

STUDENT LIFE

WRVS Celebrates 25 Years ECSU Presents First Jazz Festival

By TIFANIE BROWN

The week of Success Fest kicked off March 20. The WRVS 89.9FM Street Team planned events to help the Elizabeth City State University alumni celebrate the 25th anniversary of WRVS.

Success Fest is WRVS's annual pledge drive. The entire Elizabeth City community supports WRVS in a big way. Throughout the week people called, mailed or brought in donations.

The theme of the week was "Album Release." Monday was the "Promo Tour." The street team members went to a local elementary school and read to the students and the students read to them. Tuesday was "Behind the Music." There was a live broadcast in New Student Center. Friday was the "Album Pre-Release Party," which was located at the Cave in downtown Elizabeth City. Saturday was the "Album Release Party." There

was a symposium that morning, followed by events with alumni. Each segment during the week was televised live on the school's television station, W18BB-TV.

A lot of pioneers of WRVS were in attendance to celebrate the 25th Anniversary. David Linton, the man who had the dream of WRVS and went through a lot to make it come true, was the keynote speaker at Saturday's Media Symposium. Dwayne Collins was the first student on-air personality of WRVS.

Collins is the director and producer of the Swahili Service for Voice of America. Another student of ECSU who had the opportunity to be an on air personality is DJ Fountz. He is now the number one DJ for 103Jamz in Norfolk, Virginia. Other guest speakers were Will Harris of *The Daily Advance*, Krystle Lee of Mount Lebanon Baptist Church, Larry Moore of *Moorehouse Productions* and Kesha Williams of ECSU.

By MAHOGANY JOYNER

The Elizabeth City State University Department of Music presented its first Jazz Festival which honored the late noted jazzman Max Roach, on April 6 at the Arts of the Albemarle-Maguire Theatre and on April 7 at the Mickey L. Burnim Fine Arts Complex's Floyd L. Robinson Auditorium. Roach's legacy came alive at the two-day celebration of jazz, honoring the legendary drummer, percussionist and composer. Roach was born around the corner from ECSU.

The festival kicked off on April 6 with the festival's Opening Night Jazz Jam, which was a public evening event held in the evening at the Arts of the Albemarle's Maguire Theatre, on 516 E. Main St., in Elizabeth City. Special guests included Joe Chambers, a drummer and percussionist who played with Roach's "M'Boom" percussion ensemble and with Miles Davis, Wayne Shorter, Charles



Photo by Jeanri Miller

(Above) A group of musicians gather on the Mickey L. Burnim Auditorium stage for the first ever Elizabeth City State University Jazz Festival. The festival was the first of its kind at ECSU.

Mingus, Chick Corea, Freddie Hubbard and Bobby Hutcherson.

The ECSU Faculty and Friends Jazz Combo performed, followed by the University of North Carolina-Wilmington Jazz Band Ensemble under the direction of Dr. Frank Bongiorno. Chambers was featured during the UNC-Wilmington performance. "Roach was my mentor," Chambers said. "He showed me how to survive in this business and gave me many life lessons."

Chambers hoped the festival would reconnect the African-American community with jazz music, a tradition born within the African-American community.

In addition, Chambers and Bongiorno held a morning jazz clinic for ECSU music students on April 7 at the campus which further prepared students for the evening performance.

The festival concluded with public performances by the ECSU Collegians Jazz Ensemble, directed by Douglas Jackson, and the ECSU Percussion Ensemble, directed by Ellard L. Forrester.

ECSU students, faculty, staff and Pasquotank County citizens came to see the performances. "I thought the show was awesome. If ECSU have another jazz festival, I would definitely attend it," said Aquan Whitaker, a sophomore at ECSU.

Although Roach is a well-documented drummer in jazz history, only few are aware of his North Carolina beginnings. "Few people realize that the legendary Max Roach was born in Newland, a community in Pasquotank County, not

too far from the ECSU campus," said Douglas A. Jackson, co-coordinator of the festival.

Born on January 8, 1924, in Newland, in rural Pasquotank County, Roach was one of the premier innovators of bebop jazz and a formidable composer. He switched the drum's role of keeping time on the bass to the cymbal, thus freeing up the other components of the kit to really make music. This style made him a renowned percussionist who has performed with Charlie "Bird" Parker, Dizzy Gillespie, Coleman Hawkins, Clifford Brown, Miles Davis, Charles Mingus and Sonny Rollins.

Roach's ability was inspirational, and his musical knowledge was immense. He was able to perform drum solos that were complete songs with a beginning, middle and end. Roach's performances are available for viewing on YouTube.

His knowledge of the drums, the historical perspective and the improvisation he introduced by mixing-up the tempos as he perfected the bebop sound has influenced every musician that has played jazz post-Roach.

To end that, Douglas Jackson hoped the Jazz Festival is the start of future presentations on jazz music and world music. He also hoped that people took the event as an opportunity to hear the next generation of musicians and recognize Max Roach's contributions to music.



Photo Provided by ECSU

Library Week Hits ECSU Campus

By CAMILLE MCGOWAN

During the month of April, The G.R. Little Library at Elizabeth City State University and the friends of the Library sponsor National Library Week. National Library Week was held from April 11 to April 15 on campus.

Events during National Library Week sought to enhance student involvement and awareness of the G.R. Little Library on campus and a place academicians could consider

a second home. Dr. Midgett, Director of the G. R. Little Library said, "I encourage all residents to visit the library this week to take advantage of the wonderful library resources available and thank their librarians and library workers."

Events included a solo exhibition of student artwork from Rashad Mozell, children's story hour, a plagiarism workshop, guest speaker and African-American historian, Alice Jones. The week concluded with a library social.

Joshua Smith, a freshman and new Library Club mem-

ber said, "It was an honor and privilege to present Ms. Jones with a token gift of our appreciation because her craft and entrepreneurialship inspired me."

Smith was smitten with Ms. Jones Architectural and urban speech to the faculty and student body on April 14 in Johnson Hall's Lecture Room. National Library Week was a great opportunity for students to experience, and as President of the Library Club, I thoroughly enjoyed the week's festivities.

