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New UNC admission policies to reduce black enrollment

By Kimberley Robinson

In a time of increased competition among colleges and universities for the best students, ECSU faces an even tougher challenge to recruit new students, due to General Administration's new minimum admission requirements.

Beginning in 1990, General Administration is requiring all students who attend schools in the UNC system to have completed core courses required in college-bound academic programs. The required courses including four units of English, algebra one and two and geometry, three units of science, a laboratory course, and two courses in social studies.

Although there are certain exceptions to these requirements, as a general rule, students who do not meet these requirements will not be admitted to ECSU.

"The new UNC policies will have a dramatic impact on the fall 1990 recruitment efforts," said ECSU Chancellor Dr. Jimmy Jenkins. "The policies will especially affect black students.

"This will mean fewer black students going to college and fewer ones coming here, because the top colleges will be getting the better students, often only because of their location.

"The new UNC policies will have a dramatic impact on the fall 1990 recruitment efforts. The policies will especially affect black students."

Dr. Jimmy R. Jenkins

Many of these schools are in the metropolitan areas and can offer better and higher-paying jobs.

"The main problem ECSU will face in recruiting new students is competition," Jenkins said, adding that the new policy would also mean a higher percentage of white students attending the school.

"White students tend to be on track in high school," Jenkins said, "and black students tend not to be. The ninth grade black student sitting in class now will be at a disadvantage, as a result of these new policies.

"Because 47% of black students in Eastern N.C. are not on track, that means the overall pool will be smaller, especially for black students."

This freshmen class at ECSU had 26.6% white students, Jenkins said.

To respond to the challenge, the University will become "more cre-

ative."

The SAT workshops, offered at ECSU for high school students who want to improve their scores, are guaranteed to result in a 50 point increase, Jenkins said.

General Administration currently requires a minimum score of 600 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test. This minimum score, in effect this year, has also adversely affected recruitment efforts, according to Jenkins. "More than 30% of our applicants last year had SAT scores below 600."

The new policies "are something we have to live by," the Chancellor said. "They're projected all across the state."

Despite the looming problems with recruitment, Jenkins said the University has the highest full-time equivalent enrollment in the history of the school. Full-time equivalent (FTE) is enrollment expressed in the total number of hours taken.

This year's FTE is 1641 students, Jenkins said.

Although the University's freshmen enrollment has declined due to the tough new admission policies, overall enrollment at ECSU is up because of a higher retention rate, (73%). "We retained enough students to make up the difference," Jenkins said.



Mr. & Ms. Lab. School, Keith Wilson, Jr. and Shaquitta M. Brown, register expressions of excitement and anxiety during the coronation of Miss ESCU Gail T. Hall. For more Coronation pageantry, turn to page 10.

Caldwell appointed new vice chancellor

By Trina Coleman

Chancellor Jimmy Jenkins has appointed Dr. Helen Caldwell as Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at Elizabeth City State University.

Caldwell had been acting Vice Chancellor, replacing Dr. Johnny Houston who resigned in August, 1988. Caldwell, whose appointment as Vice Chancellor, caps a 35-year career at ECSU, is the first woman to hold the position at ECSU, and the third woman in the UNC system to serve as vice-chancellor for academic affairs.

ECSU's new academic administrator summed up her philosophy of life with, "If you wish to be successful small things must be done well in order to succeed."

She plans "to promote a dynamic academic climate at ECSU where faculty and students are the fulcrum of a scholarly community, and the most exciting activities on campus occur in the classes and in the library."

Caldwell said the new academic climate will allow "everything else to

fall into place, because academic integrity will be the measuring rod by which all activities are designed and executed."

Her three top priorities for academics at ECSU are curriculum growth, expansion of majors, and providing more scholarships for talented students, Caldwell said. She also wants to help students sharpen their abilities in critical thinking.

Prior to her appointment, Caldwell was Director of General College and a professor in the Department of Language, Literature and Communication.

Caldwell described her "greatest challenge" in her new position as being able to have a positive effect on the rapid growth taking place at ECSU.

"The University is growing in so many ways. It's a well-kept secret that we have done a tremendous job academically. The students, faculty, curriculum, and academic affairs are the direct center, so to be able to impact that at this stage of ECSU's history is a challenge and an absolute reward."



Dr. Helen Caldwell, ECSU's new Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

Caldwell said she sees more challenges facing the University than problems.

"We have the means to meet the problems. We just have the challenge to use, promote and develop the potential of the University.

"I know you've heard the Chancellor say, 'We are the rising star in the northeast. Well, we have the challenge of seeing that we move with that, and move with it well."

Caldwell has a B.A. in English

Teaching from Virginia State University, an M.A. in speech pathology from New York University, and a Doctorate in speech pathology from George Washington University.

Her hobbies are reading, traveling and gardening.

Caldwell described her greatest achievement as "rearing a successful child, being a successful wife, having a good marriage, and being able to maintain a professional and private life."

Compass wins first in national contest

By Craig Avondo

For the second year in a row, *The Compass*, ECSU's student newspaper, has won a first place award in the Columbia Scholastic Press Association's semi-annual contest.

"The award is a pleasant pay back for all the hours of hard work," said former *Compass* Editor Robin Sawyer. "Winning a national honor like that reflects well on the staff, the Department of Language, Literature and Communication, and the entire University."

The award, for issues from the 1988-89 school year, included a special newspaper critique analyzing the paper's strengths and areas that need improvement.

Judges praised the student newspaper for containing, "tightly written leads, great attribution and well-executed ideas in an attractive package."

The Compass also received high scores on its objectivity in reporting, use of research to provide depth to the topic, liveliness of writing style, and use of action photography and graphic art.

Judges gave the newspaper high or perfect scores in several categories of hard news coverage, including background research, multiple sources, careful organization and accuracy. To improve the publication judges recommended more in depth reporting, more film and record reviews, greater use of opinion polls, more frequent issues and more advertising.

Newspapers participating in the national contest are classified according to frequency of publication, enrollment size of the college or university, and whether the newspaper is from a two-year or four-year institution. Newspapers are evaluated on content, presentation and general operations.

The Compass is published by the Department of Language, Literature and Communication, Dr. Anne Henderson Chairperson. Stephen March served as faculty advisor during the period covered by the award.

The Columbia Scholastic Press Association, a department of Columbia University in New York, was established in 1924 to help improve student publications.

New science complex ready to open for spring semester

By Tammy Taylor

Elizabeth City State University's new \$5.7 million science building is scheduled to be completed in November, and open for classes in the spring, according to Chancellor Dr. Jimmy Jenkins.

"The new facility will be a showplace that will greatly enhance the campus," Jenkins said. "The new facility will also serve to recruit young kids from all around the Northeastern North Carolina and Tidewater area, to come to the University and gain knowledge. It is state of the art."

Jenkins said the new science complex "will help the University do a better job of educating, recruiting and graduating scientists. The building will help create a new image that will be synonymous with the University." The new science complex, fronting on Hoffer Street, will house a planetarium, aquarium, greenhouse and laboratories.

"In addition to helping students learn about marine life, the aquarium will also give students an opportunity to gain hands on experience equal to any other science facility in the nation," Jenkins said. "The aquarium will allow students from other schools to take field trips here, with our students serving as guides to explain what they see when they tour the building."

The planetarium will allow students to understand astronomy and the galaxy, said Jenkins, and the greenhouse will allow the university "to maintain all kinds of plant life and other projects involving flowers for various occasions."

Jenkins said the new science complex will enable the University to attract more people in the science area, and "will have a positive impact on where students want to attend college."

The new building will also help reverse the decline in minorities choos-

ing the sciences as a career, Jenkins said. "Many students are scared when considering the idea of going into the sciences."

"The new science complex is not just designed for the present," the Chancellor continued, "but the future as well," adding that it has a reinforced area to accommodate special equipment, such as electron microscopes.

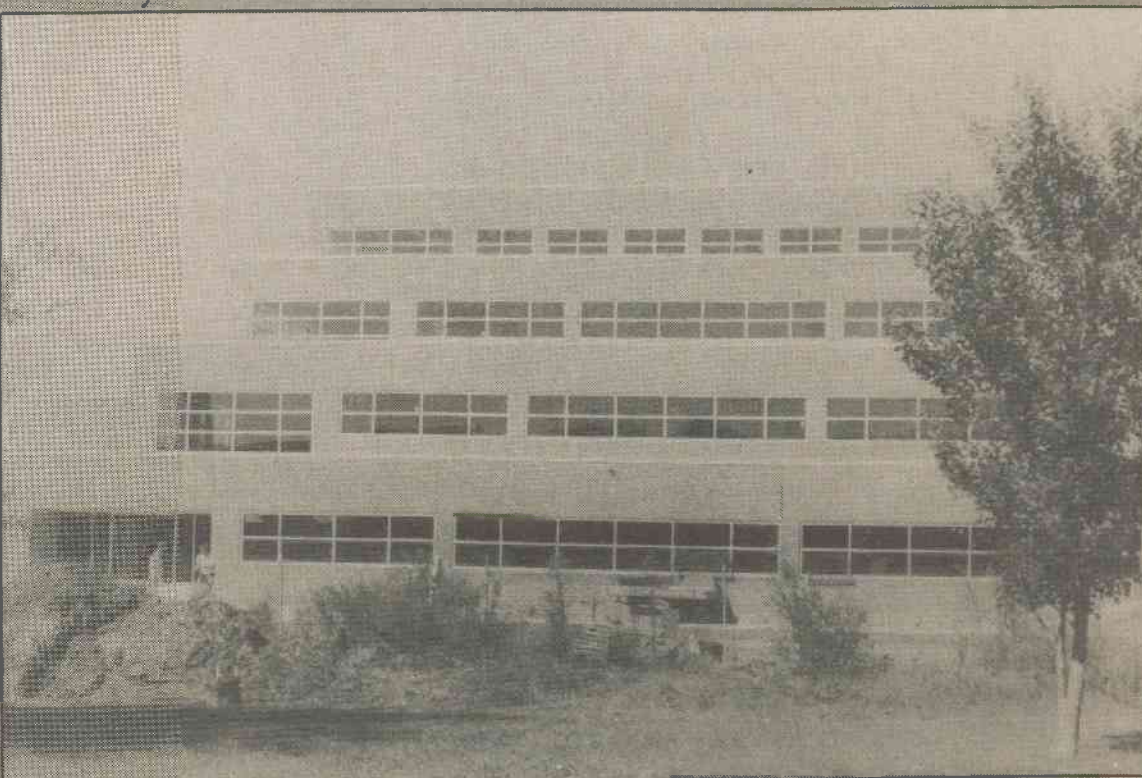
Roger McLean, Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance, said the new science complex "is the best you can get in science facilities. Having a facility of this nature will bring about a better teaching and learning atmosphere."

Jenkins said the state funded \$5 million for the building, and the federal government provided \$700,000.

Next on the schedule is a new fine arts and communications building, the Chancellor said.

"In a couple of years, this new fine arts building will probably be the most expensive building on campus."

State-of-the-Art



ECSU's new "state-of-the-art" Science Complex on Hoffer Street will be open this spring. Administrators say the complex will attract more science students to the University.