

Watch out Oprah! WSSU has a new book club

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There's a new book club on campus, called "Between the Lines."

Created by seven staff members from University College and Student Affairs earlier this semester, Between the Lines' purpose is to encourage students to read more, exercise their critical thinking and problem solving skills, and to embrace a plethora of literature.

The seven staff members choose a book by what they

think students would be interested in reading. They base their selections on what is on the best seller's list.

Every week the staff members conduct a one-hour discussion of the book. Each staff member leads a discussion with a group of 20 or more students. The groups are known as "Book Wheels."

The books are provided free to the students. Each group meets on different days.

There are 140 students in the book club; 60 percent are female and 40 percent are male.

The book club is only open

to students at this time.

"This may change in the future depending on the popularity and how the book club develops," said Natasha Jeffreys, director of student development.

Book Wheels discuss books of all genres including fiction, non-fiction, religion and self help.

"We also try to look at experiences in the book and see how they apply and how students can relate to them," Jeffreys said.

"Instead of being on Facebook and Twitter all of the time, they can use some

of that time to read a good book."

Language Arts Center director, Derick Virgil said he was happy that the male students wanted to join the book club. His recent selection is the book, "Do You" by Russell Simmons.

"I want more male students to read more and to read material that they can relate to," Virgil said.

"I wanted to choose a book the students would be interested in and that would give advice to live by. It is important for males and females to talk about their goals and to

know their potential."

Other book selections for this semester include; "Just too be Good to be True"; "Color Me Butterfly"; "When love Calls, you better answer"; "Letters to God"; "Picking Cotton" and "Before you Suffocate your own fool self."

The book club plans to include electronic books. They are working on spring selections and plan to add more staff and faculty members.

"I hope the students gain the wealth of knowledge and a love of reading from the book club," Jeffreys said.

Honors students co-host national conference

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The Winston-Salem State Honors Program co-hosted the 19th annual conference of the National Association of African American Honors Programs Nov. 10-13 in Greensboro.

This is the first year the NAAHP Conference has been in North Carolina.

The conference was co-hosted by the N.C. Consortium: N.C. A&T, N.C. Central University and WSSU.

"Since N.C. A&T is located between WSSU and NCCU, we decided that Greensboro would be the conference site," said Soncerey Montgomery, director of WSSU Honors Program.

"During this time of economic uncertainty and financial challenge, it made sense to co-host with other North Carolina schools so one institution would not have to shoulder the huge responsibility of planning the entire conference," Montgomery said.

More than 400 honors students from HBCUs all over the nation attended the conference. Its theme was "Honors: Making a Difference in the World."

The conference hosted many activities including: debate competitions; an academic quiz bowl; presentation sessions; Model African Nations; and a talent competition, "Honors Got Talent."

NAAHP provides an avenue to showcase WSSU's honors students and give the University visibility on the national level.

WSSU honors students and faculty presented in the presentation sessions. The honor students that presented were Shana Wynn, Kamile McNeil, Monica Reid, Ashley Nesbitt and Brianca Alston.

WSSU's quiz bowl team placed second overall in the quiz bowl competition.

The F.O.C.U.S. dance group of WSSU received a trophy for participating in "Honors Got Talent."

Annual Sigma Sleep-Out raises \$380, clothing, food for homeless

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The 14th annual Sleep-out for the Homeless, to raise awareness of homelessness in Forsyth County, took place on the Winston-Salem State campus Nov. 19.

Sigas across the nation have been sponsoring a sleep-out for 20 years.

Sponsored by the Delta Alpha chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., the event involved the members setting up tents and cardboard boxes on yard near the Greek plots, and providing food for the volunteers.

About 70 people participated throughout the night including fraternity members, alumni members and other WSSU students as well as other campus organizations.

Throughout the evening, the fraternity collected canned

foods, dry goods, clothing for adults and children, school supplies and money from students, faculty and staff.

The fraternity raised \$380 for Project HOPE. About 617 pounds of food was donated to Second Harvest Food Bank; 31 boxes of clothing and shoes were donated to Samaritan Ministries.

In March 2010, the Winston-Salem Journal reported more than 547 people, including children, are homeless in Forsyth County.

Calvin Holloway, employee relations manager for the University and the fraternity's adviser said much of the organization's community service projects are unseen.

"This [sleep-out for the homeless] may be the only thing people see but the organization has participated in other community service projects," Holloway said.

Student participants earned volunteer hours.

"It helps me to be grateful, and we are bringing awareness to an issue that everyone should try to help solve," said Delante Hatchett, a senior political science major from Roxboro. He is a member of Phi Beta Sigma.

"This event brings me back to reality," said Michael Woods, a sophomore management information systems major from Fayetteville. Woods is the chapter's vice president.

"I want to experience how these people live, and at the end I'm very fortunate," Woods said.

"I hope all students leave with a better feel of those who are less fortunate and take better advantage of their opportunities at the University and become better citizens," Holloway said.

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