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Crouthamel running to do service project

Project to help local teachers

BY LAURA HOXWORTH

STAFF WRITE

For Jeremy Crouthamel, it's all about the love.

"When I came here four years ago, I fell in love with Carolina and everything about it," he said of his school.

UNC played an important role in definining Crouthamel as a person.

"I'm obsessed with this school and everything it stands for," Crouthamel said.

To act on this, Crouthamel is running for Homecoming king, and fellow senior Donovan Livingston is the other candidate.

The essentials

Crouthamel is a senior English and Spanish double major from Seven Springs, N.C.

He hopes to represent the school he said he loves so much with the title of Homecoming king.

Crouthamel is involved with the UNC cheer team, Carolina Fever, Teaching Fellows, Crusade, Dance Marathon, Sigma Alpha Phi and the Eve Carson Scholarship. Crouthamel said a main reason

Crouthamel said a main reason he chose to run for Homecoming king is the opportunity it presents to design and carry out a service project.

The project

If elected, Crouthamel's goal will be to organize and put on a conference on gang prevention for any interested teachers who work at Durham and Chapel Hill schools

Gang violence has plagued parts of the region, and Crouthamel wants to educate those who can do something to curb this trend. He noted that gang violence is becoming a problem even in middle school.

"I've wanted to do something to support Durham schools for a really long time; I just haven't had the means," he said of his potential project.

The winners of the Homecoming



UNC senior Jeremy Crouthamel is a candidate for 2008 Homecoming king.

elections will get the means by which to implement the community service projects of their own creation.

The one-day conference would bring in experienced speakers to coach educators on how to recognize gang problems and interfere constructively to stop gang violence before it starts in their community.

Crouthamel said he would aim to bring in three speakers, one for each aspect of gang violence prevention.

The first would stress recognition of gang activity, keeping an eye out for indicators of gang involvement.

Another would talk about the law and what teachers can and cannot say and do.

The other speaker would speak to the psychology of gangs and why some feel the need to join them.

The event would target teachers looking for help, struggling to respond to gang violence in the community.

"I think a lot of teachers are starting to realize that it's becoming a larger and larger problem," Crouthamel said.

He said he chose this service project because he wants to raise awareness of gang violence, a problem that heavily affects teenagers and other members of the Chapel Hill and Durham area.

Crouthamel wanted to tackle the problem of gang violence after serving as a N.C. Teaching Fellow, and teaching is important to him.

"I want to be an educator. I want to teach high school, and I want to teach in Durham," he said.

Crouthamel said he believes that teachers will be able to pass their knowledge to future generations to oppose gang violence in the community.

"Teachers will be in the system 15 to 20 years, so that's 15-20 years of difference they can make," he said.

Crouthamel also mentioned

Symposium against gang violence

- ➤ One speaker will discuss recognition of gang involvement, as early as in middle school.
- ➤ A second speaker will talk about legal issues, such as what teachers can and cannot do.
- ➤ The third speaker will focus on the psychology of gangs and why students join them.

Vote between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. Wednesday on campus or online.

that gang violence has been a topic at the forefront of many people's minds since the murder of former student body president Eve Carson in March.

The campaign

Crouthamel has assembled a committee to help with his campaign, which will use posters, a Facebook group and word of mouth to help students become familiar with Crouthamel and his platform for a community service project.

In addition to having a Facebook group for his own campaign, Crouthamel has joined the groups of the other five campaigning for a coveted crown this week.

This is something that Livingston has also done in his campaign.

Crouthamel also said he will be spending a lot of time in the Pit this week.

"I want to meet as many people as possible and let them know my passion for the school," he said of his goal there.

Crouthamel said one reason he would represent UNC well is that he tries to live his life the way early 20th century Indian political and spiritual leader Mohandas Ghandi said was best: to be the change you wish to see in the world.

"I want to change the world," he said.

"Durham and Chapel Hill is a great place to start."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.