

THE COMPASS



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Pharmacy school set to open in 2005

2+2+2 program to be coordinated with UNC Chapel Hill

By Toby Tate
Editor-In-Chief

Ever had the urge to take a course in Biopharmaceutics or Pharmacokinetics? Well, now is your chance. For the first time ever, Elizabeth City State University, teamed with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, will be offering courses in Pharmaceutical Sciences.

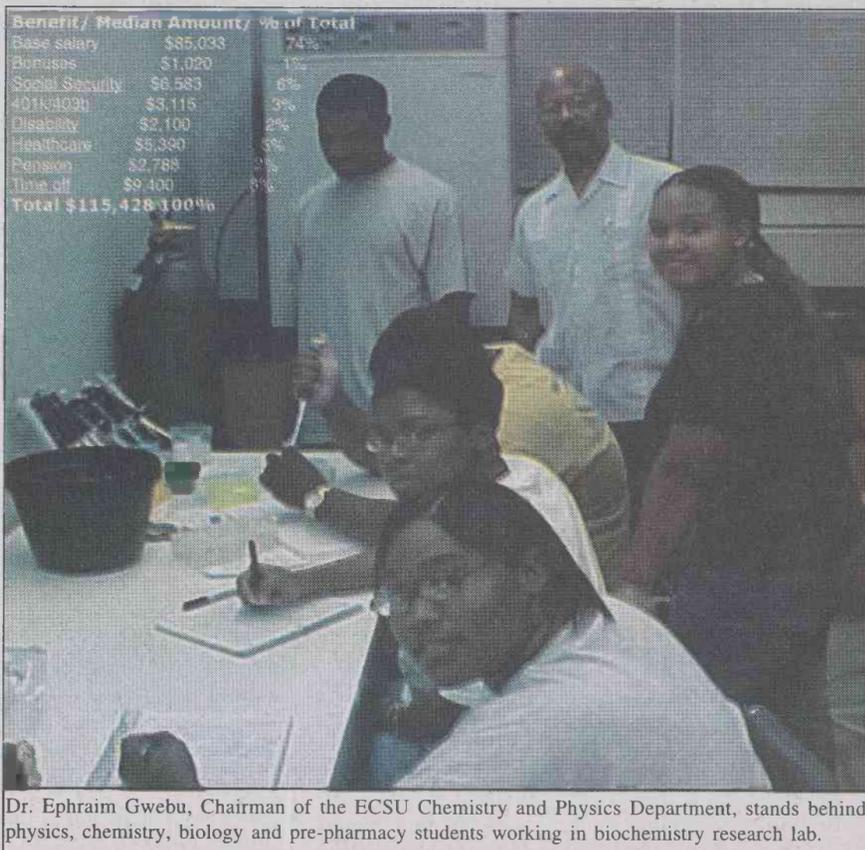
"The future employment outlook for Pharmacists is exceptional," said Larry Smith, advisor for the Pharmaceutical Sciences program at ECSU. "According to UNC's 2003 statistics, the average beginning salary for pharmacists from UNC was \$83,372."

The program, which takes six years of full-time study to complete, begins at ECSU with two years of pre-pharmacy

coursework. Full-time for this program is considered to be 15 to 18 credit hours per semester. "We are projecting 10 students in the inaugural class; and plan to admit 15 students per year for the foreseeable future. The curriculum is the same pharmacy curriculum that UNC Chapel Hill has offered for some number of years, and leads to the Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degree," said Doctor Carolyn Mahoney, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at ECSU.

Out of the 600 to 1000 applications received every year, only 125 students are accepted into the program at UNC-Chapel Hill. Additionally, students who apply must first pass the Pharmacy College Admission Test, or PCAT, preferably with a score of at least 350-400, and must have a cumulative grade point average above 3.0. The average GPA for admitted students is 3.40 for the class of 2008.

The pre-pharmacy portion of the curriculum is comprised of an intensive four-semester preparatory study at ECSU, which



Dr. Ephraim Gwebu, Chairman of the ECSU Chemistry and Physics Department, stands behind physics, chemistry, biology and pre-pharmacy students working in biochemistry research lab.

includes general education courses and the fundamental physical and biological sciences needed to prepare students for admission to the pharmacy program. This is followed by the professional education program offered in conjunction with UNC-Chapel Hill which includes classes in pharmacology,

cardiology, pulmonology and neurology as well as basic pharmaceuticals. The student then transfers back to ECSU for the final four semesters to take elective courses, classes in pharmacy law and ethics, and do field work in general medicine.

for those with a PharmD degree include community

and retail, hospitals and industry. Pharmacists normally practice in independently owned and operated pharmacies, chain pharmacies, the pharmacy department of discount food stores, and professional health centers. There are also needs in nursing homes, extended care facilities, neighborhood health

centers and health maintenance organizations. In an industrial setting, Pharmacists are employed by firms which discover, develop and produce chemicals, prescription and non-prescription drugs, and other health products, as well as conducting research, developing and marketing products, maintaining quality control, and administering programs.

Pharmacists in the U.S. can be attributed to the aging population and the growth of retail chain drug stores. The employment of Pharmacists is expected to grow faster than the average for all occupations through the year 2010, according to the Occupational Outlook Handbook. With the exponential increase of technology, research and development of new drug products and an increasingly sophisticated consumer, the demand for Pharmacists will likely expand even further.

Presently, there is no building at the ECSU campus to house the facilities needed for the entire six year Pharmaceutical program. "The program on

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Bush picks HBCU's for T.A.G.S. Team

Professor Johnny Houston appointed ECSU program director

By Lucretia White
Staff Writer

President George W. Bush, on June 20, 2002, announced his commitment to improve the quality of education in Africa, recognizing that a quality education is the key to a higher standard of living in African countries.

"Education is the foundation of development and democracy - in every culture, on every continent. We'll work to give Africa's children the advantages of literacy and learning so they can build the future of Africa," Bush said.

With a quality education, Africa will experience economic growth and eventually greater stability. To achieve this milestone [improving the quality of education], Bush implemented the Africa Education Initiative (AEI), which will provide \$200 million over five years to the continent of Africa. These funds will be used to



Johnny Houston, Ph.D. looks on as a Senegalese girl studies from a donated book.

train 160,000 new teachers, provide in-service training for the 260,000 existing teachers, and to provide 250,000 in scholarships for African girls, AIDS orphans and other vulnerable children. Another important aspect of the Initiative is that the US will provide 4.5 million textbooks and much needed educational materials for six sub-Saharan African countries, which are overwhelmed by a shortage of funds, teachers, textbooks and other teaching aids.

President Bush opted to use Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU's) to implement the textbook

project. Six primary HBCU's were chosen and Elizabeth City State University was one of them. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) designated Hampton University (a private institution) and Elizabeth City State University (a public institution) as project leaders to operate the sub-Saharan Textbook Project: Textbooks For A Global Society (T.A.G.S.). The four other HBCU's are Alabama A&M University, Albany State University, Dillard University, and St. Augustine's College. Each of the six HBCU's are paired with a sub-Saharan African country. Those six countries include: South Africa, Senegal, Ethiopia, Namibia, Guinea and Benin. ECSU, known as T.A.G.S. Center II collaborates with the Republic of Senegal, a French speaking country in West Africa, which borders the North Atlantic Ocean between Guinea-Bissau and Mauritania. Senegal currently has a literacy rate of 39.1%.

On June 23, 2004, ECSU Professor and T.A.G.S. Center II Program

Director, Johnny L. Houston, Ph.D. aided in distributing 270,000 books to Senegal during the first year of the project in 2003 - 2004.

"We are hoping that these books will bring about a systemic change in reading habits and learning among the Senegalese children. Teachers can carry the books in boxed libraries between classrooms and allow students to take individual books home on the weekends to read" Houston said. A quality education for the Senegalese children is the final desired outcome, leaving all who collaborated on the project ecstatic.

Not only does the African Studies Program - T.A.G.S. Center II strive to improve the education and way of life in Senegal, it attempts to connect the students of ECSU to the "motherland". Coordinating and sponsoring numerous activities to demonstrate the unique aspects of the countries, traditions, and cultures of Africa will achieve this connection. One such activity is African

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ECSU proposes scrapping book rental program

By Marshall Goatley
Staff Writer

Classes are back in session, which means one thing: students have to buy, or in the case of ECSU, rent books; but how long will that last?

The book rental program has been at ECSU for many years. Mr. Pedro Holley, the ECSU Bookstore manager said that the administration has proposed discontinuing the book rental program, so students may have to start buying their books as soon as the fall semester of 2005. Holley also said that the administration wants the students to be able to "create their own personal library." The book rental program helps the students save

money since they only have to pay a flat fee of \$155 a semester for books, instead of \$300-\$500 a semester to purchase books.

If the book rental program is discontinued, students will have to apply for more financial aid, which means they will have to pay more back when they finish college. Having to pay back five to six thousand dollars is not going to be an easy chore straight out of college when students may have to relocate to find a job in their chosen field.

The positive side to doing away with the book rental program is that it will help professors find a book that will fit their teaching style. Under the book rental program, Holley said, "Professors have to keep their text for a minimum of three years." If the book rental program is discontinued, professors can change the texts that they teach from every semester if they wish. This will be harder for students at buyback time because if teachers are not going to use

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