

STUDENT LIFE

Viking Fest Fever Hits ECSU's Campus

By **STEPHANIE BUNSON**

This year's Viking Fest, the campus celebration that originated years ago, was held from April 4 to April 9. Viking Fest is one of the university's most important cultural events and one that all students look forward to. Viking Fest is in some ways a rite of passage from winter to spring on campus. "We are excited for this year's Viking Fest. Student Life has worked hard at trying to make this a success for our students," said Willie Gilchrist, Chancellor of Elizabeth City State University.

Viking Fest brings together the Elizabeth City community, students, neighboring schools, staff and most importantly the alumni. This year's theme was "ECSU is L.I.V.E.," the campus of Elizabeth City State University was just that, Living In the Viking Experience.

A beautiful sunny 78 degree Monday provided the perfect weather conditions to kick off Viking Fest. Many students came out to enjoy the sunshine and participate in the many games and giveaways the Student Activities Committee had prepared.

Among the activities that

students and faculty participated in were the kickball game, Rip the Runway Awards Show and Midnight Breakfast. This year brought along a new and exciting event to help showcase the talent of ECSU. Students voted for superlatives and the winners were presented with a trophy.

The superlatives included best looking male and female, biggest flirt and most school spirited all selected by the students. The event was a combination of BET's "Rip the Runway" and the BET Awards Show. "A different type of event for Viking Fest, the outcome was surprisingly well. I would love to see this event every year," said Mandrell Flowers, a junior at ECSU. Flowers also performed at the "Rip the Runway" event under his alias Hitman Da Prince. Many students enjoyed the event and the crowd turnout was great, filled with students and staff.

Comedian and actor Alex Thomas hosted the annual Viking Fest Step Show on Friday, and it was a success. The Vaughan Center was filled with students, faculty, alumni and even community members. Hours before the show started, ECSU sold out of advance tickets leaving some

trying to buy tickets off of others. "The sororities and fraternities really put on a great show," said Maya White, a junior at ECSU.

"Everyone seemed to have been enjoying themselves." Both winners were awarded a cash prize. The first place winners were Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.

Lisa Raye, actress, hosted the Viking Fest concert that Saturday night. Among the artists present were Rudy Currence, Chrisette Michele, Lloyd Banks and Wale. Hundreds of eager onlookers came out to sit front and center to listen to these talented artists. "The concert wasn't as packed as I thought it would be, but overall pretty good, I just really wanted to see Wale," said sophomore, Andrew Ellis and many other students agree as well.

Viking Fest 2011 was a success. The office of student life and the student activities committee will have their work cut out for them to put on another great show for Viking Fest 2012. Stay tuned.



1. Rudy Currence
2. Chrisette Michele
3. Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.
4. Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Viking Fest Step Show Winners

Fraternities

Gamma Rho Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. 1st place
 Lambda Gamma Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. 2nd place
 Iota Chapter of Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc. 3rd place

Sororities

Delta Chi Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. 1st place
 Delta Theta Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Sorority Inc. 2nd place
 Delta Tau Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. 3rd place

Students Talk Viking Fest

"The step show was very entertaining. Everyone that performed did an excellent job and they showed creativity. I believe the Que's should have won because they had the best show..."

Sharon Williams
 Sophomore

"I felt like Viking Fest was a blast even though I feel like there should have been more daytime events like last year."

John McLamb Jr.
 Senior

"Viking Fest 2011 was good turnout, a lot of Alumni were present and the current students participated very well. The step show was good; however I didn't go to the concert (which I heard was good). I am a senior and Viking Fest has always been fun and exciting. The best was my freshman year (wow)!"

Levi Bazemore
 Senior

Interviews by Antonio Squire