

Trenace Fayton assumes throne...

New Miss ECSU crowned in "An Evening at the Savoy"

by Sonya Holley

Traditionally the theme of ECSU's coronation centers around the queen herself, but this year's coronation took a journey into the past—to the famous Savoy Ballroom of the 1930's.

Trenace Fayton, Miss ECSU for 1995-96- based her theme, "An Evening at the Savoy, on the 1930's Savoy Ballroom, a famous jazz club in Harlem, NY known for its big band sounds.

The gym was decorated in the style of the Savoy Ballroom with a large chandelier centered in front. Black columns connected by red streamers surrounded the gym's walls.

To further enhance the exotic mood, four dancers, wearing costumes from the 1930's, performed a ballroom dance while the University band performed hits from the same period.

The men of the Royal Court hailed Miss ECSU as she entered the gym dressed in her radiant white gown.

"I am humbled, honored, and almost without words because of tonight's activities" she said.

In her words of acknowledgments, the newly crowned queen did not reflect upon herself.

"I could spend my time talking about me or my upcoming reign, but what I would rather do is say thank you to all those who have been with me before, during, and after my run," she said.

"Even before I decided to run, to be queen of the University, there was a group of people constantly reminding me that I was already a queen. It makes a difference in a young person's life to know that there are people who care and expect you to do your very best."

Miss ECSU singled out her family for special thanks, including her mother, Gloria Johnson.

"My family constantly reminds me by their actions not just their words that no matter how successful I become, or how far I go, family ties will never be broken," she said. "They are always here, even when they are not particularly present."

She thanked her supporters in the University family, including her choir director Billy Hines, and former chancellor Jimmy Jenkins, both of whom she described as "two men who have shown me how a real man treats his family, conducts his business and acts as a mentor."

Before crowning Fayton as the new queen, outgoing queen Lynetta Jordan spoke to the audience.

"It is truly an honor to stand before you tonight to say that I have reigned majestically as the queen of a beautiful and glorious institution of higher learning, ECSU," she said. Jordan said that she was giving her farewell speech "with tears, but only tears of joy."

"I have enjoyed every minute of my serving you because I knew I came to serve," she said. "I only pray that I allowed my light to shine so that you have seen the light within me."

After thanking Jordan for her reign, Interim Chancellor Dr. Mickey Burnim then made his charge to Fayton.

"Tonight marks the official beginning of the reign of Miss ECSU for 1995-96," he said. "The young woman who holds this honored office for 95-96 will continue the long tradition of representation and service. Indeed, Miss ECSU has already begun that representation in grand style."

During the program jazz saxophonist Vincent Priester performed three selections. Those making tributes to the new queen included the ECSU



Miss ECSU 1995-96, Trenace Nicole Fayton (left), accepts bouquet of roses from Lynetta Jordan, the retiring monarch.

Photo by Jamie Jordan

University choir, the University Players, and the members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

The queen's first and second attendants were Aquita Robinson, and Nikita Sutton. Marcus Croom and Tresha Griffin served as master and mistress of ceremonies.

Special guests of the queen's court included Dr. and Mrs. Mickey Burnim, The Rev. Clifton Davis, and Dr. and Mrs. Kermit E. White.

The coronation ended with a "Lights Out at the Savoy" dance performed by the ladies of the Royal Court.

DIAMOND

My precious Diamond, shimmering and shining with splendor.

With time your value quickly grows and joy to me it renders.

You've been through much, but in this is your beauty. I hope to share many natural and spiritual explorations with you, that for a lifetime you will bring many happy and moving memories.

Misused, abused, taken for granted, and thrown aside,

Even still it hasn't dampened that mesmerizing sparkle in your rich, brown eyes.

Truly I do believe that you are an unprecedented gift to me, to cherish, respect, care for, and if necessary, protect.

You are my precious diamond and a wonder to explore, I'm taken by your finesse and with you I hope to be forevermore.

— MARCUS CROOM