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# The Compass

Elizabeth City State University's award-winning student newspaper.

## LET US RECEIVE OUR NEW KING AND QUEEN



- photo courtesy of Rich Harvey

Mr. and Ms. ECSU 2001-2002, Mr. Kevin Wade and Ms. Chrishanda Rodgers

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On Oct. 18, at the Fine Arts Auditorium, Chrishanda Anecia Rodgers was officially crowned Miss Elizabeth City State University.

The Miss ECSU Coronation is a formal ceremony designed to officially crown the university's queen. It is also a night for the queen to publicly display her elegance just as Miss Rodgers did.

During her reign for 2001 through 2002 school year, her goal is to see that some changes are made with the Miss ECSU title. She would like the Miss Elizabeth City State University showcase to be judged based poise, speech, and talent. She says that it should not be judged by popularity, but by ability. "There should be a panel of judges and a student judge to judge the showcase," she said. She believes that this will enable the candidates to be judged fairly and not on their popularity among students.

She also wants Miss ECSU to have the opportunity to receive a scholarship designed just for University queens. She also wants to make the Mr. ECSU title equal to the Miss ECSU title, because both are ambassadors for the school.

"Mr. ECSU is just an escort for now, but he should be given the opportunity to speak at campus activities and other public functions. There should also be a showcase for

that position, displaying the ability of the candidates," Miss Rodgers said.

Since she has been voted as queen, her schedule has picked up with regularly scheduled meetings with the ECSU Advisory Board. Her vibrant presence is requested at university functions and she has been invited to speak at an alumni chapter meeting. During homecoming week, she was preparing for coronation, participating in the parade and attending other weekly festivities. Asked what her advice would be to young ladies who aspire to be queen, she said, "excel in your academics, be friendly, and involve yourself with on and off campus activities."

Her inspiration came from Hope Jones, Miss ECSU from 1998-1999 school year. "Hope inspired me because she was a mentor and inspiration to young women on and off campus and I aspire to do the same," she said.

Ms. Rodgers would like to thank her family, close friends, the student body, faculty and staff for all their support. She is also thankful for the opportunity to represent her school in the *Ebony* magazine where her picture will be accompanied by other black university queens.

After graduation, Miss Rodgers plans to attend graduate school to pursue a career in Public Relations and Advertising.

Miss Chrishanda Anecia Rodgers is truly a queen.

## ECSU Hires Director of Facilities Management

Public Relations Reports

Chancellor Mickey L. Burnim recently announced two personnel appointments—Mr. Benjamin Hunter as the ECSU Director of Facilities Management and Mr. Gregory Magee as Director of Design and Construction, a newly created position. Both report to the Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance.

Hunter will be responsible for management and maintenance of the university's facilities. Magee will be responsible for design and construction projects resulting from last year's bond referendum. Magee formerly had responsibility for both areas.

Chancellor Burnim states, "These personnel appointments enable us to provide effective leadership in two very important areas facilities and capital projects. Restructuring the facilities management organization in this way

enables the university to manage each area more efficiently. With the expertise that Mr. Hunter and Mr. Magee bring, I am certain our existing facilities as well as our new facilities will be first-rate. Please join me in welcoming Mr. Hunter and congratulating Mr. Magee on their new appointments." Prior to joining ECSU, Hunter served as a Plant Maintenance Supervisor in the State of North Carolina Facility Management Division in Raleigh.

Hunter has worked in similar positions for other state departments since 1999, and his overall career in facilities management and operations extends back to 1990. A graduate of Shaw University, Hunter also is licensed as both a mechanical and electrical contractor, and is certified in the areas of energy management and refrigeration.

## ECSU Hires Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations

Public Relations Report

Chancellor Mickey L. Burnim is pleased to announce the personnel appointment of Mrs. Laura W. Cross as the ECSU Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations, effective October 1, 2001. Mrs. Cross is part of the ECSU Institutional Advancement team.

Cross, a 1976 ECSU alumna, also received a Master's Degree in Public Administration from American University in 1978. Her professional career has focused on public service and management beginning in Washington, D.C. as a management analyst for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, then to the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta as program manager for the Exposure and Disease Registries Program. From there she went on to serve as executive director for a Federally

Qualified Community Health Center in Virginia.

In each of her roles in both the public and private sectors, Mrs. Cross has developed funding mechanisms and community relationships that she will draw upon to successfully cultivate business and foundation relationships at ECSU.

Per Mrs. Cross, "It is an honor to serve at ECSU and support Chancellor Burnim's charge to prepare leaders for the 21st century. My research of ECSU prior to accepting the position revealed many activities promoting academic excellence, technological advances, cultural development and a sound business organization. I encourage other alumni to research ECSU and identify areas where they may be able to provide stewardship and become a part of the process to advance ECSU."