

Academic societies reawaken

Euzelian, Philomathesian Societies plan many new activities

By PRANEETHA AKULA
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

In the wake of the Kuh Report's conclusion that the university's intellectual climate needs a shot in the arm, the two academic societies on campus are gearing up for a semester of films, lecture and discussion sessions and social events.

The Euzelian Society and the Philomathesian Society both thrived on the original campus in old Wake Forest.

Originally debate societies, both organizations dwindled out in the 1960s when Greek organizations took over much of the social activities on campus.

Experiencing a revival in the past couple of years, both organizations are planning events to rekindle the flames of knowledge and truth on a campus that many people feel is apathetic.

"For many at Wake Forest, there are classes and frat parties, and little in between," junior Chris Whidden said.

As vice president of the Euzelian Society, Whidden hopes his organization will help bridge the gap and

help professors and students hold relevant discussions outside of the classroom.

"(The Euzelian Society) also affords students the opportunity to take part in the heritage of Wake Forest," junior Brian Bowman said.

This semester's lecture series draws on the election year and will focus on politics and how it affects art, music, literature, science and the mass media.

While they are busy organizing the individual lecture/discussions, the group is also coordinating a number of social events.

According to social chair junior Melodie Watts, the society is sponsoring a sundry of social events this semester including a pizza social, a movie night/discussion, a hiking excursion to Pilot Mountain, a visit to the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art and a winter retreat.

Executive officers for this year are senior John Whitmire, president; Whidden, vice-president; senior Karin Dudziak, secretary and Bowman, treasurer.

The Philomathesian Society has also been working hard in planning for the year.

The Society also sponsors a weekly

lecture at 11 a.m. Tuesdays in the Pit with presentations by various university professors.

The movie series each semester allows for two films each weekend and will try to offer political films this year, such as "1776."

Senior Suzie Danks of the Philomathesian Society said that they will also offer a number of off-beat cultural activities such as a craft-making evening at the Sawtooth Museum and a fairy-tale theme evening for Nov. 15 and 16.

"The evening will focus on the cultural relationships in fairy tales," Danks said.

In addition to their regular gatherings, the organization publishes a journal each semester called *The Philomathesian*, featuring essays written by both students and professors on campus. It is intended to bring together academic and social aspects of campus life.

Together, the two societies will sponsor a Literary Masquerade Ball on Halloween.

Masquerade attendees will dress up as a favorite author or character and read selections from that author's writing.

Campus groups sponsor events to involve students in election

By FRANK WILSON
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

As the presidential election draws near, several groups on campus are offering the opportunity to get involved in campaigns, organizing lectures and helping students register for the election.

The College Democrats started meeting Sept. 11. Their mission is to increase the contact between members of the university community and the Democratic Party candidates.

Sophomore James McCoy, the president of the College Republicans, hopes to see an increase in student involvement in politics from all affiliations. "We are trying to harbor more direct involvement with the candidates and campaigns themselves," McCoy said.

The College Democrats will be sponsoring numerous activities this semester leading up to the presidential election, including a voter registration drive Oct. 2.

"Many students don't know that, as students having lived in Forsyth County for more than 30 days, they are able to vote in the county election," McCoy said.

The group will also be holding a number of non-partisan discussion groups and encourage as many viewpoints to attend as possible.

Linda Garrou, a Democratic candidate for state senate in Forsyth County, spoke to the group recently. She primarily advocates increased emphasis on education in North Carolina, as well as an economic devel-

opment package for the area.

The College Republicans opened their year Sept. 5. They intend to involve themselves in several local campaigns, including that of Sen. Jesse Helms. They are considering holding a mock election early in November, and will help people register for the real thing in North Carolina or vote by absentee ballot. They meet at 9 p.m. today in the lobby of Tribble Hall.

"We attended an opening rally at the Forsyth County Republican headquarters Monday," junior Sarah Hovis said. As secretary of the organization, Hovis said that about 30 people attend each of their meetings — a number they hope to bolster. Hovis said that although their chances of getting Jack Kemp on campus to speak are slim, they do hope to get some local candidates such as Richard Burr.

A program called Debate Watch will offer students the opportunity to watch the presidential debates with other students. Following the debates, the television will be turned off and students will be able to discuss their opinions of what happened without hearing the opinions of members of the media. Depending on the level of interest, the first Debate Watch will be held in either Benson 401 or the Annenberg Forum in Carswell Hall.

Also on television this fall will be a show called *Politics Unplugged* on WAKE TV. Students will debate various political issues for a short period of time on the show.

Multimedia

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material in front of the classroom," Swofford said. He said that through the World Wide Web his class had even visited a chemistry class at Harvard University to compare tests.

"They realize it's not just Wake Forest in its little cocoon," he said. "There's more of a feeling of community."

Swofford conducts his chemistry class in one of the newly renovated multimedia classrooms, Salem 10. The room is equipped with a high-quality sound system to allow professors to give lectures using a microphone and also with a laser disc player and VCR. There are Internet and power outlets at each seat for ThinkPad use.

"We tried to take the requirements the faculty had and turn them into actual rooms," Dominick said.

"It went from probably the worst classroom on campus to the best classroom on campus," Swofford said.

Swofford estimated the costs for renovating Salem 10 to be about \$400,000. While some of these funds came from the Plan for the Class of 2000 endowment, some also came from grants given to the chemistry department from various sources. Swofford pointed out that Salem 10 was 40 years old, and had not been renovated at all since its original construction.

"They had further to go with this room than with anywhere else on campus," Swofford said. "We think we got a very good product. It's a room that everyone who has seen it has been proud of."

Another room which received an extensive technological addition was the Annenberg Forum in Carswell Hall. A high-tech six-track stereo surround-sound system was installed in Annenberg. It will be used mainly by the communication department for teaching classes such as film criticism.

Swofford said he feels this new technology on campus can be used as a tool to facilitate and enhance learning and communication between professors and students.

"I promised them if any piece of this technology got in the way of learning chemistry,

we would stop using it," he said. "The worst thing that could happen to Wake Forest is to become Wake Tech. If it provides more rather than less of something, such as communication, that would be good."

Swofford compared the implementation of ThinkPads and their accompanying technology to the introduction of the first automobiles. He said that it is a slow process, because people must become accustomed to the technology before they are completely comfortable using it.

"What we're doing right now is pretty much what happens any time a new innovation comes along," Swofford said. "When the faculty sees that this is beneficial to their students, that's when changes will start occurring."

Swofford said he has experienced few problems or glitches in this new technology. He thinks this is mostly because he was able to thoroughly test almost all of the equipment prior to the commencement of classes.

"We are continuing to find out what works and what doesn't work," Dominick said. "We are fixing those things that don't work and improving on the things that do."



Glenn Thompson

DeTamble Hall, among other rooms on campus, has been renovated to accommodate aspects of updated technology at the university. Many rooms have been equipped for ThinkPad use.

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