

Poetry reading, drum circle attracts large crowd

Cultural event takes place on Thursdays in Delta Sig lounge

By Carolyn Lay
Contributing Reporter

Thursday night is a lot more than "Must See TV" night in the Delta Sigma Phi lounge.

While some students are getting over their weekly fix of Monica, Kramer and the ER crew, other members of the campus community are gathering for a poetry reading and drum circle.

"It is a time for everyone to sit back and relax and release from the week's struggles," sophomore Blake Smith said. Smith and fellow sophomore Allen Roda founded the event in March.

The poetry reading/drum circle was conceived when Smith wanted a place to read his poems, while Roda, a member of Delta Sigma Phi, was looking to form a drum circle.

They asked other friends to join, and the "Mad Beats and Word Feats" began.

Although the event is not affiliated with the fraternity, the group has offered much support by permitting Roda to use the Delta Sig lounge in Taylor House to host the weekly event.

"It is a time for everyone to sit back and relax and release from the week's struggles."

Blake Smith
Sophomore

Last Thursday, the first reading of the semester, was attended by 50 to 60 people.

The group members placed candles around the room and arranged various types of furniture near an overturned table, in an effort to create the desired aura.

Bongo drums were the instrument of choice. One guest, however, brought his saxophone and joined in with the other musicians.

Another more obscure instrument that was played was a small xylophone. Beside the xylophone player was a bag of less conventional instruments, including slide whistles, kazoos, recorders.

During the drum circle, guests were asked to take an instrument out of the bag and join the impromptu jams.

After ten minutes of music, the poetry reading began, continuing for approximately 30 minutes. During that time, seven to eight people were able to recite their poetry, followed by another drum circle jam session.

Professors, deans and guest artists have attended the sessions in the past; some have even read their own poetry.

Last Thursday, Jeryl Prescott, an assistant dean, attended the session and read three of her poems. One of the poems, "A Soul's Journey" was inspired by the poetry gatherings.

The group invites anyone interested in reading, playing an instrument or just listening.

According to Roda, many passersbys on the Quad are attracted by the sounds coming from the lounge.

"People walk in, thinking they will stay only five minutes, but then they end up staying the whole time," he said.

The poetry reading/drum circle usually lasts well past midnight. And it is not just a few stragglers either.

"It's an outlet to relieve the tension," Roda said.



Noel Fox/Old Gold and Black

Students play the bongos at the poetry circle held in the Delta Sig lounge in Taylor House on Sept. 4. The sessions have attracted upwards of 50 people.

Campus Report: Florida State University

FSU employee charged with stealing

By Amy Brown
U-Wire

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — On Thursday, the Florida State University police department arrested Laura Davis, 37, and charged her with embezzling \$41,022. FSUPD charged her with grand theft in the first degree.

Davis, an FSU employee, supervised cashiers in the housing department. She embezzled from university housing receipts. According to housing director Rita Moser, Davis had concocted a sophisticated scheme to circumvent proper procedures.

Neither FSU students nor the university have lost any money in the case, since Davis is insured and bonded.

"I want to assure students that this in

no way affects them," said Jon Dalton, the vice president of student affairs.

Davis' position called for her to reconcile the checks each day and ensure that the checks matched up with financial records. Instead, Davis held onto the checks and made late deposits. This allowed her time to keep cash payments and replace the amounts with checks from prior days' receipts.

When police arrested Davis, the housing office could not account for \$198,682. Davis still held some of the money and investigators recovered all but \$41,022.

Davis was able to embezzle because, as a supervisor, no one oversaw her.

Both the housing department and FSUPD conducted separate investigations last week after a student inquired why her check for her residence hall

room had not cleared the bank.

This isn't the first case of embezzlement at the university in recent months. In June, another FSU employee was arrested and charged, though Dalton emphasizes that the two cases are isolated from each other.

In response to Davis' actions, an additional step has been added to the system of checks and balances at the housing office. In addition to the cashiers' supervisor, another employee outside the cashiers' office will handle the receipts.

The university is currently seeking to recover the funds, Moser said.

Amy Brown reports for the *Florida Flambeau*, the student newspaper of Florida State University.



Noel Fox/Old Gold and Black

Scrubbin'

Junior Glenn Cassis washes his car in Lot Q behind the Scales Fine Arts Center.

BRIEFLY

Campus organizations may have their announcements listed by sending e-mail to news@ogb.wfu.edu, faxing to 910-759-4561 or writing to P.O. Box 7569. The deadline for inclusion in each week's paper is 5 p.m. Monday.

Ceremony to honor Mother Teresa is scheduled for Sunday night

There will be a candlelight vigil in memory of the late Mother Teresa at 9 p.m. Sept. 13 on the steps of Wait Chapel, or in Davis Chapel if it rains.

The vigil will be in celebration of Mother Teresa's life and contribution to the global community.

For more information, call Paige Wilbanks, a coordinator of volunteer services, at Ext. 4549.

Hispanic Film Club schedules films in Spanish to be shown weekly

The Hispanic Film Club will begin the new season with movies from Spain and Latin America. The films are in Spanish with subtitles. There is a new film at 7 p.m. every Tuesday night in Tribble Hall A207.

The movies for September are "El espíritu de la colmena" (The Spirit of the Beehive) Sept. 16, "De eso NO se habla" (I don't want to talk about it) Sept. 23 and "La ciudad y los perros" (The city of the dogs) Sept. 30.

Contact Rebekah Morris, an instructor of Romance languages, at Ext. 7185 for further information.

Jewish Student Organization sponsors Rosh Ha'Shona Dinner

The Jewish Student Organization is sponsoring a New Year's Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 23, at the home of Andrew Ettin, a professor of English.

Interested persons should RSVP by Sept. 19 to sophomore Julie Eling, at Ext. 6641.

Want to leave the country? Study abroad fair will provide information

The Office of International Studies will host its annual Study Abroad Fair from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 12 in the Main Lounge of Reynolda Hall. The fair will have representatives from this university and other schools.

Fraternity, teams plan Run with the Deacs race for Brian Piccolo fund

The eighth annual Run with the Deacs 5K race will

be held at 4 p.m. Sept. 26, with registration at 3 p.m. The entrance fee is \$10 and includes a T-shirt, which will be available soon in the Benson University Center. All money goes to the Brian Piccolo Cancer Fund.

The race takes place on the cross country course behind Palmer and Piccolo Residence Halls and is sponsored by Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity and the men's and women's basketball teams, who will be in attendance.

Prizes will be awarded to the top finishers in six categories. There will also be a drawing for door prizes. Last year's race had over 200 participants and raised over \$4,000.

For more information, call Ext. 5921.

Fulbright Fellowship grant offered for graduate study abroad

Competition for Fulbright grants for graduate study abroad in the 1998-99 academic year will be open until September 29. Proposals may be in any field, including the creative and performing arts.

For applications and information, contact Mary Friedman, an associate professor of Romance languages at Ext. 5429 or Peter Siavelis, an assistant professor of politics, at Ext. 5451.

Renewable upperclass Carswell Scholarships available

The Committee on Scholarships and Student Aid invites sophomores, juniors and seniors with outstanding records to compete to become Thomas E. and Ruth Mullen Scholars of the Upperclass Carswell Scholarships.

These scholarships carry an annual stipend of \$1,500; once awarded they may be renewed for the remainder of the undergraduate education.

Applicants should submit to the Scholarship Committee a letter that indicates their major areas of academic interest, extracurricular participation and future plans.

Two faculty letters of recommendation are also required.

The deadline for the application is Oct. 15. Finalists will be interviewed and awards will be announced by Dec. 15.

Registration held for Chinese folk art class at Anthro Museum

The Museum of Anthropology is offering an adult

education course on traditional Chinese folk art in October. Classes meet from 7 to 9 p.m. Oct. 9, 16, 23 and 30 in the Museum classroom.

The cost of the class is \$65 for community members and \$60 for Museum Friends.

The class is being held in conjunction with an exhibit on Chinese folk art and artifacts entitled "The Good Earth: Folk Art and Artifacts from the Chinese Countryside," that will be on display from Oct. 8 to Nov. 26.

For more information, call the museum at Ext. 5282.

Year of Religion web site provides updates on related events

The university has created a Web site to provide up-to-date information about this year's theme, the Year of Religion in American Life.

The site, <http://www.wfu.edu/wfunews/yor.htm>, provides a calendar of events and links to other religious news organizations.

Shuttle service looks to hire new drivers for this semester

The university shuttle service is now hiring drivers for the brand new van.

For more information, call John at Ext. 6578.

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Upperclassmen concerned about ThinkPad usage

Escott stresses equality for students who are not in computer program

By Jennifer Anderson
Contributing Reporter

With the beginning of a new school year the university has welcomed the arrival of the second class to become a part of the university's Plan for the Class of 2000. Some juniors and seniors, however, are greeting the plan with much less enthusiasm than the younger students.

Some upperclassmen have expressed concern that over half of the undergraduate students are now part of the ThinkPad program. "I believe that in many respects the university has forgotten about upperclass students without ThinkPads who are not part of the Plan for the Class of 2000," said senior Dave Slade.

Many members of the faculty and administration, however, disagree. Paul Escott, the dean of the college, has stressed that the faculty and administration is highly concerned with treating all students equally and fairly, whether or not they own ThinkPads.

Escott said he is planning to send out a memo to remind the faculty that upperclassmen can still participate in classes which use the ThinkPads.

He also stressed that there are several computer labs on campus open 24 hours a day in which students may work on computers or even check out ThinkPads.

Escott also said that students needing to access discussion groups for their classes can easily do so through the Netscape browser.

Christa Beck, an instructor of mathematics and computer science, said she feels that none of her students are at an unfair disadvantage in her classes. "My tests are designed so that everyone has equal opportunity," Beck said. "I'm assuming that whoever's taking the test does not have any technology."

Beck said that she will not be requiring use of ThinkPads in her classroom until every student has one.

Escott said he feels "really satisfied that there is no technological barrier to put the upperclassmen at a disadvantage." He also said that in some cases computerization in the classrooms is in fact being slowed, as the faculty wants to make sure that upperclassmen are consistently treated fairly.