

The Fly Jock Gives Back

by Deirdre Freeman

On February 26th, student leaders from Fayetteville State University traveled to Charlotte to represent FSU at the Chancellor's CIAA Luncheon. Guest speaker, Tom Joyner Sr., chose Fayetteville State as his HBCU of the month for February. With a kick of poise from Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Juanette Council, Mr. and Miss Fayetteville State and their Royal Court; SGA representatives; The Voice, and The Mane Attraction Ensemble made their way through tables full of FSU alumni. They all took a little time to introduce themselves and strut a little bronco pride.

Each month the Tom Joyner Foundation chooses a Historically Black College or University to receive its support. During the past month, scholarship support money was sent directly to the university for students. The scholarships are awarded to students by way of the Office of Financial Aid based on need and other stipulations.

Year round funds are raised for the scholarships through Tom Joyner's national partners and The Tom Joyner Morning Show. Earlier that week, Joyner's show featured FSU, and conducted live

interviews with FSU faculty and Chancellor James A. Anderson. If anyone happened to be listening to The Tom Joyner Morning Show last month they may have heard Joyner and his crew ask his listening audience to call in to make donations, for the university.

A graduate of Tuskegee Institute, with an honorary doctorate from Clark Atlanta University, Joyner Sr. is the founder of REACH Media, Inc., The Tom Joyner Foundation, blackamericaweb.com, and the host of The Tom Joyner Morning Show. "The hardest working man in radio," Joyner said at the luncheon, "I do the things I do because no one has ever told me I couldn't. Someone once asked me why I fly in between shows-back and forth. I told him, because no one ever told me I couldn't."

In honor of the man himself, alumni, FSU administration, Miss Freshman Tatianna Mosley, Mr. Freshman Quito Graham, and Student Activities Council member Allyssa Hubbard, all spoke of what financial scholarships mean to them. Mosley, a native of Charlotte, NC, is a

child of a pretty well sized family, a family that is simultaneously putting children through college and doesn't plan to stop. She admits it's scholarships and people like Mr. Joyner and FSU alumni that make her ride a little easier. "This is what it's all about," said Joyner. "When you graduate, your job isn't done. It's about giving back to the university you came from, to make way for other students to graduate and do the same."

Being Tom Joyner's school of the month helps FSU tremendously. It allows FSU to forge partnerships with its national sponsors. This ultimately encourages them to make donations to the university's scholarship program. Not only does this huge recognition help provide awareness of the university within Fayetteville, but even across the nation.

When asked, "what's the best advice to give any student attending a university, whether it be HBCU or not," Joyner Sr. said, "pray and when you get done pray some more."



photo by Monique Vaughn

Innovation in Education

by Brensha Williams

Who says you have to finish high school before you go to college? Cross Creek Early College High School (CCECHS) is what's called an early college-high school located right here on the campus of Fayetteville State University. It basically means high school students can earn college credit. With approximately 300 students and 25 staff members, Cross Creek Early College High School takes a different approach towards academics and achievement. Diversifying itself from the rest of the high schools in Cumberland County, CCECHS seeks students from underrepresented groups and first generation college students. Students are exposed to a challenging curriculum, which includes college coursework, start-

ing their sophomore year in high school. Because of its alliance with FSU, CCECHS students have access to many opportunities not afforded to students at traditional high schools.

CCECHS works hard to prepare students to compete with traditional students at FSU. "Cross Creek Early College High School challenges students to develop higher level thinking skills. Besides offering a smaller classroom setting, our teachers employ 21st Century learning strategies to include, writing to learn, scaffolding, literacy circles, class talk, questioning, and collaborative group work. We hold all students to a high standard of excellence, and support their rigorous curricu-

lum through the AVID program at each grade level," says Jacqueline Mardis, a counselor at CCECHS. Mardis goes on to say, "As a practice, we recruit first generation college goers, and tap into their hidden potential. In many college classes our students out-shine the traditional college students. We are proud to have earned the title of being a Model School and look forward to sharing our innovative approach with many other schools."

The academic achievements and readiness of CCECHS students have sparked rave reviews from FSU professors. Chemistry professor, Dr. Jonathan Breitzer, says many of the Cross Creek students he has taught have been

well prepared for college coursework and are able to keep up with traditional students with ease. The students see the benefits too. "I was in the first class at CCECHS. The experience was a blessing. I loved the program and felt that we were like a big family," says Ashley Crawley, a junior mathematics and secondary education major and former CCECHS student. Crawley loved the small class size. "The classroom was not full of students, which gave the teachers a chance to really get to know all of their students and it helped to develop a strong teacher-student relationship, making it easier for students to learn."

Since its opening a few years ago, CCECHS has not had one

student drop out of school. As one of the first "Learn and Earn" high schools in North Carolina, CCECHS won the inaugural Innovator Award in recognition of its achievements for preparing students for life, college, and careers. Students take honors courses and have the opportunity to earn up to 60 hours of tuition-free college credit, prior to high school graduation. The benefits of participating in such a program are phenomenal. For students like Crawley, the experience is invaluable. "With the dedication and support of all the teachers and (principal) Mindy Vickers, we all developed an appreciation for the program. We learned about life and the importance of an education."

Entrepreneurs Abound At FSU

by Ervin Speight

Ever wondered where, or better yet when, names like Diddy, Russell Simmons, Jay-z or Dame Dash got their starts? Rapping on the stoop, corner or brownstone alleyways encircled by a group of other potential wannabe rapper friends is the start for many music industry and fashion stars. But it took serious gumption to go from producing or spitting rhymes to becoming masters of their own multi-million dollar side business ventures such as Sean Jean, Phat Farm and Roc-a-fella records. Inspiration often starts at an early age and Fayetteville State students are no exception.

These students are striving for more now rather than

waiting until they take all their classes, earn all their credits and have a degree in hand. Junior, Precious Baldwin, cuts hair at the outrageously low price of five dollars with satisfaction being guaranteed. She operates from her easily accessible New Residence dormitory lobby. Freshman Art major, Hakeem 'Sage' Atkinson, is the co-chair of his and his brother's upcoming clothing line "Illusion." Stickers of the brand's logo are posted on various surfaces around campus. Atkinson sells t-shirts for a mere seven dollars. They're reminiscent of shirts and other apparel that Pharell of The Neptunes would don. "Well personally I feel ILLUSION represents the small things that can be

misinterpreted but understood. The little things we overlook in the big picture that catch your eye and make you think. ILLUSION could create a universal theme as well as a personal character theme," says Atkinson. Atkinson is an art major. He says he's learning a lot and this is only the beginning of what he hopes will be a long and successful career. (I want to) "Market and gain a sense of relevance in other related fields that I feel will make me gain a sense of multiple mediums and be qualified for numerous employments in the design world."