

## Rams H.O.P.E.

### 500 red, blue balloons released during Haitian relief kick-off event



**BIANCA PENDER**  
REPORTER

Floats event for awareness of relief efforts for Haiti on Feb. 16.

Chelii Broussard, the adviser for Campus Life Marketing Committee and Raging Rams, said she formed Rams H.O.P.E. in January to provide an avenue for students to demonstrate social responsibility and participate in civic engagement.

"You are here at Winston-Salem State to become leaders," Broussard said.

During the H.O.P.E. Floats program Broussard said,

Rams Helping Others Prosper Everyday, an organization formed to focus on relief efforts and the community hosted the H.O.P.E.

"What will you do, not only as members of an organization, but as individuals to make the world a better place."

Exactly 500 red and blue balloons were released to raise student awareness about the devastation in Haiti. The event served as a kick-off for future events and relief efforts.

About 50 students participated and listened to testimonies and songs from students and members of the organization.

Kristen Lincoln, an accounting major from Modesto, Calif. said it is important to have an organization like Rams H.O.P.E.

"We need to have more unity amongst ourselves," Lincoln said.

"We would expect others to help if the United States goes through a major disaster."

Terrence Holley, a middle grades education major from Everetts, N.C., said he would encourage others to join Rams H.O.P.E.

"It is important that WSSU becomes influential in the local community and international community," Holley said.

Donation boxes will be placed in different locations on campus.

Rams H.O.P.E. will become an official organization in August. They will sponsor a benefit concert Feb. 24 and a Haiti forum March 23.

Morgan Hinton, a Political Science major said Rams H.O.P.E. is a positive addition on campus.

"It is a great idea to have an organization for the sake of helping others," Hinton said. "Not enough people spread awareness about international issues."

## ONE DAY =

### Two commencements



**MARCUS CUNNINGHAM**  
COPY DESK CHIEF

After two months of meetings and planning, a decision has been made for the replacement for the fall 2009 commencement. May 8 will be the make-up date for those supposed to participate in fall commencement Dec. 18. This date [May 8] is also the original commencement date for all spring graduates.

Rather than combining both events and creating a possible capacity issue, a committee decided the fall graduates commencement will be at 9:45 a.m. in the K.R. Williams Auditorium while the spring graduates commencement will take place at 2 p.m. in the Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum.

Fall commencement will feature the same keynote speaker [Larry Womble] and program as originally planned for Dec. 18.

"We are trying our best to replicate the Dec. 18 commencement on May 8," said Nancy Young, the interim director for Media and Public Relations.

The speaker and program for spring graduates will be different from fall commencement.

Rather than immediately putting together a replacement graduation at an earlier date, Young said the plan was to give fall graduates as much planning time as possible.

"A lot of the graduates are working and need time to schedule [time to attend commencement]." Another concern was the number of fall graduates planning to attend a replacement graduation. The Chancellor's Office dispersed e-mails and postcards to fall graduates to survey how many graduates will attend the May 8 commencement.

"We are expecting 160 to 200 participants," Young said.

The Chancellor's Office will also send one final e-mail as a last call for all graduates to participate.

With fall commencement being considerably smaller than originally planned, Young said that K.R. Williams should accommodate all. "It will be much more intimate."

The final decision was ultimately Chancellor Reaves'; however, it was a small group composed of Young, Dr. Shirley Manigault, Dr. Melody Pierce and Sharon Hush who developed the decision.

The group had several meetings, including meetings with current students, fall graduates and SGA. Young said that majority of the students were receptive to the idea for the replacement fall commencement May 8.

"It is regrettable it [fall commencement] had to be cancelled," Young said.

Young also said it should not be ignored that summer graduates were affected by the cancellation.

"Summer graduates have no commencement and many wanted to march [in the fall] as well."

## CAMPUS CRIME BLOTTER

The Campus Crime Blotter is a concise summary of the up-to-date incidents that affect the Winston-Salem State campus and community. Certain incidents may lead to News Argus articles that discuss them at great length.

### Tuesday, Feb. 2

At 2:05 p.m. an officer was dispatched to investigate an assault of a female at Diggs Gallery. The victim did not require medical attention; however, she pressed charges and a Campus Appearance Ticket was issued to the individual who assaulted her. The case is open.

### Thursday, Feb. 4

Campus Police were dispatched to assist a traffic officer investigating a vehicle with no parking decal in Parking Lot K. Investigation revealed a revoked registration. The plate was seized, and the vehicle was towed to McAuleys Recovery and Towing. The case is closed.

### Friday, Feb. 5

An officer was notified by a staff member in Foundation Heights of a violation. After being granted permission by the student to search the student's room, a gram of marijuana and alcohol were discovered. The student was instructed to come to the Campus Police station for further information. While officers were waiting the student jumped out the window and attempted to flee campus.

The student was caught and placed in custody at Forsyth County Jail. The case is closed.

### Thursday, Feb. 11

At 1:15 a.m. a security officer in Wilson Hall requested the assistance of campus police to investigate the assault of a female. Police questioned and took statements from both parties involved and a witness. The victim was transported to Forsyth Magistrates Office to press charges. The case is closed.

### Thursday, Feb. 11

An officer responded to the report of a student that detailed a female student being assaulted and locked in the bathroom in Foundation Heights. The officer questioned friends of the alleged victim to discover the victim's whereabouts which revealed a cell phone number and that the victim had been taken to Greensboro. The alleged victim eventually contacted campus police but declined to come to the station. At 4:55 p.m. an officer at the request of resident hall personnel escorted the alleged offender to the campus police station. The victim did not file a report. The case is open.

Source: WSSU Department of Police and Public Safety

Compiled and reported by Marcus Cunningham, Copy Desk Chief

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