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High I.Q. Team headed to D.C.

BY DANIEL ARONSON
Staff Writer

Coached by Larry Williamson and Michael Courts, the Grimsley High I.Q. team defeated Northwest Guilford, Burlington Williams, and Chapel Hill in the finals of the regional competition on Saturday, February 17th. Seniors Colleen McNamara, Graeme Ossey, and Jenny Ford, along with juniors Ross Taggart and Darius Emrani, comprised the successful panel of competitors.

"We have great students with a wealth of knowledge, plus they're fast on the buzzer," said Williamson.

Seventeen schools from across the state traveled to campus to compete in the regional qualifiers sponsored by the Greensboro Rotary Club. Teams answered challenging questions on numerous subjects

including geometry, calculus, literature, science, physics, and history.

Williamson has been the coach since 1986, and the last time he had such a prestigious win dates back to 1996. Since the intellectual ensemble beat their rivals, the team was invited to nationals, which will take place in Washington, D.C. this June.

"I hope we will be competitive, but there are a lot of highly competitive teams at these events," said Williamson.

In previous years, only seniors could compete in the High I.Q. Bowl, but this year, the competition was extended to juniors.

"The addition of juniors to the team was a great benefit to us because it allowed us to have a balanced team, with certain members being strong in math and science and others in history and English," said McNamara.

McNamara considered herself weak in the area of physics, but teammate Ossey contributed his knowledge of the subject. Math questions stumped Ford, so she was appreciative for team support in that particular subject area.

Freshmen and sophomores can compete on the general Academic Teams, which involve Braingame, the Tar Heel Cup, and the Knowledge Master Open. Some students have been competing since ninth grade. Usually the members of the team must try out, but this year, the coaches hand selected qualified students.

"Mr. Williamson and Mr. Courts just asked five of us to participate for High I.Q.," said McNamara.

To prepare for the competition, the players practiced every day after school for the

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Dancing to "I'll Be," by Edwin McCain, Prom King Isaac O'Hare and Queen Holly Presson share the spotlight after receiving their titles and crowns on April 14, 2007.

Where have all the children gone?

BY NISHA VERMA
President of Amnesty
International Chapter

Amnesty International invited Invisible Children, a nonprofit organization, to visit campus during both lunch shifts and at 7:00 pm in the media center on March 7. The group involved several young people who had similarly watched a presentation concerning the civil war in Uganda between the existing government and the rebel army and consequently felt compelled to spread awareness about the atrocities taking place there.

Raging for over a decade, the war has caused the deaths of numerous children, usually ranging between five and 12 years of age because they are more susceptible to brainwashing. Once the rebels abduct the youngsters, they condition them into their way of think-

ing and behaving; ultimately, the rebels transform the youngsters into killing machines. Those children who refuse to kill, reminisce about home, or attempt to run away are brutally shot in front of their peers.

Therefore, the main focus of Invisible Children's membership is to inform anyone who will listen of these devastating circumstances. Four young adults between the ages of 19 and 24 spoke to the three audiences, sharing their travel experiences in the organization as well as the gratification they found from participating in such a worthwhile organization.

Senior Graham Sheridan attended the evening performance and was quite impressed by the presenters.

"It was really inspiring to meet four people our age who have dedicated months to educating others about world issues," said Sheridan.

Also in attendance was senior Kelly Ferrell, who fully engaged herself with the documentary shown and the message sent.

"I could really feel the enthusiasm the presenters felt for the issue," said Ferrell.

Created by three young men four years ago, the documentary illustrated the dire circumstances in Uganda. Courageous men, women, and children all told their stories, and much of the footage showed how old and young alike were displaced from their homes and only found solace by sleeping in bus stations. Following the movie, viewers watched an updated, short film covering recent events in Uganda, and then they learned ways they personally could help.

Presenters also discussed a nationwide event called Displace Me, in which people from all over the country leave their homes

during the last weekend in April to travel to one of four locations including Atlanta, Georgia and Washington D.C. Participants will represent the many Ugandan civilians who have been displaced from their homes since the war began. Invisible Children hopes the event will impress upon the U.S. government the urgency of the situation and encourage the President to take greater interest in assisting the Ugandan population.

"I thought the program provided a really powerful message, and the fact that at the end of the film they gave us ideas for how we could make a difference made me realize that we, as high school students, underestimate our power," said senior Ramsay Leimenstoll.

Junior Emily Thilo was so taken by the program that she is following through on one of the group's sugges-

tions by creating a Schools for Schools Club at Grimsley. The aim will be to raise money to support a Ugandan school.

Newscasters continually recite statistics regarding casualties of wars like that in Uganda, but young people often take them lightly. However, after hearing the emotional stories and seeing the graphic images within the documentary, individuals present could not help but realize the gravity of the situation.

Members from Invisible Children also sold T-shirts, documentary DVDs, and bracelets to support the cause. For more information about Invisible Children, one can visit the organization's Internet site, found at www.invisiblechildren.com. In Room 207, Ms. Rozelman also has copies of the documentary students can check out for sharing purposes.