

Photo by Richard McIntire



Eddie Hatch and Debbie Morgan, stars from ABC's "All My Children" stopped by the ECSU campus last month. The actors were here as part of a national tour promoting 'soaps' on Black college campuses. Hatch played John Remington on the show, lover to Morgan's character Angela Hubbard. They're seen here laughing it up in the WRVS studios, where they were interviewed by air-personality Becky Overton.

A special report: Assessment tests: who needs 'em? 'They are valuable,' says Caldwell

By Uchenna Bulliner
and Pacquin McClain

Although the prevailing student attitude toward Elizabeth City State University's placement and assessment tests is "Who needs them?" the University's top academic administrator says the tests are not only beneficial to students, they also will have a positive effect on academics.

"Assessment tests spotlight academic weak points, and measure how well departments are doing their jobs," said Dr. Helen Caldwell, ECSU's Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. "They also help students learn to think. If you have weak points, you can be tutored," said Caldwell. "We're trying to set up mini-courses for students who want to improve in specific areas."

Caldwell said the tests were made possible through the Academic Development Program. ECSU is currently the only school in UNC system to require the assessment tests.

"It has always been our desire to do these tests," Caldwell said, "but we needed the money. So this assessment program gave us the funds. We are definitely fortunate to have this. Others will eventually do it, too, but we are the first."

The assessment tests evaluate knowledge and skills in four academic subjects—English, math, science and social studies—and three competencies, interpretive, strategic and adaptive reasoning.

"Most students will be in their last semester sophomore year when they take this test," said Caldwell, "so they would have had those courses. The tests measure how much and how well they obtained the information, and how effectively it was taught."

Caldwell stressed that the tests are diagnostic, and that although students are required to take them, there is no way to "fail" the tests.

"We don't have a cut off score, that's just rumor. Once the students were told there was no cut off score, there was a big sigh of relief. This worried me because I wanted to know how well they were going to do and how seriously they were going to take

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Dr. Hellen Caldwell

it." Another rumor, circulated widely on campus, was that students who did not pass the test could not go into their major.

"Students are only required to take the test," said Caldwell. "We had 99 sophomores who did not take the test administered last spring. So they are taking it in October."

The Sophomore Assessment Test was administered on April 6, 1989 to 283 sophomores.

Although students cannot fail the tests Caldwell said students should still do their best on them. "These test scores are a part of the students' records. They will follow you for the rest of your life."

Test scores help present an overall academic portrait of students, Caldwell explained.

"The test is not the only way we test for assessment. The others are your GPA, how well students scored as opposed to their SAT scores. Another is retention, whether we are able to keep students here."

The scores are reported on a scale from 40 to 560 with 300 being average, according to Vivian T. Armstrong, Acting Director of General College. Last year, ECSU's honors students had the highest scores, with an average of 311, and incentive scholars had the next highest scores, with an average of 253. Athletes scored slightly higher (230) than the non-incentive scholars (229).

In math, ECSU's athletes scored significantly higher than non-incentive scholars, and slightly higher than incentive scholars.

Caldwell admitted that "students who don't take good standardized tests

are at a disadvantage" but added, "We have a counseling center on campus with Dr. Olive Wilson. The counseling sessions teaches the student proper test taking methods so by the time the student is a sophomore he or she should be comfortable with taking the tests. Students should know what to expect."

Although many students oppose the tests, some are in favor of them. "I think it's a good idea," said junior Cheryl White, "because it allows the university to measure where the students are when they get out of their general education courses. Otherwise, how would they know the areas in which the students are knowledgeably deficient?"

"I'm for the test because it would help the General Studies Department discover the weaknesses and strengths which will in turn help them better prepare our students," said Becky Overton.

Tammy Taylor said, "I feel that it would be a good idea for the new students coming into the university. It will better prepare them for the future."

Craig Avondo seemed to sum up a lot of students' attitudes when he said, "I am against the tests because I have been taking tests such as these practically since I've been in elementary school, junior high, high school and I am sick of these tests. They are an affront to my intelligence."

"We pray that the students take the tests seriously," Caldwell said "If your records look good E.C.S.U.'s record looks good. Testing will never go away, so the further you go in life the more tests you will have. Now is the time to meet the challenge."

Students gain knowledge, skill from SERI solar energy project

By Pamela Cribb

Elizabeth City State University is one of six historically black colleges and universities to have been selected by the Solar Energy Research Institute to participate in an important solar radiation project.

The project, under the supervision of Dr. Sultana Khan of the ECSU Physics Department, monitors levels of solar radiation in Elizabeth City.

Using a "radiometer," a device which measures the intensity of radiant energy, the students measure total radiation levels, and diffuse or scattered radiation, and sends the recorded data to SERI once a month, in Golden, Colorado.

SERI interprets the data with graphs, and sends the information to institutions, government offices and businesses that specialize in solar energy.

"This is crucial information any place that solar energy is used," said Chris Dale, a local contractor, "espe-

cially to people building solar houses. The amount of energy available for use in a solar home will vary directly with the level of radiation in the particular region."

The data is also important because it measures levels of diffuse radiation, which signify a warming trend in the earth's atmosphere, enhancing the "greenhouse effect."

"The University benefits from this projects because it displays the Physical Science Department's interest in participating in research," said Dr. A. Latif Choudhury, physical science professor. "Through its involvement with this project, the University will provide Elizabeth City and surrounding counties with important solar radiation information."

Dr. Md. Alam, Chairman of the Department of Physical Sciences, said that the project will enable students to gain advance knowledge about solar technology, and that it will help them develop research oriented projects.

"They will also be able to participate in the summer student each year

at SERI and gain financial assistance," Alam said.

"The project has greatly enhanced my interest in atmospheric radiation," said ECSU science major Eddie Vinson, an amateur meteorologist.

"The project helped me realize the importance of protecting myself against the sun's harmful rays," said Cynthia Ruiz. The research project was first begun at ECSU in 1985 discontinued a year later, then resumed in 1989 to provide more data about solar radiation.

The University was chosen again in 1989 because of the accuracy and promptness of the data in 1985, said Tom Stoffel, expert in solar radiation at SERI.

"It gives me great pleasure for our station to be able to continue with this project a second time because SERI was so enthused with the accuracy of the previous data. "Also, I am pleased that due to the success of this project, eastern North Carolina will have important solar radiation data."

NEWS NOTES

The General Administration for the University of North Carolina System has approved a second major plan for Elizabeth City State University, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Dr. Helen Caldwell has announced.

"The second major plan will be effective with the freshmen class of 1989," Dr. Caldwell said, adding that the second majors were developed by the faculties of the disciplines.

The plan will allow special education and elementary education majors to chose a second major in either art, English, music, psychology or social sciences. Students who choose second majors will take from 24 to 27 additional hours of course work.

ECSU's annual Career Day is scheduled for November 1, 1989, Charles Foster, Director of Career Planning and Placement has announced.

"All ECSU students are invited to attend," said Foster. "We want you to meet with representatives from state and federal agencies, major corporations and local businesses."

Foster has a list of many job opportunities for ECSU grads. He can be reached at extension 287 or 318.

The ECSU Concert Choir will visit St. John United Methodist Church in Eden, Friday, October 20, at 8 p.m. On Saturday, at 7:30 p.m., the choir will visit the Roanoke Chapel Baptist Church in Jackson. On Sunday, the choir will visit Roanoke Salem Baptist Church in Garysburg, N.C. and the First Baptist Church in Roxboro.

Richard Satterfield has been appointed Marching Band Director at ECSU. He replaces R.J. Johnson who resigned in June to accept a position at Winston Salem State University. Satterfield's teaching experience includes 16 years with the Chowan County School system. He has a B.A. from Saint Augustine College in Raleigh, and a B.A. from Boston Conservatory of Music, Boston, Massachusetts.

Department of Mathematics and Computer Science
Students of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science participated in co-op programs in a summer program at a graduate school. The students were: Paula Pruden and LaSalle Ruffin: Summer Internship Program at Bell Communications Research (Bell-core) in Piscataway, New Jersey (a research organization involved in communication information processing); Terence Baker, summer internship with the housing officer, United States Coast Guard Support Center, Elizabeth City, N. C. as an assistant systems manager/housing assistant; Eric Harris, summer internship with NASA; Joy Scott, UCLA, Summer Research Program for Minority Undergraduate Students; and Zebrena Blount and Raymond Hunter, summer research program at UNC-Chapel Hill.

The United States Department of Education has awarded a \$44,023 grant to the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science to fully support a project on computer based instruction in calculus and precalculus (honors). Dr. Sohinder S. Sachdev, Professor and Departmental Chairman will be the Director of the project and Dr. George Edmonds, Associate Professor of Mathematics will be the Co-Director. The project proposes to establish a computer laboratory to support classroom teaching of precalculus (honors), calculus and analytic geometry I (honors) and calculus and analytic geometry II (honors). The instruction in these courses will take place through the use of computers. The classroom will have computer stations and the students will use them to acquire instruction in these courses. The instructors will deliver instruction by using computers as well. Special manuals will be prepared which will be used by the students and the instructors. The project will be completely operational within two years. This is a pilot project and if on the basis of evaluation, it is found to enhance the quality of instruction, then this strategy will be used to teach other calculus and precalculus level courses as well.

This past summer, math and computer science students participated in a summer internship at Bell Communications Research (Bellcore) in Piscataway, New Jersey. Students were provided housing at the local campus of Rutgers State University, were entertained with picnics, trips to points of

interest in New York and New Jersey, and student-sponsored shows. LaSalle Ruffin was responsible for porting an encryption program from the UNIX operating system to IBM PCs and compatibles. Paula Pruden was given the responsibility of creating graphics for a major software package developed by Bellcore.

"The overall Bellcore experience was highly enjoyable," said Ruffin. "We were able to determine our strengths and weaknesses. We learned a vast amount of information in 10 weeks. We made lots of wonderful friendships. As a bottom line, we thoroughly enjoyed the compensation!"

Photo by Richard McIntire



Two ECSU freshmen "pass the flame" during the Fall Convocation Ceremony, held September 17 in Moore Hall.

Dr. Johnny Houston has been selected as a member of the National Board of Advisors for the Association of Computer Science and Engineering Departments at Minority Institutions. Houston was also awarded a Visiting Science Appointment at the NASA Langley Research Center this past summer. Houston attended weekly scientific seminars with top scientists from all over the nation.

Angela Hager a sophomore Biology is the recipient of a Yarbrough Research Grant for \$125. With this grant Angela hopes to determine the best possible conditions under which Malliar Spinach, a plant used for food in the oriental population, can be produced. She will expose the plants to various nutrients at varying amounts and concentrations and determine what is most conducive to its growth.

Angela will be completing her research in the spring and hopes to present

it to North Carolina Academy of Science.

Department of Social Sciences

William D. Butts and James Winstead, assistant professors of Criminal Justice, attended a workshop on "Cults and Ritualistic Crime" in Wilmington, N.C. Sept. 27. They earned a certificate in continuing education for completing the 20 hour course. Subjects covered were satanism, witchcraft, paganism, voodoo, and media influence on youth, including heavy metal music and rap songs.

Dr. Gordon Charles, assistant professor, presented a paper entitled "The Race/Class Issue in Caribbean Scholarship, at the 74th meeting of the Association of the Study of Afro-American Life and History, in Dayton, Ohio.

Dr. James McClenon presented a paper, "Thirty-three Asian Spiritual Healers: An Experience-Centered Approach" at the Southern Sociological Society meeting in April.

Business and Economics Department

Dr. Ivory Lyons, Chairman of the Business and Economics Department has a weekly program on WRVS Radio, "The Current Economic Scene". The program covers current business and economic news, statistics on the economy and economic issues of local, national, and international scope.

Deborah Jacobs, sophomore Business Administration major and Juanita Moody, senior Accounting major, each received \$500. scholarships from the Wachovia Bank fund for Excellence. Deborah Jacobs also received one of only two merit-leadership scholarships of \$1000 awarded by the North Carolina Association of Minority Business (NCAMB). Deborah's award was given jointly by the NCAMB and Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company. Four other awards of \$500 each were given by NCAMB to college students throughout North Carolina.

Cadet Teresa Jackson, senior Business Administration major was awarded the Joe Barr Special Activities Award for achieving the highest female physical training score at ROTC Advanced Camp - All American at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. During the year Teresa also received The Department of the Army Superior Cadet Awards and the ROTC Physical Fitness Award.

Twelve managers from American Corporations conducted seminars in the Business and Economics Department as a part of the Urban League's Black Executives Exchange Program (BEEP) on October 17 and 18. The group conducted a job preparedness seminar for all students in Moore Hall Auditorium on October 17 at 2:00 p.m. Phi Beta Lambda and Students in Free Enterprise hosted various events.

Four top accounting students participated in Accounting Recruiting Day at Guilford College in Greensboro, North Carolina on October 12. The four students, Frances Lynn Benton, Laurie Garrison, Kimberly Mann and Juanita Moody interviewed with the Big Eight accounting firms, the State Auditor's Office, banks and other major businesses.

Six Accounting majors attended a job fair sponsored by the National Association of Black Accountants (NABA) in Greensboro on October 12 and 13. The students were Debbie Hammon, Reginald Joe, Kim Halsey, Mira Hunter, Tammy Benjamin, and Rosalyn Moore. The trip was coordinated by junior Kim Halsey.

Fifteen seniors participated in an all-day GMAT review on October 12 conducted by Mr. Douglas Newsome of the ECSU Center for Institutional Effectiveness and Evaluation. Mr. Newsome will conduct other GMAT review sessions during the academic year.

Students in the Business and Economics Department will attend a MBA Forum sponsored by the Graduate Management Admissions Council (GMAC)

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