

# Common Ground

Published for the community by Agnes Scott College

September, 1997

## Inside:

- ASC appoints Director of International Education
- College Events calendar
- Andrea Riba is Agnes Scott's fifth consecutive Fulbright Scholar

## Agnes Scott College ranked ninth among 'Best Values'

Agnes Scott College is now ranked ninth by *U.S. News & World Report* as a "Best Values-Discount Prices" national liberal arts college, the only such institution in Georgia to achieve this designation.

*U.S. News* says it believes "that the best values are found among colleges that are above average academically." To arrive at its top 40 Best Values-Discount Prices list, *U.S. News* calculates scores in the category only for national institutions in the top half of the quality rankings. *U.S. News* adds that its best values rankings "were devised to provide a realistic measure of where a student can get the best education for the money."

Tied with Agnes Scott are Amherst College (Mass.), Hendrix College (Ark.) and Lake Forest College (Ill.). Grinnell College (Iowa) tops the list.

## College continues master plan dialogue

Throughout the summer months, Agnes Scott has been working diligently to fulfill the goals of its master plan.

One of these goals is to involve the College and the off-campus community in building a consensus for action.

Agnes Scott has heard valuable input from neighbors in a number of meetings held during the master planning process, including, most recently, a town hall meeting at the Decatur Library on July 23. At these meetings, College officials have shared evolving drafts of the plan that include expansion and renovation of McCain Library, expansion of Campbell Hall to accommodate the Atlanta Science Center for Women, construction of a new campus center and expanded parking facilities.

Neighbors have expressed during this dialogue concerns about elements of the master plan, most notably about a parking structure

proposed in the block surrounded by West College Avenue and South McDonough, Ansley and Adams streets. After the series of open meetings, College officials and representatives of the

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*'It soon became evident that both the College and the neighborhood have a common goal: enhancement of our shared residential community.'*

— Agnes Scott President  
Mary Brown Bullock

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Leila Ross Wilburn Neighborhood Coalition (residents to the west of campus) sat down in smaller

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## Agnes Scott appoints Krane first Director of International Education

As Agnes Scott's first Director of International Education, Maria Krane says she intends to build on the College's "enviable curriculum" and "strong tradition" of international ties.

In fact, Krane's relationship with Agnes Scott and its "internationalization" began when she prepared an internationalization index of colleges for her doctoral dissertation, "Development of an Internationalization Index for U.S. Liberal Arts Colleges (1994)." The index is a statistical representation of colleges' study abroad programs, numbers of international students and other international characteristics.

With rankings from most internationalized to least international-

ized, Agnes Scott ranked 27th out of 101 in the final product, and Agnes Scott's International Relations program ranked number one proportionally for degrees awarded.

With a solid international foundation with which to work and a desire to watch Agnes Scott "inch up the index," Krane adds that her goal is to provide each ASC student with an international experience to "prepare them to contribute to a world society in the 21st century."

Prior to coming to Agnes Scott, Krane was assistant vice president for International Education and Off-Campus Programs for Academic Affairs at Nebraska Wesleyan University.

## Riba is ASC's fifth consecutive Fulbright Scholar

Andrea Riba of Jensen Beach, Fla., has always had ties to Hungary, and this fall, the first generation Hungarian-American will strengthen those ties when she travels to the Budapest University of Economic Sciences as a Fulbright Scholar. While there, Riba will study the nation's interaction with the European Union.

Riba, a 1997 alumna with a bachelor of arts in International Relations and German, was selected in June as Agnes Scott's fifth consecutive Fulbright Scholar. Each of these five recent Fulbright Scholars studied in the College's German Studies program with Dr. Ingrid

Wieshofer. Wieshofer received at this year's commencement a Vulcan Materials Company Teaching Excellence Award.

Riba will be among only a few Fulbright Scholars in Hungary; last year, 12 such exchanges occurred. She is one of approximately 1,600 U.S. grantees who will travel abroad for the 1997-98 academic year under the Fulbright program.

Established under legislation introduced by U.S. Senator J. William Fulbright of Arkansas, the program is designed "to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries."

## Observatory Open Houses are held first Fridays each month

One of the most popular monthly events at Agnes Scott is the Open House series held during the academic year at Bradley Observatory.

This year, Dr. Chris DePree, assistant professor of physics and astronomy, has designed lectures for the open house to provide a "mini-course" in astronomy for participants who visit regularly.

The course will look first at Earth's closest neighbor, the moon, and move farther out in the solar system and universe.

This year's open house schedule includes: "Our Companion the Moon," "Strange Neighbors: A Tour of the Solar System," "Molecules in the Milky Way," "What Was the Star of Bethlehem?" and "A New Window on the Universe: Recent Results from the Hubble Space Telescope."

Each open house features a brief lecture and slide show, followed by a planetarium show and the chance to view the heavens.

The observatory and planetarium are open the public on the first Friday of each month, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free.

Bradley Observatory is located at the top of the ridge behind the Woodruff Physical Activities Building on East Dougherty Street.

# Decatur storyteller to headline Events Series

Agnes Scott's 1997-98 College Events Series will focus its spotlight on "Anastasis: The Revival of Forms," a study of the evolution of forms and how through the ebb and flow of culture, forms of art seem to fade and later reappear as new.

The series will feature Hesperus ("American Folk Fusion"), Carmen Agra Deedy ("Growing Up Cuban in Decatur, Georgia"), mezzo-soprano Marietta Simpson (music from the Chicago Renaissance, c. 1930-50, featuring compositions by Florence B. Price and Margaret Bonds), David Dorfman Dance ("Out of Season - The Athletes Project"), Wilma Mankiller (former Chief of the Cherokee nation) and "The Jazz Messengers: The Legacy of Art Blakey."

All events are scheduled for 8 p.m. in Gaines Auditorium of Presser Hall on the Agnes Scott campus:

• **Hesperus, Sept. 20.**

Hesperus' mission is to explore the musical parallels of the Old World and the New. Expert at creating a synthesis of living and historic traditions, Hesperus performs a program of Renaissance and American folk music in "American Folk Fusion."

• **Carmen Agra Deedy, Oct. 25.** In 1963, Deedy emigrated with her family to Decatur, Ga., to escape the aftermath of the Cuban revolution. This history has left Deedy with a rich combination of



Decatur's Carmen Agra Deedy

Latin American and Southern heritage from which she draws her stories. As an art form, storytelling is once again gaining popularity, and Deedy, a master storyteller and children's author, recounts many episodes from her "new life" growing up in the South.

• **Marietta Simpson, Nov. 8** (held in conjunction with Agnes Scott's symposium, "Creative Women during the Chicago Renaissance, c. 1930-50"). Simpson, mezzo-soprano, will sing art songs by featured women of the Chicago Renaissance as well as those of their predecessors and successors. This symposium will also feature a reading by poet Gwendolyn Brooks, the first African American to win the

Pulitzer Prize for poetry.

• **David Dorfman Dance, Feb. 13-14, 1998.** David Dorfman Dance will perform "Out of Time (The Athletes Project)," a work that explores a dialogue between two groups that share a common language. The ability - or inability - of people from different cultures or social roles to integrate and assimilate provides a potent starting point for much of this exploration of the human experience.

• **Wilma Mankiller, March 7, 1998.** Agnes Scott's Atlanta Semester, a program in women, leadership, and social change, and the College Events Series will present Wilma Mankiller, former Chief of the Cherokee Nation. Drawing from the traditional Cherokee precepts "We are all interdependent" and "Look forward," Mankiller, as a leader of the Cherokee Nation, has helped bring about a revival of the Native American movement.

• **The Jazz Messengers: The Legacy of Art Blakey, April 25, 1998.** This program continues to spread Blakey's legacy to new audiences, just as throughout his career, he has influenced new generations of musicians.

Tickets on are sale now and are \$12 general admission and \$8 for students and senior citizens. For more information about the College Events Series, call Agnes Scott's information desk at (404) 638-6430.

# TIDBITS

## Agnes Scott invites Decatur to concert

Marking the end of summer, Agnes Scott College will host a concert from 3-5 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 7, in its amphitheater.

The concert will feature Soul Miner's Daughter, a duo fusing blues, folk and soul featuring Jennifer Nettles, a recent Agnes Scott graduate, and Cory Jones, who is currently studying classical guitar performance at the University of Georgia.

Agnes Scott will provide free light refreshments, and the community is welcome to bring picnics and enjoy dinner.

## ASC is among top 10 again in 1997

In the latest issue of the *Princeton Review*, one of the many college rankings books, Agnes Scott is again among the top 10 in categories such as:

- # 3 'Don't Inhale' (least likely to use illegal drugs)
- #5 'Hold the Scotch' (least likely to have hard liquor on campus)
- #6 'Professors Make Themselves Accessible'
- #6 'Dorms like Palaces'
- #7 'Professors Bring Material to Life'
- #7 'Stone Cold Sober'
- #9 'Students Happy with Financial Aid'

*Princeton Review's* rankings are based on interviews with college students across America.

# Master Plan

Continued from page 1

meetings to discuss the parking structure.

This series of four small group discussions addressed neighbors' concerns as well as College interests. These meetings continue.

"It soon became evident that both the College and the neighborhood have a common goal: enhancement of our shared residential community," said Agnes Scott President Mary Brown Bullock.

Another essential goal of the new plan is to develop a holistic campus environment that integrates the historic main campus fronting on East College Avenue with the more recently developed south campus that includes the Dana Fine Arts Building and the Woodruff Gymnasium and Gellerstedt Track.

Joseph R. Gladden Jr., chair of the Agnes Scott Board of Trustees, puts the master plan as an idea into perspective with the College's overall aim, describing it as "the physical representation of our commitment to a high quality liberal arts education for the women who will assume the leadership of the next generation."

The strategic directions set forth by Agnes Scott's Board of Trustees also provide a look at the broader picture of the master plan. Specifically, the College is dedicated to:

• **Academic Excellence:** To enhance Agnes Scott's liberal arts

curriculum for the 21st century;

• **Student Achievement:** To enrich student life by recognizing achievement and enhancing programs and facilities;

• **Institutional Growth:** To increase student enrollment to 1,000 by the year 2001;

• **Institutional Support:** To ensure that the infrastructure of the College is equipped with the human resources, technology, equipment and other resources required by a premier liberal arts college;

• **Community Leadership:** To broaden College relations and strengthen Agnes Scott's leadership in metropolitan Atlanta and Decatur; and

• **Physical Modernization:** To provide and maintain a physical plant that reflects the quality and size of the College.

The Agnes Scott master plan is a comprehensive design for supporting the College's strategic directions and meeting its physical needs for the next five to 10 years. These physical needs include enhancing the quality of Agnes Scott's academic facilities and accommodating the growth of the College.

Existing zones for different campus usage are also clearly defined and reinforced in the proposed plan with a residential zone along South Candler Street, a teaching/administrative zone in the central part of the campus and a public zone fronting on South McDonough Street.

# Common Ground

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October 1997

## Inside:

- Pakistan festival celebrates Golden Jubilee
- Frequently asked questions about parking at Agnes Scott
- ASC facilities available for use

## ASC breaks enrollment mark

The class of 2001 has arrived on the 108-year-old campus, and before they knew it, they made history.

With 773 students enrolled this fall, Agnes Scott has surpassed its record enrollment of 760 students, set in 1967. The first-year class numbers 191, and a total of 259 new undergraduate students will enroll at the College this fall, including 33 Return-To-College students and 21 transfer students.

Currently, Agnes Scott's student population represents 35 states and the District of Columbia as well 16 other countries, from Bangladesh to Ghana and from China to Ukraine. As for SAT scores, Agnes Scott's newest class brings composite scores of 1100-1290 (middle 50 percent).

"Agnes Scott has enrolled a class that is diverse, intellectually curious and committed to its education," Agnes Scott President Brown Bullock. "Given their high school achievements and community service contributions, I feel confident that the class of 2001 will be a dynamic presence on our campus."

## Planning Commission to consider ASC request

Decatur's Planning Commission will consider at its October meeting Agnes Scott's request to amend the city's Comprehensive Land Use Plan and to amend its Zoning Map in order to construct a parking structure in the block bounded by West College Avenue and South McDonough, Ansley and Adams streets.

Agnes Scott is asking city officials to re-zone only a portion of the block, the footprint of the structure.

The hearing, set for 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 9, will be held at Decatur Conference Center of the Holiday Inn Select on Clairemont Road.

The proposed amendments request that city officials rezone property just to the west of campus from R-60 and RM-60 (residential) to I (institutional).

As proposed, the parking struc-

ture will be a three-story/four-tier facility that will accommodate 540 vehicles. The College chose this site because:

- it meets the College's needs for concentrated parking near public areas and near the core of College activities;
- it will keep traffic primarily on East/West College Avenue, minimizing traffic within the neighborhood;
- it has the topographical characteristics of slope, size and tree cover to minimize visual impact;
- it replaces three smaller parking lots (approximately 200 spaces) which are designated building sites along South McDonough Street;
- the block is fronted on 3 1/2 sides by property which is zoned institutional; and
- it is the most cost effective choice.

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# Festival celebrates Pakistan's Jubilee

Can't book a flight to Islamabad to help Pakistan celebrate its 50th anniversary of independence? Come to Agnes Scott College instead.

With film screenings, poetry readings, lectures and a visit from the Pakistani Ambassador to the United States, Agnes Scott will turn its attention to celebrating Pakistan's Golden Jubilee.

The festival, to be held Oct. 6-12, is organized by volunteers from the Pakistani community, including Waqas A. Khwaja, Agnes Scott visiting assistant professor of English. Students, faculty and dignitaries from the metropolitan Atlanta area will participate, and the event will provide an opportunity to experience Pakistani culture firsthand.

Among the highlights of the week is "Pakistanfest," set for Sunday, Oct. 12. The festival will feature a visit from the Honorable Raiz Khokar, Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States.

Other events scheduled for the week are:

• Monday, Oct. 6, 6-7:30 p.m.: Raffat Hasan (Islamic values

and minorities), Maclean Auditorium of Presser Hall.

• Tuesday, Oct. 7, 6-7:30 p.m.:

Sameena Nazeer (Women's Action Forum and Human Rights Commission – "Position of Women in Pakistani Society"), Maclean Auditorium of Presser Hall.

• Wednesday, Oct. 8, 6-7:30 p.m.: Liyakatali Takim, Ghaffar Khan and Khalid Siddiq (Islam in Pakistan and U.S.A.), Maclean Auditorium of Presser Hall.

• Friday, Oct. 9, 7:30-10:30 p.m.:

Musical Film "Ghonghat," Maclean Auditorium of Presser Hall.

• Saturday, Oct. 1, 7-9 p.m.: "Mushaira" (Poetry Recital), Winter Theatre of Dana Fine Arts Hall. This program takes a historical view (through poetry) of the development of Muslim consciousness beginning with Ghalib and Bahadur Shah Zafar and moving through Nazir Akbarabadi and Iqbal to Faiz and others, including regional representatives like Sheikh Ayaz, Ustad Daman, Hubba Khatoon, Khushal Khan Khattak, and Jam Durrak.

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# Frequently asked questions: Agnes Scott College parking

*The College is proposing that a 540-space parking structure be located within the block bounded by West College Avenue, South McDonough, Ansley, and Adams streets. Why has this site been chosen?*

The planners and the College considered many different parking alternatives. This site was chosen because:

- it meets College needs for concentrated parking near public areas and near the core of College activities;
- it will keep traffic primarily on East/West College Avenue, minimizing traffic within the neighborhood;
- it has the topographical characteristics of slope, size and tree-cover to minimize the visual impact;
- it replaces three smaller parking lots located farther south along South McDonough which are designated building sites; and
- it is cost effective.

*On what basis does the College propose that this block be re-zoned from a partially residential (both single and multi-family)?*

This block is fronted on 3 sides by property that is zoned institutional: on one side by West College Avenue, the railroad and Decatur High School; on one side by Agnes Scott College; on one side by Renfroe Middle School; and on half of its fourth side by the Nazarene Church and parking lot. It has included a major BP gasoline station and convenience store on one corner for more than half a century. It has also included boarding houses on East College Avenue

described as "dilapidated" by the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* (7/10/97). In proposing to re-zone it institutional and to allocate some portion of it for a parking structure with entrances and exits, Agnes Scott remains committed to enhancing and preserving the residential aspects of the block.

*How will the College enhance the residential aspects of this block?*

The College will enhance the residential quality of this block by:

- maintaining all single family dwellings on Adams Street and considering construction of appropriate single family dwellings on vacant lots where space permits;
- renovating several of the houses, if feasible, facing West College Avenue;
- considering the addition of several single family homes, as space permits, to Ansley Street;
- upgrading College-owned houses on Adams Street;
- providing no access to the parking structure from Ansley or Adams streets; and
- adding traffic calming devices to Ansley Street, if desired by the neighborhood.

*How will the College preserve the "green-space" environment of this block?*

The College has catalogued all trees on the block and is developing a site for the parking structure that maximizes retention of trees. Architectural planning also includes replacement of trees that are lost and the addition of evergreen trees.

## COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

### **Our House will benefit from Haunted House**

Ghouls, goblins and storytellers will send chills up spines on Halloween night, Oct. 31, when Agnes Scott College's Department of Public Safety hosts again this year its popular Haunted Castle.

The Haunted Castle will be open from 5-9 p.m. in Presser Hall, and is designed for children 14-years-old and younger. Admission is \$1.

Proceeds from the Haunted Castle benefit Our House, Decatur's day care center for homeless children.

### **ASC's Gellerstedt Track welcomes community**

From 5 p.m. to sunset, Agnes Scott's Gellerstedt Track and the College's tennis courts are open for community use.

The six-lane track is regulation size, so four laps is about a mile. Both facilities have surfaces specially designed with the athlete, and joints, in mind.

### **Thanks to Decatur HS**

Agnes Scott thanks Decatur High School for its lending the use of its stadium for the College's Music Festival, which featured drivin' n' cryin' in concert.

# TIDBIT

## Decatur's Deedy to tell tales

Decatur storyteller Carmen Agra Deedy will headline Agnes Scott's College Events Series on Saturday, Oct. 25. Her program will begin at 8 p.m., in Gaines Auditorium of Presser Hall.

In 1963, Deedy emigrated with her family to Decatur, Ga., to escape the aftermath of the Cuban revolution. This history has left Deedy with a rich combination of Latin American and Southern heritage from which she draws her stories.

As an art form, storytelling is once again gaining popularity, and Deedy, a master storyteller and children's author, recounts many episodes from her "new life" growing up in the South.

Tickets are \$12 general admission (\$8 students and senior citizens). For more information, call (404) 638-6430.



Deedy

## Planning

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Agnes Scott has consulted with traffic engineers, city planners and architects about the location of the parking structure and its impact on the neighborhood. These professionals indicate that consolidating parking for the west side of campus into one structure will not significantly change current neighborhood traffic patterns. Student and faculty traffic occurs at non-peak hours because of varying class schedules and represents at least one-half of the volume associated with the parking structure.

Also, these cars are present on campus only during the academic year (7 1/2 months), and faculty and staff generally travel in the opposite direction of rush-hour traffic.

Other proposed plans for the block include:

- relocating the Public Safety Department next to the proposed parking structure fronting on South McDonough to contribute to safety;
- maintaining as residences all College-owned homes on Adams Street and constructing single family dwellings on vacant lots where space permits;
- renovating several of the houses, if feasible, on West College Avenue; and
- considering the addition of several single family homes, as space permits, to Ansley Street.

Ingress and egress to the structure will be on West College Avenue and on South McDonough Street with no access from either Ansley Street or Adams Street. It will be situated centrally in the block and will allow for wide setbacks from existing residential structures.

The topography of the property from the high-ground of West College Avenue as it slopes towards the south and Ansley Street presents a site unique in its ability to obscure the structure from view. Agnes Scott plans to take advantage of existing heavily wooded areas both to benefit the environment and to minimize the view of the parking structure.

Also, preliminary design concepts provide for hiding the structure with a berm built as the land slopes to its lowest points and for installing additional trees and other landscaping around the perimeter.

Prior to filing its application, the College conducted approximately 20 informational meetings with the adjacent residential community to share future plans for Agnes Scott, to receive the neighborhood's input and to allow for dialogue on ways that the College and the neighborhood can work together to achieve mutual goals.

In addition to these discussions, Agnes Scott is working with local public school authorities, especially at Renfroe Middle School and Decatur High School, on pedestrian improvements to the South McDonough Street intersection.

## Common Ground

is a monthly publication for the Decatur community and is produced by Agnes Scott College. Its aim is to inform residents and businesses in the City of Decatur of College news. Questions? Contact Dolly Purvis, ASC manager of news services and "Common Ground" editor, at (404) 638-5451.