



Class of '99



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THE COMPASS

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Commencement Speaker

April Ryan of American Urban Radio Network

By Shekeria Smith
Staff writer

The keynote speaker for Elizabeth City State University's spring commencement will be Ms. April D. Ryan, a 13-year journalism veteran and the White House Correspondent for American Urban Radio Networks (AURN) since January of 1997.

The ceremony will be held Saturday, May 8 at 9 a.m. in Roebuck Stadium on the ECSU campus.

The rain sight will be the R.L. Vaughn Center.

Ms. Ryan is a 1989 graduate of Morgan State University where she majored in Communications. She hosts the daily feature, The White House Report, and also reports on minority and urban-related White House issues. Her reports are broadcast on AURN's nearly 300 affiliated stations.



April Ryan

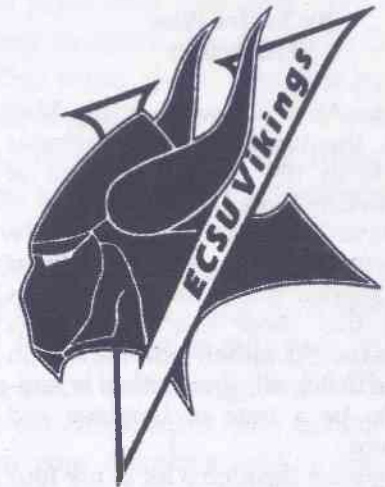
Before joining AURN, Ms. Ryan worked for several radio stations including Washington, D.C.'s all news

station WTOP, and Baltimore's V-103.

Over the past two years, she has conducted numerous one-on-one interviews with President and Mrs. Clinton, and Vice President Al Gore. Ryan's interviews have landed her many guest appearances on both national and international news programs including BET tonight, Night Line, Canada AM, America's Black Forum, The Tom Joyner Morning Show, CNN and Company, and the British Broadcasting Company. Her work has been highlighted in Jet, Newsweek, The Washington Post, New York News Day, The Boston Globe and other newspapers around the nation.

Ms. Ryan has traveled throughout the world with President Clinton. In March 1998 she accompanied the President on a 13-day tour of Africa which featured stops Ghana, Rwanda,

South Africa, Botswana and Senegal. In February of 1999, she returned to South Africa with Vice President Gore where she jointly interviewed South Africa's Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, and Vice President Gore.



Eley Defeats Walker To Win Re-election as SGA President

By Marty Jacobi
Assistant Editor

In this year's all important student government elections, incumbent SGA president Peter Eley defeated challenger Albert Walker, III, and was re-elected president of the Elizabeth City State University Student Government Association.

Mr. Eley won by 20 votes out of a total cast of 319.

Mr. Eley says that his strength as an incumbent played an important part in his winning the election, although the time he had to campaign was limited.

"I didn't campaign until the last week because I didn't really have time to," he said.

Throughout the year he worked with student groups, including the American Student Government and the Black Student Government.

"I made sure we (ECSU) were represented at things we should have been," he said.

Eley said he wants to continue to reach out to the University's various constituencies.

"I want to build on what we started this year," he said, "getting ECSU students exposed to new ideas, new people and new opportunities."

Although defeated, Mr. Walker had nothing but words of praise for Eley.

"I think that Peter won because of proven leadership," Walker said. "That was his motto and his campaign slogan and I think that it worked for him."

The disappointment didn't stop him from keeping a positive attitude and influencing others.

"I am still a leader even though I am not president of the S.G.A.," he said. "And I encourage other students to be leaders as well."



Mr. Peter Eley
Newly re-elect SGA President



Ms. Michelle Lewis
The new MISS ECSU

Photos by J'aime Powell