

# EDITORIALS

## ECSU Says Goodbye to an Old Friend

Friends, family, and coworkers gathered to celebrate the life of Greg "Sampson" Lange, longtime radio personality and mentor

BY BRITTNEE EXUM

Two months ago, hundreds of family, friends, staff and students, united to celebrate the life and legacy of Greg "Sampson" Lange, the well-known radio personality for ECSU's radio station, WRVS 89.9FM.

Lange, a popular figure on the Elizabeth City State University radio station and around campus, died at Norfolk General Hospital on January 19th after a heart attack. Lange's passing was deeply felt by those on campus who depended on his sultry music, warm voice and willingness to volunteer wherever there was a need. Lange kept the campus informed of all that was going on, both at ECSU and in the community.

Many who attended Lange's funeral service noted that he was in high spirits when they visited him in the hospital. The same high spiritedness permeated the Mickey L. Burnum Fine Arts Auditorium during the service hosted by Rivers Community Funeral Home on January 24th.

Chancellor Willie J. Gilchrist

told the Lange family, "we can't replace a Greg." A tearful Randy Jones, Lange's close friend and WRVS on-air host said, "the days have been rough." Nonetheless, Jones ensures ECSU that WRVS will continue to move forward as Lange would have wanted the station to do. Roger McLean, mayor of Elizabeth City, said that Lange had a song and a smile for everyone. McLean noted that Lange's favorite song was "I Feel Good" by the late James Brown. There was a reading by the mayor of Elizabeth City that preceded a Certificate of Merit that was presented to Lange's family. A unique moment came when Lange's friend, Radcliffe Ramjohn, read from "The Prophet" by Khalil Gibran. In true pastoral fashion, Reverend Ricky Banks of St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church delivered words of comfort that brought the room to its feet.

Lange began his career as a music librarian and radio intern in 1976. He joined the ECSU family in 1993. Lange was the production director, interim program director and host of the "PM Cruise." "He brought a lot of passion to his job," said Vice Chancellor of

Institutional Advancement, William Smith. Lange was a 4 time recipient of the Hampton Roads Black Media Professionals' Excel Award.

Students, many of whom considered Lange a mentor, were openly emotional about Lange's passing. ECSU alumnus, Jessica Barfield said, "He was like another father to me. Other than my family, he saw the potential in me that people didn't see. Because of him, I was able to be on the radio and learn at the same time." Antonio Squire, ECSU senior and radio personality, said, "He always was an energetic man with a great smile. He really loved to teach the students new things."

Lange, originally from Los Angeles, CA, is survived by a daughter, Aleshia of Charlotte, NC; mother, Juanita; sister, Hanan; and two brothers, Theodore of Los Angeles and Michael of Oakland, CA.

"The ear of the leader must ring with the voices of the people and Mr. Sampson was just the ear, voice and soul of ECSU," said Damika Howard, President of ECSU's Student Government Association.

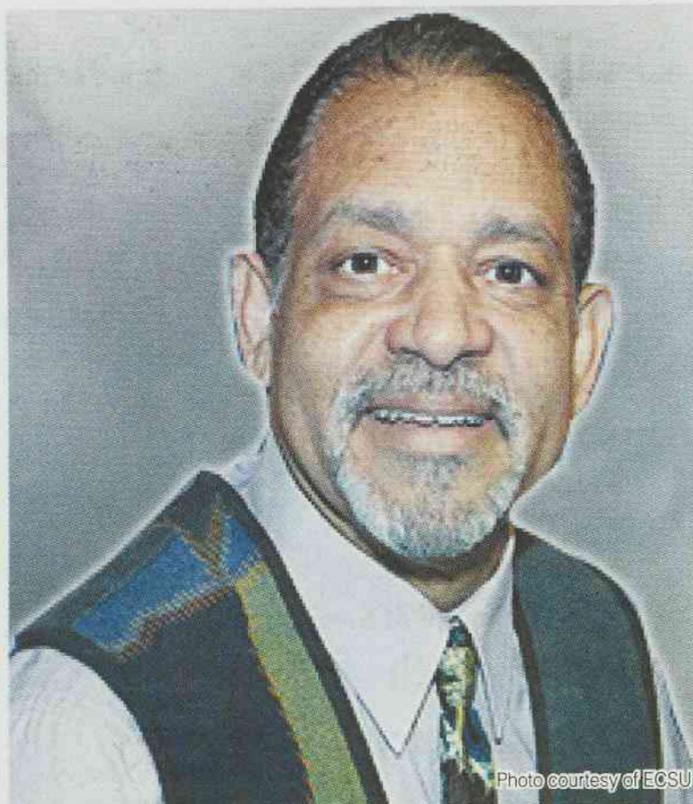


Photo courtesy of ECSU

Greg "Sampson" Lange, longtime mentor and radio personality at Elizabeth City State University.

## Celebrating A Man of Courage and Conviction

BY NICOLE MITCHELL

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint," *Isaiah 40:31*

Perhaps these biblical words sum up the life of the man who cherished them so purely. Elliot Smith, a man that many lovingly called "Uncle Larry," is no longer with us, but his spirit remains in the form of love, not only for the people who knew him, but the love he exerted upon a building and program that he was instrumental in creating: The Pharmacy Complex.

Smith, a pharmacy council, was the backbone of the Pharmacy building at Elizabeth City State University. As a mentor and recruiter for the program, he was an essential part of the university. Students from all over had trusted Smith for words of comfort.



Photo courtesy of Pattie Smith

Smith had an open door policy that allowed students who had problems to come and share them with him, so that together, they could find the solution. He was like a father, a brother and a friend to anyone who walked through his door. A man of his word, Smith was strong, inside and out. Many knew Smith as a father, husband, pro-

vider, counselor and mentor. As a compassionate and Godly man, the trust that grew between him and the individuals who knew him well was one of passion and love.

No mountain was too high for Smith to climb. He believed that with the Lord's help, anything was possible. In this aspect, Smith reigned in many accomplishments in his life. Smith was a member of Groove Phi Groove, as well as an established entrepreneur. A businessman at all times, whether at ECSU or outside the university, he had a way of making things happen. Smith garnered two successful businesses in his lifetime, and his dedication shone through not only with his work, but also with his family.

In his death, Smith leaves behind his best friend and companion of nearly 30 years, Pattie Smith. "He is my best friend," Pattie Smith said, "even till this day and always will be, forever." Smith also leaves behind two children, Amber and Avery.

## POETRY CONTEST

Do you like to write poetry?  
Would you like to get a chance to publish one of your original poems in *The Compass*, along with competing for prizes?

*The Compass Newspaper* is beginning a new **POETRY CONTEST**. The contest begins the day the paper is published and released, and ends April 18, 2011. See below for rules and submission information.

### RULES:

1. All poems must be submitted no later than April 18, 2011. Any late submissions will carry over to the following paper's contest.
2. Submissions **MAY NOT** contain vulgar or obscene language, and will be immediately discarded if the language is deemed inappropriate.

3. Submissions should be made via e-mail to: [thecompass@mail.ecsu.edu](mailto:thecompass@mail.ecsu.edu).

Please include the following information in the e-mail: Name, Classification, Phone Number, e-mail address, poem title, actual poem, and major.