



Harold Thomas of St. Augustine's College in Raleigh steps with other members of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity Inc. in Memorial Hall on Thursday.

## Greeks strut stuff at annual contest

BY KATHRYN BALES  
STAFF WRITER

Strobe lights, thumping bass, suggestive gyrations, heated routines and a lot of Greek pride — one thing's for sure, this isn't your mom's step show.

Seven fraternities and sororities strutted their stuff Thursday night in this year's UNC Homecoming National Pan Hellenic Council Step show.

First place in the competition was shared by Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity Inc. and Delta Sigma Theta sorority Inc. Second place went to Phi Beta Sigma fraternity, Inc. and Zeta Phi Beta sorority, Inc.

"This was the best show since I've been here my four years," said Chrystal Simmons, a senior.

All the organizations came together to show people what they can do.

"It's a way of expressing," senior Danielle Benjamin said. "Black people are coming together to express themselves. It's positive."

Cheering, singing and dancing were the orders of the evening.

"Greeks make some noise!" said Suede, the night's emcee.

After an opening performance by Harmonyx, the contest got into full swing with a dance club atmosphere taking control between acts.

"We're going to party," Suede said. "But we're going to party with peace and harmony."

Each performance had a central theme ranging from The Apprentice

to a wedding reception.

The winning teams had two of the most crowd-pleasing performances.

Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity Inc. dedicated its performance to a blue-collar cause.

"This step show is dedicated to the workers at UNC going through the struggle," one stepper said mid-step.

They banged the stage with trash can lids and brooms and even included a shoutout to Robert Moore, who drives the U-route for Chapel Hill Transit.

"Everybody is somebody," they chanted, noting his trademark phrase.

Delta Sigma Theta sorority Inc. recreated the scene of a football halftime show complete with a marching band and a cheering section with pom-poms.

An elephant mascot joined the dancers at one point and danced despite the hindrance of a massive trunk.

All the teams had one thing in common, a great deal of pride in their Greek tradition.

"It's about pride in our organization," said Michelle Green, a Delta member who graduated last year.

"Three hundred and sixty-five days of the year we work on service, but this is our chance to showcase what we can do."

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

## Campus groups rally for earthquake victims

BY KATE SULLIVAN  
STAFF WRITER

In the time of need for millions in South Asia, a dozen student groups have rallied together to support the victims of the earthquake that tore through India and Pakistan last month, leaving more than 70,000 people dead and 3 million homeless.

The Carolina Earthquake Relief Coalition has been working to promote awareness and to raise money for victims of the tragedy.

CERC was formed off the basis of last year's Triangle Tsunami Relief Coalition — which drew together students from UNC-

Chapel Hill, N.C. State University and Duke University — and many of the UNC-CH groups who participated before have joined forces again to help the victims of this natural disaster.

Playing an active role in the Earthquake Relief Coalition are groups including Campus Y committees, the Muslim Students Association, Young Democrats and Sangam, UNC-CH's South Asian awareness organization.

"Essentially the biggest reason behind (CERC) — we saw there wasn't a lot of coverage about it on campus," said Sid Sheth, chairman of the Campus Y committee national organization for college

### ATTEND THE DANCE

Time: 7 p.m. to midnight  
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placement. Andrew Chen, a member of the Campus Y's executive board, said he was shocked by the number of people who are unaware about the earthquake and its devastating effects.

"The awareness thing is probably the most important," he said. "When we ask for money, we don't just ask for money."

"We try to tell them what's going on."

The group is hoping to raise more money through other planned fundraising events.

"We're trying to plan bigger events for students to come out to," Chen said.

The group is sponsoring a traditional Indian Garba dance event from 7 p.m. to midnight tonight in the Great Hall of the Student Union. All proceeds are going to benefit UNICEF relief efforts.

"The Garba event is our biggest push to get people to come out," Chen said.

The group is hoping that the cultural fundraising event will bring out a diverse group of people.

"We're starting with dinner, then we're having a workshop,"

said Shailika Shah, president of Sangam.

She added that there also will be an Indian band to provide authentic music.

"Hopefully that will draw a lot of people."

CERC was looking for a different way to raise money, something that would not only benefit its cause but also be fun for students.

Students will have the opportunity to learn and showcase their Garba skills — no partner required. The night's events also will include a short presentation on the earthquake.

So far, MSA has been the forerunner in raising money by enlisting community groups to adopt a child orphaned by the earthquake.

Both the Chapel Hill community and several campus groups have taken on the project, donating \$500 to help support an orphaned child for a year.

During the past several weeks, CERC groups have raised more than \$20,000 through community and student donations, Chen said.

"All the money we can get is useful, especially since all the areas affected are poor," Sheth said.

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

## UNC receives \$4.5 million to launch research center

BY NICOLE NORFLEET  
STAFF WRITER

Campus leaders are taking another stride toward the goal of establishing the University as an international hub for research.

UNC was awarded \$4.5 million by the Environmental Protection Agency for the five-year development of the new Carolina Environmental Bioinformatics Research Center.

The center will create computational methods and tools to be used by the EPA and the rest of the science community.

An equal amount of money has been awarded to the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey at Piscataway to establish a similar bioinformatics center.

"It is a little bit different than a grant that the EPA would give to a school and then come back five years later and ask, 'What did you do?'" said Robert Kavlock, the toxicology activities director of the National Center for Computational Toxicology. "It is meant to be interactive."

The centers and the EPA will exchange information to advance bioinformatics research.

They will merge computer science, biology and toxicology to assess hazardous contaminants and their effects in the environment.

UNC had to apply to receive the funds and was reviewed on its scientific relevance. Both EPA and campus leaders said they are

excited about the choice.

"This is a competitive office," Kavlock said. "(The centers) were picked because they complemented each other. They had strong but different strengths."

Tony Waldrop, vice chancellor for research and economic development at UNC, said he is sure the EPA's choice of UNC as one of two recipients of the \$9 million EPA grant was because of "the quality of the proposal and of the people."

"(The Bioinformatics Research Center) is one of those projects that will help research at the University and the whole community," he said.

The center at UNC will be divided into three research projects and an administrative unit. The projects will include analysis and development of biostatistics in computational biology, chem-informatics and computational infrastructure for systems toxicology.

The EPA held an information workshop Wednesday at its main campus in Research Triangle Park with representatives from the two new centers to discuss the grants and the EPA's objective with the centers.

"It was the explosion of technologies in biology that made it necessary to do more research," Kavlock said. "We are happy to partner with UNC."

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## FOUNDERS

THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY IS INVITED to attend the dedication of the Unsung Founders Memorial, the senior class gift for 2002.

Featured speakers will include Chancellor James Moeser and Bernadette Gray-Little, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, as well as 2002 senior class officers Ben Singer, president, and Byron Wilson, vice president. The student a cappella ensemble Harmonyx will sing, and refreshments will be served. Person Hall will serve as a rain site.

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