

CAMPUS NEWS

Honors program gives grads 'edge' in job market, salaries

By Tammy Taylor

ECSU's Honors Program isn't easy, but then few good things ever come easy in life.

The program was conceived in 1983 by Chancellor Dr. Jimmy Jenkins, and his assistant, Dr. Floyd Robinson. The first honors class graduated in 1987.

"The first graduating class was a success story," said Honors Program Director, Dr. Carol Jones. "With that class we have one student at UNC-Chapel Hill, one at Ohio State, and one at Atlanta University on a nearly \$60,000 fellowship to study all the way to the doctoral level."

Another graduate of the 1987 class is working for General Motors "at a very good starting salary,"

"I don't know anyone who has started out with a salary under \$25,000."

Dr. Carol Jones

Jones said, while another student is a computer scientist in Virginia.

Jones said she believes the Honors Program has definitely given the graduates a competitive edge in the job market. "Many have said the fact that they had been in the program gave them an edge over competitors for the same jobs."

ECSU Honors graduates have started out with high salaries, too, Jones said. "I don't know anyone who has started out with a salary under \$25,000. And that's not bad, considering they just walked out of college."

Jones expressed pleasure with the results of the 1988 class, because "what students can do once they get out of school becomes a measure of whether the program is good. We'll see how the second and third classes fare. You have to judge each class after they get out and see what they do."

To be accepted into the Honors Program, students must have an overall B average in high school, get an acceptable score on the Scholastic Aptitude Test, and meet other criteria as well.

When the program first began, students had to take honors math and English, but since then the program has been expanded to include 20 general education courses and 6 to 12 extra hours in each student's major, Jones said.

"So it is now a four-year course, and in addition to all of that, each honors program student is to have one colloquium per semester." Seniors must also write a thesis.

Even if a student is not eligible for the Honors Program as an entering freshman, Jones said students can be tapped into the program later if they meet Honors Program criteria. "We have gotten a lot of students that way," she added.

Students who enter the program late do not have to make up honors English and math; however, they have to make up the honors colloquium.

Honors courses are designed to be "more enriching, more rigorous and certainly more challenging," Jones said. "In World Literature, for example, the students aren't just reading the literature and talking about it, they are doing a number of other things. They're also looking at the art and history during the period."

"So it's far extended from the courses that regular students take; there are more requirements. On top of that, the level of difficulty makes it a little bit harder to get an A."

Jones said that although in the past some students have seen the Honors Program as "an elitist program." She thinks that perception "has leveled off. At least I don't hear it as much."

"Since society does spend an awful lot of money for people who do substandard work, I think it's about time the bright, creative students got equal time. And some opportunities, too."

Jones said the favorite part of her job is "working with the students. These are bright young people who



ECSU's first Honors Program graduates are pictured above: (front) Evell Barco, Vertrina Foxx, Edgard Oakley, Atleacia Stokes, Monique Branch, (back) Gilbert Godfrey, Antonio McDaniel, Benjamin Durant III, Derrick Wilkins, Joe Underdue, Darryl Sansbury, Cary Newsome, and Robert Goodman Jr.

are very creative and who want to be challenged. That's what I enjoy. They are a delight to work with."

The biggest frustration, she said, "is money. I wish we had enough money to do the things we would like do, and the things I would like

to do. That's the frustration. Very often you have to make do with less.

"But I have little frustration with students. The idea is to continually find something that will challenge them and keep them interested."

NEWS BRIEFS

Tornado rips ECSU campus

The tornado that ripped through Elizabeth City on Nov. 5 caused minor damage on the ECSU campus, said Skip Sanders, of the University's Physical Plant. Sanders said the tornado tore off about 35 sheets of roofing material from the new science building. Some of the sheets were imbedded three feet in the ground, Sanders said.

The tornado also scattered some door frames and sections of insulation that had been stacked behind the building.

"The gutters on Lane Hall were twisted up and ripped off," Sanders said.

The tornado struck the city during a heavy rainstorm, uprooting trees, downing power lines, and damaging several buildings in Elizabeth City.

ECSU Art Professor Eugene O'Neal has designed a T-shirt to commemorate the tornado that touched down on campus November 5.

The T-shirt, which shows a tornado spinning across ECSU campus, bears the inscription: "I survived the tornado at ECSU."

O'Neal said he designed the first T-shirt after someone requested it; however, the shirt has been so popular that he has designed others.

"It seemed like a good idea," said O'Neal. "It seems that people want a way to remember the tornado."

The "tornado" T-shirts sell for \$7.50 apiece, O'Neal said.

McDonalds to donate money to colleges

Elizabeth City State University, Hampton University, and Norfolk State University will receive scholarship funds from the proceeds of a Holiday Chicken McNuggets fund raiser.

Beginning December 1 and continuing through December 15, McDonald's will donate 20 cents from the

sale of each 9-piece Chicken McNuggets sold and 40 cents from each 20-piece Chicken McNugget sold to the fund raising effort.

McDonald's is the world's largest foodservice organization, serving 22 million people each day in over 10,000 restaurants in 50 countries.

New science complex to open fall '89

ECSU's new science complex is scheduled to be completed in September of 1989, according to Roger McLean, Vice-Chancellor for Business and Finance.

The new science complex will house the chemistry, biology, physical science and geo-science departments.

"The complex will be the largest facility on campus," McLean said. "And it will also be one of the University's most significant drawing cards, because of

the high-tech and research possibilities."

McLean said the new science complex will include "a state of the art planetarium" and "one of the most sophisticated science laboratories found anywhere."

The four-story, 55,000 square feet structure, was designed by the Gant-Huberman architectural firm of Charlotte.

Duke to raise \$ for minority Ph.D's

DURHAM—Duke University has launched a drive to create a \$3 million endowment to support fellowships for minority students pursuing Ph.D degrees, university officials have announced.

The first two fellowships will be named in honor of L. Neil Williams, a former chairman of the school's board

of trustees. The Presidential Fellowship awards will be given on the basis of merit. University officials hope to support as many as 30 fellowships for Ph.D. students.

"This fellowship program will help the graduate school achieve goals that are very important for Duke and for higher education," said Duke President H. Keith Brodie.

ASU officials approve condom machines

BOONE-Appalachian State University officials have approved the installation of condom dispensing machines in campus dormitories.


In announcing the decision, ASU Chancellor John Thomas said he authorized placing the machines in dormitories because of the "serious national problem" of sexually transmitted diseases.

Thomas' decision follows the Appalachian Student Government's Association's vote, 36-9, to request the University to allow condom machines in the dorms.

The University dispenses condoms free at the infirmary, however, many students are embarrassed to take advantage of the offer, according to Jennifer Novak, a student senator at Appalachian.

The University will allow an independent distributor to install coin-operated condom machines in men's and women's dormitory bathrooms, Novak said.

Profits from the sale of the condoms will go to the University's health services to educate students about the dangers of sexually transmitted diseases, Novak said.



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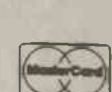

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