

Campus News

NEW SGA LEADERS STRESS STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

Travis Billups
Staff Reporter

On April 9 and 10, 645 Elizabeth City State University students went to the voting polls to elect next year's Student Government Association President and Mr. and Miss ECSU. Carl William Seward was elected our new SGA President and Willie Gilchrist and Cleantha Samuel were voted Mr. and Miss ECSU.

Carl William Seward, a 20 year-old junior from Portsmouth, Virginia, is looking forward to becoming the new leader for the ECSU students. "I'm very excited about becoming the next SGA President here at Elizabeth City University. It is an exciting time to be a student on our campus, and serving the student body through the student government is just one way that students and myself can participate in the growth and change of our university," Seward said.

The mathematics major comes onto office with big plans for the ECSU campus. "One of my concerns that will be paramount as SGA presi-

dent next year is the communication gap between students and everything else. Student activities, student life and everything that involves students should take a more aggressive approach to reach out to all of the students at Elizabeth City State University," said Seward. He also wants to improve the services provided to students and feels that ECSU is a community and as such has to promote more effective communication to truly gain a sense of what students want.

Seward feels that the future of ECSU is as bright as our vision and desire to achieve greatness. "Our future is bright and as students, we should make sure that our university continues to be successful."

Willie Gilchrist II is a junior working towards a Computer Science degree at ECSU. The

Roanoke Rapids native is currently involved with many other organizations. These include being a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., a student researcher for the Office of Naval Research/NASA Scholarship Program and a member of the ECSU National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE). Gilchrist feels that his being Mr. ECSU for the 2003-04 academic school year is a great asset for the university.

"I will

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work hard and diligently with our admissions department and the students of ECSU to better our student enrollment as well as student activities," Gilchrist said.

Cleantha Samuel is a 20 year-old junior Accounting/Marine Environment Science major from St. Croix, Virgin Islands. "I feel that I not only portray the characteristics of a true queen, but I am the ideal role model for our students, especially young women. It was quite heart-warming to

see that I had, and still have, the support of the student body, university administrators, and members of our community," said Samuel. The new Miss ECSU is aware of her role and duties. "As Miss ECSU my goals are centered around promoting cultural awareness and self-empowerment. I plan to help stimulate within my fellow Vikings a sense of pride, unity and respect and a desire to become the catalyst for the fate of black and white relations throughout the nation." Samuel feels that ECSU has been reluctant to promote cultural awareness and enlightenment. "We have failed to live up to the mission of Historical Black Colleges and Universities as it pertains to providing blacks with workable knowledge of all that is occurring within their environment..." Samuel said. She recognizes that ECSU has potential for growth as well as a need for change.

Even though two of the three winners ran uncontested students still had to vote. According to Dr. Jean Holt, Assistant Dean of Student Life, 645 students went to the polls this election as opposed to the 545 of last year.

Ruffin

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the President of North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company.

Ruffin has also served for seven years as the special assistant to the former North Carolina Governor James B. Hunt, Jr. During his tenure, Mr. Ruffin helped to increase the number of black judges in the state and the number of black state employees.

Much of Ruffin's earlier training as a community organizer equipped him with the skills he used to enhance his career. Now, Ruffin devotes much of his time to public service. He is a member of Winston-

Salem 1991 Capital Campaign, a former member of Winston Lake Family YMCA Board, a Prince Hall Mason, a former Trustee of Old Salem, a holder of a Life and Golden Heritage membership of the NAACP, and he holds memberships in numerous other public service organizations.

Ruffin's dedication to community and his accomplishments have not gone unnoticed. In North Carolina, he has received honorary degrees from eight different prestigious universities including; North Carolina Central University, North Carolina A & T State University, Winston-Salem State University,

Fayetteville State University, Edward Waters College, Livingstone College, St. Augustine's College, and our very own Elizabeth City State University.

He is also the recipient of many other awards including; the North Carolina KAPPA Man of the Year Award from Middle Eastern Province, the Donald H. McGannon Citation by the National Urban League, the Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of North Carolina School of Social Work, the 1991 NAACP Kelly Miller Alexander Humanitarian Award, the Blackbook Award for Professional Achievement from the Dollar & Sense Magazine, and the Fredrick Douglass Leadership Award from the North Carolina Asso-

ciation of Black County Officials.

Ruffin is a native of Durham, North Carolina and is a graduate of Hillside High School. He received his bachelor's degree from North Carolina Central and his Master's degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

To future trailblazers, Mr. Ruffin says, "You can achieve whatever you set out to accomplish. A positive attitude, coupled with a strong aptitude, will determine your altitude in life. It is not where you are coming from but where you are going, and it is not what your name is but the name you make for yourself."

WHO'S WHO AMONG ECSU STUDENTS

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When the 2003 edition of the prestigious Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges is published, it will include the names of 28 Elizabeth City State University students.

Each of the students qualified for this honor in the directory, based on their academic achievement, service to the community, leadership in extra-curricular activities and potential for success.

The ECSU students join an elite group of students from more than 2,300 institutions of higher learning in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and several foreign nations.

The annual directory has honored outstanding students since it was published in 1934.

Pictured are sixteen of ECSU's Who's Who Students. From left to right (front row) are Tameka Groves, DeTra Stith, Monica Vrablic, Courtney Jordan, Patrice Boyce, Catina Alston, Tracey Ward, and Joseph Cochran.



Photo courtesy of University Relations

From left to right (second row) are LaQuisha Tisdal, Branden Anderson, Jonathan Owens, Cleantha Samuel, Jerry Lane, Tanyetta "Tai" Pittman, Vincent Davis, and Carl Seward.

Students not pictured are Natasha Coley, Linwood Creekmore, Norma Devita, Demetra Gilmore, Javon Griffin, George Jerman, Jason Mitchell, Golar Newby, Neils Ribeiro, Keith Richardson, Kristen Snead, Deborah Vines, and Kevin Wade.

"Each student honored with this prestigious award should feel as if

they are distinguished from other students. Who's Who recipients are exceptional and dedicated in the eyes of their colleagues and teachers. The recipients should continue in their scholastic achievements. They can only receive this award twice, why not aim to receive it both their junior and senior years," said LaQuisha Tisdal, a senior Who's Who scholar.

These students were recognized at the Honors Convocation held in the Floyd L. Robinson Fine Arts Auditorium on Thursday April 19, 2003. Who's Who certificates were presented to them afterwards in the Division of Student Affairs.

