

The New SGA Officers for 2002-2003

Remembering Vikingfest 2002 and other activities
page 2

Campus News
page 3

Congratulations Seniors! May God bless you all as you go your separate ways. page 4

Vol. 66, No. 4
Circulation 2,200

Elizabeth City, NC
May 9, 2002

The Compass

Elizabeth City State University's award-winning student newspaper

SENATOR MARC BASNIGHT TO DELIVER COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Antonio Barrow
Editor
tony8248118@yahoo.com

Democratic Senator Marc Basnight, the longest serving President Pro Tempore of the North Carolina State Senate, will deliver the keynote address when Elizabeth City State University holds its 134th annual commencement on Saturday, May 11.

The ceremony will be held in Roebuck Stadium beginning at 9 a.m.

Senator Basnight, who represents North Carolina Senate District 1, which includes Pasquotank, Camden, Chowan, Currituck and Dare counties, is serving his ninth term in the North Carolina Senate. He has held the position since winning election to the post in 1984.

"Marc Basnight is a North Carolinian of the first order. He has given unselfishly of himself for the good of North Carolina through 18 years of service in the General Assembly. Throughout that period he has been widely recognized as one of North Carolina's most effective legislators, serving the last nine years as President Pro Tempore of the Senate. He has been a special friend to, and advocate for, ECSU and all of northeastern North Carolina," said ECSU Chancellor Mickey Burnim.

Senator Basnight rose to the state's highest seat after serving as chairman of the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee in 1991-92. He chaired other budget committee from 1987-1990. His first public office was an appointment to the North Carolina Board of Transportation in 1977.

Senator Basnight, who grew up in Manteo with its pristine coastline as a backdrop, has been a major supporter of North Carolina's efforts to maintain and preserve the vital line between good economic policy and successful economic development.

As a result, Senator Basnight has taken the lead in establishing some of North Carolina's most progressive initiatives including the Clean Water Management Trust

Fund in 1996, the state's first and only dedicated source of revenue designed to preserve economically sensitive areas, and the Clean Water Responsibility Act in 1997, which aimed to stop river pollution.

During his tenure, Senator Basnight has seen the state's 16 colleges and universities, including ECSU, remain the nation's premier system of higher education with thousands of students getting world class educations at an affordable price. Senator Basnight was instrumental in helping secure passage of the state's \$3.1 billion higher education bond package in 2000.

In 1995 Senator Basnight fought for the overhaul of the state's public school system by halving the state bureaucracy and leading the fight to set up a system of incentives and accountability in public schools. He championed the ABCs of Public Education—Accountability, Basics and Control—which rewards students for academic achievement. He also sponsored the Excellent Schools Act of 1998 to raise teaching standards and teacher pay in exchange for extra duties.

During the difficult years of the state's recession in the early 1990s, Senator Basnight had the foresight to support the creation of a state cash reserve to help the state should it experience another economic downturn. Despite the downturn of recent years, the state has experienced unprecedented growth, with a budget of more than \$12 billion in 1998-99, which has enabled the General Assembly to cut more than \$1.5 billion in taxes since 1995.

During his tenure, as State Senator Mr. Basnight has seen North Carolina grow by more than 1 million people, its economic development efforts result in a technological boom, per capita income rise steadily, and the state's unemployment rate sink to its lowest rate in 20 years.

Senator Basnight is married to the former Sandy Tillett. They have two daughters, Vicki, a successful businesswoman and Caroline, a freshman at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Senator Marc Basnight will be speaking at ECSU's Spring Commencement.

~Photo courtesy of Marc Basnight

SGA ELECTION RESULTS FOR THE YEAR 2002-2003

- PRESIDENT: DAMIYON SLEDGE**
- VICE PRESIDENT: DAMION LEWIS**
- CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: NIKKI LUTON**
- RECORDING SECRETARY: ENOCH BOND**
- ATTORNEY GENERAL: SHANYELL PARKER**
- TREASURER: KEVIN WADE**
- MR. ECSU: KEITH RICHARDSON**
- MS. ECSU: TANYETTA "TAI" PITTMAN**

CONGRATULATIONS AND MUCH SUCCESS IN 2002-2003!!!

Come and Congratulate the Spring Class of 2002 at Commencement on Saturday, May 11, 2002 at 9:00am at Roebuck Stadium.