

ECSU students travel to *Ghana*

By Marty Jacobi

Two students learned what it was like to live in a culture far different from their own when they traveled nearly halfway around the globe to Ghana, West Africa, this past summer.

Albert Walker, Jr., and Blair Todd took the six week Summer Study Abroad program offered through a consortium of North Carolina Universities with North Carolina State University as the lead institution.

"The trip was revealing," said Todd, a student from Sicklerville, N.J. "I learned that there is more to us than life in America. It was a chance to engulf myself in a unique culture."

Emerging the students in a new culture is the whole idea of the program. The major goal is to prepare students for the 21st century, enabling them to develop and refine their skills in cultural awareness, inter-cultural adjustment, critical observation and research.

"It was wonderful. The people, the smells, the greenery - everything was different," Todd said.

The intensive study of the Ghanaian culture, including experiencing the

people, their lifestyles and customs allowed the students to analyze themselves in a way they hadn't thought about prior to taking the trip.

"Eating goat, sheep and rice everyday was an experience," said Walker, who is from Richmond, Virginia. "We didn't realize how good we had it (in America) until we went over there. We didn't realize how American we were until we went over there."

Having faced a culture without some of the American luxuries that he has become accustomed to, Walker found out how important it is to keep focused on his own goals.

"I had the African experience in Africa," he said. "In that experience, I realized that there is nothing more important than what you're doing right now."

The cross-cultural experience of the program is designed to provide undergraduate and graduate students with an education that enhances their international and cultural communication and promotes an awareness of global issues. It also provides opportunities for students in African Studies, Black

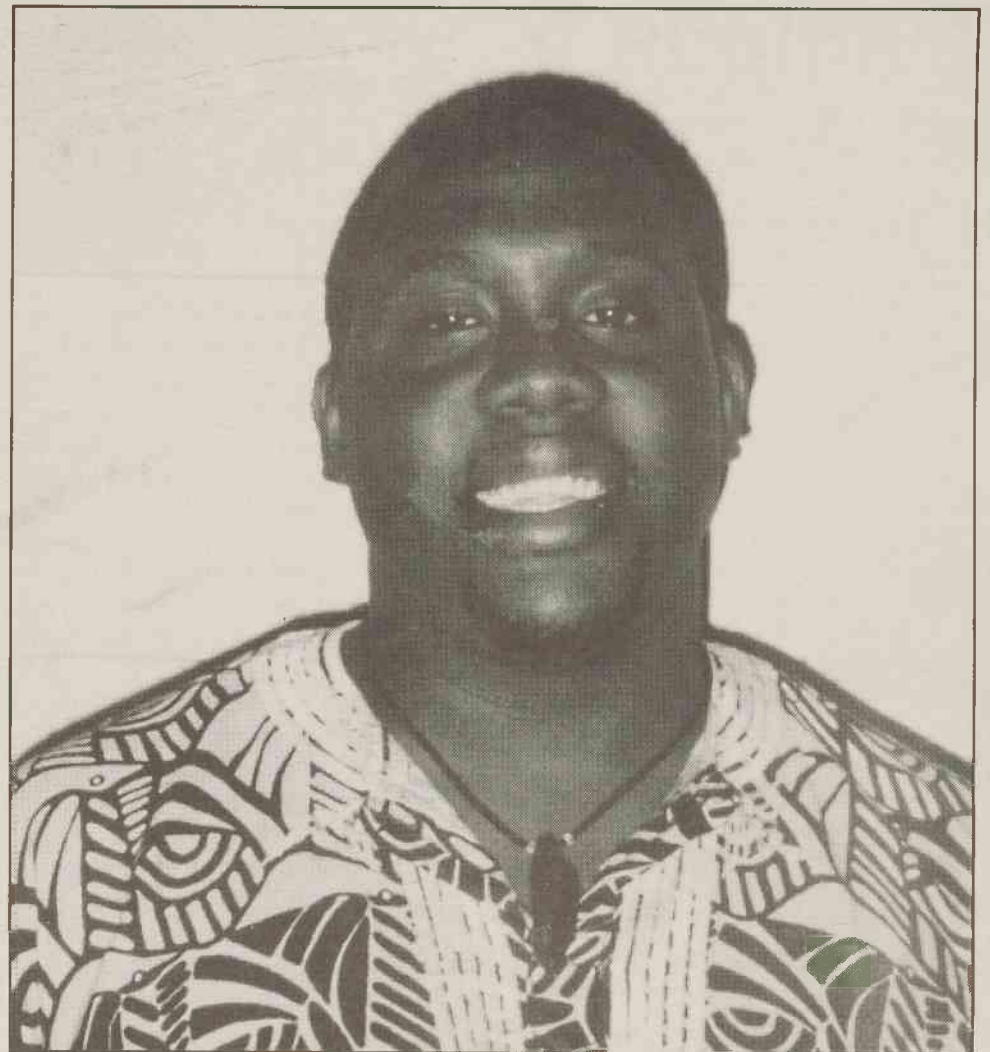


photo by Jamie Powell

Albert Walker

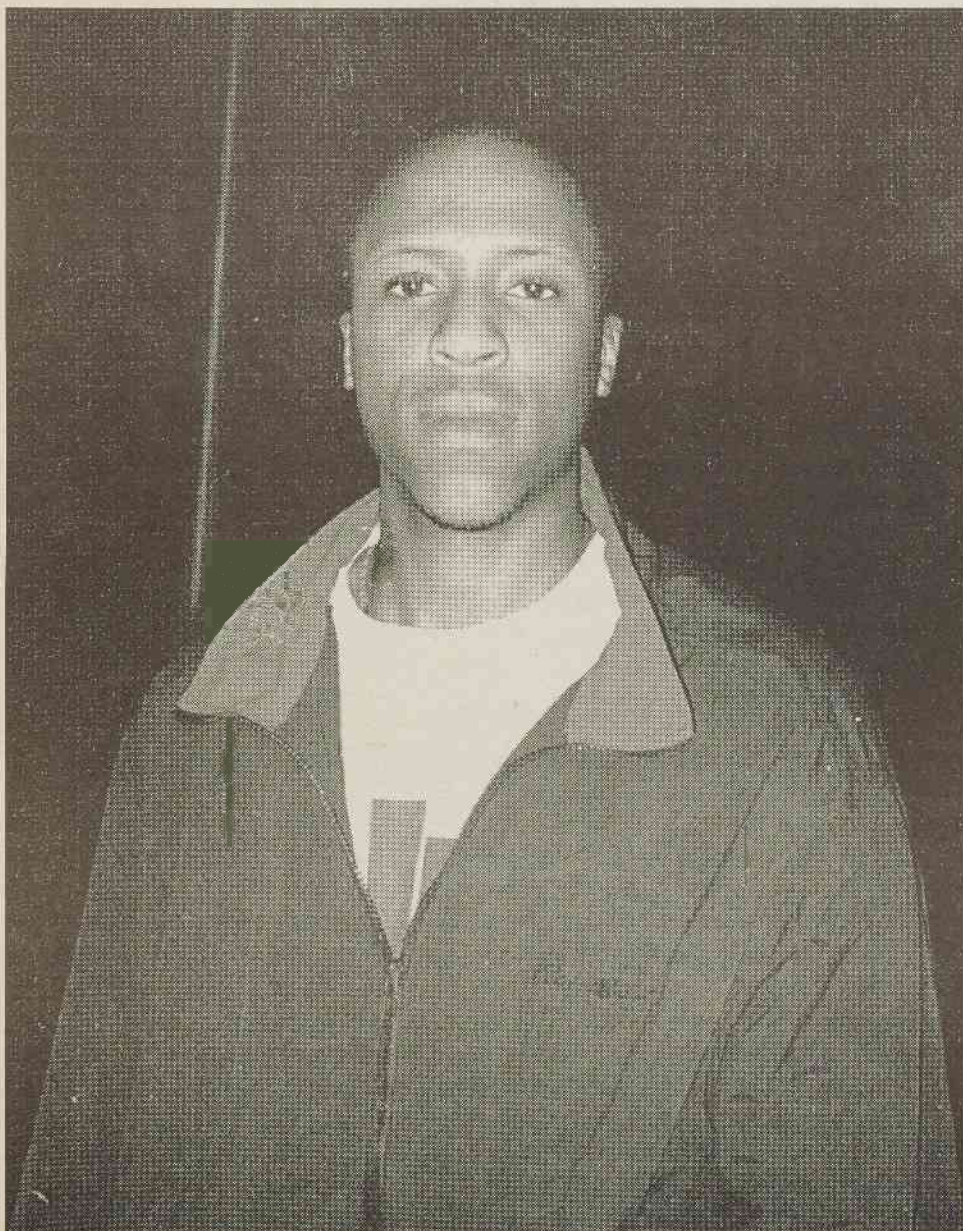


photo by Jamie Powell

Blair Todd

Best in the South

Elizabeth City State University

Ranked #3

(Of the Top Regional Public Schools
South Regional Liberal Arts Colleges)

As Featured in

U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT

1999 AMERICA'S BEST COLLEGES

Guidebook

U.S. News & World Report ranking is based on seven broad categories: academic quality/reputation, retention, faculty resources/class size, student selectivity, financial resources, graduation rate performance, and alumni giving.