

# ECSU Holds 115<sup>th</sup> Commerative Founder's Day Celebration

By Audrey Jacobs  
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, March 8, Elizabeth City State University celebrated its 115<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with its annual Founder's Day Convocation in the Floyd L. Robinson Auditorium of the Mickey L. Burnim Fine Arts Center.

ECSU was founded on March 3, 1891, when House Bill 383

was approved by the North Carolina General Assembly, establishing a Normal School for the specific purpose of "teaching and training teachers of the colored race to teach in the common schools of North Carolina."

Among those honored at this year's convocation were founders Hugh Cale, Peter W. Moore, and John Henry Bias.

Each year ECSU honors not only its founders, but students, faculty, staff and retired employees who have died. The students honored this year were Michael Veilleux, Jynette Alien, Corneshia Knight, and Andrew Jackson High. Honored Faculty and staff included Dr. Georgia S. Lawrence, Magdalene Vick, James Dean, William Tyler and retiree, Hazel G. Spellman.

The program consisted of musical selections performed by the University Symphonic Wind Ensemble and the University Choir conducted by Mr. Billy C. Hines.

Ms. ECSU, recently named Ms. Black North Carolina,

Carletta Ricks, gave the occasion, which began with her singing a solo of "Go Tell It On The Mountain." A distinguishing difference between one Founder's Day Celebration and the next is the choice of the keynote speaker. This year, Dr. Floyd L. Robinson was given the honor. Former assistant to the Chancellor and Professor to the Music Department, Robinson delivered his speech within the walls of the auditorium that bears his name. Dr. Robinson spoke about the



Chancellor Mickey Burnim  
Photo Courtesy of  
University Marketing and Relations

contributions of the individual founders to the people of Northeastern North Carolina and ECSU. "ECSU must stand for what is right and what is wrong." Robinson finished with a quote from novelist Herman Melville, "We cannot live only for ourselves. A thousand fibers connect us with our fellow men and among those fibers, as sympathetic threads,

our actions run as causes and they come back to us as effects." The final element to this year's Founder's Day was the candlelighting ceremony. Mr. ECSU, Jedidiah Gist lit each candle as Chancellor Burnim shared a brief tribute to each of the departed. Family members representing the honorees were ushered on stage by the University's Color Guard to receive a commemorative plaque. Dr. John Luton of the Language, Literature, and Communication department delivered a memorial prayer.

With each passing year, the Founder's Day celebration has an impacting affect on new students. After attending his first ECSU Anniversary Ceremony, Freshman Student Reggie Spivey, a biology major said, "I was really impressed with the interest shown by both students and community members concerning the history and importance of ECSU."

# ECSU's Lee Takes a "F.A.T. Chance"

By Matthew Rascoe  
Editor

One the most popular playwrights in the theatre department, Krystle Lee has made stage and TV her window to her creativity at ECSU. She has produced three plays here on campus, produced numerous short films, and was an extra in Juwanna Mann. However, last month, Lee attempted to open her window even wider when she auditioned for Mo'Nique's F.A.T. Chance.



Krystle Lee

Photo by Matthew Rascoe

Mo'Nique's F.A.T. Chance is television's first full-figured reality beauty competition. Encouraging women everywhere to accept and embrace their curves, F.A.T. Chance is all about teaching plus-sized glamour girls to love and feel good about themselves (and their bodies) as they are. Lee has made it clear that she is more than confident with who she is and her plus size. She produced and directed Pageant of Queens, the campus' first ever plus size pageant. In a recent interview, she told The Compass about her experience in Maryland, auditioning for the show.

Lee told The Compass that her audition was her first time in Maryland. Although the traffic left something to be desired, Lee said she loved the atmosphere. "I enjoy the artistic culture Baltimore possesses. I thrive on the feeling of being able to enjoy the company of like-minded creativity."

As for the audition, Lee said that thousands of women showed for the audition. It was a frenzied, nerve-wrecking atmosphere. "I waited six hours to audition. One woman said that she couldn't stand anymore rejection in her life and stormed off in

tears." Some women Lee said weren't too nervous at all. "Six women were dropping it like it was hot while in line, while others were telling jokes. Some women were jigglin' and shakin' and having a good time. I was with the networking crowd, so I just watched the shakin' and just talked

to as many women as I could as I waited."

According to Lee her audition wouldn't have gone well regardless of what she did. When it was her turn to audition, the tired producer she said was rushing through them to get to lunch, giving her only 30 seconds to make an impression. Although her audition didn't go the way she wanted, Lee still encourages people to go to auditions like this. "I would say it would be a good experience for anyone trying to get in the industry. I wouldn't suggest auditioning for something like this if you have low self-esteem."

Regardless, Lee said she got to meet Mo'Nique. "She is very pleasant and is a wonderful role model for individuals large and small." Lee also said she was able to rub elbows with producers about her own projects.

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Compass, Mass Media Club, etc.) as well as increase involvement of clubs/organizations within the student government.

"I intend to use the resources gained during my tenure as SGA president 2005 - 2006 to continue to carry out my goals. I have been trained in many areas this academic year that will enable the student body to benefit."

Tynetta Hunt, a junior said, "I feel he will live out his endeavors. because he has

already shown he is a man of his word."

