



THE COMPASS

Elizabeth City State University's award-winning student newspaper



Life After Destiny 2000

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Is there really life after Destiny 2000? Elizabeth City State University students, faculty and staff will have to wait patiently and see for themselves. After weeks of campaigning, days of contemplating speech topics, hours of wondering what the debate questions will be, minutes of tying together the loose ends to make everything just perfect, the votes have been cast and tallied.

The candidates sat in suspense, at least those who ran for the position of Vice-President, Corresponding Secretary and Miss ECSU. The names were called, and the newly elected officers were sworn in. The new officers are: President: Keisha Ferguson; Vice President: Keith Richardson; Corresponding Secretary: Bryan Hawkins; Recording Secretary: Pamela Jones; Treasurer: Valenta Wade; Attorney General: Sherri Horner; Miss ECSU: Chrishanda

Rodgers; Mr. ECSU: Kevin Wade and Commuter Student-at-Large is John Livingston.

Hopefully, each officer will fulfill the duties of their position and work closely together to maintain the stature of the Student Government Association.

"My first priority is the students," said newly Vice President elect, Keith Richardson. "I plan to attend to their needs and desires first. Also, I would like to bring the community and the University together through the Viking One Card, which is a debit card that can be used for paying for expenses on campus and at designated places off campus, as well as strengthen our relationship with our Alumni Chapter. With each student, I would like to see Viking Spirit enhanced for the better of the individual and the University as a whole," said Richardson.

Hawkins, Corresponding Secretary for 2001-2002 said that his main goal is



SGA 2001-2002

Photo by James Polk

to also serve the students. "My main goal is to make sure that students are more informed about upcoming activities and issues on campus."

Wade, Mr. ECSU, added that while serving as a representative for SGA and the University, he plans to improve the social life of students and establish relationships with ECSU alumni and students. "I plan to enhance the social atmosphere on campus by holding more campus wide events that involve the students as well as administration.

I also plan to implement more athletic support, expand the University's persona by visiting local high schools, other college campuses and by inviting other college students to ECSU. I would also like to establish an alumni-student mentorship program to help prepare students for the future," said Wade.

The new SGA members are currently preparing for their tenure as SGA for the the next school year.

A Reflection of Destiny 2000's Tenure

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As another academic year draws to a close, so does the tenure of eight visionary Viking Leaders. This octet is better known as Destiny 2000. This group embarked upon this experience with the anticipation, motivation and determination. The climax of the Destiny 2000 era concludes 11 months of frustrations, disappointments, confrontations and confusion marked by jubilation, camaraderie, maturation and extreme appreciation.

Destiny 2000 began with the objective of implementing new innovative ideas with cooperative administrative relationships. And, in addition, to bring about mass student participation to invoke inevitable change. Destiny 2000's motto was "Honoring Tradition, Destined for Change." It was with this mindset that they set in motion, initiatives, backed by morals and values, that would greatly contribute to the welfare of the students of Elizabeth City State University.

From their inaugural gala in April of

2000 the eight leaders began to enhance the infrastructure of the Student Government Association. They dedicated themselves to working for the student body. Learning the strengths, weaknesses and personalities of one another, this executive team began to take shape. Each individual identity began to manifest into a cohesive unit. Each unique image began to come into focus. The collective individuals, under the advisorship of Mr. Paul Bryant decided to sacrifice their summer to adequately prepare for the upcoming year. Somewhat disjointed, the group was compelled to operate with its President, Albert Walker III, studying abroad. Consequently, the group had to communicate utilizing various types of electronic mediums. Throughout the entire summer, the group prided themselves, individually, in honing their inherent leadership skills.

On August 15, 2000, Destiny 2000 was born. President Walker and Vice-President Zack Hawkins led the way in constructing the mission of the group while other SGA members, Shaleka

Eley, Felicia Taylor, Tremaine Roberts and Keisha Ferguson helped to define the objectives. Waquita Lane and J.C. Polk were able to assist in crafting the overall strategic plan for the group. Destiny 2000 was a unique core of individuals that brought their diverse backgrounds together to serve the University's students.

The brink of the new year brought forth many challenges. The first and most influential was the establishment of a new advisor. Mrs. Janet Lewis-White was appointed the primary advisor for Destiny 2000. Both Destiny 2000 and Mrs. White were new to the roles and duties of Student Government. However, as time moved on and obstacles were eradicated, the processes and logistics to student leadership became ever so apparent. Mrs. White's faith in Destiny 2000 empowered them to think with a new paradigm and with limitless visions. The support and advocacy that she provided for Destiny 2000 propelled them to believe that anything was possible - even an outdoor Step Show extravaganza. Two

notable accomplishments of Destiny 2000 was the introduction of new student programs and the resurgence of student political involvement. New programs were organized that brought upperclassmen out of the room because of curiosity and freshmen out to exhibit their school spirit. The Viking Voyage to Destiny, Winter Homecoming 2k1, and the soon Vikingfest 2k1 serve as prime examples of Destiny 2000's attempt to change the paradigm of student activities. New events such as the Midnight Breakfast, 25 cents wings in the Viking Den, the Viking Olympiad and Viking Vision at the Gateway Cinema were first-ever events.

Secondly, Destiny 2000 helped to bring about the political awareness, as they were staunch advocates for the Capital Facilities Improvement Bond Referendum as well as the local, state, and national elections. Destiny 2000 was able to generate the largest student voter turnout in the last four years. Other notable accomplishments for the group included the resurrection of the

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