

# THE COMPASS



Vol. 70, No. 1

October 2005

Elizabeth City, North Carolina

## New Orleans evacuee attends ECSU

### Hurricane Katrina's Devastation

By Keria Miller  
Staff Writer

Katrina, one of the most devastating storms in recent history, is said to be the most drastic incident that has happened in the United States since 9/11. Katrina was the eleventh named tropical storm, fourth hurricane, and third major hurricane.

Warnings and alerts were announced to the world when the hurricane was a category one, and by August 29, at 7:00pm, Katrina reached a category five, destroying everything in its path with winds of 160 mph.

The Bahamas, South Florida, Louisiana, New Orleans, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida Panhandle, most of Texas, and most of Eastern North America have been affected. Many areas were left flooded, houses were destroyed, and total

damages were estimated as high as \$200 billion.

Katrina left people with no choice, other than to evacuate and stay with a friend or close relative. Some of the victims from the hurricane are staying in shelters, colleges, and stadiums; most people didn't want to leave behind their homes because it was all they knew. Family members, waited around, hoping to find missing relatives, who were lost from the storm. Katrina left many homeless, missing, and killed; there were more than 1,204 deaths and the total is still rising.



Antwanette Degree

Antwanette Degree, an evacuee, now attending Elizabeth City State University, is from Aliemies, New Orleans. Degree and her family lost their home and everything they owned.

"It's hard to stay focused when you're used to living in a place all of your life and not being around my family, but I feel it is very important. My mother keeps me focused and gives me the ability to keep going," she says.

Antwanette's family is still in New Orleans with nowhere to go. Her family is going from state to state to different hotels.

**"...I was devastated. I didn't know what to do next"**

After the hurricane, Degree and her family stayed home. They were then forced to leave, so they



Antwanette Degree (right) and friend Shante Branch are both evacuees from New Orleans

stayed in a shelter for eight days. After being forced to leave, moving from place to place, hungry, and with little money, Antwanette and her family slept in her family's four-door car for two days. "My family and I couldn't find each other for three weeks; I was devastated. I didn't know what to do next. If it weren't for my friend I don't know what I'd do."

Degree is staying with her friend, shante Branch and her family, she says, she loves school, the environment, the kind people, and she plans to stay in Elizabeth City. Many people in the United States are doing whatever they can to contribute, and their progress is slowly getting things back to normal. Many people are helping out by give donations; such as clothes, shoes, school supplies, and all kinds of games to keep everyone entertained. Rescuers are out on boats every day to find missing people. There are concerts, football games, movies, and many other events around the US being held that are donating percentages of whatever is made. All over the world people are working together, so that they can return to a normal life as quickly as possible.

## Accident claims the life of ECSU student, injures another

By Kimberly Lilly  
Editor-in-chief

On Wednesday, September 14, as residences closed and classes were canceled, a car accident claimed the life of our own Jynetty Allen, while traveling to her home in Raleigh, NC.

The accident took place in Zebulon NC, around 4:15pm while rains from an expected hurricane Ophelia hit the area. According to a news report, troopers say "the driver of the SUV, lost control and crashed into a tree on highway 64." Driver Renaudo Hilliard, also an ECSU student, thankfully survived.

On the website of the mortuary that held Allen's funeral service, members of the Viking family such as instructors and students left notes of condolences to the family.

One of Allen's professors Ms. Jordan wrote: "Dear Allen Family, My prayers are with you. I was Jynette's Composition &

Literature I instructor during her first year at ECSU. Truly my heart was touched to hear of your loss and heaven's gain. A mature freshman, I admired her focus on faith, her goals, and her family. Ecclesiastes, tells us to 'Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth...' Though God does not always reveal "why" things happen, I thank God that you raised Jynette to confidently know Christ at a young age. As you are strengthened, please join me in praying for students and the young & old that remain, that they would remember their creator and pursue a relationship with Christ while they still have time. We love you and are truly praying for Christ's peace to surround you each and every day. With Love & Prayers, Ms. L. Jordan."

Notes of condolences were also left on behalf of the ECSU cheerleading squad, women's basketball team,



WRVS 89.9, and the Viking Family. Student Shawanya Ebron wrote: "I was and still am saddened by the loss of a fellow student at ECSU."

Even though I didn't have a personal relationship with Jynette, I did see her around. I mourn with you and your family. Look to the hills from which cometh your help. Your help cometh from the Lord. Remember there is no sadness heaven can't heal. You are in my prayers."

After returning to school, many students attended a Candlelight Ceremony in memory of Allen. During the ceremony, Miss Elizabeth City State University, Carleta Ricks, sang a song, to show her respects. Direct causes of the accident are yet to be known, Jaynette Allen was 19 years old.

## ECSU reveals economic impact study: \$100 million annually infused into north eastern North Carolina

By Keshia Williams

Elizabeth City State University held a press conference at 11 a.m., October 4, 2005 at the K. E. White Graduate Center to reveal new findings from an economic impact study conducted by the law firm of Holt, York, McDarris & High, now known as Smith Moore LLP, in Raleigh, North Carolina.

ECSU Chancellor Mickey L. Burnim and Attorney Clyde Holt III of Smith Moore LLP introduced the study and presented key figures from the ECSU Board of Trustees, the ECSU Foundation, area government agencies and surrounding organizations involved in economic development and commerce. Chancellor Burnim and Attorney Holt elaborated on the study that revealed the major economic impact ECSU has on northeastern North Carolina. Some of the points the economic impact study addresses includes,

ECSU directly spends more than \$45 million annually through its operating budget in the Albemarle area, a rate that exceeds any other single business or institution. In addition to the \$45 million, additional funds are invested in capital projects.

Elizabeth City State University's direct and indirect or "domino effect" impact on the region's economy is estimated at more than \$100 million. ECSU students, alumni, visitors and employees spend additional money in regional cities and towns. Those funds contribute to local and state economies.

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ECSU is one of the top three employers. In addition, the university creates hundreds of jobs through contracts and partnerships.

As the only public institution in the region offering baccalaureate and master's degrees, and a doctor of pharmacy degree program in collaboration with UNC-Chapel Hill, ECSU is a major source of research and development. Area government, non-profit and commercial businesses and individuals benefit from that research.

During the press conference, Chancellor Burnim and other officials commented on the ways the study will be used to strengthen current relationships and establish new partnerships to enhance economic development in the 21 surrounding counties.