President Swinton reports Benedict in compliance with SACS regulations on the SEE grading policy

Discusses academic suspensions, academic freedom, and student confidence

BY TERRILL BRYANT

President David Swinton told Tiger News in a recent interview that the Southern Association for Colleges and Universities (SACS), the accrediting agency for colleges and universities in the South, has found Benedict to be in compliance with the agency's regulations regarding the controversial SEE grading policy.

"This is the first time in quite a while that I think that we have been able to convince SACS that we are in compliance," Swinton said.

Swinton said that Benedict is in compliance with the SEE grading policy because they have made several changes to the policy to ensure that it is fair and equitable. Some of the changes include providing students with more time to complete their coursework, offering additional tutoring and support services, and ensuring that all professors are trained in the SEE grading policy.

Swinton also addressed the issue of academic freedom and student confidence. He said that Benedict is committed to protecting academic freedom and ensuring that students feel confident in their ability to succeed.

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Swinton also addressed the issue of student suspensions. He said that Benedict has made several changes to its suspension policy to ensure that it is fair and equitable.

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Martin Luther King Jr. Day is observed all over the country, and the college also celebrated the day, as well as several other schools and organizations throughout the state and city. "Tiger News" decided to give a listen to some of the views of the holiday. The campus in interviews with various students, faculty and staff here. We found was that views of the holiday and how people feel about the shape of the African-American community today differs from person to person.

There have been many achievements in the African-American community since King's death. But there is also concern among many about setbacks within the African American community. In interviews with several faculty and students of the day, many saw it as still significant, but were saddened over of the day, many saw it as still significant, but were saddened over some lingering problems in the significant, but were saddened over some lingering problems in the African-American community today differs from person to person.

Some of today's most notable writers and poets as their ancestors, including such Americans," she said. She explained that having a desire for things that they should thank him for," she said. "God is like an American Express Card. You should never leave home without him." As for how to get ahead, she said, "Stop buying car rims that are more expensive than the house (you) rent. Wearing gold teeth will make your teeth look whiter.

Turning her attention to the entertainment world, she criticized such comedy shows as "Comic View," which, she said, always make fun of African-American church life. "Movies such as Soul Plane and Fat Albert make a mockery of African-Americans," she said. Through her speech, Shaw gave several positive ways to spend one's time. "Young people, you must take aim for opportunities in your hometown to make life better for your brothers and sisters," she said. After Shaw's message, Dr. Judy Carter, chair of Benedict's Education, Child and Family Studies Department, gave her a plaque, and members of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority presented her with a green gift bag.

Campus Minister the Rev. M. Prince opened the program, whose theme was "owning our education," with a welcome and occasion. The Benedict Gospel Choir performed two selections and President Singleton presented the first annual "Dream Keeper Awards" to Dr. Ronald Johnson, chair of Richland County School District One. Later Epps told Tiger News that he was proud to receive the award because Benedict had a special place in his heart. He saluted the college's educational values and partnership with School District One. Student freshman Michael Roberts said Shaw spoke plainly and to the point. "I always what we should learn from our ancestors, instead of dwelling on their past. The statistics she gave were a wake up call.

Second semester freshman Charles Moses said, "From my point of view, I never forget the importance of the holiday and how people feel about the shape of the African-American population, the responses were varied.

ON THE RELEVANCY OF KING'S DAY:

"He would have continued to be a drum major for justice and push for the inclusion of African-Americans in all endeavors of human life.

Harry Singleton

ON PROBLEMS IN THE AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY:

"Post-integration problems, the disintegration of the family, and the urbanization of blacks are some of the major setbacks for African Americans."

Natalie Washington-Weik History professor

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"The SEE policy takes away this freedom," Watson insisted, adding that as of yet, he doesn't think there have been any "empirical changes" in student academic improvement. "If students were prospering, I would change my position, but that is clearly not the case."

"I believe Swinton wants to help students, but he is being all the wrong way," Watson added, saying that this Amechean chapter of the American Association of University Professors will be recommending alternatives to the SEE policy. An ideal program, he said, would be to retain students, increase learning outcomes, and help students master their discipline and be better prepared upon exit, and compete on a global scale.

An issue that has been worrying some students is whether the public on the SEE policy has hurt their chances of employment. Asked about this, Swinton said, "You have to know how to sell yourself no matter what school you come from. "Why does everything have to be a negative?" he continued. "It turns into a positive. You are always presenting yourself. One could say that the SEE policy is what got me to where I am. I get more out of my courses. I am a more disciplined person, and I was not given anything. And when they did not apply, I continued to do well. You have to have self-confidence."

MLK day speaker Yvonne Shaw inspires

‘Some of today’s feature films and modern trends hamper a positive black life’

By Sherrod Gary

Dr. Yvonne J. Shaw, motivational speaker and retired educator, was the guest speaker for the college’s annual Martin Luther King Jr. celebration early this month, sponsored by the School of Education and the Religious Services Department. Encouraging the nearly 1200 students in attendance to “never kill the dream, keep on living the dream,” Shaw told the audience “We have come from the blood of the slaughters. Our ancestors were beaten, lynched and killed.” The former teacher and administrator who worked over 30 years in public schools, including schools throughout Georgia, said students should never forget the great contributions of their ancestors, including such notable writers and poets as Langston Hughes and James Weldon Johnson.

“The King holiday is not a day off,” she said. “It is a day on for our people.”

Many streets and avenues have been named for King, she noted. “He had ambitions for everyone.” A native of Augusta, Ga., Shaw called King a “scholar, father, husband, brother, a drum major for justice. Yet, everyone didn’t like the views he expressed.”

Students can learn from his non-violent way of solving problems, she said. Shaw related several historical and statistical facts to the audience, making humorist remarks in between. “African-Americans need to learn how to get jiggly with their education,” she said. She explained that having a desire for an education was the first step toward getting even, if you don’t have the money to go to school. “My mother would scrape money up so we could go to school.”

“Never had to worry about the latest trends in fashion during the time we came along.” Citing statistics on crime and people’s fascination with following fashion/trends, she said, “Twelve percent of African-Americans are buying car rims. The networks use Sean Puffy Combs to get blacks to buy Sony play stations. Stopping less and cutting back on books.”

Shaw touched on other concerns: “People who teach children to hate because of the color of a child’s skin; threats to African Americans keeping their right to vote.”

“Students should never beg God for things that they should thank him for,” she said. “God is like an American Express Card. You should never leave home without him.”

As for how to get ahead, she said, “Stop buying car rims that are more expensive than the house (you) rent. Wearing gold teeth will make your teeth look whiter.

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Music professor Dr. Ronald High
wins prestigious Fulbright Grant

Now lecturing in Germany

By Barnett Harper-Thomas

 раньше this semester Benedict’s Service Learning department held a day-long health con-
vention called “Know the Facts,” part of the department’s on-going focus on addressing health dis-
parities within the African American community.

One of the day’s activities was an assembly, in which students who serve as peer health educators, spoke on topics surrounding health dis-
parities in the African American community.

Marion Martin, a senior and busi-
ness major, spoke about living with diabetes. He expressed the view of the importance of students educat-
ing themselves on health issues such as HIV and diabetes.

Grant “knowledge of health issues is the first step toward treat-
ment of such serious illnesses, he said.”

Martin also said that regardless of whether a person has a serious ill-
ess or not, he or she should still fol-
low his or her dreams and pursue his or her goals.

The Service Learning department has received a health and disparities
grant of $90,000 from the United

Negro College Fund, to cover a three-year period, and will be used to
inform students about HIV and
diabetes, and other serious illnesses and health related issues.

One such issue, HIV infections, largely occur in people of color and
affect a high number of African

Americans in South Carolina.

Project COOL, also started by Ser-
vice Learning, further educates stu-
dents and the campus community on health issues. Service Learning is
working with six health and faith-

based community partners on this initiative.

Some of the project’s goals are: to
address health disparities in African American communities; and focus
specifically on the issues of HIV/AIDS, diabetes, cancer, and
cardiocascular diseases.

Part of the grant will be used to con-
duct a study to determine the the-
oretical model of change or how
well students progress in their
knowledge and understanding of health disparities that affect people of
color.

As part of the “Know the Facts”

health convention, a diabetes risk

assessment and HIV screening was
done at the Student Center.

Students and community members were able to get tested for HIV and
diabetes by workers from Palmetto Health and DHEC.

Shemeka Landing, a freshmen
from Mobile, Ala., said this was her
first time taking an HIV screening.

When asked what prompted her to
take the test, she responded that she
felt it was best to educate oneself about HIV.

She also said people should know
if they have the disease because it
would be awful to infect someone
else, whether by accident from not
knowing or just from being irre-

sponsible.

She wasn’t the only student who
said that everyone should take the
test. DemLon Bailey of Pensacola, Fla.,
said that sometime along the line,
everyone should consider being test-

ed for any STD or health problem like diabetes or even cancer for the
simple fact of preserving his or her

personal health.

“Knowing how to deal with some of
the STD’s in the world, you can learn
how to prevent them,” he said. “The

convention brought to light the fact that STD’s are a reality.”

Anyone interested in further test-
ing can visit this free medical clinic
at 1875 Hardt St. near Benedict.

The clinic also offers free diabetes,
prostate cancer screenings, and STD
tests. It is opened from 5 to 7 p.m.

“Professor Norma Enns, my host at the
Hochschule, reviewed my proposal, as did
the President of the Hochschule,
and they felt that I was an excellent match
for their setting. Professor Enns
told several other

professors about my forthcoming
visit, and they have requested that I do presentations for
them,” he said.

“As a result of the experience, I
will present more workshops and
master classes and I will eventually
like to start a summer ‘Benedict in
Germany V ocal Program’ at the
Hochschule,” High said. “I am grate-
ful to Dr. Linda Kenbau, Dr. Salone,
Professor Enns
of Benedict College, and Dr. Eddie
W. Jones, University of Arkansas-
Fayetteville, for writing reference
letters. Dr. Mille and Mrs. Gina
Moore were encouraging along the
way, as well.”

The Fulbright Program was
established in 1946 under legislation intro-
duced by the late Arkansas Sen. J.
William Fulbright for the purpose of building mutual understanding
between the people of the United
States and other countries.

The Fulbright Program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State,
Bureau of Educational and Cultural

Affairs, is America’s flagship inter-
national and educational exchange
activity. Throughout its 58 years of
existence, thousands of U.S. facul-
ty and professionals have studied,
taught or done research abroad; thou-
sands of their counterparts from oth-
er countries have engaged in simi-
lar activities in the United States.

Fulbright scholar award recipient’s awards are selected on the basis of
academic or professional achieve-
ment; they have also demonstrated
extraordinary leadership in their
fields.

For more information about the Ful-

bright Scholar Program, contact Nan-
cy Santos Gainer, director of external
relations, Council for International
Exchange of Scholars at 202-686-
4014. E-mail: nsg@cies.org. Website:
www.cies.org.

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FREE Gift or 15 Minute Massage
7. $10 CASH Referral Fee Paid to YOU (expires 2/15)
8. $13 OFF Student / Faculty Discount (expires 2/15)
Benedict's International Students Association President

More understanding of international students is needed

BY KALEFA K OLIVER
ISA PRESIDENT

Please do not be offended by what is perceived as the international students cliquing together. Let me put it this way; in any situation where a group of people becomes a minority, they flock together... it is our only real reminder of our countries... What hurts many international students is when counterparts accuse us of being segregated. Yet I see persons from Charleston, New York, New Jersey, Atlanta, Columbia, Greenville, California and other places hanging out together, but they are not accused of leaving anyone else out. Just as they are proud of our hometown, so are we of our countries, cultures and regions.

Thoughts are that many local students take for granted that they can bring. We cannot work due to our VISA status, unless it is on campus employment or internship. We are faced with many of the same financial issues that American students have; but unfortunately, we do not have the same access to funds. We cannot just pick up the phone and call home; it costs too much money. In many cases, the reality is that our exchange rate is not one dollar for one U.S. dollar. Ask any international student who quota to join a program and for their educational dream, the situation hurts.

A great perception on campus that creates a big stereotype about international students is that we are all very intelligent. Friends, not dis-counting the fact that some international students, as with ANY other student regardless of country of origin, are exceedingly gifted academically. This is not to consider ourselves average students. Remember, it is all about risk, going through this legal process to bring international students over here. Why would Benedict College seek to recruit the lowest international students, it be because of their talent in academics or in sports?

Bear in mind that in many of our cases our education system is com-pletely different from that of the American system. The competi-tiveness is overwhelming where many are from, I speak from personal experience. I took my first major exam in Timidal when I was nine years old and that exam was to decide at what level of education I was at and who my academic peers would be. I then took another major exam at 15 and I was prepared for three years for that exam. The system waited for no one. That exam was to decide if I was ever going to have a shot at lucrative employment, among other things. That exam could have been the last before I entered the working world, but I then chose to sit for an advanced-level exam when I was 17 years old, which basically decided whether or not I could even dream of getting into an English-based university. That exam is considered worldwide, to be one of the hardest exams you will ever write. It is basically like a three-year course with less than two years of preparation. For these exams a multiple choice paper or open book exam is the worst of any other type of exam. I am in no way exaggerating when I say that at least two people who suffered because of this pressure of the exam. One got a ner- vous breakdown while the other one killed himself.

Our system does not leave much room for relaxation, and we are pressed from all around to pass. If this appears as arrogance, please understand that it is not. It is that we don’t want to do what is expected of us because of that. That exam was to decide at what level of education I was at and who my academic peers would be. I then took another major exam at 15 and I was prepared for three years for that exam. The system waited for no one. That exam was to decide if I was ever going to have a shot at lucrative employment, among other things. That exam could have been the last before I entered the working world, but I then chose to sit for an advanced-level exam when I was 17 years old, which basically decided whether or not I could even dream of getting into an English-based university. That exam is considered worldwide, to

that we knock away the hands that are there to guide and help us. I implore: ask a question, don’t insult us, and enquire about us, don’t judge us. We will help, we will participate.

International students are on the band, they play tennis, golf, foot-ball, soccer, volleyball, basketball, softball, and baseball. We are on the academic team and the debate team; we are peer mentors, tutors, and we are in the School of Hon-ors. Ms. Oak Street, the President and Vice President of the Sopho-more Class, President of the Senior Class, MS. School of Honors, members of the Honors Student Association Board are all inter-national students, to not exclude the presence of international students in sororities and fraternities.

This could never be the record of a group of unwilling students. The International Students Association is one body fighting to help integration. The group is all-inclu-sive. We welcome American stu-dents to be a part, and we want to learn from you as well. I tell you now, if it turns out that international students pose a prob-lem to the social, student and aca-demic lives of American students, I will be in full support of our extinc-tion on this campus.

Benedict's international students come from all over the world, including Europe, Africa, the Middle East, the Caribbean, and South America.
A call to support the Arts

Director Geter hopes more people will visit the gallery

BY ZAKIYAH WOODS
STAFF WRITER

“We tend to confine our culture to just religion. Our culture is more than just gospel music,” said Tyrone Geter, director of the Benedict College Ponder Arts Gallery, commenting in an interview on the importance of students and others being exposed to many forms of black culture, including art.

Geter spoke about the need for African Americans and others to take advantage of opportunities to view art and to appreciate notable works of art from black artists. Geter shared his thoughts on the importance of art in an interview conducted just a few days after the gallery held a reception for the exhibit “The Permanent Collection,” which consists of works ranging from sculptures, oil paintings, silk screens, prints and even a quilt. All of the pieces depict African American culture.

During the Sunday afternoon reception, attended by about 15 persons, viewers were informed of the importance of Benedict College having the collection. Over the last three years the collection has grown to 170 pieces of art. “Our mission is to bring the best art to Benedict College.” Geter said at the reception.

At the reception, viewers of the exhibit enjoyed light hors’oeuvres, a performance by the Harold Odum Dance Theatre Co. and reception music played in the museum. Some of Geter’s pieces are in the college’s Business Development Center on Two Notch Road.

Musical CDs

BY DOMINIC J. HUNTER

It’s about time, an LP about the black college experience was created. Though it won’t be slipped into everyone’s CD deck, “Blackberry Vol. 1: The Soundtrack of Your Black College Experience” clearly addresses the issues of today’s black college students.

The CD released by The HBCU Network is something we can relate to: black college students who these people are, not to mention what their works look like.

With 170 pieces in the collection, having enough appropriate storage and display space has also become an issue, Geter said. Many of the art works, mostly the really expensive ones, need particular care and storage to maintain their quality, he said, adding that limited funding and support to the gallery have hindered the continued growth of the collection.

Many HBCU’s have collections of art that have been collected for many years. Some of the collections have been in existence for over 50 years.

Geter said Benedict College has done well in terms of the amount of artwork received in such a short time, but he would love it if there were more support shown to the gallery by the Benedict community.

Geter believes the collection has an educational purpose, and he hopes people will stop by more often to view the exhibits the gallery has during the duration of the semester.

This will hopefully allow them to see that African Americans are doing more than singing, acting and playing sports.

The pieces in “The Permanent Collection” were on display from Jan. 10 to March 4 in the gallery. Some of the pieces that will not go into storage will be placed in the library and the Swinton Campus Center. Some of Geter’s pieces are on display in the college’s Business Development Center on Two Notch Road.

Geter encourages all faculty, staff, students and administration to come out and support the gallery. After all, as he puts it, our culture is more than just gospel music.
**Harambee Festival: a hodgepodge of talent, fun, and wares**

**BY TAYEKA SANFORD STAFF WRITER**

D r. George A. Devlin, associate vice president of stu- dent affairs, who is also founder of Benedict’s popular Harambee Festival, saw one wish come true and another.

This year’s Harambee festival, held the last Saturday in February, was one of the largest and most successful, in terms of vendor participation and activities. Over 125 vendors participated and some 6,000 persons attended.

In an interview a few weeks before the festival, Devlin said that he hoped that enough money would be raised from this year’s festival so that Harambee scholarships could be established. He said the endowment has to be at least $100,000.

One of the festival’s goals, he said, is to offer endowed scholar- ships for deserving students.

This year’s festival — the 16th — spotlighted several local groups and allowed Benedict the opportu- nity to showcase some of its own talent, including the award winning gospel choir, the jazz band and the Harold Odom Dance Company.

Two former Miss Benedict queen—Zandra Chiles-Nelson and Regina Skeeters—also per- formed, as did members of BCAR- TI, the student poetry group. Also appearing was Twain Blaze, a native of Atlanta, Ga., who has been blowing up the rap scene since the late 1990’s. With his unique style and southern twang, the 20-year-old has made a mark in the industry known to many as the Crown Prince of the under- ground world. Blaze has earned his place in this evolutionary genre of the pop/hip-hop culture.

Blaze also shows love for his community by helping to organize charity events that promote aware- ness of the importance of educa- tion in the inner cities. He gave his first opening performance for the Filipino Squad in 1999 at the Sta- ple Center Arena in San Diego, Calif., and would later go on to open up for such acts like Nappy Roots, Goody Mob, Twista, Black Eye Peas, Matis and 112. Harambee, held in the Benjamin E. Mayes Human Resources Center arena, was packed throughout the day. In the first few years of the fes- tival, only a few hundred people attended, but in the years since, the number of attendees has been growing steadily.

Nearly 100 vendors were set up with their various wares, including dolls, candles and incense, posters and paintings, African fabric and clothing, food, jewelry, and more. This year all of the vendor space was sold out even before the fes- tival opened.

Devlin said he would like to see the festival, which is free and open to the general public, become a regional event. “Harambee can become one of the biggest HBCU-sponsored fes- tivals in the nation,” he said. “It is expressive of multiculturalism, inclusions and advocates African American history and culture.”

“It is already helping to unite the greater community,” he added. Even the weather cooperated this year. There was no rain, and the temperature was cool and pleasant. Harambee, which means pulling together, will always be a part of the community, said Devlin. “I was very pleased with this year’s turnout.”

Leadership development’s ‘Timeline’ unveiled many talents

**BY TAYEKA SANFORD STAFF WRITER**

A n African-American history of Black History Month and sponsored by the Student Leadership Development Department, gave some Benedict students a chance to showcase their talent. The students called themselves the VIPs — and ‘VIP’ stands for ‘Very Important Person’ — which was the intention of watching a perfor- mance take place. Instead they were greeted to a nearly empty stage with the exception of four microphones, four chairs, and four music stands. Some audience members didn’t know what to make of it, and even uttered a few negative things in response to the stage.

In the first scene ‘Méda- lon’ by Tom Cole, Bernard Caulder played a soldier speaking to his doctor after coming home from war. By the end of this scene almost every negative response had quick- ly changed to a positive one.

Caulder enthralled the crowd as he read. “One audience member commenting on Caulder’s perfor- mance after the show said he real- ly made the character come to life.”

The response was generally the same throughout the next two per- formances, which were ‘Honey- girls’ by Karen Evans, which fea- tured Alyia Sauter and Shahr McKaizer and ‘Left Shoe Buddy’ by J. E. Franklin, which featured Bernard Caulder and Brooks.

Brooks, theatre instructor and director, did not select these spe- cific scenes and these specific actors for the art of entertainment. There was an underlying message in the scenes and in Readers’ Theatre performance was far from an average play

**BY CRYSTAL LEWIS CONTRIBUTING WRITER**

B enedict College theatre stu- dents bridged the gap between young and old in their Readers Theatre performance during Black History Month.

The students call themselves CDB III, which is an acronym for their instructor’s name, Charles David Brooks III. They read three different selections from three sep- arate plays.

Most in attendance came with the intention of watching a perfor- mance take place. Instead they were greeted to a nearly empty stage with the exception of four microphones, four chairs, and four music stands. Some audience members didn’t know what to make of it, and even uttered a few negative things in response to the stage.

However, Brooks went on to explain why he did not choose a selection to honor them. “I love speaking about the heroes, but I don’t know their weaknesses,” he said.

Although the scenes were set during a critical time period in history for African Americans, the prob- lems these characters endured are still evident today.

Brooks commented on his scene selection. “I chose these scenes because I can really identify with this because there is a desire to overcome.”

Brooks said he started Readers’ Theatre so that the audience could really hear and feel what is going on without the distraction of a large cast and set.

The actors in this performance were not in full costume with wigs of makeup. They wore their regular clothes so you really were not sure what time period, city, or state the scene was taking place. None of that really mattered though.

“Where is appropriate about Readers’ Theatre is you can listen more,” said Brooks. “You are really con- centrating.”

2 An art seller stuffed between his many paintings.
3 Choirs kept the crowd entertained.
4 Jewelry and cosmetic vendors sell wares to consumers.
5 Food galore; everyone’s taste buds were fulfilled.

- 1 Harambee Director Dr. George Devlin
- 2 An art seller stuffed between his many paintings.
- 3 Choirs kept the crowd entertained.
- 4 Jewelry and cosmetic vendors sell wares to consumers.
- 5 Food galore; everyone’s taste buds were fulfilled.
Safe Sex, ‘the Down Low’ and a warning that all are at risk, from writer J.L. King

BY ADAM M. PACE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

J.L. King’s “On the Down Low” is a best seller. J.L. King is an activist who travels to college campuses with the message that education can prevent young people from being infected with the HIV virus and other sexually transmitted diseases. He lectures on safe sex and about black men “on the down low,” — men in heterosexual relationships who secretly have sex with other men. That was the subject of his best-selling book, Last fall the gymnasium at Georgia’s Albany State University was packed with more than 1,000 spectators as King spoke at the freshman convocation.

Dressed in a loose fitting, all black, dashiki-type outfit, King thanked Albany State for having him. Then he dove right into the subject, saying that HIV is killing black men.

He then demonstrated how big the device is by taking an ordinary condom demonstration that proved to use one.

As the Sept. 28 convocation near his end, King gave some tips to young people about new relationships. He told them to get to know the person they are seeing, not to rush things, and to try to be as open as possible.

The author said that those in the audience that everyone is at risk, from writer J.L. King

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**SOFTBALL**

**Lady Tigers tearing up the competition**

**BY TINA SANDERS**

**Steve Winter**

Blood, sweat and victories. The Benedict College Lady softball team is getting plenty of that.

After a successful season last year, the Lady Tigers are looking forward to another first place finish in the SIAC.

In an interview with *Tiger News*, Head Coach Gwendolyn Rouse said she strongly believes that this team will capture the conference title because of the talent of the players.

The Lady Tigers opened their season at the Orangeburg Claflin tournament, held Feb. 4-5. Benedict’s returning SIAC champions won three out of four games in the tournament.

After the victories, senior Shackia Liburd said, “I expected these results because we are winners. I know that we will be competitive in our conference. We will win the championship again. We are going to the ship.”

The team remains strong despite the loss of five seniors who graduated last year.

The team consists of seniors Shackia Liburd, infield; juniors Lacchia Kniglt, outfield and Santatra Smallley, infield; juniors Tina Sanders, pitcher and Dranna Batter-Pitcher; sophomores Laleke Grumms Prince, infield; Natassia Wilkes, outfield; Jemima Castro pitcher/catcher; and freshmen Jayanna Williams, infield; and Daniya Bolling, infield.

All home games, which are played at Martin Luther King Park, are double headers. Schedules can be picked up in BC Cares.

Rouse hopes members of the Benedict College family will support the team. “They will be amazed at the talent of the players,” she said.

**GIVE ME A ‘V’ FOR VICTORY**

Benedict softball pitcher Tina Sanders (center) talks to a game official as catcher Chaniita Brathwaite and team captain Shackia Liburd, shortstop, stand by. The Tiger won the game against Clarke-Atlanta.

**SPORTS**

**Upcoming Championships for other BC Sports Teams**

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<td>Thu.-Sat., April 14-16</td>
<td>SIAC Championship, Albany, Ga.</td>
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<td>Men and Women’s Tennis</td>
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**TIGER NEWS**

**Tiger basketball team continues winning ways**

**BY RAYNITA MILLER**

**Assistant Editor**

In the regular season, the BC men’s basketball team captured their seventh win in a row with a 60-58 victory over Tuskegee.

Charles Bankhead led the team with 14 points and 8 rebounds. The Tigers were on a massive winning streak, since their heart breaking loss to Claflin back in late January.

BC got off to a rocky start in the early part of the season, losing four players to unfortunate circumstances, such as injured players and players transferring.

Head Coach Fred Watson was able to pick up two more players to fill out the team.

The Tigers had an overall record of 16-8 and 12-5 in the SIAC Conference, putting them in second place.

“It’s finally coming together,” Watson said about his team’s unity on the court.

While all of the Tigers have played a huge role in the team’s turnaround performance, Coach Watson looked to Charles Bankhead, Joel Brown, and Joshua Obiajunwa to be leaders on and off the court.

“Joel is our vocal leader. If he sees that the guys are not executing plays on offense or defense correctly, then he will bring that to the attention of the players or myself. Bankhead and Obiajunwa are leaders off the court because they lead by the example of getting good grades and staying late after practice to continue working on their skills,” said Watson.

Watson also credited their bench with being the team’s sixth man. “They always have a lot of energy yelling out instructions to the guys when they’re on offense and defense. They also keep the team motivated whether we’re winning or losing,” he said.

The Tigers became a power house in the SIAC, leading the conference in scoring defense, by holding their opponents to 61.5 points per game, scoring margins, beating teams by 5.8 points per game, and with defensive rebounds, pulling down an average of 33 rebounds per game.

The last home game for the Tigers was Feb. 24. The men headed down to Albany, Ga. for the SIAC conference tournament March 2-5, hoping to become two-time conference champs.

**Tigers and Tigerettes basketball teams unable to repeat as SIAC champs**

**BY RAYNITA MILLER**

**Assistant Editor**

Benedict Collegiats men and women’s basketball teams headed to Albany, Ga. to defend their SIAC titles recently, but came up short, although they put up a strong effort.

**BC Women**

The Lady Tigers, ranked third in the tournament, faced Miles College in the first round. The Tigerettes won big in the first round knocking out Miles College 58 to 49, then advanced to play Fort Valley State University in the second round.

Despite a close hard fought game, the Lady Tigers were robbed by a controversial loose ball call by the referee, who ruled in favor of Fort Valley.

The Lady Tigers were defeated 67 to 69. Tigerettes Karnet Merchant led the women’s team with 25 points and 10 rebounds.

After their win, Fort Valley advanced to the final round, only to be defeated by Pine College, 74 to 72.

Merchant and senior guard Shemika Stevens were named to the 2004-2005 first team SIAC All Conference basketball team and to the 2004-2005 SIAC Women’s All Tournament team.

Seniors Dionne Chandler and Lynna Liburd made the 2004-2005 SIAC Women’s All Academic team. Merchant was also named 2004-2005 SIAC Newcomer of the Year.

**BC Men**

After a strong finish during the regular season, the Tigers came into the SIAC tournament ranked second. They played their first game against Kentucky State in the second round.

The Thoroughbreds proved to be too much for the Tigers, however, taking the game in a 78 to 68 victory.

Lane College took the men’s SIAC overall championship, winning big over Lane College 84 to 73.

Though they exited the tournament early, the Tigers Joel Brown, Charles Bankhead, and Joshua Obiajunwa were named to the first and second team 2004-2005 SIAC All Conference Basketball team. Obiajunwa, a political science major, was also named to the 2004-2005 SIAC Men’s All Academic team.

Obiajunwa is not only a top-notch player, but he also has an outstanding academic record; he holds a 3.93 grade point average.

**For more information about the Tigerette and Tiger News, please see page 8.**