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Elizabeth City State University's award-winning student newspaper

Ricks is Miss Black N. Carolina

Former Ms. ECSU Wins State Pageant



Carleta Ricks
Photo Courtesy of University Marketing and Relations

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Congratulations to Carleta Ricks, Miss Elizabeth City State University 2005-2006, who was recently named *Miss Black North Carolina USA* at a statewide pageant held in Raleigh, NC. She competed against 11 contestants to win the competition and a \$1,500 scholarship from Noire Productions, Inc.

"I entered the contest because I wanted to broaden my experiences by competing in a pageant that could lead to a state or national title. Plus, I saw it as a way to help me finance my education in graduate school," Ricks said. "I would encourage other young ladies to compete in

the scholarship pageants to help them further their education."

Ricks earned the highest number of points from judges during the preliminary round of competition on March 24 and became one of six finalists. She returned to competition on March 26 for the pageant where she won the interview segment of the contest and earned the largest overall score to win the crown for *Miss Black North Carolina USA*. She will appear in a UNC-TV interview on May 7 to discuss her victory. Ricks will compete on October 14 in Washington DC in the national competition for *Miss Black USA*.

Contestants must have a platform. Ricks' platform was "My VIBE—My Vision to Inspire Blacks through Education." During her reign as *Miss Black North Carolina USA*, she will complete a speaking tour at middle and high schools to share her inspirational message. Ms. Ricks, a senior political science major, a former cheerleader, and an accomplished singer, will be able

to enlighten students about making choices that involve a college education, student life, student government, and future career options. Having attended Oscar Frommel Smith High School in Chesapeake, VA, Ricks will be able to relate her firsthand experiences about the transition from high school to college.

According to Noire Productions, the sponsor of the event, The *Miss Black North Carolina Scholarship Pageant USA* was developed to promote cultural, social, and leadership status, on a state and national level, within the African American Community. It provides a forum for today's African American woman to express their viewpoints, talents and accomplishments to audiences.

The *Miss Black North Carolina USA* panel of judges included professionals from a variety of businesses and industries. The pageant's judging system is designed to promote diversity, individuality, and overall achievement among all contestants.

Startford Re-Elected for President

By Ashley Yelity
Staff Writer

After having a productive 2005-2006 academic year, the students at Elizabeth City State University saw fit to re-elect James Startford for the 2006-2007 academic year.

Startford won receiving the majority of the votes over his opponents Salimah Cogbil and Joshua Mallory.

During his 2005-2006 term in office, Startford negotiated parking

arrangements with the management in Herrington Village. He also extended Bedell Hall operation hours.

In running for president, Stratford submitted a new platform, "Continuing the Advocacy, Building a Legacy: Empowering the Student Body to Emerge as Leaders through Excellence and Enlightenment." In this platform, Stratford said if he were to be re-elected his mission is to further educate and encourage the students regarding the mechanisms associated with the university.

He also said "I will continue to serve as advocate, but further embrace and adapt to changing times with help from the student body."

Now that he is elected, Stratford plans to become better versed in the Parliamentary procedures and the Student Government constitution. He also plans to appoint some new students to the student court, to "sustain [its] effectiveness." Stratford plans to continue to support student oriented activities (The

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James Stratford, SGA President
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