

## Vaughan gives offbeat Founder's Day speech

**Ex-coach suggests ECSU name change**

**By Toby Tate**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

If you went to the founder's Day Convocation on March 9 at Elizabeth City State University expecting to hear a conventional keynote address, then you were probably disappointed. A better word for the speech might be "controversial."

Recounting stories about his early days as a legendary basketball coach at ECSU, Robert L. "Bobby" Vaughan, namesake of ECSU's Vaughan center, mixing witty remarks and wry humor, had much to say about the present and the past of ECSU, as well as embracing change for the future.

Vaughan spoke about the meaning of the word "founders," saying that there are founders all around us on the ECSU campus.

"We talk about foundations," Vaughan said. "No matter how tall the building, the foundation has to be equal in order to

maintain the weight thereof."

Vaughan said the school consistently produces good students. "ECSU has a glowing history of taking an average student," said Vaughan, "and turning out an above average product. You don't have to be the best to get better."

One of the first things Vaughan did was to salute the women's basketball team for their recent CIAA game against the Shaw University Bears, in which Celeste Trahan, a rookie freshman, broke a tournament record by pulling down 26 rebounds (see story on page 4).

"I want to salute our women's basketball team," Vaughan said, "as founders of a new beginning." This was followed by cheering and applause from the crowd.

Vaughan had a poignant message about honoring the



Vaughan

original founders.

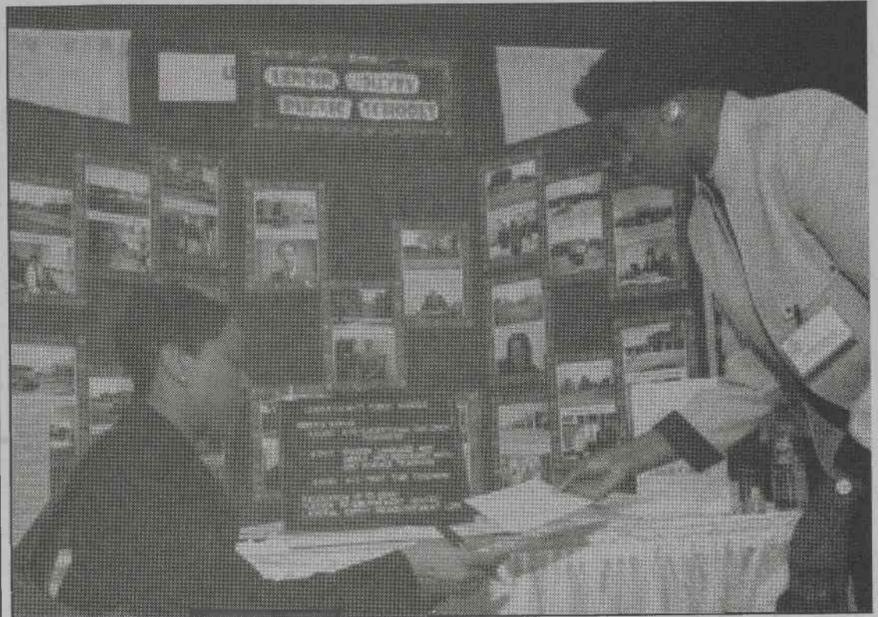
"We need to honor our founding fathers," Vaughan said. "Cherish yesterday, live today, dream tomorrow and embrace change."

Change seemed to be the theme for the evening, as Vaughan spoke about building the future on the foundation of the past. He also made no apologies for the speech he was about to make, which contained colorful language used within the context of his stories, one about his dislike of student attire while marching in local parades.

"The Chancellor didn't approve what I'm going to say," Vaughan said to an expectant audience. "Neither therefore did the chairman of the board or the president of the alumni association. It may be somewhat radical, but I will say it anyway. I am no longer employed here, and I can't be fired." Vaughan said amidst much laughter. "And I truly love ECSU."

Vaughan spoke about his early days at the school and run-ins with various chancellors and professors over his coaching of the basketball team, including

See Speech on page 8



ECSU student Octavia Armond looks over paperwork with Carolyn Anderson from the Lenoir County school system.

Photo by Rich Harvey

## ECSU job fair attracts regional businesses

**Students network, get possible internships**

Seen in *The Daily Advance*

**By Toby Tate**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

Approximately 60 employers – a group that included everyone from the U.S. Army and Nucor Steel to Wal-Mart – participated in this year's Career Day and Job Fair at Elizabeth City State University Thursday.

Students lined up at kiosks across the R.L. Vaughan Center

gymnasium floor, asking potential employers about summer internships and job opportunities after graduation.

Michele Perry, an ECSU senior majoring in health services, said her favorite kiosk was the colorful display put on by the Virginia Beach, Va. Public Schools.

"They have the most impressive set up," Perry said. "They have a lot of pictures showing teacher interactivity with students. It's more inviting" than some of the other kiosks.

Like many of the other organizations represented at this

year's Career Day and Job Fair, the Virginia Beach schools kiosk offered brochures and folders brimming with information about job opportunities and an application for employment.

One of the main reasons ECSU holds the job fair is to get students interested in seeking internships with prospective employers. The Virginia Beach City Public Schools internship program, Students with an Instructional Message, or SWIM, is such an internship program.

See Fair on page 8

## \$382,000 grant to help promote student health

**Student Health Services seeks volunteers**

**By Shanna Williams**  
*Staff Writer*

Elizabeth City State University was recently the recipient of a \$382,000 grant from the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust that will support the expansion of the Body Basics Fitness Program at ECSU.

In the student health services area Ms. Regina McCoy-Davis is the grant administrator and Ms. Beverly Shannon is the advisor of Peer Health Educators. Together they work to promote health and wellness throughout ECSU campus. The grant will be paid over the course of three years in the amount of \$169,000 in 2005, \$114,000 in 2006, and 99,000 in 2007.

In the past, the Body Basics Fitness Program served university students at the ECSU Student Health Services, and provided nutrition and fitness workshops as preventive

measures for obesity and also to decrease the risks of developing chronic diseases related to obesity. Ms. Shannon is a registered nurse who provides assistance at the Student Health Services and has been an employee of ECSU for approximately two years. She is also the advisor for the Peer Health Educator's on campus.

A Peer Health Educator is one who is trained to help students to educate peers about different health issues. These student workers from ECSU will train for the job and then volunteer up to 40 hours a semester. Ms. Shannon would like to recruit and train approximately 20 people who will in turn recruit and train others for this program.

"I will expect peers to educate peers on topics that are related to HIV/AIDS, the two

major health issues among African Americans that need decreasing," Ms. Shannon said.

The grant will provide new equipment accessible to the Health Department and to connect community-wide projects. The Body Basics Fitness Program includes nutrition education as well as physical fitness, and will be divided into two parts of fitness and training, for 30 minutes apiece. At a later date, aerobic classes will be included as well.

Elizabeth City State University has received many grants in the past, but the Kate B. Reynolds grant is providing Student Health Services to address issues of eating habits and proper exercise. The Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, established in 1947 under the will of Mrs. William Neal Reynolds, conducts grant-making activity exclusively in North Carolina.

The Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust and Student Health Services needs student volunteers to become Peer Health Educators. ECSU needs support from students to make this program a success.



McCoy-Davis

## Band of brothers creates fraternity

**Society is built on godly principles**

**By Samuel Bennett**  
*Staff Writer*

On December 1, 2004, 15 undergraduate brothers of Nu Gamma Psi (fraternity) were added to the Pan Hellenic Council at Elizabeth City State University. Originally named Sigma Chi, seven young boys created a brotherhood to help keep young men out of trouble in the town of Plymouth, North Carolina.

This brotherhood went through a series of metamorphoses, constantly changing the rules and regulations. However, some brothers of Sigma Chi were not too fond of these changes and three of the seven founders departed.

In 1999, the remaining four brothers, Adrian White, Lejohn Purkett, William Wynn, and Gary Whitley decided to take the responsibility of a real fraternity. The young men realigned their priorities and decided to have a meeting to discuss what would



Sam Bennett, far left, stands with his new frat brothers.

Contributed photo

soon be the beginning of the transformation of fraternity life as we know it. In this meeting, the four founders would discuss the colors, mascot, mottos, shield and name of their fraternity. NGY is a fraternity based on the Godly principles of Love, Community Service, Brotherhood, Leadership and Courage. The fraternity colors are sand khaki, hunter green and white, and the mascot is a Lion. One motto of NGY is "It takes a man to pledge a fraternity; but it takes a stronger, more courageous man to build one!"

Adrian White, one of the four founders and the first president of the organization, said, "I feel proud when I reflect back and see how many lives we have

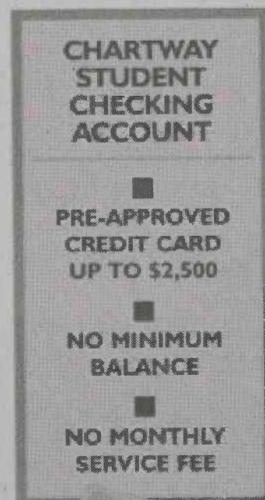
influenced. This Alpha Chapter in Elizabeth City impresses me by the effort put forth into getting the group established on the yard. I look forward to seeing big things out of this group because I too was in their shoes at North Carolina A&T." White also talked about the hardships, time and dedication it took to convert the brotherhood from high school to college.

There will be tough times and rough roads ahead in the future for this new group. Only time will tell what difficult tasks lie ahead in the fight to stay alive.

"Pressure is in the air like always," White said. "And it will give drive and inspiration to prolong the existence of such a valuable bond."

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