News

College Rockz brings East Coast talent together

By Emily Burgess
Pilot staff writer

Talented students showcase their abilities for a chance to win scholarship money in a competition called College Rockz.

Dr. Chioma Ugochukwu, an associate professor of journalism at the University of South Carolina – Upstate, organized this event with the hopes of encouraging healthy student relationships along the East Coast.

"I realize that there are many students who are isolated, so giving students an outlet to socialize in a productive way and an opportunity to sharpen their interpersonal skills is something I view as a positive step," said Ugochukwu.

College Rockz consists of dancing, singing, fashion designs and a step-show competition.

"The different categories call for different skill sets, but we are looking for originality, creativity, workmanship, aesthetic appeal, precision, timing, range, etc," she said.

Two students from Gardner-Webb University – Verhonda Crawford and Whitney Stroup – are participating in the contest, which is on April 24 at Furman University.

Both of the women are competing in the dance category.

"My talent is a lyrical dance to the song 'Miss You Love' by Maria Mena," said Crawford. "Lindsey Gladhill choreographed the dance."

Not only are there students from all over the East Coast participating, but there are celebrity guest appearances, also.

There will be a show by Pleasure P., the former lead singer of Pretty Ricky.

Mychael Knight, the fan favorite from "Project Runway," will be showcasing his new line on the runway and giving out samples of his new fragrance.

Comedian Ralph Harris, from "Last Comic Standing," will close out the night with his stand-up show.

Tickets for the event are available through Timmons Arena Ticketing office at Furman University or any Ticketmaster outlet.

"This is an event that is light-hearted and fun for students ... an activity that brings together students from diverse campuses and backgrounds," said Ugochukwu. "This year's event would actually be the premier event, but we intend to make this an annual show."

Students present papers at evolution conference

By Diana Palka
Pilot staff writer

Eight students from Dr. Kent Blevins and Dr. Don Olive's Issues in Science and Religion class traveled to UNC Wilmington March 20 for a student conference entitled "Darwin's Legacy: Evolution's Impact on Science and Culture."

The conference was in honor of scientist Charles Darwin's 200th birthday as well as the 150th anniversary of his most noted publication, "The Origin of Species."

It was hosted by UNC-W's Evolution Learning Community, which is the univervsity's "initiative to establish a campus-wide program of interdisciplinary study and discussion about evolution and its broader issues."

Because evolution seems to be the most controversial issue in Olive's science and religion class, often with two to three weeks of class discussion, he thought the conference would be beneficial to the students.

"Evolution touched so many disciplines," Olive said.

The five of the students presented research: freshmen Matthew Kiggen, "Is Altruism in Humans an Evolutionary Advantage?"; freshman Hillary Leonard, "War: A Mechanism of Natural Selection?"; sophomore Trever Pusey, "Hitler's 'Final Solution' and Survival of the Fittest"; sophomore Carrie Long, "Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus"; and junior John Compton, "Evolution in Public Education."

Olive thought the trip was a great experience for all the students.

"Our students were rubbing shoulders with students from Stanford and University of California – Berkeley," Olive said. "It was a good chance for students to be exposed to evolution."

He noted that Gardner-Webb, with five presentations, was the best represented at the conference, beating out the University of Maryland's four.

Students also heard from a number of keynote speakers such as Dr. David Buss of the University of Texas, Dr. Peter Carruthers of the University of Maryland, and Dr. David Mindell of the California Academy of Sciences.

Long had good things to say about the conference experience.

"I truly enjoyed learning about many different disciplines in relation to Darwinian theory and application," she said.

Long also added that she enjoyed meeting a number of different students and professors from all around the world.

"The students really din a fantastic job," Olive said.

"For them to really bring themselves up to speed on evolution and Darwinian concepts and how it applies to the outside world was remarkable."

Hot and cold drinks now at library

By Jessica Mobley
Pilot staff writer

Students, staff and faculty at the John R. Dover Library now can take a break from work and refresh their minds with a beverage or snack.

In February, Gardner-Webb installed a hot beverage machine for patrons, and in March placed snack and cold beverage machines as well, for a bit of variety.

Dean of Libraries Mary Roby made these machines possible to make using the library more convenient for patrons.

"I wanted all visitors and students to have a welcoming feeling as they are coming to the library," she said. "I know that they're so busy from homework or haven't had lunch yet.

"They're hungry, so instead of walking to the caf or Kennel, why not just walk several feet to the vending machines?"

The machines are an extension of the policy begun in January that allows eating and drinking in the library.

Although they don't keep track of the number of people who have taken advantage of the new policy, Roby said that patrons are very satisfied of these new machines.

Thehot beverage machine is located just beyond the computers near the front desk. The price for hot beverages is $ 1, plus $.50 per topping such as cream and sugar.

The snack and cold beverage machines are in the hallway just beyond the computers.

They can only be used by swiping your card, so be sure to have money available on to your ID card.

Gill-Sadler eager for SGA helm

By Karla Cruz
Pilot staff writer

Randi Gill-Sadler, next year's Student Government Association president, has a lot of ideas for the organization that she's thrilled to be heading.

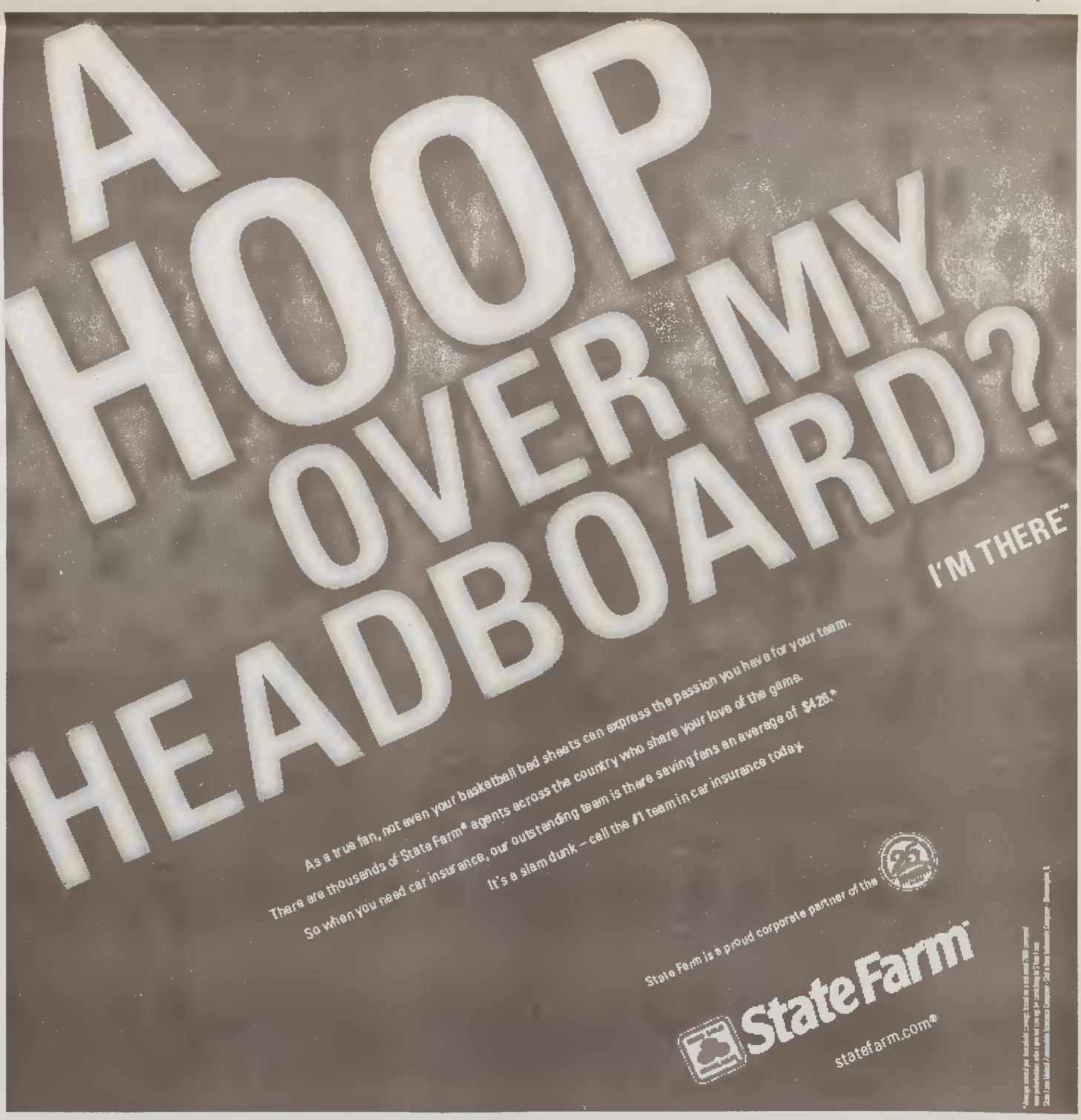
"I am really excited to SGA president this upcoming year, it has been one of my goals since I have been here and to actually get this opportunity it is a surreal feeling."

Gill-Sadler started SGA her sophomore year as a class president, and she was named SGA member of the year.

As the president, Gill-Sadler wants to make SGA more visible on campus and do greater community outreach in Shelby and Boiling Springs.

"One of the weaknesses of SGA is that the rest of the student body doesn't know what we do," she said. "I definitely want to make SGA visible ... like to do a Web page or a column for SGA, and tell what each member is doing.

"Some of SGA's strengthens would be that we are a diverse group of students, which helps us bring a lot of creativity."

Gill-Sadler wants to make sure that practical

See New SGA p.3