

SOCIAL WORK PROFESSOR SHARES HER PASSION WITH STUDENTS

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A dedicated and passionate professor of Social Work, Ms. Brenda J. Norman is a woman of many experiences and achievements. Norman is a resident of Virginia Beach, Virginia and is an alumna of Norfolk State University, where she currently attends graduate school.

Norman hopes to receive a Ph.D in Social Work in May of 2002. Norman's reason for becoming a social worker was because she loves people and loves to help them solve problems. She obviously loves her field of study and it shows by her mass involvement within the social work field. She has been a clinical Social Worker for over 25 years and has worked with the Sickle Cell Agency in Norfolk, Virginia for 15 years. She was a Family Therapist - Home Base Program for five years, an Emergency Duty Caseworker at American Red Cross for 10 years, and a counselor at Tidewater Community College for two years. She has been teaching for eight years. At Norfolk State University, she was an adjunct professor for three years. Though Norman has experienced various career expansions while in Virginia, she wanted to teach in a different area and environment. She wanted a closer knit setting thus she came to Elizabeth City State University. Norman's goal and aspiration is to educate students in the area of Social Work.

Norman has been the recipient of many awards and achievements. To name a few, she has won third

place prize for the Ronald McNair Scholarship Program poster contest (2001) and Lady of Excellence Award (2000).

Her hobbies include traveling, meeting new people, praise dancing, theatrical arts, reading the bible, and listening to spiritual music.

Senior Amandria Moore best describes Ms. Norman as "honest and willing to help you learn."

Norman is an advisor for the Social Work Club here at ECSU. She would like to see more students involved, more exposure on campus and more interaction in the community.

Most of Norman's students know that if you sign up to take one of her classes, you should be willing to work hard and not just learning for memorizing but to learn something and be able to retrieve it.

Norman also loves for her students to give her feedback. She believes students should have the freedom to participate in class regardless of subject area. She loves for students to debate issues and utilize their critical thinking process. She also believes that students just do not learn from the professor but the professor can learn from the students as well.

Asked to name three people she would invite to dinner dead or alive, she said her mother (who is deceased), Bishop C.V. Russell Jr. of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church and family, and Donald McClurkin (gospel singer).

Ms. Norman's motto is "Place God first in your life."



Ms. Brenda Norman

-photo by Inger Parker

MEDIA PROFESSIONAL TEACHES HIS EXPERIENCES



Mr. Elvin Jenkins

-photo by Inger Parker

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contributor

A well-accomplished professional, Mr. Elvin Jenkins, General Manager for Broadcast Services, is a professor at Elizabeth City State University. Jenkins works tirelessly to enhance his students' knowledge in his career field. Jenkins believes that a teacher should have a tremendous impact on student's lives. "You mold minds as a teacher," Jenkins says.

Jenkins' foundation in media began at an early age in his hometown Port Gibson, Mississippi. In junior high school, he was given the opportunity to meet Patty Crosby, the woman who played an influential role in developing his career. "Patty was interested in Mississippi folklore, and her company helped many students," he says. Mississippi Crossroads, the name of Crosby's company, allowed Jenkins to learn how to interview, transcribe tapes, and much more. Jenkins worked with Crosby through high school, after school and summer work programs. This experience allowed him to determine his major for college. "I always knew I wanted to work in some form of media, and this early exposure helped me decide my major," he says. Right before graduation from Jackson State University, his connection with Mrs. Crosby helped him get a job at Alcorn State University, where her husband was the Chair of Communications Department. He was hired as a staff announcer. He was also one of the persons who played a major role in the station's early development.

Before coming to Elizabeth City, Jenkins attended the University of Northern Iowa, where he did graduate study in communications. After completing his graduate degree he took a job as a reporter. Here he was given the honor to meet former president Bill Clinton, when stumped in the state prior to serving his first term. Jenkins' love for travel helped with his decision to come to ECSU. "I always liked traveling and visiting new places, that is one of the reasons I came here," he said.

Jenkins' extensive background in media did not stop him from exploring his other love; teaching. "Where I grew up, the only professionals you saw were teachers," Jenkins said. "From a young age, I always knew I wanted to teach." He offers advice to students looking to go into the field of media. He says to take advantage of all activities, internships, and volunteer work, anything that will get some experience in the field. "Here at the university you can volunteer for the radio and television stations, work on the Compass, this all gives you experience in media."

In addition to teaching and meeting new and important people, Jenkins has also won several awards for his work. His modest attitude causes him not to talk about the many awards that are slightly hidden around his office. "Anyone who does satisfactory can win an award," Jenkins said when asked what he considers his greatest accomplishments. "But if I must respond, my greatest achievements would be my two sons, Joshua and Zachary."