

Senior Students Display Art for Campus Showcase

By BARBARA MILLER

Every semester the seniors in the Art Department prepare a graduation showcase of their work. For the spring 2011 commencement, there are 10 artists ready to share their vision with the world. The

group has been split into two groups of five. Each group shows their work for a minimum of one week. Four years of creativity, knowledge and beauty wrapped up in a few special items.

Art seniors are required to take the senior portfolio class to prepare for life after graduation. Students are required

to create an artist statement and defend it to the teachers. In addition to the statement, students must choose pieces of their work to showcase. They have to create a plan for the show, map out the space and put the show up themselves.

Professor William Drescher worked with this year's class and he looks forward to

their continued success. He suggests looking for work in larger metropolitan areas, like Washington, D.C. The larger populations increase the chances of selling their work or getting jobs.

Some students plan to continue their education and pursue their graduate degrees. Even so, Professor Drescher

encourages students to get real life work experience under their belt.

"Some graduate programs expect students to have work experience," he said. All the professors in the Art Department encourage the ECSU community to support and attend the shows.

Summer School Adds Third Session Financial Aid Hurt by Cuts

By BRITTNEE EXUM

For the first time in history, Elizabeth City State University will hold three concurrent sessions of summer school during May 23 through July 29.

The summer school program's three sessions are divided into two five-week sessions and one 10-week session. The first session will take place on May 23 through June 24. The second will begin on June 27 through July 29. The third session, known as a "10-week wraparound" will be held May 23 through July 29. Students will have the entire summer school session to earn credits in courses with higher difficulty levels.

Parallel to ECSU's mission, the office of summer school is "committed to educating and

preparing individuals for baccalaureate degree programs in Arts and Sciences, selected professional areas and master's degrees programs in Elementary Education, Biology, school administration and Mathematics," said summer school director, Warren Poole.

Summer school sessions are open to current ECSU students, undergraduate students from other accredited institutions, graduate students, non-traditional students and graduating high school seniors. Over 200 courses including online distance learning education classes will be offered during summer school. Course listings can be found on ECSU's website.

All new students who are admitted into summer school must meet the general entrance requirements as students who have been admitted

during the normal academic year. Transfer students and other students who want to attend summer school for the first time and do not plan to attend during the normal academic year must apply to the university for admission and complete the requirements for acceptance at least one week before registration. Tuition rates are low and year-around financial aid is available during the summer school sessions.

The goal of summer school is to "offer a wide range of courses needed by the greatest number of ECSU students to fulfill their general education and degree requirements," Poole said. ECSU's summer school program is linked with the North American Association of Summer Sessions and the regional group of the North Carolina Association of Summer Sessions.

By ALAN MILLER

President Barack Obama's administration recently announced that it will eliminate \$100 billion in Federal Pell Grants and other financial aid programs beginning in spring of 2012. This action will have an impact on students nationwide and those here at Elizabeth City State University.

More than 80 percent of American students attending college rely on some type of financial aid to pay for their education. Financial aid can be obtained in the form of loans, scholarships and grants. The Pell Grant, aid that was first issued to allow low-income families to afford tuition, has become one of the most sought after forms of financial aid. During a three year trial period, Obama allowed Federal Pell Grant money to be available to students year round. The money given to the students from this grant does not have to be paid back.

The Obama Administration has decided to get rid of the summer Pell Grant program in order to save money from the government budget and allow students to have access to different types of financial aid funding in the upcoming year. "It would be a mistake to balance the budget by sacrificing our children's education," President Obama stated in his weekly radio and Internet address, reported by MSNBC. Students will still be able to receive the maximum amount of \$5,500 during the school year but only one grant may be awarded per year.

Daveena Richmond, a junior

at ECSU, receives financial aid in order to attend school and questions eligibility to even receive the maximum amount of Pell Grant money. "I've been in college for three years and haven't even received close to that amount in financial aid," said Richmond. "If the Obama Administration is planning to cut our government funding, then I would assume that students whom they already do not consider to be of higher need will be the ones to experience the cut before anyone else."

The Federal Pell Grant awards the highest amounts to students from low income households that make \$41,000 a year or less. Students must fill out their FAFSA forms and submit their parents' tax information in order to determine how much money they will receive. The flaw in this logic: a parent may make over 41k a year and still may not be financially stable enough to pay their child's way through college. "Financial aid is a necessity in order to be able to further your education. If I didn't have my academic scholarships and grants, I definitely wouldn't be able to attend this university," Richmond said.

While the nation waits for the Obama Administration to make good on its promise of more types of financial aid to emerge, students should make use of the Pell Grant money while it's still available. Summer 2011 is the last summer session for the aid. Students can become eligible for summer aid by going to the Office of Financial Aid in the Administration Building and filling out an application for a summer grant.

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QEP Writing Lab to Open in Fall

By SHALEEKA RICHARDSON

As the result of the visit from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools committee, new renovations will begin in Johnson Hall to create a writing laboratory.

Dr. Vandana Gavaskar will direct the writing laboratory. The two computer labs located on the first floor of Johnson Hall will be renovated into a spacious area, equipped with

30 new computers.

The focus for the first year of the writing studio is on GE 102 and 103 students. The new writing lab initiative is a five year plan scheduled to start January of 2012.

The laboratory will be open Monday through Friday until 5pm. A satellite lab will be located on the second floor of the library for after hour and weekend use. Another lab will be opened on the second floor of Johnson

Hall for other Language, Literature and Communication students.

Dr. Gavaskar's dream for the writing studio is "to make sure all students have somewhere to go and get help to be successful writers. I want students to be independent academic writers and to care about academic writing," she said.