

# 'Figaro' to cap strong year

Show marks first opera for company

BY JACKIE RANDELL  
STAFF WRITER

Company Carolina's final performance of the 2003-04 season is quickly approaching, and the company is ending spectacularly with a performance of "The Marriage of Figaro" by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

"Le Nozze di Figaro" as it is titled in Italian, will be performed in its original language with English superscripts.

Executive producer Michael Gagnon said the company decided to perform in Italian to be true to Mozart's idea and music.

The opera is also double cast. Two casts will perform the same play on different nights.

"Because the show is running about 2 hours and 45 minutes and because there is no dialogue, we

decided it would be safer if we double casted so we could give people a rest," Gagnon said.

The opera's comedic overtones, exploration of love and bawdy scenes have attracted audiences since Mozart's time.

And the tribulations, humiliations, and obstacles that Susanna and Figaro must endure before being wed promise to translate into a comedic and entertaining performance at UNC.

"The challenge is to make this show that has been done many different ways several different times for a couple hundred years, and make it relatable not only to a college campus but Chapel Hill and the Triangle community," Gagnon said.

Company Carolina is putting their own twist on the famous

opera by marrying it with the Roaring Twenties feel of Sevilla, Spain, prior to the Spanish Civil War, as opposed to the late eighteenth century setting that Mozart intended.

Because the play deals with class disruption and social conflict, it translated best into pre-Civil War era Spain.

Originally, it took place in pre-Revolution France.

In addition to being an entertaining event, one performance of "The Marriage of Figaro" will serve a charitable purpose.

Senior music major Chrissy Bischof proposed an opera to the company because the Department of Music was not able to put on an opera workshop this semester due to the absence of Professor Terry Rhodes, who was diagnosed with breast cancer and is on medical leave.

The opera has been dedicated to

#### IF YOU GO

Date: Saturday, March 27, Sunday, March 28; Friday, April 2 through Sunday, April 4  
Time: 8 p.m.  
Location: Gerrard Hall  
Info: www.unc.edu/company

Rhodes, and proceeds from Sunday's performance will go to the Foundation for Breast Cancer Research.

Gagnon said that "The Marriage of Figaro" will usher out a great year for Company Carolina, adding that this season was more technically advanced and more profitable than previous years.

"I think this year has been incredibly successful," he said. "It has been a groundbreaking year for us."

Contact the A&E Editor at [artsdesk@unc.edu](mailto:artsdesk@unc.edu).

# N.C. honored by international program award

Named top state for global education

BY ALEX GRANADOS  
STAFF WRITER

RALEIGH — More than 100 education professionals and state policymakers gathered Thursday night at the N.C. Museum of History to honor North Carolina as the top state for education in international relations.

Three UNC-system schools, along with 16 K-12 public schools applied for the \$25,000 award given by the Goldman Sachs Foundation. Instead of one program in the state winning, all of North Carolina received the award.

Four individual education organizations across the nation also received the reward.

Howard Lee, chairman of the N.C. State Board of Education, gave credit to the schools that applied. "Because of our schools, North Carolina is the best in the nation," he said.

The only three higher education institutions among the 19 applicants were East Carolina University's Global Partnership Consortium; N.C. State University's Office of International Scholar and Student Services' Culture Corps program; and UNC-Chapel Hill's World View.

Representatives from some of the applicants said bringing attention and interest to the international programs was their primary professional motivation.

"I wanted to bring more recognition to a program here at N.C. State," said Michael Bustle, director of the Culture Corps program.

The program began four years ago as a speaker's bureau at N.C. State, he said, but things have changed since that time. "We did a makeover for a previous program and expanded it."

Bustle said that the OISSS now operates more than 100 different programs, including ones like Habitat for Humanity, but that there is still a strong focus on

bringing international students and scholars to North Carolina.

Stephanie Carter, communications director for the Center of International Understanding, said the collective weight of the applications encouraged Sachs to recognize the entire state.

Lee accepted the award for Excellence in International Education for North Carolina schools, and proclaimed the state a member of the international community. The state's international progress in other areas gives some credence to Lee's claim.

According to the numbers collected by Visiting International Faculty Program, the state was 21st in the nation in exchange students in higher education and eighth in the nation in International Baccalaureate programs. In North Carolina 5,664 college students studied abroad during 2002-03.

All the prize money will go to the N.C. Center for International Understanding to support its efforts to build an action plan for the state.

Carter said the action plan will try to prepare North Carolina for business, government and economic demands of a global world.

A release from the center states, "Today's students need to be ready to communicate, cooperate and compete in the global arena. Many of North Carolina's children will work for international companies that operate in North Carolina."

Contact the State & National Editor at [stntdesk@unc.edu](mailto:stntdesk@unc.edu).

# Revamp helping honor system

Aiding increase of speed, efficiency

BY ALICE DOLSON  
AND ALLISON PARKER  
STAFF WRITERS

Nine months after its implementation into the UNC Honor Court system, faculty-student resolutions now account for 31 percent of all guilty pleas in academic cases.

The new method has been used to resolve 14 cases and allows for faster and sometimes more lenient verdicts for academic violations.

Under the new system, involved parties can determine a punishment if they agree upon the circumstances of the violation. The agreement must be approved by 3-member Honor Court panel.

"The panel will likely approve the resolution unless it feels that there are compelling reasons to do otherwise," said Carolina Chavez, recently appointed student attorney general for 2004-05.

Using the faculty-student resolution method, a case can be resolved in about two weeks, com-

pared to the usual three to five weeks, said Deputy Student Attorney General Patrick Weede.

In addition to providing a faster resolution, Dave Gilbert, assistant dean of students said the method also likely caused an increase in Honor Court cases.

Earlier this semester, Honor Court reports numbered 150, compared to 100 at the same time last year, Gilbert said. He attributes this to faculty members' willingness to report offenses because they have more of a say in the matter.

Glenna Goldis, president of the Independent Defense Council, said the process motivates more faculty to report cases to the Honor Court.

The faculty could make recommendations before, but now those recommendations carry much more weight, said Student Attorney General Jonathan Slain.

"The gains (of the new system) are so great that they would overcome any loss of control by the Honor Court," Slain said.

But some professors have no sympathy for students who cheat and are unwilling to reach a compromise, said chemistry Professor

"The gains (of the new system) are so great that they would overcome any loss of control by the Honor Court."

JONATHAN SLAIN, STUDENT ATTORNEY GENERAL

Thomas Sorrell.

"Many professors have no patience with the students that cheat, so they don't want to deal with it at all," he said. "In that case, it won't work very well."

Sanctions received under the resolution have been probation sentences, instead of the usual suspension sentence.

Probation is the minimum sentence in such cases. The sanction prohibits students from participating in activities representing UNC.

"A lot of students are willing to do this because they have a sure resolution, most likely a lighter sanction," Slain said.

Gilbert said the frequency of lighter sanctions results from the very nature of the resolution process. "You probably will not have a faculty-student agreement unless it is lenient," he said.

The teacher also decides the outcome of the student's grade. In all of the 14 student-faculty cases, the student either failed the course or the assignment in question.

If the student and teacher do not agree about the violation or sanction, a student still can go through normal Honor Court channels.

Gilbert said he thinks the new system is an improvement, offering more options for students to learn their lesson rather than simply receive a punishment.

"There's no dialogue (in normal Honor Court processes). It's a very antagonistic process," he said.

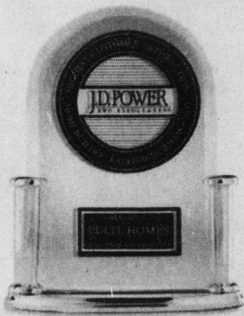
But Goldis said she is hesitant to call the method an improvement. "I don't think it's that much different. It's just much more for show."

Contact the University Editor at [udesk@unc.edu](mailto:udesk@unc.edu).



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