



Rocquina "Tudi" Vaughan, the new Miss ECSU, is a rising senior whose friends say personifies strength and dignity. Vaughan, who credited her family and friends with providing moral support during the campaign, says, "I am a very family oriented person."

# Rocquina 'Tudi' Vaughan's motto is 'Be yourself and all else will follow'

By Ayanna Dorsey

**W**hen she first came to the ECSU campus, Rocquina ("Tudi") Vaughan had no idea she would ever end up as Miss ECSU.

"As a freshman I saw what seemed to be a pattern or stereotype that one must possess in order to become Queen," says Vaughan, who was voted Miss ECSU on April 1. "The pattern seemed to be a fair complexion, all smiles, very popular female who more or less catered to the administration rather than the students."

Vaughan added that a friend, Shemaria Smith, made her believe that, "You don't have to fit a certain stereotype, just be yourself and all else will follow."

She believes she broke the stereotyped pattern "due to my physical appearance."

"Beyond all of the physical stereotyping," continued Vaughan, "I am serious when the situation calls for seriousness; however, I also smile when the situation calls for genuine smiles, contrary to the personalities of past queens. I am authentic! But, most of all I am content with being myself and I do not spend my time

trying to make myself be what others think I should be. I found within myself a queen and I realized that I possess the knowledge and ideas others can benefit from."

Vaughan said she is looking forward to the new year and to wearing the crown as Miss ECSU.

"I realize the responsibility has been placed on me to help my fellow Vikings make a change. It feels good to now to hold the crown, but I do realize this is a job and there is work to do, and I am the person to get the job done."

Rocquina's campaign slogan was, "Aspiring beyond Mediocrity." She explains that best describes what her goals are. "My aim is excellence, I seek heights higher than average, my goal is to achieve the highest that I can in all my endeavors. I want to be more than just okay, I want to be the best!"

Vaughan's personal slogan and motto is "Strength and Dignity: Personified"

"When you look at me you should see strength in my strong mind, will and body, the dignity is instilled through the pride that I have in myself, my school and

most of all my culture."

Rocquina describes herself as: "R-regal, O-original, C-calm, Q-queen, U-unique, I-intelligent, N-noble, A-authentic black woman of the 90's."

As a rising senior Rocquina plans to be on top of her office as Miss ECSU as well as her academics. "Graduation and academics are my primary goals; however, I do plan to uphold and carry out my duties as Miss ECSU to the best of my abilities."

Freshman, Kim Walston said she is proud to have Rocquina Vaughan to represent her and her school as Miss ECSU.

"Rocquina Vaughan has the strength of Nefertari and the longevity of our mother of civil rights movement Rosa Parks. Basically, 'Tudi' disciplines herself in the present to enhance her enjoyment in the future. She is not afraid to go after what she wants but does so in an appropriate way. She is not stopped by her own contradictions and ambivalences. Her security does not come by controlling others. 'Tudi' is concerned and compassionate and is committed to improving the quality of the campus," continued

Walston. "She has influenced me by teaching me to preserve, plan properly, and pray because she knows who holds her future. Tudi personifies strength and dignity."

Vaughan said she is less than pleased with certain aspects of ECSU's administration.

"I am disappointed with the attitudes of the administration. They tend to set themselves out of our reach, rather than making themselves reachable. We are one big family, whereas we the students are the children and the administrators are supposed to be the parents as well as our guide."

Vaughan is the first in her immediate family to attend Elizabeth City State University.

"I am a very family oriented person and I realize that I could not have done it without the love, help, physical and moral support from my family."

Vaughan is a member of the University Gospel Choir, the University's Usher Guild, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.