

Tamara McCray:

New student government leader promises that ECSU students' voices 'will be heard'

by Kimberly T. Hines

As ECSU's first female President of the Student Government Association in over five years, Tamara McCray has her priorities straight and her cap on tight in preparation for the busy 1997-1998 school year.

Although the transition between SGA cabinets was rocky, McCray and her cabinet say they have reclaimed their composure and are prepared to face the responsibilities before them.

"As SGA President, I wish to ensure that the students' voices are heard and there is continuous communication between administration and the students," said McCray. "It is even more important to remain unbiased and objective in order to keep the avenues of communication flowing successfully."

McCray's vision for the 1997-1998 school year is for students and administrators to develop "a lasting relationship." She also wants students to display pride in their university and do all that they can to ensure their own success, as well as the University's.

To some, the title - SGA President - may initiate feelings of uncertainty, a difficult task; yet Tamara McCray views her position as a rewarding challenge.

"I expected a great deal of responsibility," she said. "If the transition between cabinets had been smoother it would have been less challenging to get rolling, but we have a handle on things now."

The oldest of eight siblings from Oxford, a small town in North Carolina, McCray is familiar with the idea and



Franklin Scott photo

Tamara McCray

importance of being a role model. She attributes her success to her faith in God and the inspiration provided by her grandparents throughout her life. "They were always there to lean on and have always been there."

McCray said her duties as SGA president make it is very difficult to maintain an active social life or to be a part of any other clubs and organizations on campus. Prior to her election, Tamara was involved in campus life as a Viking Ambassador, a member of the Student Activity Advisory Board (SAAB), the Math and Computer Science Club, and Alpha Kappa Mu Honor

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Society.

As a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., McCray said that she misses out on many things, but her sisters support her.

"My sisters understand. They're working with me and they help me to adjust to everything." She emphasized that she misses being "a regular student" because she is always on the call of duty.

"There never is really time to be just Tamara," she said "I try to be me, but that is determined by the atmosphere. I try to make time to talk to everyone as Tamara, but the conversation or situ-

ation will determine the rest."

McCray is an Applied Math major with a minor in Statistics. After graduation, she plans to attend graduate school at the University of George Washington in Washington, D.C. She then plans to teach introductory courses in math on the college level.

"I want to go out of here with a bang", said McCray of her senior year. "ECSU allows you opportunities to prepare yourself for a career and the professional world, but you have to take advantage of it."

With everything that our SGA President has to deal with, when does she ever have any time to relax?

"Never, really," said McCray; but when she does have a little time on her hands, she enjoys wrestling, watching television, listening to the radio, catching up with friends, or walking around the track at Roebuck Stadium.

McCray said that she has learned a great deal about life from her experiences at ECSU. "We all depend on each other," she said. "It is important to remember that there is always someone watching you; therefore it would benefit the you to do your best at all times."

Tamara is grateful to everyone for their support and encouraging words.

"I'd like to thank Chancellor. Burnim for continuing to drill in me the importance of class before anything else, and I would like to reiterate that to the students," she said

"Education is not for show. It takes a tremendous amount of hard work and dedication."

Vikes

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Week two of the '97 Viking football campaign introduced a new and improved Viking football team. The Vikings kicked off against the Benedict College Tigers and covered well. The Viking defense shut down the Tiger attack quickly during that first possession. The Tigers punted to the Vikings, giving them good field position on their first possession. Quarterback Daron Cannon then hit receiver Earl Jones for a large gain which immediately put the Vikings in Tiger territory.

Caught up in the excitement, tailback Lawrence Mack took a hand-off around the right end and gained another first down. The Vikes were on the move!

As the offense began to get the cylinders going, Cannon hit receiver Eddie Cuffie on an "out and up" pattern in

the left corner of the end zone and the Vikes punctuated the drive, putting points on the board. Viking fans roared as their alma mater reminded them of better days on the gridiron.

The Vikes kicked off to the Tigers and sprinted down the field to cover, throwing bodies into the Tiger's wedge and bringing down the Tiger return man. On the first down, and with ten yards to go, the tiger QB, sensing the Viking momentum, handed off to the tailback. The back was stuffed after a gain of two.

The next two plays had the same outcome, causing Benedict College to punt. The Vikings were now showing their opponent how challenging they could be. The rest of the game was characterized by the Vikings establishing themselves on both sides of the football. Competitive in play selection

and in defending, the Vikes defeated the Tigers 15-12.

The Vikings hosted Johnson C. Smith in week three. They were able to play very poorly and still get a win. In a game characterized by mistakes and penalties, the Vikes struggled on offense and their defensive play was somewhat timid.

The Vikings were, however, able to fumble, stumble, and hope their way into what became their second win, defeating the Golden Bulls, 12-10.

Week four was a rude awakening for the Vikings. The game, against conference rival North Carolina Central University, started with both teams trying to "feel each other out." Central found the weak spot first and capitalized with a quick score. The Vikings then got the football and turned it over, leading to a second score for NCCU. The Vikings

managed get on the board late in the game, but the Eagles had already delivered the fatal blow. The final score was Eagles 37, Vikings 6.

"Our biggest problem is execution," said Coach Ernest Wilson, offensive coordinator. "We only have 45 minutes to work with our students on offense, and we just can't get them enough reps in that time."

To keep the defense off balance, Wilson said he has "thrown in some new formations."

Offense is a lot more technical and interdependent, with less room for error, said Wilson.

Wilson will have the opportunity to apply his new formations in the upcoming Homecoming game against Bowie State Bulldogs.