

Road to King or Queen Long, Involved

Students had to sit through interviews and come up with a service project, and here's the inside look.

By ELIZABETH MICHALKA
Staff Writer

This year's candidates for Homecoming king and queen faced new steps in the application process, including appearing before an interviewing committee of campus leaders.

The Carolina Athletic Association is in charge of organizing Homecoming, but this year it will have assistance from the UNC Board of Elections.

CAA Homecoming Director Kris Willett said the committee interviews all applicants and chooses the top three female and top three male candidates.

The selection committee consists of seven members, including Willett; Sue Kitchen, vice chancellor for student affairs; Ben Singer and Ursula Dimmeling, senior class president and former vice president; Reid Chaney, CAA president; Justin Young, student body president and Mark Townsend, speaker of Student Congress.

"The committee will increase student participation in the selection of Homecoming king and queen," Chaney said. "I think it'll be good."

Interviews took place between Oct. 22 and 25.

The finalists for Homecoming king

are Thurston Cherry, Marcus Harvey and Victor Ibrahim. For Homecoming queen, Shayla Higginbotham, Jessica McLean and Aidil Polanco are all in the running.

The interviews focused on candidates' proposals for service projects that the Homecoming king and queen are required to complete.

The six projects proposed included ideas on helping the homeless, sending gifts to kids in New York, addressing domestic violence, encouraging healthy student relationship and feeding the hungry.

The committee said it was looking for well-planned, feasible projects to benefit UNC and the community.

Willett said service projects must be initiated by Jan. 15 and completed by March 20.

A general campus election will take place Wednesday. For the second time ever, students will be able to vote online for their Homecoming king and queen.

Voting this year will be solely online. The elections board is in charge of voting procedures and tallying the votes.

"The election will use the same system as last year," said Emily Margolis, elections board chairwoman. "It went smoothly last year, so we expect it to go well."

This year CAA and the elections board also decided to use the official titles of Homecoming king and Homecoming queen instead of Mr. and Ms. UNC. "The official title changes and flip-flops nearly every year," Willett said.

She said people have been offended by the titles of "Mr." and "Ms." and the titles were changed to prevent problems. Willett also hopes this change will establish a standard for coming years.

"This year we wanted to go back to traditions, and the name of Homecoming king and queen are more traditional," Willett said.

Eligible students for Homecoming king and queen had to be nominated by an officially recognized student organization.

Nominees also had to be full-time seniors with a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.8.

Interested students had to submit their application by Oct. 15.

The applications included a \$20 entry fee, résumé, letter of recommendation, transcript, a signed proclamation form and two essays.

"We (wanted) candidates with strong personalities who can handle themselves well," Chaney said.

"They should also be a good representative of the student body."

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REID CHANEY
CAA President

Say My Name

Over the years, UNC's Homecoming titles have been changed between Homecoming king and queen and Mr. and Ms. UNC. This year, student leaders went with Homecoming king and queen. Through The Daily Tar Heel online (<http://www.dailytarheel.com>) the DTH took a poll and found that after 205 votes, 61.5% of those who voted prefer the titles Homecoming king and queen. It looks like tradition wins out.

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