

News

Students walk for cause Humanities focus on India



PHOTO BY PATRICK BRASWELL

Several UNCA students register for the Lite the Nite Walk.

Annie Crandall
Staff Writer

The National Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's "Lite the Nite Walk" celebrated the memory of a T.C. Roberson High School teacher and coach on Sept. 23, while raising funds and awareness of blood-related cancers, according to a representative of NLLS.

"The walk is so visual and emotional, all those red balloons, then occasionally you see a white one," said Serena Rogers, local executive director of the local chapter of NLLS. "This event celebrates the successes."

Cancer survivors carried white illuminated balloons and other participants carried red illuminated balloons. The walk was in memory of Juan Chesson, a former mathematics teacher and baseball coach who died just over a year ago of leukemia.

"When it comes to fundraisers, I am in favor of them, if they are for a good cause," said Katie Kinsella, a sophomore political science major.

The walk began at dusk with Chesson's wife and daughter leading a procession of participants around the track at RHS, and ended on the baseball field where Chesson had coached.

Rick Pyeritz, director of student health services, said leukemia cases are rare at UNCA, since there have been two cases in the past 14 years.

One of the cases "we diagnosed was a student who complained of feeling run-down for about a month, and she wanted to get checked out," said Pyeritz. "Her symptoms were flu-like, (and) a blood test revealed the disease."

According to Pyeritz, the cells start crowding out the marrow and the number of white cells eventually overpowers the other cells.

Pyeritz said the cells of this type of cancer are "growth gone wild, an over-production of cells."

According to Rogers, childhood leukemia is where the greatest strides for success are being made.

"The society reports success rates as high as 84 percent remission in all, which is the most common type of leukemia diagnosed in children," said Rogers. "As for adults, the rate is more like 40-60 percent, depending on when they are diagnosed."

Beveridge is also responsible for Team in Training, an on-going program that trains marathon runners, and helps raise funds for NLLS.

"We train people to compete in marathons, triathlons and bike races," said Beveridge. "In exchange for that training, they raise money for NLLS."

With 19 members on the local Lite the Nite committee, Asheville has the most active committee in the state, according to Cathy Cherry, deputy executive director for the N.C. chapter of The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society in a press release.

"The Asheville community has rallied around our survivors and patient families," said Cherry in the release.

"I am often willing to donate time and money."

Thomas Brooks, a sophomore psychology major, said, "I am big on giving time, but more apprehensive about giving money because I do not know where the money is going."

Nearly 76 percent of the society's expenditures are directed toward research, patient and community services, advocacy and education, according to a NLLS press release.

Laura Hauser, a freshman political science major, said, "More than likely, I give money rather than time, but if I feel strongly about the cause, I will find a way to donate more than just money."

The funds raised from the walk go toward research and patient services, according to Holly Beveridge, UNCA alumna and organizer of the annual event.

"Our main goal is to find cures for blood-related cancers," said Beveridge.

Chesson left behind his wife, Kristen Chesson, also a mathematics teacher, and an unborn daughter, Catherine Chesson, who is now 14 months old, according to the release.

Lauren Owens
Staff Writer

The humanities program is focusing on non-Western countries like India this semester, according to Bill Spellman, director of humanities. The program sponsored a workshop Sept. 22 and Sept. 23 on India in order to better familiarize students and faculty with issues in India.

"I understand why there is a focus on ancient Greek culture, but now it is important to focus on the blends of how much is out there. It helps broaden people's ideas about what other cultures are like," said Barry Wilson, an undeclared sophomore.

The workshop is designed to try to put together a faculty development program for implementing India into the humanities curriculum and help the faculty who do not have expertise in Indian culture, according to Spellman. The workshops are also structured to feature other countries that are underrepresented in the humanities curriculum.

"The last couple of years, students have been writing letters to *The Blue Banner* and there have been some editorials about the lack of treatment of non-Western civilizations in the humanities classes," said Spellman. "We wanted to respond to that by doing a workshop on integrating India into the Humanities workshop."

The program integrated a discussion of how to teach contemporary novels about India, according to Spellman. These aimed to give the faculty a better basis for understanding the works and relaying this to the students.

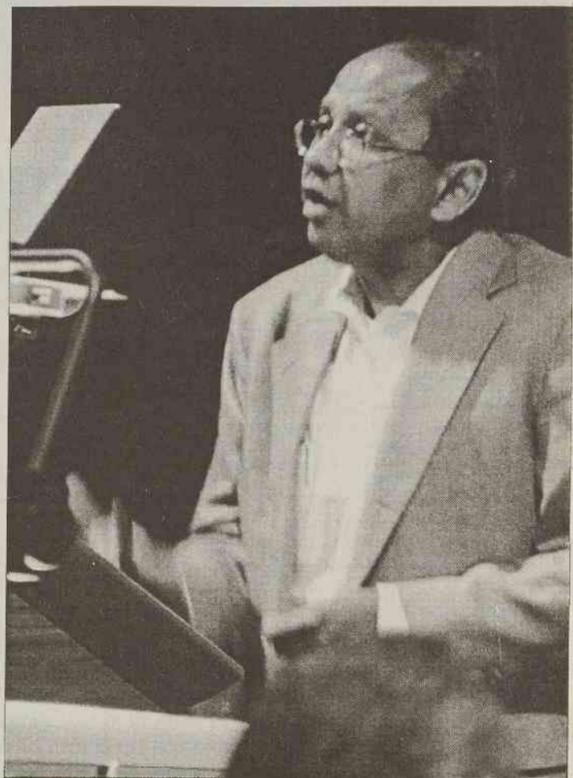


PHOTO BY WALTER FYLER

Sumit Ganguly, professor of political science from City University of New York, speaks to the humanities 414 class about India and Pakistan nuclear relations.

The workshop featured Sumit Ganguly, professor of political science from City University of New York, according to Spellman. He was a guest lecturer for the humanities 414 class, and has expertise in the nuclear standoff between India and Pakistan.

"Both India and Pakistan have tested nuclear capabilities in the

last two years, and both countries since their inception in 1947 have been at odds with each other," said Spellman.

Ganguly's expertise includes a strong knowledge base of ways in which the counties can negotiate

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Rivers

made me happy to know that there are people willing to clean up and raise awareness about garbage and waste."

Individuals need to know there is a problem, and that there are other ways to dispose of trash, according to Brooks.

"We do want to emphasize that anybody who needs to dispose of any type of trash and (does not) know what to do with it, can feel free to call us at any time," said Brooks. "We will help them figure out how to dispose of (the trash) properly."

"A lot of people see this huge pile of trash sitting at the side of the river," said Brooks. "They realize what is going on."

It takes a lot of assistance from volunteers and companies to make a big sweep possible, according to Brooks.

"The whole thing on the French Broad was made possible by outfitting companies that donated their canoes and rafts for the day," said Brooks.

"I think it is a really great thing what Quality Forward is doing," said Erlandson. "It shows that when people really want something done, they can motivate other people and other organizations to help out."

Students also need to get more involved, and the importance of community service should be emphasized to a greater degree, according to Bostrom.

"(UNCA) is geared around, or supposed to be geared around, humanities and environmental issues, included in that should be volunteering on a regular basis," said Bostrom. "There is not enough push

from faculty and staff."

"I hope to get more people involved in doing community service because I think it is an important part of people's lives to help other people out," said Erlandson. "You cannot just always take things without giving back."

To stay dry and clean during the sweep was not an option, according to Penix.

"It was very cold, and we were trying to just stick our arms in.

That obviously did not work," said Penix. "We ended up having to jump in, digging for tires, but it was a lot of fun."

Organizations like Quality Forward are needed in any community and should be supported by the people, according to French.

"It is a wonderful organization because it is for 'clean and green,'" said French. "They do not just sit back and philosophize, they get out, dig and clean."

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