We miss her dearly...

Dr. Juanita Simmons Scott

By Tanika West & Staff Reports
Staff Writer

Benedict paid homage to one of its most well known and influential professors and administrators -- Dr. Juanita Simons Scott -- in an emotion filled memorial service in Antisdel Chapel on Fri., Nov. 3.

Scott was 65.

After word of her death spread, the atmosphere on campus was one of disbelief and grief. Students, faculty and staff crammed into the chapel for the memorial service. With emotions running high, selected faculty, staff, fellow administrators, close friends, church, and community members shared stories and memories of their experiences with her. Some students sat quietly and listened in their own grief while others shed tears or nodded their heads as the speakers reflected on the gracious and dedicated person that she was.

During Scott’s tenure here at Benedict she served in many capacities including but not limited to biology professor, head of the Biological and Physical Sciences department, Acting Chair of the Division of Arts and Sciences, Associate Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, and Vice President of Academic Affairs.

She was awarded over 13 grants totaling over $7 million. She held memberships in or was affiliated with over 37 civic, religious, community, and professional organizations, including Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

Aside from her numerous academic and community achievements, she was also loved her for her motherly and caring qualities, her sincerity, and her dedication.

Here are a few of the many comments on Scott made by some of the memorial service speakers.

• “I knew her as a boss and as a constituent. I worked in her summer science program. All of us saw in Dr. Scott a standard of excellence. You let yourself down if you were doing something wrong.” S.C. Rep. Todd Rutherford

• “She was more than a professor. She was a volunteer, an educator. She our friend and neighbor. She contributed wholeheartedly to her community.” City Councilman E. W. Cromartie

• “She was a valuable member of the Riverbanks Parks Commission. She was responsible for every aspect of it and she served it with distinction. She had a genuine love for the zoo and was particularly interested in the zoo’s relationship to children. In the end we will conserve only what we love...she will be sadly and sorely missed.” Satch Krantz, executive director of the Riverbanks Zoo and Garden

• “Success is a journey and not a destination. For her 37 years at Benedict, Dr. Scott’s journey was one of success because there was always more work for her to do. She was the manifestation of everything her Benedict career meant to her -- in her own words…”

Her love for her fellow man was reflected throughout her life and her numerous works.

• “Dr. Scott is the reason I am here today. She insisted that I teach classes that would advance my career. She always shared her skills and tricks of the trade...She was a true role model for hundreds of science students and folks like me. She stood the test of time, the one who was always here...She knew how to tell you things in a down-home way.” Dr. Larry Lowe, faculty member

• “Dr. Scott was a wonderful sister, friend, wife, grandmother, acting dean, associate dean, dean, vice president, self-study director. She laid the groundwork for the graduate program.” Dr. May Linda Samuel, faculty member

‘the wonderful Self Study Director’. We wondered how she could do it all. We admired her stamina, her grit, her tenacity. She said to us she needed a little rest. As stated in second Timothy, she has fought the good fight. We love her. Her legacy will live on for Benedict College.” Executive Vice President Ruby Watts
Dr. Juanita Scott...Her works speak for themselves

- “She was a lovable, zealous, busy, useful woman. Her life reflects courage and vision and a deep faith...Because of her all of our lives have been blessed.” Mrs. Pauline Williams, soror

- “She was an advocate for students and for children. I encountered her when she was tough. She always invited me to be her opening (summer program) speaker and said ‘you never know what your students might turn out to be’. She reminded us that there was nothing we could not do. I say to Dr. Scott thank you for believing in me and giving us a chance and allowing us to be a gleam of light in your galaxy of students.” Dr. Lonnie Randolph, a former student, now a Columbia dentist

- “Thank you for coming and sharing in this celebration. We are here not because she died but because she lived. She made a difference. Juanita Scott means a great deal to this college. She worked for 37 years. It was nothing for her to work extra. She did whatever she needed to do to make Benedict a better place. She meant a lot to us. It was a life well spent.” President David Swinton

The following comments were made in interviews with various students and faculty.

- “She embraced and became the mission of Benedict College and she was the manifestation of the school’s motto: Learning to be the Best: A Power for Good in the 21st Century. It is a great loss.” Keith Thomas, senior, English major

- “Benedict has lost its human face in higher administration.” Faculty member Dr. Olutolajia Fadeyibi

- “We used to always make jokes about who would get to go home first, and she always stayed later. I feel so fortunate to have known her because she is one of the greats who helped to build this college. She had a sweet, sweet spirit about her. She was a role model, a task master, and a people person.” Public Relations Director Kymm Hunter

- “I remember when she helped me to register. I remember thinking, ‘She is so beautiful’. She carried herself like a queen.” Shapitra Townsend, sophomore, social work major

- “I’ve known her for 33 years, first as a teacher, then as a co-worker, but all 33 years she has been a friend. She was a Christian who devoted herself to her church and her community. For more that 25 years we have been members of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. For as long as I have known her, she has represented the ideas of our sorority: sisterhood, scholarship, and community service. I will miss Dr. Scott because of her deep devotion to Benedict College, her sorority, and her family. She was an individual who made a difference in her life by making life better for others.” Barbara Moore, Vice President for Institutional Advancement

- “She could DRIVE a car. There were many nights she would whip that Cadillac off the campus, running red lights and speeding, trying to get a grant postmarked by midnight. She would say ‘strap in’ and she would take off. It is hard to believe that she won’t be driving that car onto campus any more. What is really hard is that I can’t pick up the phone, dial her number and hear her voice. For 35 years she has been an institution within the institution. I have lost one of the best friends in my life. It will take those of us who knew her a long time to heal. She exemplified the meaning of the word ‘mentor’. She embodied every sense of the word. For 20 years Dr. Scott has been my mentor and now she is gone.” Faculty member Vivian Counts
Travel abroad leads to meaningful experience for students and faculty

By Ali Omar
Contributing Writer

Exposing students to the global dimensions of the world is part of the mission being implemented by Dr. Norma Jackson through the International Studies Program at Benedict. With a focus on Africa and the African Diaspora, the program strives to compel Benedict students to become socially conscious by means of research, ethnicity and diversified studies.

Jackson, who came to the college in 1999 as a Spanish and world literature instructor, is currently the director of the International Studies Program. Simultaneously, she is the advisor for the International Students Association and a board member of Columbia’s World Affairs Council.

Because of her interest in global affairs, Jackson feels strongly about the need for an international studies program here. “Our students need to be in touch with the Diaspora (the worldwide community of persons of African descent),” she said in a recent interview.

As part of that goal, Jackson began working on obtaining grant money to fund trips for students and faculty to foreign countries. So far she has led excursions to Ghana, Bolivia, the Dominican Republic and Haiti. On each trip the group visited local landmarks, attended special seminars and conferences to learn more about the countries, and donated supplies to community schools. They came away from the trips with a greater appreciation for what they have in America but also developed an appreciation and deeper understanding of other cultures and people.

Jackson, who is a native of Colombia, South America, recently received another grant, this one from the Rotary Club, which will allot $25,000 each for 10 students to study abroad in a foreign country for a year. Students selected must possess a 3.5 grade point average.

So, how does one become apart of this organization? Jackson said anyone can join. Any student who has an interest in expanding his or her knowledge of international studies is welcomed, she said.

Those who are not scholastically stable should not be discouraged, she said. Honors students do not necessarily have an advantage over others. In fact, she said, “We are trying to stay away from just high GPA students. We would like those interested in foreign travel to be understanding and well behaved.”

Despite negative propaganda of third world countries often presented in the U.S., students who went on the trips said they were shocked to see that the school children even in the poorest of countries such as Haiti were clean and neatly dressed, said Jackson. They also noticed a high level of maturity and respect for education held by the children.

“When we entered the classroom, the children immediately stood up,” said Jackson. “When we passed out the supplies to them, they waited patiently to see which direction we were pointing to before they took the supplies.”

The behavior of the foreign students was not the only surprise experienced by the group. While in Haiti, they slept in the sweltering heat of a United Methodist guest house. Having only one phone, no air conditioning, and restricted shower times were some of the other inconveniences they encountered, said Jackson.

Since Haiti is one of the world’s poorest countries, such extremities had to be endured. “They don’t have the abundance we have here,” said Jackson. “Seventy-five percent of the people don’t have good water.”

Compared to Haiti, the Dominican Republic is more westernized, said Jackson. “It is not as poor as Haiti. They have lights and signs on the streets.” The Dominican Republic has a massive tourist trade because of its beaches and resorts. The Benedict group took advantage of this luxury by staying in a Four-Star hotel there, said Jackson.

Some of the things they experienced on their trips were watching daily dances in the streets, with some joining in; attending a club formed in a voluminous cave; going to the beaches; and seeing beautiful countryside and landscapes. Amidst all the fun, however, tragedy awaited them back in the U.S.

One of the Benedict contingents traveled to these exotic locations only days after the September 11 terrorist attacks in America. Admittedly, they were hesitant to travel then, said Jackson. After consulting with school officials, Jackson decided to continue with the trip.

“As an outsider, I am more daring,” said Jackson. “I knew I had to be strong in the eyes of the students.”

Ultimately, Jackson and her groups were subjected to long and arduous security checks at the airports along with a few other mishaps on their way such as their bus having a flat tire. Despite the delays, everyone made it back safely.

All of the student travelers who went on the trips say they feel compelled to return to the countries they visited and offer more than just materialistic handouts, said Jackson. The visions of poverty and deprivation, pride and stamina, still haunt the minds of the visitors.

Jackson said she is happy that the students have developed a sense of giving and charity in their hearts, which is part of the mission of the program.

She said future trips might include a trip to Bogota, Colombia, South America.

Snapshots of travel abroad participants

Dr. Jackson receiving the Golden Guachupe’ award in Humanism for Benedict, given by the director of the Black Cultural Foundation. She received the award on a trip to Bogota, Colombia, South America.

Above – Participating students and faculty who made touching presentations on their trips abroad. The travelers included students Samantha Adams, Kerry-Ann Stewart, Sean Wilds, Tamara Thompson, Askia Omar, Angela Jones, Kevin Wilson, Enoch Noel, Armertia Goodwin and Nathaniell Green; faculty and staff participants included Dr. Linda Quillian, Dr. Tina Marshall-Bradley, Dr. Sukari Solone and Ms. Marjorie Hammock.

Photo left -- Student Nathaniel Green enjoys himself at a social occasion.

Kenya and possibly Brazil. But the nature of the trips will change as well. She plans to bring students into the U.S. rather than send students abroad, with her current grant. Though President Swinton wants her to plan expeditions to Europe, Jackson said she wants to have a few more trips to Africa, until more of that continent is covered.
Homecoming in Review

By Robert Koon, Staff Writer

Homecoming was a week of lots of fun and cheer. There were some disappointments because not all the groups scheduled to perform came. However, it was good to see students interact together to display what true homecoming spirit is all about.

The week began with a bonfire, held in the parking lot next to Antisdel Chapel. BC cheerleaders provided entertainment for a short period of time, then led the cheers to increase the homecoming spirit. After the cheerleaders performed, a D.J. provided music and students danced and enjoyed themselves.

A fashion show was held in the Swinton Center. Twenty-five persons participated. They modeled different styles such as European, hip-hop, and Bizarre.

Saturday was the big game day for the Benedict Tiger football team. C.F. Bolden stadium was filled to capacity as the Tigers took on Stillman College. Benedict was coming off of a close game loss to Howard University. So fans were looking forward to having a more productive game this time around. However, Stillman defeated Benedict 24 to 7.

On Saturday evening, a homecoming concert was held in the gymnasium. Rap artist Petey Pablo entertained the crowd with a couple of selections from his new album. D.J B-Lord provided the crowd with different selections of hip-hop. Students danced for the duration of the show. It was a fair turnout, but it probably would have been better had more artists been present. Other artists were supposed to be on hand but canceled at the last minute.

In interviews with a few students on how they felt about homecoming in general and what they would do differently if they had control, all the students had mixed feelings about homecoming. Sophomores Tiffany Mercado, Stephen Smith, and Daniel A. Williams felt it was a disappointment and said they were not enthusiastic about participating in events.

However, other students such as Omari Fox and Lakeisha Rogers said they enjoyed homecoming, but felt it would have been better if more students had participated in the events.

Asked what event they would add to homecoming to make it more appealing, they suggested a faculty versus student basketball game, an intercollegiate step and talent show and a formal dance. Asked who they would invite to perform at the concert if they could choose, they said such entertainers as Jill Scott, DMX, Limp Biscuit, Jagged Edge, Jay-Z, Outkast, Fabolous, Ja-Rule, and Alicia Keys.

Overall most students said homecoming events were entertaining. However, they felt they may have been more successful had there been more participation.

BCARTI , literary and arts group, share poetic voices

By Jocelynn Egleton
Staff Writer

Every Monday and Thursday about 35 students gather to discuss how they can make the arts more fun and enthusiastically received at Benedict.

They are members of a group called BCARTI, founded by Christopher Omari Fox, a senior, from the Bronx, N.Y., as a gathering for poets and artists.

What is BCARTI, you might ask. I know what you are thinking. No it’s not the drink; it stands for Benedict College Art Intelligentsia, a collaboration of all sorts of artists who gather on Thursdays for poetry readings and discussions on the arts. They also meet on Mondays to discuss business matters.

The BCARTI readings provide challenge and freedom, said member Aleishia Lewis. “Poetry allows the mind to wander and also to be creative,” she added.

BCARTI does all of that, including helping members share intelligent thoughts. “We are smarter than you. We enjoyed ourselves.

See Bcarti, pg. 7

Highly successful businessman Charlie Johnson was Charter Day Awards Dinner speaker

By DeVaughn Williams
Senior Reporter

The evening of Oct. 10 was a gala night for several Benedict College staff members and President David Swinton, who came out to the Embassy Suites hotel for the annual Charter Day Awards Dinner banquet. The college gave tributes and thanks to those organizations, companies and individuals who have donated generously to the college to help students.

The dinner was hosted by Master of Ceremonies Dave Aiken of WOLO television. In his opening comments Aiken gave recognition to Swinton and those corporations, individuals and businesses which have helped provided “a solid, quality education to thousands of Benedict students.”

Swinton added his thanks saying, “You have those who make things happen and you have those who watch things happen.” Swinton also introduced the evening’s guest speaker, Dr. Charlie Johnson, president and CEO of Active

See Charter Day, next page
Career Day speakers give students advice and helpful tips

By Marco Brooks, Calleb Obumba and Latonya Jones, Contributing Writers

More than a dozen Benedict alumni and non-alumni career professionals came to the campus this semester on Career Day to share their experiences in the working world and to give advice to students on everything from how to get that first job to dressing appropriately for the workplace.

All the speakers had very positive and worthwhile words of advice and encouragement for students.

Among the professionals were alumni Tony Brackett, Keith Seymour, Charles Boykin, and Karen Motley who spoke to majors in the English, Foreign Languages and Mass Communication Department.

Boykin, an English major when he was at Benedict, is now an attorney with a local law firm. He practices labor and employment law.

He told students that it is important to set personal goals. At one time he worked in city government but his goal was to become a city manager. If that did not happen by the time he turned 35, he said, his next goal was to become an attorney.

It is never too late to change careers, he noted. He started law school several years after graduating, but he still had what it took to get through law school and pass the Bar.

Brackett, also an attorney, shared his interesting life story. A mass communication major while at Benedict, he said one of the things he did in college was to get as many internships as he could. He also networked a lot and did not hesitate to go to the Career Planning and Placement office, which helped him tremendously, he said.

Brackett said when he was growing up in Charleston with his six brothers and sisters, he never thought he would go as far as he has. He and his siblings were raised by their grandparents, who always told them they could achieve.

Brackett went onto law school, then practiced law with a local firm. A couple of career moves later, he found himself in New York working for ABC News. He is associate director of the Rights, Clearances and Permission Practices division at the network.

Students seemed very impressed with his credentials and his tremendous success. He did not seem to mind when several students crowded around him after his presentation asking for his business card and how they can get an internship in television.

Another speaker who shared his success was Keith Seymour, who for the last year has been working for the United States Peace Corps in the Philippines. He is the first Benedict graduate to join the Peace Corps. Seymour spoke of life in the Philippines, the warmth and hospitality of the people, and the opportunities that college students can have in the Peace Corps, an international service agency.

He said he has gotten to meet some important American diplomats. He hopes to work for the State Department or another governmental agency in Washington.

He also said he has developed some diverse skills in the Peace Corps such as teaching, organizing, and community building. “With my skills I can work for a variety of businesses,” he said.

He plans to return to the Corps. “I have met many good people. I definitely want to go back,” he said.

Karen Motley, an English major, worked in broadcasting and for the Associated Press news service. She is a manager at The Cleveland Plain Dealer, the largest newspaper company in Ohio. She is employed as a manager in the newspaper’s database applications department. She also stressed the importance of networking. “In the world of business you never know who you meet. Always carry a business card. It is important to be prepared,” she said.

Career Day is one of several offerings provided by the Career Planning and Placement office, directed by Karen Rutherford. The office provides information on careers, job placement, and graduate schools and holds other special events such as job fairs and career seminars.

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Charter Day (cont.)

Transportation, a Louisville, Kentucky-based enterprise, Johnson, who is also chairman of Benedict’s board, is a Georgia native and a graduate of the University of Louisiana, where he was a star football player. He later played professional football for the San Francisco 49’ers and the Baltimore Colts.

Johnson has given many contributions to Benedict, including $400,000 in scholarship money to students. He also purchased buses for the transportation of Benedict’s football team.

“I wanted to be where I could work with a president trying to make a difference. That’s why I came to Benedict... Black colleges need the same kind of support as white colleges,” said Johnson.

“Black colleges need the same kind of support just as white colleges,” he continued.

He also spoke about the tragic events of Sept. 11 saying, “This is the first time since the Civil War that our nation has had acts of war on our shores.”

Asking the audience to bow their heads, and after a moment of silence, he recited a Bible verse from John, chapter 17, verses 20 to 26. “This is a prayer of wonder, fullness, belief, and love,” he said.

Afterwards Swinton gave Johnson a gift of appreciation on behalf of the college. Then there was a musical presentation by the Benedict Charter Day Jazz Quintet.

Tyrone Bonds, secretary of Benedict’s board of trustees, recognized the Charter Day sponsors. These “Benedict partners,” as they are called, have given over $154,000 to the college this year.

President Swinton also recognized six corporations which have made significant contributions to the college. These include Gourmet Services, Inc., Kraft Foods, Pepsi Cola Co., Bank of America, Bell South, and the Carolina First Corporation.

Benedict’s 2001 Corporate Partner of the Year was Carolina First Bank, which sent a representative, May Whittle.

Carolina First Bank has helped students get in school; it has provided internships and given computers and other technology equipment to the college to “enhance the college’s horizon,” said Swinton.

In April 1998, representatives from Carolina First, along with Dr. Swinton and other Benedict officials, formed a partnership to offer the GAP loan program to students. Under the program students get help with tuition when governmental loans fall short. Swinton also serves on the bank’s board.

Swinton said he appreciates all the friends and partners of the college. He closed by saying, “thank you, thank you, thank you.”
“In Student Life” Puzzle 1
(By Tanika West)

LOCATE THE 15 HIDDEN WORDS IN THE PUZZLE BELOW:

H P L O C T C I D E N E B T S
N O T E Q E R J L C I O R M E
O L M S D S U P M A C G J E R
Z A H E G F L O N S O L W C V
G H B D C N E I Q Y R L P O I
M U L A L O S V U K O A A R C
E I K R T A M C E T N B W C E
Q R D G E A X I E Q A T H Y L
P J O T L N E D N C T O O E E
O F I N E A R T S G I O S G A
E Z S W A D L I R O F L D R
T V H A R U M A N O N Y M S N
R E X I O E Y S I A D A R B I
Y S I S N F A L L B R E A K N
A W O R D F I N D M U R X W G

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POETRY • CAMPUS • SERVICE LEARNING

TG’s Corner

By Trinessa Gibson
Staff Writer

The Tiger Newspaper introduces a new column called TG’s Corner by staffer Trinessa Gibson. Trinessa will be answer reader questions on a variety of issues affecting students. If you have a specific question, write to her at Tiger Newspaper, Benedict College. You may also e-mail her at tgip27@aol.com

Q: My mother and father think that I am wrong for living with my boyfriend, but I don’t see anything wrong with it, especially since it is financially cheaper for them and myself. What do you think?

A: Shackin’ is definitely easier on the pocket. However you don’t want to be disrespectful. Your parents are probably looking more towards the future. It may not be that it is financially easier on you or them. Maybe you should check the relationship between your parents and your man. For example, has this man put a ring on your finger?

Q: What does student housing expect to accomplish by putting up new surveillance cameras in Oak Street dormitory?

A: I don’t know but perhaps to keep one up on the smugglers, users and thieves. The significance of them has been taken for granted and pretty much forgotten. I think it is beautiful to see African-Americans as well as Caucasian Americans wearing their hair in a traditional fashion.

Q: Why does Benedict College try to restrict some of the Greek activities?

A: Benedict College does not necessarily try to stop any organization from having an activity. There are steps an organization must go through before its members can have an event. Organizations interested in putting on an event should contact the Student Activities Office in the Swinton Center.

Q: Is a female’s sex drive like that of a male’s?

A: Depends on the female.

Q: Lately my boyfriend has been acting like he doesn’t have any friends except me. What should I do about his problem?

A: You said it…It is his problem, but if it has become a burden to you the best possible thing to do is sit down and discuss this with your man. Ask him when was the last time he played a pickup game with some of his home boys. Suggest that you and the girls will get together and that he should go out with some of the boys. Keep in mind that honesty in a relationship only helps it become stronger. So if you love him, but don’t want to hurt his feelings, just gently tell him you need some ‘me’ time and he needs to respect that.

Q: If a student has several classes that require computer usage for examinations, how can the student complete all assignments if they are all due in the same week?

A: Pace yourself. Although you may not have all the outlets in one area, you must find others. Go off campus to other libraries and utilize the areas around your campus that provide computers.

Need a lift? Studies got you down?
Pick up a fun book or go for a walk. Run, jump, jog, dance.
Go shopping, but not too much. Eat healthy. Pray.
Do it for you! Just for you.

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**S&T’s Fashion Corner**

(The Fashion Police Are On the Rise Again)

*Readers please note: A few years ago a Tiger staffer wrote a column on fashion. Well, two more brave staffers have decided to write such a column again, but with a touch of humor. They did not want their names on the piece but their instructor said they had to. “If you are brawny enough to write it, then be brave enough to add your names,” she said. So, here goes. By the way, this is written all in fun. However, they could mean just a little of it.*

**By Tanika West and Stacie Stephens**

This space is set aside for the tragic fashion crimes that have been committed this month. Please, fellow schoolmates, take heed. Don’t fall victim to these crimes.

Sisters don’t worry, you will have time to get all those fly new hairstyles sooner or later. Let’s not try to squeeze them ALL in one salon visit. And if you see a fellow sister with cornrows in the front, a blonde, waterfall ponytail in the middle, kool-aid red finger waves down the sides and freeze curls across the back, enroll her in the 12-step salon anonymous support group.

Brothas don’t chuckle just yet. S & T have a problem with you, too. We have noticed that some of you are confusing dreads, locks and ordinary, all day, everyday, field Negro naps. The term “lock” in itself does not mean that your comb and hair brush are incarcerated and you can not use them, nor can you make that decision five minutes after someone tells you your hair is nappy. Fellas, if you see another brother walking around in this condition, take him aside, give him a hug, a brush, and tell him there is a better way.

Last but not least, to the wonderful women of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Delta Sigma Theta, Zeta Phi Beta, and Sigma Gamma Rho, and the strong black men of Alpha Phi Alpha, Omega Psi Phi, Phi Beta Sigma, and Kappa Alpha Psi, like the ladies in the first case there will be time for you to rock all your paraphernalia. You are not required by your bylaws to wear all of it at once. So please don’t. Furthermore, your organization’s colors have many shades. All of them, DO NOT, we repeat, DO NOT look good together. If you are wearing white, cream, dingy, light grey, ivory, and “mother of pearl” all at once and your letters, you do NOT look good. If you find your frat or your soror committing this crime, give them a color wheel, show them the right color and tell them, “Frat or Soror, don’t leave home without it.”

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**BCARTI, from pg. 4**

BCARTI interacts within the community and takes trips to art museums; they network with different artists at different places such as South Carolina State University where they take part in an Intercollegiate Arts Coalition.

The travels are outlets for the spoken word and allow the members to see different art forms. In different settings. Members also go to social gatherings such as those given by a South Carolina State artists group called Ujoma and the Artists League at Claflin University.

All of the members seem to have something in common. Their main concern is “association and education,” as advisor Michael Hale puts it. They are intellectuals, artists, and “BCARTI smarties,” as founder Fox calls the members.
Highlights of Homecoming ‘01

Various homecoming parade scenes; organization queens and other participants; Mr. and Miss Homecoming; Miss Benedict, her escort and attendants; and Mr. and Mrs. Benedict Alumni

Photos by G. A. Shabazz and Trinessa Gibson.
To April Kelley being Miss Benedict is more than a title. “It is an honor, a privilege, hard work and a challenge,” she said in a recent interview.

To Kelley, a native of Anderson, and the daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. Wayne Kelley, Sr., it is also important to have good morals. “Morals have always been an important part of my life,” she said. She is now extending those beliefs to her duties as Miss Benedict.

“No one will be ashamed that I am Ms. Benedict,” she said. “I will uphold my position with respect, pride, loyalty and faithfulness to the college.”

Kelley also believes in being active. Part of her duties includes serving as an official hostess for Benedict. Along with hostessing duties, she is expected to stay active and involved in campus life.

Even before she became Miss Benedict she was active in several organizations including Zeta Phi Beta sorority, Christians in Action, and the concert choir. She works closely with the SGA (Student Government Association) planning student activities and organizing campus events. She also assisted with Homecoming Week activities.

Her smiling face is often seen at student events and she represents the student body at various functions off-campus. Last fall, for example, she accompanied President Swinton to Orangeburg to help with an AIDS awareness campaign sponsored by South Carolina State University.

Asked how she handles all her duties as Benedict’s queen and maintain her school work, she said, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Working together with the Lord, we are an unstoppable force.”

“I maintain my grades because I realize what I am here for and where I am trying to go,” she continued.

Even though Kelley has been winning beauty pageant since she was a little girl, she has not lost sight of the more important things in life such as family, friends, and her faith. She maintains a humble spirit, often giving credit to others who have helped her along the way.

“I just thank God and everyone who has supported me,” she said. “Thank you all for helping me make my dreams that were once fantasies become this great reality. I love you all.”

She seems quite a lady, but Kelley knows she is more than just a lady, “Anybody can be a lady,” she explained. “Gender will grant you that, but it takes an extraordinary lady to exemplify the qualities to become the queen of Benedict College.”

April Kelley seems to have accomplished that and more.

“Being Miss Benedict is an honor, hard work and a privilege”
April Kelley
Hair braiding: A Popular Style for Centuries

By Daniel McKinney
Staff Writer

Coming onto the Benedict campus it is not uncommon to see students and even faculty with their hair in cornrows.

To cornrow, by definition, means to braid or plait, a hair styling technique wherein the hair is braided firmly to the scalp.

If you are like many African-Americans and even whites who wear the style, hair braiding is a part of your everyday style or fashion, but do you know where this type of hair styling originated?

Hair braiding has been around for many many years and can be seen around the world. For centuries the style has been worn in West Africa and done in a variety of ways. A simple style there might have consisted of four to twelve neat ridges, worn daily by the women. Intricate styles were reserved for ceremonial occasions.

West African men generally wore their hair short, although some traditional rulers and priests braided their hair in celebration of a particular festival. In the Fulani clan hairdressing was linked to clan, age set, and locality. Young girls wore their hair in cornrows until marriage. Boys, after passing into manhood, also wore braids, which could become very elaborate during the courtship years, but after marriage they shaved their heads.

Blacks who were brought to this country kept the cornrowing tradition alive, passing the style on from generation to generation. Almost every black female child knows what cornrowing is. However, there has been a revival of cornrowing in recent years among the older set, a discovering of the technique, especially among young African American males who may sport them with business suits as well as jeans.

Until this growth in the popularity of cornrows over the last decade, however, cornrows were not something up and coming blacks wore, unless they concealed them under a hat or scarf.

In the 1980s actress Cicely Tyson took a giant step toward changing the acceptance of cornrows when she wore them on national television and helped spark the popularity of braided hair across the United States among blacks and some hip whites.

In recent years there have been countless innovations in cornrowing that make it nearly impossible to come up with names for each style or design.

Here on Benedict’s campus you can see a variety of cornrow styles including swirls, zigzag, and fish bones, a style made famous by NBA star Allen Iverson. You can go almost anywhere on campus from the benches in front of the library to the upper balcony of the chapel and see someone getting his or her hair braided.

Many students at Benedict like to braid hair as much as they like having their hair braided, said sophomore Dionne Mitchell. “I braid hair because it is an interesting hobby for me. Plus, it is a socially event. A lot of people come and sit around and ask me how I do what I do.”

Part of the reason for the popularity of hair braiding is that it is convenient, said sophomore Bernice Dawkins. “I get my hair braided so I won’t have to do it in the morning. When I get up it is already done.”

Others, like freshman Raymond Crawford, get their hair braided just for a change of pace. “I got my hair braided because I wanted to try something new,” he said.

Whatever the reason, students are wear it. Hair braiding is a fashion at Benedict that everyone seems to enjoy.

Prices students charge for braiding range from five to $15, depending on what you want and how long it takes.

Benedict students who braid or who get their hair braided are joining the long history of hair braiding, one that goes back many years, all the way to Africa.

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The enchanting woman of men’s dream...Oh the stories I could tell
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A Question To Be Answered?

By Ali Omar

Poetry Corner
BC Teams: Fall Roundup and Conference Wins

By Barrett Harper-Thomas - Staff Writer

All of the Benedict sports teams will enter the NCAA Division II Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC) in 2002, with the exception of handball, which will continue in Division I NCAA. This step up means that Benedict athletes will face tougher opponents and tougher schedules. Currently, the BC teams are in the Eastern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (EIAC). Several student athletes said they are eager to enter the newer, more competitive Division II.

Basketball team loses close game opener to Allen

The Tiger basketball team opened up their season against their heated in-town rival Allen University. The game took place at the USC Coliseum Sat, Nov. 3. Allen edged BC 81-75, but the Tigers still managed to put up big numbers. “Statistically we beat Allen,” stated Assistant Coach E. Todd Moore. “The loss will strengthen the team, and we will be very fierce in the up-coming games,” he said.

Number 23 Eugene Jackson was BC’s leading scorer with 30 points. Tim Robinson and Pete Asmond also scored in double figures, with Asmond making 18 points and Robinson shooting for 15. Robinson also grabbed 17 rebounds.

Women’s basketball team loses exhibition to SCSU

The Tigerettes played an exhibition game against South Carolina State Nov. 8 in Orangeburg. They were minus starters Tia Ferguson and Tawanda Crittington, due to injuries. Coach Cedric Baker felt as though the team could still play well with the missing of two starters. The game started sloppy with both teams committing many turnovers. The Tigerettes offense struggled, but kept the game reasonably close with good defense. State won on a 17-7 run near the end of the first half. The halftime score was State 26 and BC 18. During the second half, the offense played better, and got off better looking shots. The defense still played with the same tough intensity as they did in the first half.

Unfortunately, the game ended with State still on top, as they defeated BC 60-43. Coach Baker felt that the offense would have been stronger with the addition of Ferguson and Crittington.

Cross Country teams finish first and second

Benedict Women’s Cross-Country team finished their season on top, placing first place in the EIAC. The men also did well, finishing in second place. BC placed fifth out of 14 teams in the Regional Tournament.

Naida Harris and Orinthal Striggles were both named as the Conference MVP’s. Harris and Striggles also qualified for the nationals in Konosha, Wis. This event was held Nov. 17.

Coach Erica Hepburn was named as The Women’s Head Cross Country Conference Coach of the Year.

The men also did well, finishing in second place. BC placed fifth out of 14 teams in the Regional Tournament.

Tigerettes Volleyball team finishes second in the conference

The Tigerette volleyball team started the season 9-1 and finished with a very respectful 15-7 record.

These women finished second in the conference with an 8-2 record. Courtney Wilson, LaTasha Caldwell, Wendy Parker, Tia Wilson, and Reenoshia Ashford were named to the All Conference and All Tournament teams.

Softball Intramurals team finishes undefeated

The Benedict All-Stars softball intramural team, coached by William Hatten and Louis “Pops” Johnson, had an undefeated championship season.

They won 15 straight games by blowing out the opposition with at least 10 runs. These women finished second in the Regionals.

Soccer Intramurals team hopes for place in BC sports

Not many Benedict students or faculty members know about the efforts underway to establish a soccer team at Benedict.

Many students want to play soccer, but do not know about the intramural games taking place.

BC has formed soccer intramural games under Head Coach Garane Garane, who is also a French instructor.

The team has played six games. They have lost three, tied two, and won only one.

“To even win one game is good,” said Alton Smith, a team member. The lack of players, equipment and other necessities has hampered the efforts to successfully run a soccer team. The team is not an official team as far as Benedict’s athletics goes, but Garane hopes to change that problem. Garane and members of the intramural team hope that President Swinton will seriously consider having an official BC soccer team next year.

Until then, Garane will focus on the intramural games that are left. He hopes to hear something from the athletic offices sometime very soon about starting a BC soccer team. Coach Garane urges any players who are interested in playing in the intramural games and practices to contact him. He will also have serious tryouts next semester, he said. Flyers will be posted around campus with information about tryouts. Any interested students can contact him at 738-1068.
Football program needs a little more tuning

By Barrett Harper Thomas
Staff Writer

Seven years and counting. That is how long it has been since the reintroduction of football to Benedict, yet fans may have to wait a bit for a winning season.

Even with the recruiting of new coaches last season, 2001 did not put the Tigers over the top. It seems changes still need to be made in the Tiger strategy.

Both defense and offense made mistakes. However, both sides see some victories even in defeat.

Wide receiver Rodney “Hot-Rod” Hartsfield, a junior, from Opopa, Fla., said “The offense changed from a wing-T to the I-formation. The coaches tried to fix something that did not need fixing. We were very successful running the wing-T offense last year."

Offensive Coach Charlie Brown strongly feels the team has enough talent to run any offense including the I-formation. “Football is all about execution, timing and scouting reports,” he said. “One particular offensive setup is not better than the other.”

Brown added that execution of the plays, limited mistakes and turnovers will make the offense better in the long run.

Based on his professional experience working with offense, Brown said that a good offense starts with the line. “Right now this offensive line is young, but talented, and they will be together for two to three more years, so all they can do is get better. Though the offense is struggling now, they are still very good and improved from last year. In the long run this team will be very good offensively. They have the chance to be very good if not the best.”

Defensive Coach Gary Suber says the team has a lot of talented athletes, even though the defense has been plagued with injuries and other mishaps such as the loss of senior free-safety Larry Thomas for the year. Injuries also sidelined four linemen and a few linebackers. “Except for injuries and unfortunate losses, this defense is statistically better than last year’s. “It gave up only 15.1 points a game,” said Suber, who expressed confidence in his second string players as his starters. “The defense is playing and trying hard,” he said. “We just have to quit giving up the big plays. Most of our games were close and when the defense all comes together games will be won.”

Next year if the defense stays healthy and the offense utilize their plays, the team has a great chance to be very good.

Homecoming game loss made up by spark of the crowd

By Trinessa Gibson
Staff Writer

Benedict’s homecoming game against Stillman College Oct. 21 started with BC winning the toss. The team decided to kick the ball so that they could open with the ball after half-time.

Benedict sparked the home crowd with a 90-yard touch down thrown by Steve Chester who connected on the play by throwing to Kurtis Rumpersant. Shortly afterwards the tables were turned. A number of key plays by Stillman players led to their taking a 14-7 lead into the half.

Although things did not seem positive kicker Bryan Simon encouraged his teammates to keep their heads up.

Benedict opened up the second half with possession of the ball in the end zone. Keith Green made a 32 yard return by taking the ball to the 25 yard line. However, Stillman kicked a field goal to make the score 17-7.

In the last quarter the Tigers attempted a fake punt that came up short of the first down and turned the ball over deep into Stillman’s territory, which allowed them to capitalize and score to end the game with a final of 24-7.

Asked about the loss, kicker Simon said, “You always want to look impressive at homecoming, not only for yourself and team, but for alumni and fans.”

A team player Bryan also had many nice things to say about the opposing teams sportmanship.

“I praise Stillman’s efforts. They never backed down. Their special teams were superb; the kicking was up to par. They were a fundamentally sound and disciplined team that we may have taken for granted.”

Benedict would have three more chances to finish at the 500 mark ending the season having won 50 percent of its games.

Win or lose fans love the Benedict Tiger team and stand behind them one hundred percent.

Photos by Che’ D. Woods and Trinessa Gibson

(Right) - Number 33 Cedric Richie and teammates recover a Stillman fumble.
(Below) Fans enjoy Benedict’s homecoming game, which drew thousands to Golden stadium.

Classifieds

Fraternities • Sororities • Clubs
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