

ECSU lends helping hand to non-traditional students

By Nancy Wilson
Staff Writer

When non-traditional students return to schools like Elizabeth City State University, they rarely come back for the same reasons as their "Traditional" counterparts. The National Orientation Directors Association Nontraditional Student Newsletter is a publication which focuses on helping nontraditional students get the best out of their college experience. NODA stated that when nontraditional students come back they tend to, "Learn what they consider to be important," and "maintain strong convictions about returning to education."

Non traditional students at ECSU range in age from 25 to 75 and generally have had many experiences in the real world of work. "It's not easy to do when you work full time; it's a very hectic schedule," said Ester Jordan, a criminal justice major and a nontraditional student at ECSU. Mrs. Jordan also had a daughter who is a traditional student at ECSU. Mrs. Jordan is happy with the fact that she is in school with her daughter because it allows her to see what



her child has to go through on a day-to-day basis. However, as a nontraditional student she does face some challenges. "It's not easy either way, we're basically loners," Mrs. Jordan said.

In an effort to curtail these kinds of feelings among nontraditional students, the university offers special programs for nontraditional students through the commuter center. Some of the activities that the center offers are as follows: Breakfast with the Deans, Toys for Tots, and an

Easter egg hunt for the children of nontraditional students. The university offers these activities to try to encourage nontraditional students to get involved. "We try to get it away from class to home, or from class to work, or from class to other responsibilities," said Willa Lamb, coordinator for the commuter students. In addition to these activities,

the university also tries to accommodate the needs of nontraditional students through its weekend and evening program, which provides nontraditional students with a flexible class schedule that they may need to work around their busy schedules.

Mary A. Lupton, an English Major and a nontraditional student at ECSU, said, "I have found the school to be very accommodating; distance learning wise I've been able to complete a lot of courses."

Mahoney speaks to national educators

By Kesha Williams
ECSU Information and Communications Specialist



Mahoney

Dr. Carolyn R. Mahoney, ECSU Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, was a co-author on the National Research Council Report "On Evaluating Curricular Effectiveness: Judging the Quality of K-12 Mathematics Evaluations,"

Washington, DC, at the National Academies Press in May 2004. Mahoney was also an invited plenary speaker at the Education Trust annual national conference on closing the achievement gap. Her talk, entitled "Access, Retention and Completion: The ECSU Story" was delivered to national educators, community leaders and policy makers in

Washington, DC in Nov. 2004. Dr. Emmanuel K. Ngwainmbi, of the ECSU Language, Literature, and Communication Department, has been appointed to the editorial board of the Journal of Black Studies for the next three years. The Journal of Black Studies has been ranked as one of the top three journals in ethnic studies.

Ngwainmbi also presented a research paper entitled: "Glocalization, Culture and Change in West Africa" at the 16th Annual Cheikh Anta Diop International Conference in Philadelphia, PA, in October.

Dixon elected chairman of CPC

By Kesha Williams
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Dixon

Dr. John A. Dixon, Jr., of the Department of Special Education, was elected chairman of the Cooperative Planning Consortium (CPC) for the State of North Carolina. The CPC is charged with overseeing the Special Education Programs at all of the UNC campuses and private colleges. The CPC was instrumental in

getting the UNC Board of Governors to eliminate the academic concentration for special education majors. It is also the liaison between UNC and the legislature regarding special education concerns.

Chancellor Mickey L. Burnim of Elizabeth City State University was recently elected to serve a three-year term as a

member of the Board of Directors for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU). AASCU is a higher education association whose membership is comprised of more than 430 colleges, universities and systems of public higher education throughout the United States and its territories.

Chancellor Burnim has served as Chancellor of ECSU since 1995. He holds three degrees in economics—a B.A. and a M.A. from the University of North Texas, and a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Wisconsin at Madison.



ECSU joins Tsunami relief effort

By Keria Miller
Staff Writer

The New Year brought devastation for Southeast Asia when on Dec. 26, 2004, an earthquake struck under the Indian Ocean causing a massive tsunami that killed more than 140,000, leaving scores of people homeless and without food, shelter, or a way to survive.

Carlita Jeffers, a resident of Elizabeth City gave her opinion about the tragedy. "People don't know what they have until it's gone," she said. "I will contribute whatever I can to support others. If it happened to me, I would want people to help as much as they could."

Elizabeth City State University students and faculty are showing

their support for the relief effort, placing donation boxes in most of the dorms and halls on campus. Viking Village residents ask at the front desk in the lobby that you donate bottled water or any other non-perishable goods to help.

The media took a great responsibility for letting the world follow events as they unfolded by showing commercials, radio announcements, and brief news updates. Many celebrities and activists such as John Kerry, Bill Clinton, Alyssa Milano, Angie Stone, Keenan Ivory Wayans, Vivica Fox, as well as people all over the world have already taken action.

Michael Jordan donated over \$200,000 to the Tsunami Relief, and went to the Bahamas where

he set up a four-day golf competition and a poker tournament. Other celebrities helped Jordan by performing and donating money.

Families need help in rebuilding their lives and communities, and children need to be assisted in reuniting with their families whenever possible. There are children of the tsunami tragedy that need protecting from exploitation and abuse, such as an eight-year-old boy in Indonesia who lost his two little sisters in the tsunami.

The sickly and unhealthy are also in need from diseases and viruses that were caused by rotting corpses of animals as well as humans left behind by the killer wave. The American Red Cross asks that anyone come out and donate what he or she can.

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