

Campus

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Hot fashion flame rekindled by a desire to promote self-confidence

By Jennifer Pride
Staff Writer

At a time when there were no other clubs or organizations on campus emphasizing student's freedom of expression through fashion, Daryl Turner decided to enhance what this university was lacking. Turner's aim was to create a unique organization that could involve the university and the community, enhance member self-confidence and teach self development all while turning the heads of any and everyone who viewed their craft.

In 1998 Turner was able to do so by establishing the Vike Nu' Fashion Society, the first and only student organization on the campus dedicated to bringing style, fashion and charisma to Elizabeth City State University (ECSU) and the surrounding community.

Many question how one organization was going to be able to fulfill all of these goals, but the hard work of the society's original members, 27 models, the backstage assistance of 6 workers and two advisors lead to their initial success. Another factor was the presence of a very well constructed constitution, chain of command and a well demonstrated need and purpose that let school officials know that Vike Nu' Fashion Society was not only serious about properly establishing themselves on this campus, but more importantly setting an early trademark of precision.

For reasons unknown, the Vike Nu' Fashion Society went idle for two years. Without leadership and adequate representation, their future was unclear. Performing no shows, what once was a budding fashion society began to fade.

To provide some solace for those who still yearned to express themselves through fashion creativity and develop style and confidence, a new leader emerged, who has helped make the Vike Nu' Fashion Society into what it is today.

"Vike Nu' Fashion Society's flame was rekindled by the vision of Shebony Davis," said Kevin J. Wade, who served as treasurer and male choreographer under Davis' leadership.

During the fall semester of 2000, Davis recruited several ECSU students as well as past members of the society to help fulfill her vision of creating a structured organization for students to express themselves. With the help of two new advisors, Kenya Hinton and Trina Harris, Davis was able to successfully reinstate the Vike Nu' Fashion Society as Vike Nu' Fashion Troupe hallmarking the fashion identity of the time of cultural diversity in clothing.

Davis' vision became a reality during the spring semester of 2001 when the revamped Vike Nu' Fashion Troupe put on its first show entitled, "Anticipation...The Wait is Over!!!" This show revolutionized Vike Nu' as well as establishing them as a mainstay on our campus.

"She didn't play any games; she was all about business," said Jennifer Blackwell, Vike Nu' member since 2001. "The practices were fun, it got intense towards the end, but it was well worth it because the show was a huge success."

Today, Vike Nu' is advised by Kenya Hinton (ECSU Social Sciences Department) and



ECSU graduate, former lead male model and choreographer Kevin J. Wade.

"Vike Nu' Fashion Troupe continues to display a great deal of unity as it promotes and delivers self confidence, diverse styles of fashion, and creativity through its advisors, models and members. Vike Nu' travels to local universities including Fayetteville State University, Shaw University and Livingstone College," said Wade.

Thirty-eight models, and twelve members, bonded by

the direction of a strong executive board, the leadership of president Shonica Sweet and their advisors, work vigorously to keep intact Vike Nu's legacy, while preparing for the ever-changing fashion future.

Change is what they do, "The current models as a whole decided that it was crucial, as a result of the addition of dancing, singing and complex choreography to adjust to changing times," says James Stratford, lead male model and Mr. Vike Nu'.

Today Vike Nu' has evolved into M.O.D.E.L.S. Inc., an acronym that stands for Motivating Others Daily to Engage in a Life of Style. Stratford goes on to say, "Due to the fact that we excelled at the tasks presented to us in the past, it was necessary that we incorporated other aspects of performing arts to further challenge ourselves not only as individuals, but more importantly as models."

Meet Greg Sampson, man of a thousand places

Phone calls, on-air interviews, teaching classes; the man seems omnipresent

By Toby Tate
Editor-in-Chief

Greg "Sampson" Lange is balancing his day running between visitors to the radio station and doing on-air interviews. As I observe the organized chaos in the control room, the phone rings, and Sampson signals me to answer it. I give him an incredulous look and pick up the phone. "Radio station" I say. It's somebody wanting to talk to, who else: Greg Sampson. I tell



Greg "Sampson" Lange, doing what he does best.

Photo by Toby Tate

him Mr. Sampson is busy on the air right now, filling in for Randy Jones, one of the DJ's, while Jones takes an overdue bathroom break. Sounding exasperated, the man asks, "Does Sampson ever spend any time in his office?" I told him I doubted it. After we hung up, I noticed Sampson's desk was actually in the control room.

Today, Sampson is getting a visit from 1st House State Representative Bill Owens, one of the supporters of the bond referendum that was instrumental in the new construction at ECSU. Sampson and Owens get on the other side

of the glass from the interviewer, Randy Jones, who has just returned from his break, and have a great time laughing and shooting the breeze on the air as they discuss everything from politics to basketball. Sometimes work is fun. Finally, after the interview, I get my chance to ask questions.

The first thing I learn is that Sampson is originally from L.A., and a place called Watts. Anyone who is familiar with Watts will remember it as a focal point in the infamous race riots of the mid-sixties. Sampson remembers it well.

"I came home one day," he said, "and the lights were out. Mom said to me 'turn on the transistor radio' and I did. The man on the air said there had just been a riot. I looked at Mom and asked, 'Mom, what's a riot?' All she said was 'looks like you won't be going to school for a while.'" Sampson also recalls seeing looters in the streets walking around and carrying armloads of stolen goods. "All the white people in the neighborhood moved away," he said. "They were terrified."

As a child in the eighth grade, Sampson considered becoming a priest after a conversation with one of the nuns at the Catholic school he was attending. "She sat me down one day and said, 'Greg, you're not going to make it. You're too much of a class clown.' I said, 'what do you mean?' She said, 'Maybe you should consider going into the seminary.' But after I found out priests had to take a vow of celibacy, I said, 'See you later!'"

After graduating from high school, Sampson decided to pursue a career that was a natural for his personality: broadcasting. Sampson first attended Harbor Community College in San Pedro and California State University at Northridge before entering the Columbia School of Broadcasting in Hollywood.

His first job as a broadcaster was at a classical music station in Hollywood known as KFAC. From there he came east to Greensboro, North Carolina in 1989 and became the music director at WQMG-FM and WEAL-AM, where he remained until April of 1992. He spent time in radio stations in Winston-Salem, High Point, and New Bern before finally coming to ECSU as Assistant Programmer, Production Director, On-Air Personality and Instructor. Sampson holds the title of Communications Specialist 1, and teaches courses in radio and television.

Sampson's favorite job so far? Teaching. "I don't teach out of a book," he said. "It's hands-on. They have to be ready to go in three weeks." That's not much time from knowing nothing to speaking fluently on the air. "A lot of times, they'll just freeze up in front of a mic, but I whip 'em into shape pretty quick."

Sampson's first love, however, will always be the radio, and of WRVS, the FM station here at ECSU, he said, "I enjoy the music, because I finally get to play music I've been wanting to play all my life."

Making ECSU a better place?



A backhoe sits next to a freshly dug ditch across from the Army ROTC building, patiently awaiting its next job.

Photo by Toby Tate

They sing, they dance, they wear togas, not pants: *Forum* is back

The musical lives

By Rukiya Williams
Staff Writer

The University Players, Elizabeth City State University's theatre troupe, will present the award-winning smash Broadway musical comedy *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* on November 11, 12 and 13 (Thursday, Friday and Saturday), in the Floyd L. Robinson Auditorium, located in the Fine Arts Complex at ECSU. Curtain time for each performance is 8:00p.m. *Forum* will be a combined effort of the visual and performing arts program in the School of Arts and Humanities.

The hilarious illogicalities of classic Latin comedy and the zany nonsense of vaudeville are wedded in a happy madcap marriage in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. Pseudolus, a roguish servant of a Roman family, schemes to gain his freedom. His young master, Hero, promises freedom if Pseudolus can obtain a beautiful girl, Philia, whom Hero has seen

from his bedroom window. Deliciously unsavory characters, a befuddled father with a shrewish neighbors, strangers and the Roman army are all

Critics also lavished praise on the show; the New York Times wrote, "Thumbs up for this uninhibited romp!" and Time magazine's critic added, "A

choreography by Holly Wright and musical direction by Vincent Corozine. A large cast of students, faculty and community performers have assembled for this very special musical. Quentin Powell, an ECSU junior Music/English major from Windsor, NC, will play the role of Pseudolus. Patrick ball and Ashley K. E. McCleary will appear in roles of Hero and Philia respectively. Frank Garmes, an ECSU professor of psychology, is cast as Senex, hero's father, and Dana Goodwin, a native of Charlotte, will play his wife, Domina.

Advanced tickets will go on sale on Monday, November 1st at Page After Page bookstore, in downtown Elizabeth City. Tickets can also be purchased on the ECSU campus at the Little Theatre from 3:00 until 5:00p.m. Monday through Thursday. Admission prices for *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* are \$10.00 for the general public, \$5.00 for senior citizens and children 12 and under, \$3.00 for ECSU faculty/staff, and \$1.00 for ECSU students. For additional information, phone the players' office at (252) 335-3486.



drawn into the mounting confusion as this sidesplitting comedy unwinds.

In its original Broadway run, *Forum* received the Tony Award as "best musical" of the season and its star, Zero Mostel, was also awarded a Tony for his performance as Pseudolus.

good, clean, dirty show! Brings back belly laughs." In its 1996 revival, *Forum* starred Nathan Lane in the role of Pseudolus, who was later replaced by Whoopie Goldberg.

Shawn Smith, head of ECSU's Theatre Arts program, is directing the University Players' production, with