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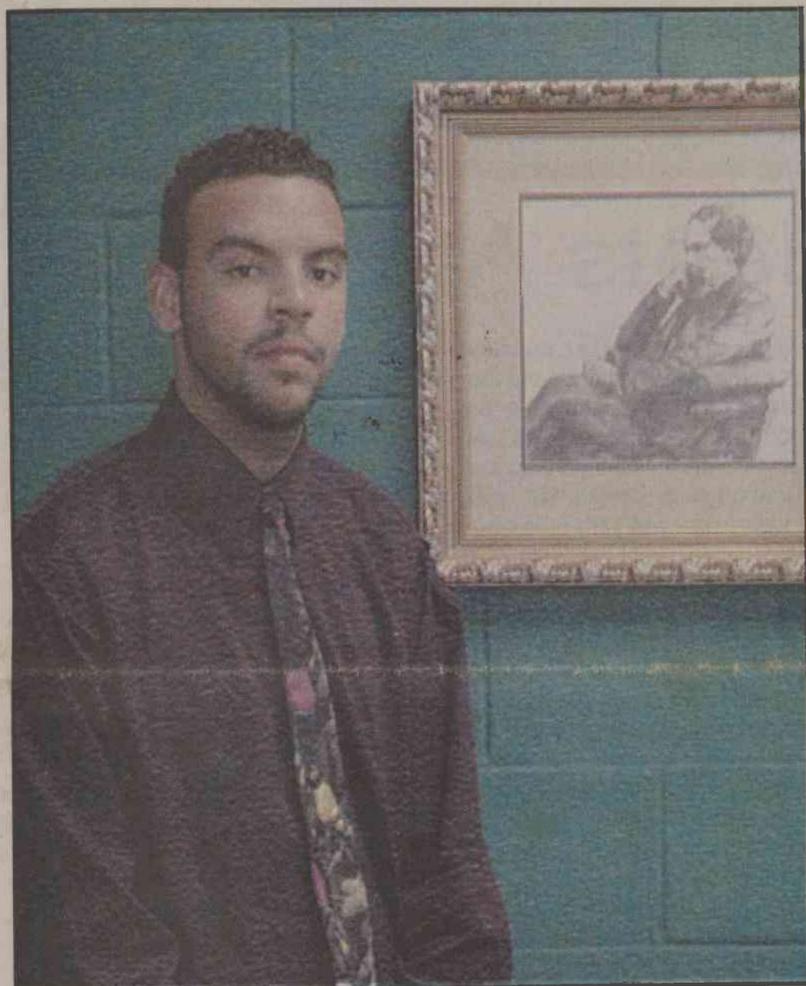
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Intelligent Minds Advocating New Ideas



President of SGA, Keith Richardson

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The Student Government Association of Elizabeth City State University will be experiencing some dramatic changes this year, including a new SGA advisor and a new SGA president. The SGA cabinet members say changes will also include new programs that better communicate ideas to the student, new committees that encourage student participation, and a new homecoming agenda that is devoid of the traditional concert.

In keeping with this new approach to student government, SGA has a new "nickname;" IMANI. Sherri Horner, SGA attorney general, explained that "IMANI is a Kwanzaa abbreviation for faith and stands for Intelligent Minds Advocating New Ideas."

IMANI's new president, Mr. Keith Richardson, was officially introduced to the student body at its first SGA meeting on August 28, 2001. Ms. Keisha Ferguson, former SGA president, announced, after a poignant speech, that she would be resigning from office due to the approaching birth of her child.

She explained that the vice president, in the event of her dismissal or resignation would become president according to policy. Ms. Ferguson urged the students to become active in SGA affairs so that the university will be certain that the SGA cabinet, who are paid for their services, will accurately represent the student population.

"I am here to serve you," Mr. Richardson said. When asked to explain what changes students can expect this academic year, Richardson said, "this administration is all about the students."

Pamela Jones, the recording secretary, added, "the administration needs to realize that without students, there would not be an Elizabeth City State University."

IMANI has established "Open Mic Monday" to keep students better informed of the events occurring around campus. Clubs, organizations or individuals may submit their comments to SGA in the Commuter Building offices and such announcements will be made every Monday in the cafeteria. This may serve to educate only half of the student population because over 50 percent of the population is commuters. John Livingston, the SGA officer who represents the commuter student population, plans to establish a system of telecommuni-

cation so that commuter students can be informed through radio broadcasting, the university's website, and a possible mass e-mail that would be distributed to all commuter students."

The Student Activity Council, consisting of thirteen representatives who will select the entertainment and other campus programs, is another new program.

"The committee will consist of the vice president from each class, a representative from each college, two representatives from the Student Leadership Academy, two representatives from the Pan Hellenic council, and one student from the commuter population," explained Dr. Jene Holt, the new advisor to SGA and the new Assistant Dean of Student Life.

Dr. Holt comes to ECSU with a breadth of knowledge and experience. After receiving her doctorate in education she worked with various institutions in areas of student life. At the University of Central Florida, where she worked before coming to Elizabeth City State, she was responsible for SGA activities, the leadership programs and student activities.

Despite IMANI's attempts to increase student involvement, stu-

dents this year will not be participating in a homecoming concert.

Valentina Wade, SGA treasurer, explained "(SGA) had met with the entire student activity council and came to a compromise to have the concert during Viking Fest instead." According to Dr. Holt, there was "just not enough time for the concert. More over, the lack of student attendance at past concerts seems to have been a determining factor."

Dr. Holt added that in light of the recent cuts in funding "we can't afford to throw \$40,000 or \$50,000 dollars away when only one or two hundred students will attend."

So what can students do to ensure their desires are being addressed?

John Livingston explained, "Students need to maximize their attendance at SGA affairs. This will serve two purposes. It will allow them to express their concerns and it will ensure that the programs they enjoy will remain."

ECSU Receives Scholarship Endowment Check

Public Relations Reports

Independent Insurance Agents of North Carolina Presents Scholarship Endowment Check to Elizabeth City State University

Raleigh, NC-The Independent Insurance Agents of North Carolina, Inc. (IIANC) - a professional trade association representing over 850 Independent insurance agencies across North Carolina - presented a scholarship endowment check to Elizabeth City State University in the amount of \$50,000. The presentation was made in the Kermit E. White Center at the university.

John Coupland, President of IIANC, presented the scholarship endowment check. "On behalf of our board of directors, members and staff, we are pleased to be able to provide this lasting endowment to Elizabeth City State University which contributes so greatly to our state through its support and development of higher education."

"One of the most special times of the year is when someone reaches out and gives you a gift of opportunity," commented Chancellor Mickey L. Burnim of ECSU. "We sincerely appreciate the scholarship endowment gift from IIANC, which could not have come at a better time. We have

been working diligently to develop business partners throughout the state of North Carolina, and we are pleased to welcome IIANC as a partner."

The funds for the endowment were made possible through the North Carolina Association of Insurance Agents (NCAIA), a wholly-owned subsidiary of IIANC. The subsidiary company, utilizing the expertise of member independent agents, helps identify risks and place insurance coverage to protect assets of the state of North Carolina.

At the end of each year, NCAIA, a nonprofit organization, is charged with dispersing its profits to benefit the people of North Carolina. Grants are made in four areas: fire and safety projects, education, scholarships and art endowments.

The Independent Insurance Agents of North Carolina (IIANC) is a professional trade association representing independent insurance agents from across the state. The mission of IIANC is to be an advocate for independent insurance agents and to satisfy the business and professional needs of its members.