

Campus NEWS

Steppin' to the Beta

Zeta Phi Beta and Phi Beta Sigma capture top honors

By Nakida McDaniel
Argus Reporter

Winston-Salem State University's Panhellenic Council sponsored the 2001 Homecoming Step Show, which was held at LJVM Coliseum. Radio personalities Tap Money and Kyle from 102 JAMZ hosted the event as students, alumni and members of the community watched several sororities and fraternities compete for the first-place mark.

By night's end, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc. walked away in first places as the crowd applauded.

Freshman Melissa Burton said that they deserved first places.

"Both the Zetas and the Sigmas had their routines together. They also put a lot of creativity into their outfits," said Burton.

The Zetas entered the stage representing the various roles that women portray in today's society. Dressed in Army and fireman gear, they set the stage for their theme of black women being in

control and getting the job done.

Members of the step team graced the stage dressed in black with glittering Z's across their chest, silver capes draping their backs and masks covering their eyes.

Shavonne Ceruti, a Zeta Phi Beta sorority member who attended step practices regularly, commented on her sorority's hard work and preparation.

She said: "Our objective was to win and we worked very hard to achieve it. For about a month and a half we put everything we had into our routine and attire. Although we all thought of the concept for our outfits, our sorors, Kenya Smith and Willetta Gibson put everything together."

Much like their sister sorority, the brothers of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity came with one goal in mind - to win. Dressed in black T-shirts with the twin towers covered by the American flag and flag bandanas around their heads, they paid homage to the World Trade Center victims and

their families. Afterward, they began to step their way to victory. They also performed a special "Go-Go" step for the Pentagon victims.

Jason Chunn, a member of Phi Beta Sigma and step-show participant, said, "For nearly three months my fraternity brothers and I were preparing for the homecoming step show. The entire time we had the mentality of 'Bring it!' We were anticipating the other fraternities coming with their best and were determined to be ready."

The Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc. and the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. came in second place. With the theme "The Sigma Gamma Rho World Premiere," these ladies stepped vigorously in their blue boots and black outfits with their sorority letters in silver on their pants.

The brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity were decked in black as well. Upon entering the stage, two guys performed a skit dressed in army attire

proclaiming their fraternity the best.

Ouentin Jordan, an Alpha Phi Alpha member and step-show participant, said, "The step show was a lot of hard work. We practiced four times a week for two hours. The week of the step show we practiced three hours daily. This was my first step show, but I believe we did a good job."

Coming in third place were Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. and Iota Phi Theta Fraternity Inc. Although they had trouble with their music in the beginning, the AKAs were able to continue with the support of their sorors in the audience who could be heard chanting, "I love my AKA."

Michelle Taylor, an AKA member and step-show participant, said, "Overall the step show was a great success. However, I was upset because our music messed up and that threw our entire performance off. Yet, we held our heads up high and continued on. There will always be next year."

At the completion of the stepping of the sororities and fraternities, the Association of Rhythmic Talent (ART) performed a contemporary dance selection from "Rock the Boat."

Dressed in tees and wholly jeans, ART gave all they had to their performance.

ART member Gina Goodson said: "We've been working hard for the past two weeks on our homecoming performances. All week we've been busy. On Monday we did the Ram Show and on Wednesday we performed at coronation. It was nice to top homecoming week off at the step show."

When asked about the criteria each sorority and fraternity were judged on, Collis Everson, a member of the Phi Beta Sigma Graduate Chapter and step-show judge, said, "Timing, precision, showmanship, costumes and originality are all considered. I believe the judges made sound decisions regarding the results of the step show."

Campus Voices

How does it feel to be a minority at WSSU?

"Feedback often received from students is positive. The percentage of diversity in the nursing program is about 60% to 40%. White students are aware of being the minority. They feel able to voice opinions."



Bonny Pope
School of Health Science
distance education director

"My high school was majority white, and I came here for diversity. Racial debates in class sometimes show reverse racial discrimination. I try to speak on behalf of both races, avoiding selecting one over the other."



Caitlin Johnson
sophomore

"There's not a big difference from this college and other colleges. I attended Surry County Community College. The work here is more challenging. Although it does not bother me that most of my colleagues are African-American."



Anthony Kiger
sophomore

"I often get recognized by my professors for accountability, but it has given me an interesting perspective. WSSU has been a great experience. Students and faculty have been welcoming and supportive, which have enhanced my learning."



Katherine Johnson
senior