

New Generation Ministries Members Attend Leadership Conference in Georgia

By Blair Todd

Special to The Compass

On March 25, 12 members and an advisor of New Generation Campus Ministries, set off to enhance their spiritual growth in the Lord by attending the second annual "Violent Take it by Force" College Students and Leaders Conference at New Birth Missionary Church in Decatur, Georgia.

The conference began with a motivating message from New Birth Missionary's college minister. The

opening evening concluded with a live concert performance by Fred Hammond & Radical for Christ.

Mr. Hammond and his group put on an inspiring performance, during which the audience became motivated gave praise to God. Mr. Hammond made us think and cry, especially when he talked about Jesus's crucifixion. It was not hard for us to imagine the amount of pain, torment, and suffering Jesus endured so we could be saved and live prosperous lives. To many, that's what real love is.

Jesus dying on the cross for our sins is something we should never take for granted.

The conference also featured many other speakers who challenged those in attendance to find their purpose in life. We all have been put on this college campus for a reason, and it is time for us to find out what it is. We are, and should be, happiest when we

are fulfilling His purpose. We also learned that being "in Christ" is the most amazing and beneficial way to go in a world that is getting crazier by the minute. But God has the answer to this craziness, his son Jesus Christ.

Going to this conference really challenged me and all who attended to do more for God. It also pushed me to be "more real."

Commuter Center Helps Students Be Part of Campus Life

By Marty Jacobi
Assistant Editor

About half of Elizabeth City State University's students don't live on campus, but instead, are commuting back and forth from home to school. Unlike resident students, these commuter students don't have the option of taking a break at the dorm or stopping at their rooms to trade books for class.

Where can they go to relax between classes, and do they have the same access privileges on-campus as resident students? The answers can be found at the student Commuter Center, a place that about eight years ago was designed mainly for non-resident students.

Since last October, Willa Lamb has been serving as the interim coordinator for commuter students to help acclimate them to campus life. She said she can spot who the commuter students are because they look bored.

"We're trying to bridge that gap where people stop thinking, go to class, then go home," she said. Instead, commuter students have access to all the buildings on campus, including the cafeteria in Bedell Hall and the commuter center.

The commuter center offers a lounge area where students can relax, watch TV, socialize with others and switch books for classes. There are 75 lockers available for student use. Students can also use the bowling alley within the same building.

Ms. Lamb's first year as coordinator has been focused on mailing information about the commuter center to students, helping them discover activities to participate in and conducting a survey to find out what commuter students want from their school,

besides a good education.

These surveys are just beginning to be looked at and will be analyzed over the summer. The goal is to institute some of the ideas that are most desired by the students. Some of these concerns are already being addressed by Ms. Lamb and Paul Bryant, the assistant Dean of Student Life.

"Many students would very much like to have computers over here in the commuter center," Mr. Bryant said. So, at least 10 computers are planned to be installed in the center by the Fall.

Students have also suggested they would like to form some clubs, such as golf and tennis clubs. In the past, they have been encouraged to get involved in intramural sports activities, like tennis, softball, basketball and also the chess club.

"If you don't join a commuter group, join another group," Ms. Lamb said. "All groups are open to all students." Thomas Blevins, a technical education student and commuter student agreed that joining a group on campus initiates a bond with university life.

"Part of getting that degree is feeling like you are a part of the University," he said. "You need that connection with a group."

The commuter center's goal is not simply to offer organized activities, but to provide information about them.

"We're hoping to turn this more into an information station, with pamphlets and answers to many of the students' questions," Mr. Bryant said. In turn, students can assist their commuter center by voicing their ideas and concerns.

"We're excited to meet their needs," said Mr. Bryant, "and encourage them to get involved by letting us know the kinds of activities they'd like to have."

When The Long Race Is Run

When the long race is run
And all the tasks are done
Men find that peace depends
Not on the goals attained
Or the high fortunes gained,
But on good friends.

Laughter and song and mirth
And the rich joys of earth
No mortal here attend,
Unless with him each day
'Neath sunny skies or gray
Walks a true friend.

Pride pomp and power of place

Lack that consoling grace
Which soothes and mends
Heartache and sorrow's pain,
Who weeps shall smile again
If he has friends.

Though on a golden throne,
He, who must dwell alone.
Time sadly spends,
All that makes life complete,
All that makes memories sweet,
Comes from our friends.

—James S. Watson
1938

University to Hold McNair Scholars Program for Fifth Year

By Shekeria Smith
Staff Writer

Elizabeth City State University will hold its 1999 McNair Scholars Research Program from June 1 - July 16 on the ECSU campus.

Students participating in the program will be conducting research with an ECSU faculty mentor in one of the following areas: computer science, industrial technology, mathematics, science and psychology. A series of workshops, symposiums, lectures, GRE institutes, as well as field trips, will also be held.

The program has been offered on the ECSU campus since 1995. Approximately 20 students participate each summer.

The MSURP will receive on-campus housing, a stipend consisting of \$2,800. Meals and university e-mail accounts will be paid by the Ronald E. McNair Post Baccalaureate Achievement Program.

Dr. Cheryl J. Lewis, Director of TRIO Programs, five federally funded programs in operation on the ECSU campus, says students who meet the program's criteria and who have a behavioral science-related major are eligible to participate.

"Anything dealing with a behavioral science is considered to be math and science related," Dr. Lewis said.

Students can also earn academic credit, Dr. Lewis says.

"During the summer there is one course that students can take to earn credit hours toward graduation."

The Ronald E. McNair Post Baccalaureate Achievement Program

was named in honor of the renown laser physicist and astronaut whose life tragically ended in the 1986 accident of the Space Shuttle Challenger on which McNair was a crew member.

Dr. McNair was a 1971 graduate of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical University. He received his Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1976 at the age of 26.

Prior to his death, Congress provided funding for the program in his name to encourage under-represented groups such as minorities and women in achieving graduate school opportunities in particular doctoral studies such as science and math.

The TRIO programs provide direct services to low-income and first generation college students.

Pamela Clanton, a junior computer science major attending ECSU, participated in the MSURP during the summer of 1998.

"The program was both exciting and informative. After the program was over, I felt better educated in my major and was able to think about more career choices after graduation," Clanton says.

To be eligible for the MSURP students must be U.S. citizens, or a permanent resident, a sophomore, junior or senior enrolled at ECSU, and a first generation college student with a demonstrated financial need. They must be an ethnic minority.

Students must also be in good academic standing and have at least a GPA of 2.75 or better.

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changing its name. According to the Chancellor, the idea to change ECSU to The University of North Carolina at Elizabeth City was brought to his attention at an alumni meeting in Raleigh some time ago. Despite the numerous rumors that have surfaced, he says that there is no move afoot to change the University's name.

Responding to questions about the nagging issue of student enrollment and what ECSU offers to its students in addition to its academic fare, the Chancellor said, "We need more students at ESCU.

As for what the university has to offer outside of academics, students said they were not pleased. In a survey taken by students a few years ago, the university did poorly.

For most people on the campus, having and showing school pride is another topic that draws intense debate.

Chaka Ruffin, a junior from Wilson, NC, said she believes that being proud of ones school starts from within and that in order for pride to develop among students, faculty and the school's extended family it has to first be displayed.

"I think it's a matter of pride," she said. "What you get out of it is what you put into it."