business Development Council. For the last decade, her business ownership experience includes consulting, business development, professional coaching and personal and business mentoring services. In 2004, she co-founded
N’Spired Business Solutions; a company dedicated to helping women entrepreneurs runs businesses. Her common sense business approach has been recognized in YoungEntrepreneur.com, an Internet magazine for entrepreneurs. Her published articles include: Tammy’s Tried and True 10 Tips for Life and Business Success. She encourages women to be empowered through business ownership and helps to educate through events such as the Women Business Forum.

She has served as a mentor for the Winston Lake YMCA Young Achievers Programs, business professionals, and colleagues. Ms. McNeil received the Winston Lake Adult Leadership Achievers Award and has conducted several presentations on “Occasional Based Marketing,” “Customer Relationship Management,” and “The Role of a Leader” to students at local universities and colleges. Ms. McNeil feels that helping to enrich the lives of children and young adults will make a happier adult that contributes to the success of all communities and the society.

Prior to arriving at Bennett College, Professor Steve Willis, dean of the Division of Humanities, Business and Professional Studies, free-lanced as an adjunct professor at several universities, wrote grants, and worked as a playwright, actor and director.

At NC A&T, he directed a production of THE GLASS MENAGERIE for the Richard B. Harrison Players. As Director of the High Point Theatre and Exhibition Center for 15 years, he was responsible for the day-to-day activities at the facility, budget planning, goals and objectives, and staff supervision. He worked closely with an Advisory Board, and a large group of community volunteers.

Additionally, he contracted with national tours and celebrities for appearances at the theatre, and helped market and promote these events. As a playwright, actor and director, his work has taken him to many locations, and has allowed him to work with many theatres, and professionals. Prior to Bennett, he worked frequently at the Barn Dinner Theatre, as both an actor and a director. “I feel blessed to have had a few of my plays produced in the Big Apple.

I’m still waiting for my “breakthrough” play to happen, but I am grateful for the minor successes I have as a playwright,” Willis said. “New York audiences are tough, and sometimes unpredictable.

I bring a lot of “real world” experience to the classroom, and I am often able to help students make connections with theatre professionals, as well as advise them on opportunities that may be right for them.”

He joined Bennett College faculty in the fall of 2003.

“I was invited to Bennett’s campus to read from my plays at an event the English Department used to sponsor called “An Evening of Creative Expression.” This was back in 2002, and I was teaching Theatre part-time at both NC A&T State University and Greensboro College,” Willis said.

Several weeks after his reading, a couple of faculty members he knew at Bennett called to tell him the college was advertising for a new full-time Theatre faculty member, and encouraged him to apply.

“Teaching at Bennett has been an extraordinary experience for me, and I continue to enjoy my time in the classroom,” said Willis. “I’ve been fortunate to create a couple of Special Topics courses, including a one on Lorraine Hansberry, which I like to think of as my signature class. I haven’t taught that course in several semesters, but I don’t believe there is another course like it anywhere in the country.”

He is co-authoring on a biography of Diana Sands, the late African American actress who is best-remembered as “Beneatha” in the original Broadway and film versions of A RAISIN IN THE SUN.

“I’ve been researching Sands for nearly a decade, and a book about her is long overdue,” said Willis. “I’ve written a play about her, which has been performed in New York City as well as here on campus. And now it’s time to expand my research onto a larger canvas.”

After leaving James Madison University in Virginia Harry Swartz-Turfle moved to Massachusetts and started making his own movies and decided to go back to school for filmmaking. He went to the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. There he studied filmmaking with the intent of being a documentary filmmaker. He attained an internship at Florentine Films, which is Ken Burns’s film
company as assistant editor. He spent six years working for Court TV, which was renown for the OJ Simpson Trial. His job was to think creatively and be engaged. As long as there was any kind of legal angle he could do what he wanted. During his time at Court TV, he covered many trials as an online producer.

“I would write stories, edit video, create interactive graphics, and take photographs,” he said. “Court TV was ahead of its time and forming the templates that big media companies still use today. I soon realized I was not as engaged in the content of the news as much as I was the form.”

He found out he had a passion and that he was an artist all along. After working at 30 Rockefeller Center and NBC for two years, he walked away with his yearly bonus and went to art school. Today he is at Bennett College teaching art.

KEONTE COLEMAN serves as the interim department chair of the Journalism & Media Studies (JMS) Department at Bennett College. Before venturing into academia, Coleman was a multiple Emmy award-winning local television news producer. His first encounter with Bennett College was in October of 2009 when he was asked to take over for another adjunct who had accepted a reporting job in a different state.

“…I was the 11 pm news producer at WXII-12 News at the time.”

He became a full-time professor in 2010. This semester he teaches international media, internship, media business and news reporting and writing II.

“My teaching experience at Bennett College has been filled with tremendous rewards,” said Coleman. “I have seen freshwomen go from walking into my class not knowing what they want to do with their lives to graduating and starting their careers and families. There’s nothing in the world like seeing a student have her light-bulb moment….”

Coleman won two Emmy awards for news coverage during Hurricane Katrina: Breaking News Coverage and Best Newscast. He also was part of an Edward R. Murrow Award winning newscast for Continuous Coverage of a Winston-Salem Police officer being killed in a shootout.

Coleman brings a wealth of professional experience, connections and theoretical knowledge to the classroom everyday. He works with other Journalism and Media Studies Department faculty in a cohesive manner to provide opportunities for students. The JMS Department has hosted numerous media professionals over the past five years. Last year the faculty hosted CBS anchor James Brown, MSNBC correspondent Joy-Ann Reid, author Kevin Powell, and a number of local journalists and media professionals.

“We want to continue bringing in media professionals who can inspire our students and help them advance in their careers,” Coleman said. “We all strive to make our classroom environments and assignments as close to the real world as we can.”

Prior to joining the Bennett family, DR. VALERIE JOHNSON had the distinguished honor of performing a recital at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. A few years later, she would return to the Kennedy Center to conduct the Prince Georges County Honors Chorus. This 300-voice chorus is the largest and most culturally diverse of its kind in the state of Maryland.

“…I am proud to say that many of them have worked hard and achieved those goals. We have had students perform at the Seattle Opera, TV shows and Japan, just to name a few.”

This year she is teaching voice, choir, music history. Other courses she teaches include vocal diction, vocal literature, voice class and fundamentals of music.

She came to Bennett after her classmate who was a choral conductor at North Carolina A&T University shared information about the opening.

Her experience as producer of many Compact disc recordings led to the production of four Bennett College choir CDs, which allowed students to learn all aspects of recording a CD. Some of those students have gone on to record CDs of their own.

While at Bennett, she has continued to display her gift of singing on CD recordings including the BBC-British Broadcasting Company and with performances in Japan, England, Trinidad/Tobago, Alaska and many other cities in the US.

“Students expressed how my experiences encouraged them to work hard so that they could perform in a variety of venues,” said Johnson.

“I am proud to say that many of them have worked hard and achieved those goals. We have had students perform at the Seattle Opera, TV shows and Japan, just to name a few.”
LOYALTY FUND

YES! I would like to contribute to Bennett College and be a part of ensuring a strong and vibrant future for aspiring young women who desire to join the ranks of educated women.

Online Giving
www.bennett.edu

Name: __________________________________________________________ Class: _____________
Address: ______________________________________________________________________________________________________
City: ____________________________________________________ State: _______ Zip: ______________________
Phone #: Home (               )  ____________________   Cell (                  ) _______ - _____________
Email:  ____________________________________________________________________________

Name as it appears on card: __________________________________________________________
Signature: __________________________________________________________________________

Below is My Giving Category:

_____ $25,000 or more President’s Circle
_____ $10,000—24,999 David D. Jones Society
_____ $2,500—9,999 Susie Williams Jones Society
_____ $1,926—2,499 1926 Society
_____ $500—1,925 Golden Belle Society
_____ $200—499 Silver Belle Society
_____ $100—199 Century Club

I/we would like our gift designated toward the Annual Fund
I/we would like our gift designated for the Scholarship Fund
I/we would like our gift designated for Capital Improvements
Other
My employer will match my gift. Company ______________________________
(Please complete and enclose your company’s matching gift form with your contribution)
I would like information on making a planned gift or including BENNETT COLLEGE in my will.

Mail form to: Bennett College | Office of Institutional Advancement | 900 East Washington Street | Greensboro, NC 27401-3239

BENNETT COLLEGE NATIONAL ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION (BCNAA)
MEMBERSHIP FORM

Checks and money order payable to: Bennett College National Alumnae Association
Mail completed form and payment to: BCNAA, P. O. Box 20521,
Greensboro, NC 27420

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

SPECIAL NOTE: PAID MEMBERSHIP GRANTS VOTING PRIVILEGES DURING THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ALUMNAE WEEKEND AND ELIGIBILITY FOR A BALLOT IN AN ELECTION YEAR.

For questions, contact Elayne Gibbs Jones ’88 at egjones8@hotmail.com or Josefa Bethea Wall abaj_99@yahoo.com
Bennett College is working to formalize its collegiate merchandising processes to ensure that a consistent brand exists and sellers give back to the college. Three vendors have agreed to follow the College’s review process which requires prior approval for designs. The vendors are **Glitz & Glam by LI – Infinity Consulting Group, LLC** (www.glitzandglambeads.com); **Traditions: Final IV Enterprises, LLC** (www.traditioneversince.com); and **Belle & Company** (BennettBelle.com).

These companies have been provided provisional authorization to produce merchandise for Bennett College. While vendors have received provisionally approval, each are solely responsible for quality, sale and distribution of their merchandise Bennett College is working with these businesses and others on a case by case basis and planned to formalize its licensing process in the near future.

“Our goal is to make sure that the proper logo is used and that Bennett College is portrayed appropriately,” said Sharon Saunders, chief communications officer at Bennett College. “We believe that the royalties from sales could be put to great use at the college.”

**Glitz & Glam Jewelry** was established in May 2014 by owner LeTresa Williams ’97. Glitz & Glam designs handcrafted jewelry to include bangles, bracelets, necklaces, and earrings for women, men, children and organization specific jewelry.

**Belle & Company** is an online boutique created by three Bennett College Alumnae -- Delrisha White ’13, Carmen Smith ’11 and Dominique Mackey ’14. Belle & Company solicits the opinion of Belles from across generations to develop their designs. All of their products are designed and shipped in house.

**Traditions** supports HBCUs by bringing merchandise with their trademarks to the mainstream market place. Traditions, which uses high quality products, works to build a brand for HBCUs that has staying power. The owner is Gerard O. Murray, previous owner of School of Hard Knocks. The company was conceived from Murray’s family operated retail clothing/footwear in New York which has been in existence for 40 years.

---

**BELLES…. PREPARE TO ORDER ONE**

Be the first to sport a custom color & chrome-plated Bennett College car emblem
Pre-order your first ever Bennett College car emblem today
Custom Car Emblem Cost: $20.00
To pre-order or for questions, please email ypeek@bellsouth.net
The Atlanta Class of 86’ car emblem fundraiser proceeds will go to Bennett College.

*Thank you in advance for your support!*
The Class of 1986 Fundraiser

**THE BLING PURSE HOOK**  PRICE $25
A dual crystal row, foldable glass Bennett College purse hook. This customize piece measures 30mm in diameter, will fit on any table up to 2 ½ “in thickness and holds up to 15lb.

**THE BLING PURSE CHARM/HOOK**  PRICE $25
A crystal Bennett College dual purpose purse charm/hook. This piece is design to hang on the purse strap as jewelry for your hand bang and when needed can be taken off to hang your handbag on the table. This customize piece will fit on any table up to 2 ½ “ in thickness and holds up to 15lb.

**THE BLING PURSE KEY FINDER**  PRICE $16
A crystal Bennett College key kinder. Making losing your key in your purse a thing of the past.

These items can be purchased through the website [https://sites.google.com/site/bennettcollege1986](https://sites.google.com/site/bennettcollege1986) or by emailing bcnau1986@gmail.com.
Join us for

BENNETT COLLEGE
ALUMNAE WEEKEND 2016


Host Hotel the Sheraton Four Seasons