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Draughon Crowned Miss FSU

By Dawn Redrick
Contributing Writer

LaSherrie Draughon was grinning ear to ear as she heard her name called as the new Miss Fayetteville State University.

Draughon, of Warsaw, NC, was crowned Miss Fayetteville State University 2003-2004 in the 12th annual scholarship pageant.

A junior majoring in music education, Draughon replaces Yvonne Richmond who represented Fayetteville State during the 2002-2003 academic year.

"This is unbelievable. It's like a dream," said Draughon. "It is such an honor to be incorporated into the legacy of women I looked up to like Yvonne Richmond and Tai Irby."

Draughon, whose hobbies include acting, singing, and being a member of Fayetteville State's chorale ensemble, will be the university's candidate in the Miss NBCA Hall of Fame Pageant.

The evening was overflowing with excitement, entertainment, and some strong competition. Draughon was also rewarded with the talent award. Draughon gave a soulful rendition of "Can



LaSherrie Draughon, center, was selected Miss FSU. First runner-up was Latoya Parker, and second runner-up Kewanda Lake.

You Reach My Friend" during the talent competition.

A new phase of competition was introduced to the pageant for the first time in its history to

test the delegate's knowledge in local and national events

Draughon's question was whether she agrees that women who have been raped should get

abortions.

"I am pro-life. However, I believe it is her right to choose what is best for her. I would recommend that she receives

counseling before making any decision."

Miss Fayetteville State University will promote the cause of self-worth and confidence during her year of service. Draughon said she would use her crown to motivate young women and build their self-esteem.

"Go after your dreams. Just try! Surround yourself with positive people," she said.

Runners-Up for the 2003-2004 Miss Fayetteville State Crown included Latoya Parker of Fayetteville, NC as 1st runner-up, and Kewanda Lake of Columbia, SC as 2nd runner-up.

Other participants were Eliza Dryer, Chickia Miller and Tiffany Walker.

Judges included Miss Fayetteville 2003 Erin White, former Junior and Teen Miss Duplin County/ Miss Fayetteville 2000 Shina Miller, retired Lieutenant Colonel and author Charles E. Pimble, former member of the Cumberland County Scholarship Pageant Assoc. Carlene Evans, and Zavery McDonald, Program Supervisor for Southeastern Regional Mental Health.

W.T. Brown To Speak At Graduation Exercises

By Garrett N. James
Editor-In-Chief

Graduates, get ready for a treat. The honorable Dr. William T. Brown will render the graduation address for the May 2003 graduation. Commencement will held in the Crown Coliseum on May 9 at 4 p.m.

The theme of Brown's address will be "2003 FSU-Produced Realistic Instruments of Mass Construction." He says his main purpose will be to counter the international talk on weapons of mass destruction and urge the graduates to become weapons of mass construction.

"I plan to discuss the things needed in society to bring an end to the dreaded societal disease known as the gap," Brown says. "The gaps in academics, healthcare, achievement and the gaps between the rich and the poor."

Brown, the self-proclaimed "second-son," graduated from NC A&T State University in Greensboro, North Carolina and the American Gentleman School of Designing in New York. He has an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina.



Brown will speak May 9th

From July 1992 to June 1995, Brown served as Assistant to the Chancellor for Outreach at Fayetteville State University. He has served on the Board of Directors for numerous organizations and chaired the Fayetteville City Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission, Cumberland County Hospital System Board of Trustees and Fayetteville State University Board of Trustees.

Brown received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the U.S. Department of Commerce Minority Business And Development Agency.

In October 1993, The Cumberland County Board of Education named its first year-around school The William T. Brown Elementary School.

Future Residence Hall Will House 256 Students

Fayetteville State University officially broke ground last week on a \$6.8 million dorm off Langdon Street. Workers preparing the site took a break about 10:30 a.m. for the brief ceremony.

"Gentlemen, take your time," Chancellor Willis B. McLeod told the workers. "You are not building just a building, you are building a community."

School officials hope Bronco Hall will be ready for students by fall 2004. FSU has 5,307 students, and officials say enrollment is projected to grow to 6,000 in the coming years. The campus has dorm space for fewer than 1,500 students.

The 750-foot road is from Spaulding Infirmary to the administration complex off Edgcombe Avenue.

The four-story residence hall off Langdon Street will house 256 students, two to a room. Four students will share a bathroom.

"It's great to see that dirt has already been turned," McLeod said during the ceremony.

"Soon, we will see a building and bricks and mortar, but this building is going to be more than bricks and mortar and more than just a residence hall. It will be a foundation for something more important - a community for learning."



Bronco Hall will be located near Vance Hall.

Olivia Chavis, vice chancellor for student affairs, said the new residence hall will be a

"state-of-the-art" dorm. It will include computer lounges and other facilities on each floor.

"There will be one point of entry, which is important for us because of security," she said. "It will provide some much needed space. We have struggled with space for housing students."

Chavis said students were involved during the design

phase for the dorm. "We tried to design the hall to meet the needs of students," she said. "It will be totally different from anything else we have on this campus."

"The students are excited for a number of reasons," said Victor Landry of the student government association. "It will be the first high-rise on campus." The building was designed by Schuller, Ferris and Lindstrom of Fayetteville and the New Synergy Group of Durham.

Courtesy of The Fayetteville Observer