

# Meet your next Queen.....



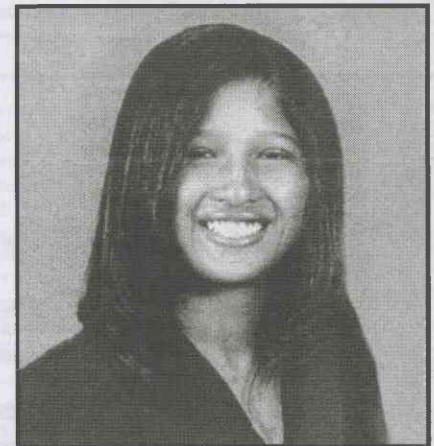
By Amanda Parker



**Chrishanda Rodgers**

Chrishanda Anecia Rodgers is a native of Portsmouth, VA. She is the youngest of four and was born on September 11, 1980 to Evonne Rodgers and Freddie Rodgers. Currently, she maintains a 3.0 GPA and is majoring in English with a concentration in mass communications. While maintaining an above average GPA, she is an active participant in Sigma Tau Delta and The Pickwick Society, two national honorary English organizations. She holds leadership positions in the Junior Class as President, in the New Generation Ministries as Vice president and in the dance ministries as the director of Daughters of Destiny. She enjoys dancing and working with children especially teenage ladies. "My heart is after them because around 8 and 10 and 15 and 16 they are creating and designing who they'll become by the age of 21. A lot of negative influences as well as low self esteem can affect them. I hope to count as a positive influence in their lives by encouraging them and to let them know that it doesn't stop at highschool because all of us are destined for excellence and great things." Growing up, Chrishanda says she has had many role models. "My pastors have been encouraging role models because they teach life and they have showed me that you can be happy and successful. They also taught me not to let negative or discouraging situations control my destiny. Even though things may look bad, there is a way out." In addition to the positive influence her pastors have given, Chrishanda says she lives her life by two simple policies: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me," and "There's only one person who determines your outcome and that's you." When asked what inspired her to run for Miss ECSU, she said "As a freshman, I always wanted to be Miss ECSU. First, I saw Hope Jones (1998-1999 Miss ECSU), and I admired the way she carried herself. I saw a lot of qualities she possessed. She was one to admire, and I know I am and have the ability to be like that." In addition, Rodgers says it is a position of honor which is why she is eager to run for the position. She also believes her personality is one of the things that qualify her for the position. "I try best to be warm and inviting to people. If I am elected, I don't want to be unapproachable." Rodgers also shared that she has had numerous experiences with speaking publicly. "I'm constantly in front of my church of about 1,000 people speaking. "Last year, I was actually the MC for the Miss ECSU showcase. Different times I have had to speak in public, and it wasn't strenuous at all because of the familiarity." In reference to whether or not she thinks Miss ECSU is a popularity contest, Rodgers said, "I think to some degree Miss ECSU is a popularity contest. It's all in who you know and who knows you, yet I have faith the student body will choose the person who will best represent them because when Miss ECSU goes out, she is not only representing herself, but also the University in the way she dresses and by the way in which she speaks and carries herself. Rodgers describes herself as committed, caring and understanding. "I am a lady of sophistication, elegance, and virtue and I would agree that these are all characteristics that Miss ECSU needs." In the future, Rodgers plans to attend graduate school at William and Mary and study Public Relations. As a long term goal, she plans to marry and have children and attain a successful career. Rodgers said she would also like to write a book about the relationships between women, focusing on how women can maintain healthy relationships amongst each other and she would like to adopt children who have been neglected and abused.

Beshelya Denean Smith is a native of Cofield, NC. She is the oldest of two born to Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Smith. Currently, she maintains a 3.4 GPA, and is majoring in Accounting. While maintaining a high GPA she is active in the Gospel Choir, the University Players, Vikings Assisting New Students (VANS), the Student Leadership Academy, Delta Sigma Theta, and the Student Legislature. She has held leadership positions as President of her church's youth choir, treasurer for VANS, Sophomore representative and fund raiser chairperson for Delta Sigma Theta. She enjoys reading, singing and working with children. "Children are our future, and in almost everything I do is related to children. Education for our children is important as well as for my peers. I really want people to go beyond and say hey I know I don't go get my doctorate." She describes herself as a relaxed, soft spoken person, but overall she always tries to make things comfortable for others. Her short term goal is to graduate from ECSU with honors, she then plans to attend NC State to receive her Masters and Doctorate degree in Accounting. After the completion of her studies, she plans to return to the area to pursue a teaching career in a high school or professional institution. "Over the summer, I was in a program where I had the opportunity to work with children



**Beshelya Smith**

of all ages, and I enjoyed it. It's one of the times you really get to give them a positive influence." Daily she lives by the phrase, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Like Rodgers, she decided to run for Miss ECSU since freshman year when she met Hope Jones. "She influenced me because she was so open and funny. I really liked how she reached out to people and talked to people and I realized that was something I could see myself doing and something I wanted to do." Smith commented that a queen is someone who represents more than just glitter. "In my opinion, a queen is a woman of dignity a woman of sophistication, a woman of distinction, a woman who is a nurturer, supporter, leader and one who can stand up and take a stand when she is called upon. I am a woman of love, support, and sophistication." If elected Smith would like to implement more community involvement and services. "I think Miss ECSU has the responsibility to represent the school in a manner that will uplift them as well as herself and to make the University look as well as we all know it can. She should evoke the fact that only good things have and will come from ECSU. I think I would make a good Miss ECSU because I feel I would represent this school to the best of my ability as well as give 110 percent to make sure that what I say I would do, I will do." In reference to whether or not Miss ECSU is a popularity contest Beshelya said, "I don't think the election of Miss ECSU is any longer a popularity contest but more of who is best qualified for the position. You have to be a public speaker." The showcase is designed to let the students see what each candidate has to offer. "Yes I am educated and I can and will speak my mind but the surest thing to do would be to come to the showcase and see for yourself what all three candidates have to offer." Although she is a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta, she emphasized that the organization doesn't define her. "Yes I am a lady of Delta Sigma Theta, however, I'm me first. I love to joke, go out and relax. I love to talk to people and I love to meet and get to know people.



**Keisha Stephenson**

*Efforts to contact Keisha Stephenson by the Compass Staff were unsuccessful.*