

## Professor Profiles

In This Issue, The Compass Staff Selected Professors Of Their Choice To Highlight.

### CSC ADVANCES COMMUTER STUDENT PROGRAMS

Lacey House

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If students were to walk into the University Center and travel along the hall, go through the double doors, and go to the office in the back corner, they would find Willa Lamb, the University's Commuter Student Coordinator.

The Commuter Student Coordinator position was created in 1998 and Ms. Lamb is the first to hold the title.

Since assuming her new position, Ms. Lamb has implemented many programs. These include an annual Easter egg hunt for neighborhood children and commuter students' children; Soup and Substance, held in the winter, and Snacks and Facks, held in the Spring, in which someone talks to commuter students about different events; karaoke nights; different holiday socials; and toys-for-tots, which runs this year from November 1 to the second week in December.

"I do programs in the name of commuter services under the offices of student life, but then I also advise the commuter club," said Ms. Lamb.

Ms. Lamb is interested in letting commuter students know they are part of the university. "I would like them to take part in the activities held and feel comfortable attending them. I would also

like to host other programs that would involve spouses and or their children."

Ms. Lamb is a native of Camden County and graduated from Marion Anderson High School.

Before Ms. Lamb became the CSC, she worked at the university as a clerk for 21 years. While she was a clerk she also attended the university as a student on and off from 1969 until she graduated in 1987 with a degree in Business Administration. Throughout that time she also raised two children.

Asked how campus life was like when she attended the university, she replied, "It was very low key. People pretty much walked everywhere. There weren't a lot of cars. The campus was relatively small."

Basketball played a big role in college life. "We [ECSU] won the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association in the early 80's," she said. Ms. Lamb also belonged to Phi Beta Lambda, a sorority for business students.

To sum up her personality, Ms. Willa Lamb is a very friendly woman who is a little shy talking about herself, but whose office door and compassionate heart are always open to students. You can tell by the sparkle in her eyes that she enjoys her job.



Ms. Willa Lamb

Photo Courtesy of Lacey House

### Talking A Language That Gets Feedback

Jessica Prayer

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Slightly after 12:00 on a sunny Friday afternoon, I interviewed Delbert Frank Garnes. The interview took place in his office, which is unlike the stereotypical psychology professor's office, untidy and disorganized. His office was immaculate. He has a bookshelf on the right that is neatly organized; the books seemed to be in order from descending size.

I asked Dr. Garnes how he acquired his down-to-earth teaching approach, the thing that makes him most appealing to me to write about. "My approach developed from the students teaching me," he says. He takes what the authors say and translates it so that the students can better understand main points, but his hilarious illustrations help the students remember much more. "The book is a symbolic representation of academic knowledge, the words contained are certainly understandable to the authors of the book, but it is up to the students

and professors to interpret," he says.

I asked Dr. Garnes, "Why, of all of the majors he could of chosen in undergraduate school, he choose Psychology?" He said that when he was at Ohio State University, there came a time when he need to decide on a major. He said he always enjoyed people and loved to travel and that is why he chose psychology, which has been a perfect fit for him.

Dr. Garnes has been cited in a number of professional publications including Who's Who in America, Who's Who in the South & Southwest, and he was president twice for the Houston Chapter Association of Black Psychologist, just to name a few. He graduated from Ohio State University in 1969 with a B.A., Xavier University in 1974 with honors, with a M.A., in Psychology, and he received his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Saint Louis University in 1980.

I asked Dr. Garnes what influenced his decision to move to Elizabeth City. Dr. Garnes said that he always knew that he wanted to be near water because of his love for fishing.



Dr. Delbert F. Garnes

Photo Courtesy of Jessica Prayer

### The Direct Approach

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For 20 years, Shawn Smith has educated and directed ECSU drama students in the right direction. Since a small child, he has always had a love for drama. "When I was six, during the polio epidemic, my mother would let me go out to the movies whenever there wasn't a lot of people there. It was this time when I fell in love with movies, because there was nothing else to do. My hero was James Dean," said Smith. When Shawn went to high school, he got his first acting role in "The Stage Door." Most instrumental in Smith's love for drama was his undergraduate professor Josephina Niggli at Western Carolina University. Smith said, "Professor Niggli had so much confidence in me. Through her recommendation and guidance, I directed my first full-length play during my sophomore year. The play I directed was 'The Diary of Anne Franke.'" While attending Western Carolina, Smith studied acting for four years.

He paid his way through undergraduate school with a little help from his mother. "I worked a little during school and my mom sent me five dollars every Friday. It isn't much now but back then tuition was 50 dollars

per semester," said Smith. He furthered his knowledge of drama at University of North Carolina in Greensboro, where he earned his master's in Fine Arts. Through graduate school, Smith discovered his love for teaching drama.

Smith credits famed director Elia Kazan as the director he admires the most. He patterns his award-winning organized style of directing after Kazan's. "'East of Eden' with James Dean and 'A Streetcar Named Desire' were his most brilliant productions." Although Smith prefers to direct comedies, Kazan inspired him to love realistic drama.

With his new play production, 'Dark of the Moon,' Smith chose a different, darker type of play to perform at ECSU. "I had always wanted to produce 'Dark of the Moon' but never had the space, which is why I mainly focused on realistic drama with smaller casts and settings before," said Smith. Because of the size that the setting for 'Dark of the Moon' required, he could not perform this play before. However, with the new Fine-Arts auditorium, he now has the stage to produce this play. As far as casting his play, Smith says, "I try to fit the qualities of the actor with the qualities of the character."

Ryan Caruso, a freshman here at ECSU said of the play, "It was a well organized play. The songs matched the theme and all the actors seemed to be in synch with the characters."



Mr. Shawn Smith

Photo by Inger Parker