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# The Compass

Elizabeth City State University's award-winning student newspaper

## RUFFIN TO DELIVER COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

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Mr. Benjamin J. Ruffin, former chairman of the University of North Carolina Board of Governors and civil activist will be the keynote speaker when Elizabeth City State University holds its 136<sup>th</sup> annual commencement on Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>.

The ceremony will be held in Roebuck Stadium beginning at 9 a.m.

"Mr. Ruffin is an outstanding North Carolinian who has given much of himself through public service for decades. Across North Carolina and the nation, Mr. Ruffin enjoys the reputation as a talented and hard-working man who cares passionately for all North Carolinians, but particularly those who are economically and otherwise disadvantaged," Chancellor Mickey L. Burnin said.

"You can achieve whatever you set out to accomplish. A positive attitude, coupled with a strong aptitude, will determine your altitude in life."

- Benjamin J. Ruffin

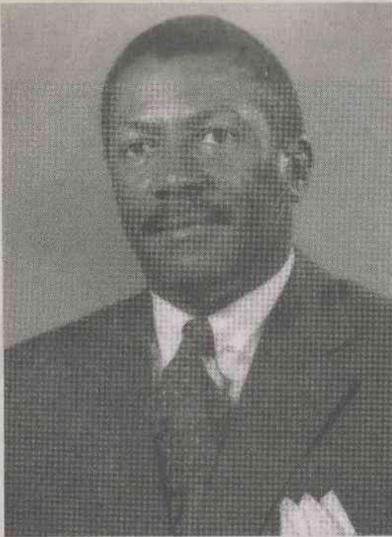


Photo courtesy of University Relations

Mr. Ruffin made history in 1998, when he was elected the first African-American chairman of the University of North Carolina Board of Governors, the policy-making body of the 16-campus university system. In addition, he is the president of The RUFFIN Group, a consulting firm in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

"To whom much is given, much is required," is Ruffin's philosophy, which Ruffin has demonstrated in his own life.

Ruffin has served in several corporate and grassroot positions, including vice president of R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, and as vice president and special assistant to

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## THE JOURNEY CONTINUES FOR GRADUATING SENIORS

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As one chapter ends another begins for the graduating seniors of Elizabeth City State University. Some will be heading off to graduate school; others will be searching the job market for that one job to jump-start their careers.

Stephanie Miller would like to land a job in Virginia with the Department of Social Services in hope to better the lives of others.

"A lot of people employed with the Department of Social Services lack a lot of the skills and education to help clients and I really want to make a difference," Miller said.

Graduate school seems to be in the future for Antonio Barrow. "I want to go to graduate school at East Carolina University to get my masters in English, but I also want to enroll in Johnson and Wales Culinary Arts School. Since my mind isn't made up yet I plan to teach at home or in a surrounding area," Barrow said.

Whatever path the graduating seniors choose, the road they have already paved through their college experience has been filled with memories, from the first time they arrived at ECSU, to the relationship

"I will miss my friends who stood by me, those I hardly saw, the new friends I made, and a few caring professors."

- Antonio Barrow

(or lack of relationship) they have formed with roommates, to attending basketball games and other sport events and to belonging to and attending Greek events.

"My most memorable moment at ECSU was when I joined my sorority, Delta Sigma Theta. I'm going to miss my sisters," Chaquella Worthington said.

Throughout the four years that most seniors spent at ECSU, the friendships created between classmates will never be forgotten. Friends were there to help each other deal with anything, such as the stress from exams, relationships some bad, being there through the bouts of home-sickness, or just hanging out.

"I will miss my friends who stood by me, those I hardly saw, the new friends I made, and a few caring professors," Barrow said.

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## INCENTIVE SCHOLARSHIP DISSOLVED

Susan Correll-Hankinson  
Co-Editor

If you are interested in getting a scholarship at Elizabeth City State University next year you should be aware that changes in ECSU's scholarship programs are set to take place July 1. These come as the result of the General Assembly of North Carolina enacting Senate Bill 1115 and the March 5 approval of the ECSU Board of Trustees.

Changes include combining five existing scholarship programs at ECSU into one program to be known as the University of North Carolina Campus Scholarship. Dr. Gerald McCants, Assistant to the Chancellor for Enrollment, Management, Planning and Research, said that the change is providing flexibility in the scholarship awarding process.

Examples of this flexibility are

that the UNC Campus Scholarships are offered to students statewide as opposed to just the 21 counties of eastern North Carolina, and more students

will receive more funds. Previously, approximately 500 students benefited yearly from the ECSU Incentive Program receiving an average of \$2,400. ECSU plans to offer, under the UNC Campus Scholarship, approximately 500 scholarships at an average of \$3,100 each. The amount awarded will depend on the need base and eligibility of the student.

The scholarship programs that are

to be combined into the UNC Campus Scholarship are the Minority Presence Grants, Minority Presence Grants-II, Incentive Scholar-

"Students already in the programs, who remain eligible, will be grandfathered into the UNC Campus Scholarship."

Gerald McCants

ship Program for Native Americans, ECSU Incentive Program, and the Legislative College Opportunity Program. The funds each of these programs received prior to the effective date of the UNC Campus Scholarship will remain the same but under the new name. Currently, those funds represent the following: ECSU Incentive Scholarship (\$1.5 million); Minor-

ity Presence Grants I and II (\$46,190) and Legislative College Opportunity Program (\$73,306).

"Students already in the programs, who remain eligible, will be grandfathered into the UNC Campus Scholarship," McCants said.

ECSU is not required to have a community service requirement for students to receive grants from the UNC Campus Scholarship. This is unlike the original Incentive Scholarship Program, which was made available in 1987. Students were required to work in a community service capacity for funds to cover their school fees. McCants said that losing these student workers will have some impact on ECSU as well as the local community. ECSU students work throughout the community for various non-profit organizations.

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