



From left: Zachary Zimbile, Louis Brotherton, Andrea Kensy and Swayze Smartt.

Today, Wake Forest Tomorrow, the World

Students to compete in international contest

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Four students from Wake Forest University's Calloway School of Business will represent the United States in global competition this spring in Athens, Greece. Louis Brotherton, Andrea Kensy, Swayze Smartt and Zachary Zimbile recently earned first place in the national round of the KPMG Global Case Competition in Atlanta, Georgia.

"We couldn't be prouder of this team for representing the United States," KPMG's Jose Rodriguez said. "...Competing globally is extremely important (because) it's now a global economy."

A global network of professional firms providing audit, tax and advisory services, KPMG is considered one of the "big four" accounting firms in the world. Seven schools from across the nation were selected by KPMG to participate in the competition based on their standings with the firm.

"I think it's a great way for both the students and the universities to showcase the outstanding education they're receiving," Rodriguez said of the competition. "It's just extremely beneficial."

Smartt, a junior finance and computer science major, says he saw the competition as a means of enhancing his education.

"I thought it would be a really good learning experience to improve my presentation skills, but also a good



Yvonne Hinson



Jose Rodriguez

way of learning about the Big Four," said the Dallas, Tex.-native.

The Wake Forest team participated in an internal competition among undergrad and graduate level teams at the university, before advancing to the national competition Jan. 22.

Yvonne Hinson, director of the accountancy program at Wake Forest, served as the team's faculty advisor. Hinson, an associate professor and longtime member of the Wake Forest faculty, traveled with the team to Atlanta. She believes the students' participation in the

competition will benefit them when they enter the business world.

"It gives them the chance to show that they can quickly analyze a business problem and come to a well thought-out conclusion," she noted.

In the national competition, the team was given three hours to find solutions to a case from Harvard Business School. They then presented their ideas via videoconference to a panel of KPMG judges in New York City.

Zimbile, a junior, called the competition "exciting" and "frantic."

"It was really quick," said the finance major from Wall, N.J. "We were in Atlanta for less than 24 hours."

Kensy, who hails from Philadelphia, Penn., says the furious pace of the competition "definitely helped you think on your feet."

"I think it's helped prepare us (for the corporate world)," added the senior, accounting major.

Hinson said she was impressed with the level of creativity the team generated and the ease with which they worked together. She believes these were key elements in the students' success.

Brotherton, a native of Seattle, Wash., hopes the best is yet to come.

"I'm really excited," the sophomore, accounting major said of the looming international competition. "We've gotten stronger as a team at each level that we've gone to."



From left: Actresses Asabi Howard, Precious McCloud, Kathryn Mobley and Pamela Reid star in "Four Queens."

Lange

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Lange is briefly making Winston-Salem his home as he works with a local cast to bring his "Four Queens, No Trump" to the stage. It will open the North Carolina Black Repertory Company's season on Feb. 19.

Lange, who is directing the show as well, is impressed with City of the Arts pool of talent.

"This isn't a big town, but you still have some major talent here," declared the Oakland native who got his big break in the 1972 blaxploitation classic, "Trick Baby." "These actresses are amazing."

The story involves four black women who gather weekly to play bid whist and discuss their joys, sorrows, ups and downs.

"It's kind of an insight into each of the women's character," explained Lange. "Each woman represents one of the queens in the deck."

Lange has taken the play to venues across the country, and says he is excited to be showcasing it in the Twin City.

Though "Four Queens" has appeared in an array of diverse communities during its run, Lange says he never has a problem finding the talent he needs to make the production a hit.

"I always find the actresses that fit the part," he said. "It's really great in that these characters are so universal."

The play stars local actresses Asabi Howard, Precious McCloud, Kathryn Mobley and Pamela Reid, along with Scott Parker, who portrays the lone male role.

Lange has been a good friend to the Black Rep. Last year, he served as the celebrity co-chair, along



Ted Lange and Mabel Robinson chat during a recent rehearsal for the upcoming play.

with actress Wendy Raquel Robinson, for the 2009 National Black Theatre Festival, which the Black Rep organizes every two years.

"He's a great guy - a lot of fun," Black Rep Executive Director Gerry Patton said of Lange. "He's an extraordinarily talented man in terms of all the things he has done on stage and off-stage."

Lange wrote "Four Queens" in 1997. It won the NAACP's Best Play Award that same year. The show promises big laughs, Lange says, but like many of his works, there is a deeper educational context within the script as well.

"The idea for me is to entertain, but in the process of entertaining, you also get a little bit of an education as well," he remarked.

Mabel Robinson, the Tony-nominated artistic director of the Black Rep, says the play has a universal appeal.

"It's a good play. It's really funny. It's something that's different for us, and I think our audience will get a great chuckle out of it," she said.

Patton was a fan of "The Love Boat." She's pleased that local audiences will get

to see another side of Lange, who has the NAACP's Renaissance Man Theatre Award; the Heroes and Legends HAL Lifetime Achievement Award; and a Dramalogue Award among the many honors on his mantle.

"It's coming full circle," she commented. "It is wonderful... just to see the evolution from television to stage to a writer."

The NCBRC will be hosting a Bid Whist tournament in celebration of the play, on Feb. 20 and 27, where local card players will compete for a \$500 first place prize, Patton said.

"Four Queens, No Trump" will open Feb. 19 at the Arts Council Theater, 610 Coliseum Drive. Show times are Feb. 19 and 26 at 8:00 p.m.; Feb. 20 and 21 at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.; and Feb. 21 and 28 at 3 p.m. only. Tickets for adults are \$20 and \$16 for senior citizens. Group rates are available. The Bid Whist Tournaments will also be held at the Arts Council Theater, at 10:00 a.m. Registration is \$40 in advance or \$45 at the door. For more information, visit www.nbt.org or call 336-723-2266.

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