

## Talk of ECSU:

by: LaQuisha Tisdal

### What are your plans after graduation? Do you feel that the University has prepared you for your desired field? Why or why not?



Shaunte Barnes  
English

"I plan to attend graduate school and major in Speech Pathology at Old Dominion University. The school does lack certain resources and most are outdated and inadequate. I took it upon myself to utilize those resources that were available to me. I am fully prepared to enter graduate school and the work force at large."



Akil Simmons  
Computer Science

"After graduation, I want to leave Elizabeth City and look for a long-term career with a company. The preparation for me was average because we are behind in a lot of technology."



LaKishia James  
Biology Pre-Medicine

"I am not ready for graduate school, but I plan to get more experience in the biology field. No, I am not well prepared because if I was, I would be more confident and would have a clearer focus on going to graduate school."



Kenya N. Bethea  
Psychology

"After graduation I will attend graduate school at either Virginia Commonwealth University or UNC Charlotte studying social work or psychology. I feel the University has prepared me for graduate school, especially through the Ronald E. McNair Program. This program allowed me to gain rewarding experiences through extensive research and seminars."

## The Misconception of Greek Organizations is Clarified

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It is about 8:15 a.m. on a Tuesday morning in early March and "Brian," who wishes to remain anonymous, walks into the dining hall. He seems a bit sluggish, he has on the same clothes that he had on the day before, and his eyes are bloodshot. What was he doing last night? After he gets his breakfast, he goes to sit down next to one of his friends. "Good morning," his female friend says and Brian vaguely responds. "Where were you last night, I tried to call you," the friend says. "I'm late for my 8 o' clock," Brian responds and all of a sudden he has enough energy to dash out of the dining hall.

During the same time, a young woman is sitting in class, she is usually bright and attentive. However, today she is nodding off in class. When the professor notices her fatigue, she asks her to read a section of a chapter aloud. She attempts to read only to begin slurring her speech. Eventually, she can not even finish her sentence. What happened to her? This same young woman was in the computer lab at 8:30 a.m. typing a paper that was due for a 10 a.m. class. But when April comes around, the young woman as well as many other undergraduate students, can be seen walking around

in her greek paraphernalia, while it has been rumored that Brian "dropped line." While the young woman is proud of her accomplishment, Brian is appalled by the cruel and inhumane things that he says happened to him while he was "on line." "I was locked in a dark room, stripped out of my clothes, and beaten," he recalls. Is that what the fatigue and poor studying habits were all about? Is that what greek sisterhood and brotherhood is all about?

Both scenarios are common amongst candidates for greek organizations on college campuses, and they are especially noticeable to non-greeks.

Many non-greeks feel that greeks believe that if you are not a part of a greek organization then you are beneath them. Many non-greeks also wonder why prospective members appear to go through a lot of pain, suffering and humiliation in order to join a greek organization. Others wonder if the true sister and brotherhood stop or start after greek candidates receive their greek status.

Torri Ruffin of Zeta Phi Beta, Shounte Edmundson of Sigma Gamma Rho and Oliver Holley of Omega Psi Phi volunteered to share their definitions of sister and brotherhood, discuss things about their respective organizations and offer advice to freshmen and oth-

ers interested in joining a fraternity or sorority. Each strive to prove that they are not how they are stereotypically thought to be.

Torri Ruffin says that she joined Zeta Phi Beta because of the way other Zeta ladies carried themselves and because they did things that sparked and held her interest. "This organization is about helping people, and I like helping people. I knew I wanted to be a part of something like this," she said. Some examples of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority's national programs that help people are Stork's Nest and the Challenger Kids Program. "The Stork's Nest Program caters to unwed mothers and the Challenger Kids Program sends 75 youth to the United States Space Camp yearly," she said.

Ruffin believes that the initiation process of any greek organization is necessary and a tradition that prepares members for the real world. "This process teaches you how to conduct yourself as a respectable individual, it prepares you to be a leader and how to function in the general world. It strengthens the individual emotionally, socially, mentally and spiritually," she adds. Ruffin admits that during the initiation process no one has it easy, however, she says that hazing is illegal and that Zeta Phi Beta does not practice hazing. "It used to be a tradition. A long time ago

it was to test the candidates and see how bad they really wanted to be a part of that organization," Ruffin says, "but it's not supposed to happen anymore."

Ruffin advises all individuals interested in pledging a greek organization not to feel obligated to pledge a certain organization because someone in their family did or a friend pledged. "Observe each organization and see which one is about the same thing that you are about," she says.

Shounte Edmundson, of Sigma Gamma Rho, is confident that she pledged her sorority for the right reasons. "I did not seek this organization for its popularity. I pledged Sigma Gamma Rho because I felt that these ladies exemplified the true meaning of sisterhood, they were small in numbers but they were still individuals," she said. Edmundson explained that her organization's founders were educators, and that is part of her reason for joining since her major is education. "We do a mentorship program called Project Bookbag. This program allows us to buy school supplies for needy children," she expressed.

Edmundson defines sisterhood as "truly feeling what your sister is feeling." She also believes that a sister will approach another sister if she sees

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