Israel Week to pump country

Event in the Pit to kick off week

BY JENNA RAMAN STAFF WRITER

Some students might not know that AOL Instant Messenger was created in Israel, or that the cell phone was developed there by Motorola-Israel.

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. today, Carolina Students for Israel will be in the Pit to promote Israel Week, where they will share a variety of information to highlight the positive aspects of the country.

'I want to showcase culture," said junior Robin Graham, president of CSI. "Most of what people know of Israel is what they see on TV, and there's just so much more than bombings and violence." Sophomore Veronica Grant,

chairwoman of the event, said the event is aimed to provide an alternative perspective of Israel.

"It's important that people know the whole picture," she said. "(Bombing) is not the first thing you see.'

Every day this week except

THE Daily Crossword

Tuesday, CSI will display a differ-ent aspect of Israel's culture.

Today, the group will highlight technology that originates from Israel. On Wednesday, CSI will describe the geography of the country, and culture and food will be choursed. be showcased Thursday. Students will have the opportu-

nity to get their names written in Hebrew or Arabic. The week will conclude with an explanation of religious aspects, including Judaism and Islam. Free food also will be available Friday.

While this event marks the first Israel Week held on campus, CSI puts on Israel Fest every year. The daylong festival, held in the spring, showcases various features of Israeli life.

Carl Schrag, a former editor for The Jerusalem Post, will deliver a lecture on how to use media to understand the Arab and Israeli conflict at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 10 in Peabody 104.

And Dec. 6 and Dec. 7, CSI will host "hookah in the Pit." This will be a relaxed setting where students can celebrate the last week of classes and warm up from the weather with Turkish coffee and flavored tobacco. CSI plans on sponsoring a fund-

By John Underwood

raising event later in the year at Aladdin's Grill & Catering, 153 E. Franklin St., to celebrate Arabic and Israeli culture

Graham said studying the culture and being part of the organization is one of her strong passions. "It is a beautiful land with

diverse people," she said Next semester, Graham will be traveling to Israel for the third time in two years.

Grant, who has visited Israel once before, said it was amazing. "You just can't describe it .. unreal," she said.

This year, UNC added Israel to the study abroad program. Graham said that Israel has many

interesting characteristics and that she hopes this week is able to teach the University community.

For example, there is not just one language there, she said. Hebrew, as well as English and Arabic are spoken in Israel. Also, Israel is the only liberal democracy in the Middle East.

'I've completed my goal if I've taught one person."

> Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

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BY KELLI BORBET

University entrepreneurs will have the opportunity to share in \$50,000 during the second year of the Carolina Challenge.

The challenge gave out a total of \$25,500 in prize money last year, shared between the top teams in each track of the competition, but due to an increase in contribu-tions from Market America Inc., a Greensboro firm, this year's prize money has been increased.

"We are really excited and want to see where the competition goes this year just because it was so spectacular last year," said Bart Welch, a Challenge advisory board member.

The competition consists of two separate tracks, a social section and a business section, within which the teams are judged on their business plans and presentations of possible business and invention ideas.

The first place winners in both tracks walk away with \$12,500, which can be used at their discretion. The second place winners in each track win \$5,500. And two

each will get \$1,000. The allocation of the remaining

\$5,000 still is under review by the board.

Students sow ideas, reap rewards

At the final competition each team also can apply for the People's Choice Award, which gives the winning team, voted for by those in attendance at the final presentation, an additional \$5,000. "We definitely think the addi-

tional prize money will entice more people to compete this year and also because the competition was successful last year," said Maile Lesica, CEO of Carolina Challenge.

Julia Pfeuffer, chief marketing officer for the challenge, said the organization's goal is to have 100 teams apply to compete — which would be 35 more than last year.

Lesica said that to compete in the competition, each individual must submit an application between Nov. 28 and Jan. 24. She said applications likely would be available on the Challenge's Web site — http://carolinachallenge.org.

Challenge leaders said there is no stipulation on the number of

runner-up teams from both tracks individuals competing on each team but that the team must have one individual who is an affiliate of UNC - meaning a student, faculty or staff member.

The challenge works in conjunction with the Carolina Entrepreneurship Club to provide a variety of activities to help the teams throughout the competition from start to finish. The activities already planned

for next spring are a business plan boot camp, legal clinics, presenta-tion skills clinics, mock preliminar-

ies and mentor match program. As freshmen, Chris Musick and Todd Siena won second place in the business track last year. They emphasized how much they learned at the workshops and through the mentors they met last year.

"We definitely went into the competition thinking about how we could win some money," Siena said. "But the real prize is not the money we made but the people we met and the entire learning experience."

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PlayMakers veteran lands lifetime award

BY BLAIR RAYNOR

A UNC dramatic arts professor received the PlayMakers Repertory Company's lifetime achievement award Saturday at its 18th annual ball. David Hammond, who has been

PlayMakers' artistic director and playwright for 14 of the 21 seasons he's worked there, received the award for his contributions. "He's an educator, director

at UNC, and he comes out in a very multifaceted way," said Pam O'Connor, media relations manager

for PlayMakers. During his time at UNC, Hammond has directed "The Grapes of Wrath," "A Prayer for Owen Meany" and his own version of "The Nutcracker," which has received

national and international acclaim. O'Connor said Hammond is someone who has devoted his life to

making American theater better. "I've worked with David over 10 years now," she said. "I would say the level of artistry he brings to his productions and to PlayMakers is pretty unparalleled to what I've seen in the state." **PlavMakers** scribe David Hammond was cited for his long and diverse service to UNC

O'Connor said Hammond's talent is reflective of PlayMakers' intention to "not only try to nurture our resident audience but also to nurture the next generation of theater artists.

Hammond said working with PlayMakers and being a professor at UNC have given him the opportunity to work with students and professionals who wish to grow in their talents as artists.

"In professional theater, you have to be in front of a major professional who is giving their life's blood, and art is about giving your life's blood," he said. "We have to illustrate that to the students."

"For the professionals, it's a challenge, and for the students, it's an opportunity," he said. Hammond said his inspiration

to write and direct derives from his connection to an audience when he face to connect what's inside a play to what's inside an audience. Freelance set designer and a longtime colleague of Hammond, Bill Clarke has worked with Hammond at PlayMakers for almost 20 years.

said. "I think a director is the inter-

"It's something I have to do," he

is in the theater.

He said Hammond's ability to collaborate with co-workers on a set is not a quality many other directors are likely to have.

"He's very gratifyingly willing to trust me if I have some notion that I feel strongly about, whereas some directors wouldn't," Clarke said. "He's willing to artistically take a chance ... and that's gratifying for a designer."

Clarke said the trend in the past decade or so for regional theaters has been leaning toward "commer-cially safe scripts," but Hammond's taste deviates from the norm.

"What's great about David is that he has resisted this trend," he said. "It's what makes PlayMakers specifically different, and I do link it to David and his taste.'

> Contact the ASE Editor at artsdesk@unc.edu.

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