

Methodist College RHA rocks NCARH

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Methodist College Residence Hall Association (RHA) sponsored nineteen excited delegates and two advisors in the annual North Carolina Association of Residence Hall (NCARH) Conference, in order to gain new skills to bring back to their own RHA chapter and campus.

NCARH was held during the weekend of February 6-8 on the campus of UNCGreensboro this spring. Traditionally, North Carolina schools that are involved in RHA are invited to participate in this annual gathering. Throughout the weekend, delegates participated in a school roll call, various programs, a swap shop, a dance, and an awards banquet.

This year's all-American conference theme was "A Call to Service." During school roll call, the Monarch team performed a group dance to American-themed songs. Their routine included a step show, lip-synching, and a light-stick finale. This year, Methodist delegates won the Roll Call award for the first time in several years. They beat out schools such as NC State, ECU, and Appalachian State, which are common past winners.

Every year, NCARH asks that each school participate in philanthropy, an opportunity for delegates to give back to their communities in helpful ways. For NCARH 2004 each school was asked to donate paint supplies to help the Greensboro Housing Coalition, a nonprofit organization that helps low income families with repairs in their homes. In order to prepare for a donation, Methodist RHA members collected change in the residence halls.

Saturday is always set aside so delegates can attend prepared hall programs. Each school is allowed to submit members to execute hall programs they have participated in or created for their residence halls. Doing this helps other schools bring new, exciting things to do to their campuses. This year, there was a wide variety of hall programs for delegates



Photo courtesy of RHA

RHA members pose for their picture at the annual NCARH dance. Members attended the conference to gain leadership skills.

to participate in, ranging from Latin dancing to interracial dating.

NCARH is about having a lot of fun in a positive way. Members who attend the conference cheered their schools and participated in school spirit chants, a banner contest, and many rounds of the RHA game, "Ride the Pony."

Participants were housed at a local hotel for the weekend. On Saturday night, the annual NCARH dance was held in the hotel ballroom. During the dance, along with the snacks and music, delegates participated in "Swap Shop," a time where schools trade items such as cups, t-shirts, hats, etc. with other schools in order to spread NCARH unity and spirit.

Methodist sponsored several new members at the conference this year in hopes that their RHA chapter will continue to grow. The delegates who attended were asked to prepare and present their roll call and one of the programs at the monthly RA In-Service Training, held on February 29 on campus.

RHA hopes to continue its service to the students to make Methodist a better place to live. Weekly meetings are held on Monday nights at 8 p.m. in the Garber Hall basement. Come check them out, and next year, you may be able to join in the fun and attend a conference yourself.

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