

CAMPUS NEWS



Photo by Richard McIntire

Freshman Carla Austin proudly displays her candle during Fall Convocation. Austin and other first year students lit their candles as a symbol of entrance into the Viking family, September 17 in Moore Hall.

Candlelighting ceremony Fall Convocation held

By Fedora Smith

ECSU held its Annual Fall Convocation and Freshmen Candlelighting Ceremonies Sunday, September 17, at 6:30 p.m. in Moore Hall Auditorium.

The guest speaker was Dr. William Griffin, president of Roanoke Bible College. Griffin spoke on the importance of "taking responsibility for one's own actions," and he warned students to avoid companions who would corrupt their morals.

Griffin listed five keys to success in college life, "Blame no one but yourself, choose to aim high, choose attitudes carefully, look for the best in all situations, and choose to volunteer."

Following Griffin's speech, ECSU Chancellor Dr. Jimmy Jenkins called this year's freshmen class "the cream of the crop of 1989," and said that anything worth having is worth sacrifice.

"Make the right decisions even if they are tough," Jenkins said.

Jenkins also advised the freshmen to "walk and get your sheepskin so that you can say you were best prepared to take on leadership, change the nation, and take on the life and pursuit of happiness."

Other speakers included Dr. Helen Caldwell, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Karen Richardson, President of the Student Government Association, and Gail Hall, Miss ECSU.

Caldwell, who led the students into the ceremony, said, "From this day on you will not be truly rich until the knowledge evolves solely from your heads."

Hall helped light the first candle for the candlelighting ceremony, and they were then passed among the students until all were lit.

The Reverend John Trotman, University minister, led the students in prayer, and the University Choir performed "In Bright Mansions Above."

Griffin is a native of Hyde County where he was raised in the Scranton Christian Church. He entered Roanoke Bible College in 1958, and began ministering at West Park, Portsmouth, Va. the following fall. He also served a seven-year ministry and Lowland, N.C., and an eight-year ministry in Fairfield, N.C.

At Roanoke Bible College, Griffin taught, and served as dean of men, dean of students and bookstore manager prior to having been named president. He and his wife, Patricia, have two children.

Photo by Richard McIntire

New chief 'feels at home' at ECSU

By Beverly Johnson

"Once you join this University, you become a family member!" said George T. Mountain, the new Chief of Police at Elizabeth City State University.

Mountain, who was appointed to his position May 23rd, 1989, said he is extremely pleased with the University, adding "there is a good opportunity to develop a quality police department on campus."

Mountain is an experienced law enforcement officer, having worked eight and a half years out of the N.C. Highway Patrol Station in Elizabeth City. He attended UNC-Chapel Hill for one year.

Although Mountain said he feels there are minor problems on campus such as fights and parking violations, he named the major problem on campus to be the drug situation.

"We are aware of the drug problem on campus and measures are being taken to combat this along with the vandalism of the drink and snack machines which is also occurring quite frequently," Mountain said.

Mountain said he feels one of his major goals at ECSU is to have "a well trained, well-equipped, and alert police department." He also plans to develop a dispatch system for security.

"It is extremely important for students and faculty to have trained officers to be the best they can be once a situation arises," Mountain said.

Four of the eight full-time officers

"There needs to be more constructive activities...aside from the dances, there is little else for students to do on the weekend."

George T. Mountain

are currently receiving special training in such areas as: Officer Survival Schools in Nags Head, NC; Criminal Justice Training Academy, Salem, NC; and law enforcement courses at the College of the Albemarle.

Mountain praised the contributions of work-study and intern students to the department. "They release the full-time police officers from answering the phones so they can do police work." Mountain said he would like for students to have a greater choice of things to do outside of class.

"There needs to be more constructive activities for students to do in the community as well as on campus," he said. "Aside from the dances, there is little else for students to do on the weekend."

Several ECSU students said Mountain has already had a good impact on the campus.

"I feel Mr. Mountain is making a

positive effort to improve the campus environment," said Darryl Brown, a senior majoring in English.

"I think Mr. Mountain is doing a fine job," said Kenneth Bazemore, a senior education major. "I am really impressed in the way he has implemented the foot patrol on campus. This means the campus police are visible not only in the car, but also on foot."

Although Mountain does not plan to change the current rules and regulations, he pointed out motorists should be aware of the increases in traffic and parking violation fines. For example, anyone parking in any "Handicapped" Zone without displaying an official recognized "Handicap" license plate will be fined \$50.00 as compared to \$25.00 last year. This comes as a result of a new state law. And motorists caught parking in "No Parking Any Time" zones will be fined \$25.00.

A copy of the new campus parking and traffic regulations book is available from the Thomas-Jenkins building. The book lists the complete traffic violations and fines violators must pay.

Although he has only been on the job a few months, the new chief said he already "feels at home" at Elizabeth City State University.

In his spare time he enjoys fishing and hunting locally and in Hertford County. He also enjoys racquetball and jogging.

Mountain and his wife, Deborah, have two daughters: Heather, 6 and Ashley, 18 months.



New Chief of Security George T. Mountain (second from the right) discusses Homecoming security priorities with Assistant Vice-Chancellor of Business, A.C. Robinson and officers Willie White and Sam Beamon. Mountain served eight years as a state trooper before accepting his current position here at ECSU.

Ms. White is Miss NAACP

Miss NAACP

Sonya White was chosen "Miss NAACP" in the First Annual Miss ECSU Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Contest, September 29th in a ceremony held at the ECSU Little Theater.

White, a senior accounting major, was selected on the basis of her fundraising efforts, said Ursula McMillion, President of the local chapter.

"Sonya truly exemplified the characteristics that are the essence of NAACP," said McMillion. "Hard work, dedication, creative ideas, pride and dignity."

White said being selected as "Miss NAACP" was a "real inspiration. It's a real honor to have the opportunity to represent the one organization blacks can look to in a time of tribulation, and know that they have a friend within."

White admitted she "didn't expect to win."

"I feel great," she said. "Winning was an inspiration because I've always been a doubter, and this showed me that you can do what you set your mind to do."

White, a Columbia native, will represent the NAACP in the community, at churches and other functions, said McMillion. "She will make appearances and speak on behalf of our chapter."

Other contestants were Larona Johnson, first runner up, Toneisha Williams, second runner up, Maureen Beamon, third runner-up, and Vanessa Barner, fourth runner up.

Edward E. Carter, Mayor of Greenville, spoke during the ceremony, whose theme was "The blacker the college, the sweeter the knowledge."

"His message was that now we can do anything we want to do," said White. "Even though we are treated



Photo by Richard McIntire

Sonya R. White, Miss ECSU NAACP, has a special place in Viking history as the University's first queen of the civil rights group.

like second class citizens, we aren't really. We can make our dreams come true."

Carter said he had started out in life "dirt poor," but had emerged as mayor of Greenville, the largest city in North Carolina with a black mayor.

Wilshanda Sirmans was the mistress of ceremonies, and Shari Carter introduced the speaker.

Guests were welcomed by Roger

McLean, Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance and Dr. Leon White, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, and Ms. Felecia Brown.

The ECSU Gospel Choir performed three selections. Carol Brown was the soloist on "My Anchor Holds."

Money raised by the contestants will send a representative to the state convention, and "send someone to coronation," McMillion said.

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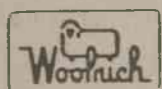
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