

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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“Lift Every Voice” Speaker Series Brings Award-winning Author and Journalist to Greensboro



Asha Bandele, an award-winning author and journalist, will be the guest speaker for Bennett College’s “Lift Every Voice” Speaker Series on **Thursday, October 29, 2009 at 11:00 am** in the Annie Merner Pfeiffer Chapel. The speaker series, an initiative started by President Julianne Malveaux, brings to the Bennett campus and the Greensboro community, voices that lift and inspire. The event is free and open to the public.

Covering politics and pop culture since 1991, Asha served as features editor and writer at *Essence* magazine from 1999 to 2004. Aside from *Essence*, her articles and essays have appeared in the **New York Times**, **Family Circle**, **Vibe**, **Real Simple**, **Parenting.com** and in the **Source** magazines among numerous others.

Her first book, a volume of poetry, was published in 1996 (*Absence in the Palms of My Hands*, Harlem River Press). Her second book was the multi-award winning memoir, *The Prisoner’s Wife* (Scribner, 1999), and her third, a novel, and also award-winning, was entitled *Daughter* (Scribner, 2003). In 2005, Asha returned to poetry with the collection, *The Subtle Art of Breathing* (MooreBlackPress), and this year HarperCollins published another memoir, *Something Like Beautiful: One Single Mother’s Story*. At present, she is collaborating on a memoir with Zora Neale Hurston’s niece, Tammi Cuyler, about the impact of extreme violence in a family.

Asha is on the faculty of the Voices of Our Nations Arts Seminars at the University of San Francisco and has taught popular memoir-writing workshops at the National Black Writers Conference at Medgar Evers College. As well, she directs a grants program for the Drug Policy Alliance, the country’s leading organization fighting to bring reason, compassion and justice to America’s drug policies. Asha holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from The New School for Social Research (Summa Cum Laude); a Master of Fine Arts degree from Bennington College; and served as a Revson Fellow (2004-2005) at Columbia University. She lives in Brooklyn with her daughter.

The “Lift Every Voice” Speaker Series has brought to the Bennett campus and the Greensboro community such notable figures as The Honorable Linda Tarr-Whelan, Demos Distinguished Senior Fellow and premier expert on women’s leadership; award-winning journalist Ed Gordon; the phenomenal poet Nikki Giovanni; and William C. Bell, President and Chief Executive Officer of Casey Family Programs. Other speakers have included Rev. Marcia Dyson, hailed as one of our nation’s foremost religious figures and spiritual writers; Dr. Sheila Simmons, Associate Director of the Human and Civil Rights Department, National Education Association; George Fraser, author of the critically acclaimed book *CLICK*; Donna Oldham, Senior Communications Manager, Dell, Inc.; and Yvonne Johnson, Mayor of Greensboro.

Bennett College for Women, located in Greensboro, NC, was founded in 1873 as a coeducational institution and in 1926 was reorganized as a college for women. A small, private, historically Black liberal arts, United Methodist Church-related institution, Bennett offers women an education conducive to excellence in scholarly pursuits; preparation for leadership roles in the workplace, society, and the world; and life-long learning in a technologically advanced, complex global society.

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