

# STUDENT LIFE



Photo courtesy of Alana Simmons

(Above) Alana Simmons, Miss ECSU, was crowned Miss CIAA on March 5, 2011.

## Students Network With Research

By EBONY ETHERIDGE

Elizabeth City State University's Mathematics, Science and Technology Departments hosted Research Week. The event kicked off January 31st with opening statements from Dr. Harry Bass, Dean of the School of Mathematics, Science and Technology, and Dr. Ali Khan, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs.

Khan's statements set the highlight and standard throughout the week, which culminated the ideas of education, research and commitment. These three main components made up the principle ideas of the students' research contributions.

Research Week allowed students to network and display their findings, and in some cases, most of the students worked throughout the summer to present their research at this week-long event. Students like Tyler Thompson, an ECSU junior Biology major and president of Beta Beta Beta National Biological Honor Society, had the opportunity to network with his fellow peers. "Research Week is very important because of all the opportunities it provides, which allows for growth in all areas of the student," said Thompson.

The week was full of informational sessions and forums that detailed student internships and ended with a student poster session. The event proved to be a breeding ground for knowledge and the transfer of information. According to Dr. Bass, Research Week begins to plant the seeds for graduate studies and fully illustrates students "taking advantage of every opportunity available to them. That is what this week is all about."

## Simmons becomes Miss CIAA

By D.A. BAKER

CIAA 2011 was highlighted by Elizabeth City State University's own Miss ECSU, Alana Renee Simmons.

Simmons was the first Miss ECSU in the school's history to become Food Lion's Miss CIAA. Simmons was crowned on March 5. She competed against a total of 13 other queens. The queens were judged in several categories: grade point average, essay, biography, extracurricular activities, community service, appearance, votes from the public and an interview.

Simmons will receive a \$2500.00 scholarship. The Compass staff would like to extend congratulations to Miss Simmons, as well as the several step teams who competed in the step show at the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) Tournament.

## Commuter Students Find Lack of Information

By BRIAN JAMES

Commuter students seem to be at a disadvantage when it comes to the opportunities and information available to them on college campuses.

Who are commuter students? "Commuters are usually defined as those students whose place of residence while attending college is not in a campus residence hall or in a fraternity or sorority house," according to George Kuh, Robert Gonyea and Megan Palmer from National Survey of Student Engagement in "The Disengaged Commuter Student: Fact or Fiction?"

Kuh tried to answer an important question: "Are commuters less engaged than students who live on campus? The answer to this question is important if we are to ensure that all students develop knowledge, skills and competencies needed to live self-sufficient, responsible, productive lives after college."

There are four myths that surround the commuter student. Mark Manghera cited them in his scholarly journal article entitled "Commuter Students: Myths, Realities and Helpful Theoretical Frameworks" from the June 2006 publication of *Student Affairs Leader*.

Myth 1: If commuter students wanted to be "real" college students, they would get more involved on campus.

Myth 2: No matter what an institution does, commuter students never participate in its programs and events.

Myth 3: It's impossible to reach commuter students because they spend so little time on campus.

Myth 4: One office can adequately address commuter students' needs.

Manghera argues that it is possible to reach commuter students. However, it must involve the entire academic institution working in unison. He recommends that campuses consider the fundamental needs of the commuter student. Manghera contends that students must be self-actualized—with needs fully met—before they can fully devote their time and resources to learning. For the commuter student, individual transportation needs and multiple life roles must be taken into account, he said.

How does ECSU get students information? Taneisha Stancil, a student at ECSU, is concerned about the timeliness of the information available to the students. "...I am still not up to date on everything that is going on around campus," she said. Stancil admits that she does lack consistency

when it comes to checking her email account but goes on to say that "when [ECSU] sends certain emails out, it's not in a timely manner sometimes. The event or program might be the next day, and I might just be checking my email the day of the event."

Antoinette Turner, a third-year commuter student, said she doesn't feel left out when it comes to campus awareness. She cited her job as the main reason for not being able to attend certain upcoming events. "The information that I receive most of the time is timely and accurate. When emails are sent out or announcements are made, they are usually very accurate," Turner said.

Despite the supportive environment, Turner observed towards ECSU's commuter student community, she noticed inconsistencies. Turner acknowledged that "being a commuter student, I do feel that residential campus students have more of an advantage in receiving information about events that occur on campus. For residential students, they always know the day of, a commuter could find out that day or two days later."



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- The Compass staff strives to provide informative and accurate coverage of individuals and events within the school and the Pasquotank community. The Compass serves as a forum for the voices of the newspaper, its staff members and the community it serves.

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