



Joynita Robinson, Miss ECSU for 1992-93, is the third member of her immediate family to reign. Robinson plans to "boost up the student morale and pride by being an example myself."

Miss ECSU proud of her 'African heritage'

By Lavenia Dameron
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The Robinson family has done it again.

Following in her mother and sister's footsteps, Joynita Monique Robinson will reign as Miss ECSU for 1992-93. Her mother, Joycelyn Berry Robinson, was Miss ECSU (date); her sister, Alisa, served as Miss ECSU for the 1990-91 term.

When she learned she had won, Robinson said she was overcome with emotion.

"All I could do was stare in space," she said. "I'm very emotional and I couldn't take all that emotion. Even now, I get goose bumps just thinking about it."

The theme of Robinson's campaign was "More than just loyalty, the essence of royalty." Diamond-cut buttons with the slogan centered around Robinson's face were distributed throughout the campus to symbolize the fact that 80 percent of the world's diamonds come from Africa.

"My entire campaign was designed to acknowledge my African heritage," she

said. "The royalty refers to our lines of kings and queens. I am proud of my African heritage."

In commenting on some students' suggestion that Miss ECSU should be a "true sister" and have a darker complexion, Robinson said, "It doesn't matter what tone your skin is because if you have Africa in your heart, then you are a true African American. It is time for us as women to recognize our uniqueness and royalty. We are all queens."

In the Miss ECSU Showcase, Robinson chose Queen Inzingha, a renowned warrior queen, as her own patron African queen.

"Queen Inzingha led her army against the Portuguese and won battle after battle," said Robinson. "She's the epitome of resistance against domination within the African interior. She is a major person in Angolan history."

Robinson said she was able to identify with Queen Inzingha because the queen was able to keep her political friends as well as her social friends. Robinson said she tries to "keep a balance between the friends I have in Student Government

and my social friends."

"The best queens are those who can laugh, love, and live," Robinson said. "I can be that leader. I can laugh, love and live, and still get goals accomplished or make dreams into realities."

Robinson said she doesn't mind being compared to her older sister, Alisa, who participated in last year's televised Miss African American Collegiate Pageant and was ranked among the top 8 finalists. "I don't mind being compared to Alisa as long as it's positive," she said. "We have a lot in common, but I am an individual."

Robinson was quick to credit her three campaign managers, McGrue Booker, Felix Deloatch and Terry Lewis, for her victory. "I couldn't have won this election by myself."

Booker "did a lot of talking on my behalf," said Robinson. "Felix was my creative streak; he designed my campaign pins, and Terry Lewis kept my hair and nails looking good."

Robinson has already set her agenda for her term as Miss ECSU.

"One of my main goals is to start an outreach program to encourage high

school students to stay in school," she said. "I hope that it will bring ECSU and the community closer together."

She also hopes to build student morale and student pride with more student involvement. "I plan to boost up the student morale and student pride by being an example myself."

After graduation, Robinson plans to go to medical school and become a doctor. She has already received early acceptance to the Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Athens, Ohio.

Robinson has been involved with the Student Government Association for three years holding such offices as freshman class vice president, sophomore class president and SGA vice-president. She is a member of the ECSU Varsity Cheerleading Squad, Gospel Choir, Honors Program, Eta Chi Chapter of Tri-Beta Biology Honor Society, Students of Science Club, Kappa Delta Chapter of Kappa Delta Pi Education Honor Society and Delta Theta Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She is the first black and first ECSU representative to serve as vice president of the NC Academy of Science.