

MC's new RHA impressive at state conference

By Sonya Sparks Murdock
Staff Writer

If it had been the Grammy Awards, they would have won "Best New Artist." If it had been baseball, they would have won "Rookie of the Year." But it was the state conference of the NC Association of Residence Halls (NCARH). And Methodist's fledgling RHA won five awards... all in its first year of existence.

"The judges were very impressed with the things we've done in less than one year," said Rob Foreman, Methodist's RHA advisor. Fore-

man won the 1998 Advisor of the Year award, while Shawn Hartman, Methodist's RHA president, collected the award for Student of the Year. Hartman also took home one of only two Distinguished Awards given by the state board of directors to recognize students who positively impacted the organization in 1998. The other Distinguished Award also went to a Methodist student: Brandi Byrd. Byrd serves as the National Communications Coordinator for Methodist.

Seeing a small school like Methodist come in with so much en-

thusiasm and excitement energized the statewide conference, according to Cliff Wurschmidt, president of the NCARH Board of Directors. Ten students from Methodist, along with Foreman, attended the conference in Wilmington Feb. 6-8.

Although Methodist's RHA officers attended the regional conference in Atlanta back in November, this was the group's first appearance at a state event. Foreman said that their trip to Atlanta was just a learning experience: "Our goal was to find out what this was all about so when we

went to our state conference in February, we'd be ready." The preparation apparently paid off: Methodist's RHA was nominated for "School of the Year." Although NCSU carried off the top honors, Foreman was proud that his group was one of only four schools nominated for the award out of approximately 16 colleges participating in the conference.

The delegation from Methodist also charmed the audience with its opening roll call skit, a competition to spark good-natured rivalry between the schools. The M.C. team

won the competition with its performance to Beach Boys music, which incorporated the conference's "Cruisin' to the Coast" theme. Jennifer Packard won the "Starfish Award" for her work on the skit as well as for making up cheers for the Methodist delegation. The award, which is given to one student from each college attending the conference, recognizes an emerging leader who demonstrates spirit and enthusiasm.

Foreman said that the students attending the conference participated in educational and leader-

ship development programs throughout the weekend. They learned personal leadership skills and collected new ideas for future fund-raisers, activities and programs.

The young committee, which will celebrate its first birthday on April 21, has offered two educational programs since its inception last spring: a date rape seminar and "411 of Alcohol," an alcohol awareness class. The new student organization also sponsored "Spirit Week" for this year's Homecoming, including a bon-

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Right: Jonathan Barber and Brenda Vandevort practice the art of seating a lady. (Photo by Amanda Fellers)

The lady approaches the chair. The gentleman puts a hand on the back of the chair. The lady sits on the chair. She scoots along toward the table pulling the chair with her by means of her own hand, placed behind her knees to grip the front of the chair seat. The gentleman allows his hand to move along the back of the chair as she draws toward the table. The lady murmurs a soft "thank you," acknowledging his contribution to her comfort.

--From the Marriott's Etiquette and Fine Dining Handbook

Business etiquette workshop demonstrates finer points of dining

By Amanda Fellers
Editor

Don't eat bacon strips with your fingers. When you pass the salt or pepper, pass them as a set. It's all right to drink soup from your bowl.

Participants learned these manners and more at the Business Dining Etiquette Workshop Feb. 17.

Eva Bell, director of career services, and Johnny Francis, food services director with Methodist from Marriott, planned the event.

"Students will get the hands-on experience of having a meal," Bell said. When students are being seriously considered for a job, they are often invited to

lunch. "Table manners become important," Bell said. She hopes students will learn that something as seemingly unimportant as table manners could cause them to lose a job opportunity.

During the first hour of the workshop, students listened and asked questions while Francis discussed do's and don'ts from the Marriott Etiquette and Fine Dining handbook.

Students learned the importance of the RSVP; how to dress in formal, informal, and semiformal situations; how to properly use a fork and knife; and the "rules" for eating specific foods.

After the discussion, it was time for diners to put what they had learned to the test. A five-course

meal was served, but not before everyone participated in a little role-playing. The men were taught how to seat the ladies, and the ladies were taught how to grab the front of their chairs and gently pull themselves in. The handbook states the procedure specifically: "The lady approaches the chair. The gentleman puts a hand on the back of the chair. The lady sits on the chair. She scoots along toward the table pulling the chair with her by means of her own hand, placed behind her knees to grip the front of the chair seat. The gentleman allows his hand to move along the back of the chair as she draws toward the table. The lady murmurs a soft 'thank you,' acknowledging his contribution to her comfort." They were

continually reminded to be sure to always seat the guest of honor first. Bell and Francis served as coaches.

The menu consisted of rolls, salad, soup, chicken and asparagus, and cheesecake for dessert. To drink was water, iced tea and sparkling grape juice. Throughout the course, diners were taught which forks, spoons and knives to use. They were reminded to break their rolls into small pieces and to try to eat with their left hand. When questions arose, they weren't afraid to ask: "Which way do I pass the rolls? (Pass from left to right.) Where do I set my knife when I'm done with it? (Lay it across the top of

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"Spam" provides web site's food for thought

By Kristina Lane
College Press Service

Want some stuff? Maybe \$1,000 worth of stuff? How about \$1,000 worth of stuff, with no strings attached?

So begins a piece of unsolicited commercial electronic mail, otherwise known as junk e-mail or "spam". Spam annoys just about everyone and gives Internet advertising a bad name. Many states are working to implement anti-spam laws that would inflict hefty fines on organizations circulating unsolicited e-mail ("spammers"). Numerous anti-spam Web sites exist, acting as support centers for angry netizens (Internet users) irritated by superfluous spam.

In spite of such adamant opposition, spam prevails. But why?

Eric Crump, Web site project manager for the National Council of Teachers of English, offered an explanation.

"Even though spam bothers

almost everyone you talk to, it continues to thrive, and that's because it works," said Crump, editor of Rhetnet, an electronic journal designed to teach writing. "The bottom line is, spammers are making money because there has always been and probably always will be, a market to pay for those schemes."

Crump, who believes that spam is a useful learning tool, created a web site last September to test his belief (<http://www.missouri.edu/~rhetnet/smamonade/>). This site is offered as an alternative to the delete key. Interested parties send actual spam messages to the site, and the messages are posted for rhetorical analysis or the browsing pleasure of participants. Some of the spam at the site include an offer for free tacos and beer, a proposition for free weekly investment service, and a memorial to Princess Diana that urges readers to buy T-shirts and to believe "she lives in you, she lives in everyone!"

"Spam is rhetoric in action,

and we can't just dismiss it by reacting with vehement anger in a rush to get rid of it; we need to study why the arguments posed by this sort of mail do or do not work, and who the audience is," Crump explained.

He wants students and professors to use examples from the site as subject matter for class discussion. By doing so, students learn about rhetoric's role in society and the powers of persuasion. According to Mick Doherty, co-founder of the site and Internet editor at the Dallas Convention and Visitors Bureau, studying spam is a fascinating way to learn about the tools of persuasion. Doherty claims there is much to learn by analyzing the methodology of spam, right down to the subject headings.

"Many subject lines have evolved from 'Get your free money now!' to 'Hi, how are you?' to get more personal so people at least open the message instead of immediately hitting delete," said Doherty. "This is a

fundamental rule of persuasion--find a way to get people to read what you are writing--and it usually works."

This way of teaching expands the walls of the classroom, enabling students to learn by doing. Students can use Spamonade to form educated opinions about spam's influence on the Internet, and share their beliefs with classmates and other Internet users. Sandye Thompson, a participant in the Spamonade project, thinks this is crucial in a society continually influenced by technology.

"As the classroom becomes computerized, students need to learn how to process information that is no longer just the printed word, but the electronic word," she said. "Spamonade provides students this opportunity, as well as the chance to experience the evolution of Internet culture."

The goal of Crump and his colleagues is to attract more people to Spamonade. Angry netizens could

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Time to come out and show you care

By Dawn Melvin
Staff Writer

Show You Care Day will be held on March 28 from 8 am until noon, and it promises to be just as exciting as last year's.

Last year's Show You Care Day was the biggest yet. More than 125 people participated in various activities and projects. Several students, clubs and organizations organized into groups of eight to 10 people and took responsibility for their projects. The groups were Weaver and East Hall Resident Advisors, Women's Basketball, Sanford Hall Resident Advisors, Counseling Center, American Health Club, Leon Clark's Group, Kris Broneill's Group, and Public Safety. Dr. Suzan Cheek sponsored a group of youngsters from the Community Impact Program, who were accompanied by Robert Brickey.

Show You Care Day has traditionally been used to improve the

quality of life for the Methodist College community. Students, staff, faculty, friends of the college, and family members are encouraged to come out and participate in several pre-planned projects and activities.

"It's a time to beautify our community. It's one day out of the week where people can come together and help out others," said Wilford Saunders.

Tickets will be given out the morning of Show You Care Day, and they will be good for several prizes to be awarded at noon that day.

"The prize can be a telephone or tape recorder. We try to think of ways to encourage people to stay and not to leave as soon as Show You Care Day is over," said Saunders.

All group projects will now bear a plaque with the name of the group that built the project and the date the project was completed.

According to Saunders, last

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Students reach out to rebuild Bosnia

By Kris Lane
College Press Service

Imagine getting to a history class only to discover a destroyed building and no professor. Heading for the library and finding it no longer exists. Walking back to your apartment in fear of gunfire.

Sound like a bad dream?

For students in Bosnia, this was a brutal reality. In April 1992, after Bosnia was granted independence from Yugoslavia, Bosnian Serbs launched a war that pitted three ethnic groups against one another: Bosnian Serbs, Muslims, and Croats. Lasting 1,000 days, the siege left behind mass destruction and claimed more than 200,000 lives.

A first step toward peace came in December 1995 with the signing of The Dayton Peace Accords. After three weeks of charged debate, the leaders of Bosnia-Herzegovina

(Alija Izetbegovic), Serbia (Slobodan Milosevic) and Croatia (Franjo Tudjman) agreed to bury their differences and end the bloodshed.

The agreement declared Bosnia one nation divided into two territories—a Muslim Croat federation and a Bosnian Serb republic.

Although the three groups initially protested the accords, progress has been made. A crucial part of that progress was the University of Dayton's 1996 decision to get involved.

"The university felt it could play an important role in making the peace work in Bosnia," said Bruce Hitchner, UD's Director of the Center for International Programs.

In November 1996, UD hosted a symposium marking the first anniversary of the accords. American, Bosnian, and Croatian diplomats,

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