

Homecoming rolls out red carpet for students, alumni

By Neal Brown
STAFF WRITER

UNC Asheville's annual homecoming weekend kicked off last Friday with a parade followed by other events throughout the weekend, including first ever bring your own booze tailgating and Hollywood-themed dance.

"What I find most exciting is actually just providing an opportunity for people to come back and see their old pals, and get to see the old alma mater," said Kevan Frazier, associate chancellor of alumni.

People enjoy the homecoming parade every year because it is relaxed and open, and people can join the parade at the last minute, they can, according to Frazier.

"We never know who is in the parade until the day of the parade," Frazier said.

The parade was a success with around 50 to 60 people attending, according to Steven Quinn, freshman student and student senator in charge of the event.

"It was smooth sailing, and there weren't any problems," Quinn said.

Ten groups participated with floats in the parade, which lasted about 30 minutes, according to Quinn.

Defending parade champs UNCA Outdoors received first prize for the best float, and Alpha Xi Delta sorority and Student Government Association took second and third, respectively, according to Quinn.

The members of Alpha Xi Delta had a lot of fun making their float according to Sara Lenthall, sophomore management student and chapter life vice president.

"We were really happy with second place," Lenthall said.

The second annual homecoming hoedown took place in Alumni

Hall in Highsmith University Union from 6 to 10 p.m. on Friday, according to Frazier.

"It's a western-themed, fun party with everything from Texas barbecue to Texas Hold 'em to line dancing and everything in between," Frazier said.

Saturday began with tailgating in the parking lot above the Justice Center from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m., according to Frazier. Around the same time, a dedication of class gifts by class representatives from the classes of 1999 and 2000 took place on UNC Asheville's Quad at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Tailgate attendees 21 years and older could bring their own alcohol to the event, according to Christy Clevenger, junior environmental studies student and executive for internal affairs for SGA. Clevenger planned the tailgating event and wrote the alcohol policy that senior administrators approved.

"I'm really happy with the way things turned out," Clevenger said.

Administration required anyone who brought alcohol to bring their driver's license and they issued a wristband upon validation, according to Clevenger.

"It wasn't hard to enforce," Clevenger said. "Everybody followed the policy really well." The event was a lot of fun and allowing students to bring their own beer was a good idea, according to Chong Xiong, senior engineering student.

"It was a great idea because that was one of the things people were most psyched about," Xiong said.

There were more people there than he expected, and it looked like everyone was having a good time, according to Xiong.

"The best part was seeing the faculty there having just as much

fun as we were," Xiong said.

The night ended with the homecoming dance at 10:30 p.m., according to Tristyn Card, junior student and SGA member in charge of the dance, which took place at Blue Ridge Motion Picture Studios and had a Hollywood theme.

"I thought it (the Hollywood theme) would get people excited and get people dressed up," Card said.

There were three chocolate fountains, strawberries, cakes and a bar for people who were 21 and over, according to Card. Because the party involved alcohol, the only way to get there and back were shuttles, which left from the university dining hall. As guests made their way to the dance floor, there was a Hollywood-style red carpet with balloons throughout the dance floor, according to Card.

"Actually getting there (to the dance), walking through the tent, seeing the red carpet, the lights and really this vision I had in my head was amazing," Card said.

At midnight, Card and John Noor, student body president, crowned the homecoming king and queen, senior biology student Loic Hereson and junior history student Carrie Jordan.

"I honestly had such a great time crowning Carrie," Card said. "I thought she was such a deserving person."

Winning homecoming king was a good experience, according to Hereson.

"I was king for one night, and I want to say a big thank you to those who allowed me to live what I lived," Hereson said.

Everyone involved in all events worked really hard, according to Card.

"It was really a team effort between students," Card said.



ASHLEY GRAY - PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Ashley Gray, senior interdisciplinary studies student and member of UNCA Outdoors, hangs from the group's float during the annual Homecoming parade on Friday. UNCA Outdoors won first place for their float for the second year in a row, earning themselves a trophy.

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