

# Volunteers prepare for Project Pumpkin events

By Jay Cridlin  
Contributing Reporter

With Halloween creeping up on the calendar, students are beginning to get ready for the popular annual campus event known as Project Pumpkin, scheduled this year for Oct. 29.

Now in its 10th year, the Volunteer Service Corps-sponsored project has grown to be the most popular charity event on campus, with nearly half of all students volunteering annually. This year is no exception; nearly 1,500 students are already involved with the project.

"It's a huge volunteer event for the campus," senior Michael Warren, the chairman of Project Pumpkin, said.

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Traditionally, Project Pumpkin has been a way for underprivileged children to get into the Halloween spirit by giving them a safe place to trick-or-treat.

Volunteer students will escort the children through residence halls on the Quad, where students will be

supplied with more than 71,000 pieces of candy donated by Food Lion.

Other popular events scheduled this year include carnival booths, face painting, step shows, haunted houses and various other entertainment.

Students have always played an important role in Project Pumpkin. It was founded by a student in 1989, and the event's preparations sometimes begin as early as the previous December.

With more than 1,200 disadvantaged children expected to attend this year, students' help is always appreciated, whether it be to work with children on the day of the event, to aid with leadership committees that help plan the event or to hand out candy to the trick-or-treaters.

In addition, T-shirts will be sold for \$13 each in the

Benson food court and the Pit.

Project Pumpkin proved to be not only one of the most popular charity events on campus, but also one of the most gratifying.

"It's incredible," said Warren, who has volunteered for the Project since his freshman year.

"It's really rewarding to think that all the work that you do leading up to this pays off in the end. The kids come on campus, and they're all smiles the whole time they're here. It's just really fulfilling to be able to see the fruits of your labor, to see what you're doing actually making a difference."

This year's Project Pumpkin is scheduled for 3 to 6 p.m. Students interested in volunteering are encouraged to stop by the Office of Volunteer Services in Benson 345 or to call Warren at Ext. 8117.

# Williams' professor uses soap bubbles to explain math

By Brad Gunton  
Contributing Reporter

Whether blowing soap bubbles or discussing the geometry of black holes, mathematician Frank Morgan hopes to convey a simple message: Math can be fun.

Morgan is a professor of mathematics at Williams College, the author of three textbooks, a columnist in the Christian Science Monitor and the host of a live call-in show, Math Chat.

He visited the university last week to give two lectures, "The Soap Bubble Geometry Contest" Sept. 23 and "Ideal Shapes" Sept. 24.

Morgan's first lecture was to a near-capacity audience Brendle Recital Hall.

He began by explaining that soap bubbles, and spheres in general, use the least possible surface area to enclose the most possible volume.

He then discussed a currently unsolved mathematics problem, how to use the least possible surface area to enclose the most possible volume for two bubbles joined together.

For the rest of the lecture, audience members participated in the Soap Bubble Geometry Contest.

Ushers handed everyone a short quiz about the geometry of soap films, and those who did the best were invited on stage to determine a winner.

Prizes consisted of books and soap for soap bubbles. The overall winner was a student from High Point University.

Morgan chose a seemingly insignificant topic such as soap bubbles to illustrate his point because he believes that the key to understanding more difficult principles of geometry is to understand simpler ones first.

"The way to understand the universe is to understand geometry, and the way to understand geometry is to understand simple things, like soap bubbles," Morgan said.

Morgan has been giving lectures such as these for 20 years. He said that the contest is a way for people who do not normally like math to get involved.

"It's appropriate that math brings us together, because everybody should find it interesting and fun," Morgan said.

Sophomore Julie Wilson was one of the students at his first lecture.

She said that Morgan's ability to make math simple helped to make the lecture entertaining.

"(The lecture) was an interesting way to incorporate math into everyday life like bubbles, something that you've played with since you were a child," Wilson said.

Morgan's second lecture took place in Calloway Hall, with an audience of about 60 students and faculty.

This lecture was more technical than the first, dealing with the calculus involved in solving problems about the minimization of surface area.

Senior Joe Volpe, an usher for the second lecture, said that Morgan's lecture complemented what students learn in some of their classes.

"It's good for students to be able to hear from faculty outside of the school," Volpe said.

Although the two lectures differed in content, Morgan ended each of them by giving his audience a homework assignment: to tell someone else that math can be interesting.

"I want people to leave saying that math is interesting and fun; math is for everyone, not for just a select few," Morgan said.

Both of the talks were sponsored by the



Laura O'Connor/Old Gold and Black

Frank Morgan, a mathematics professor from Williams College, engages the audience in a Soap Bubble Geometry Contest. Morgan, who spoke to a nearly full Brendle Recital Hall Sept. 23., has been lecturing for 20 years.

Ivey and Nell Gentry Lectureship, which has been bringing mathematicians to speak here since 1985.

David John, an associate professor of

mathematics and computer science, is the chairman of the committee that asked Morgan to be the Gentry lecturer.

"Every year we invite a well-known and

respected person for the Gentry lectures," John said.

"Frank Morgan is who we chose because of his reputation as an excellent speaker."

## BRIEFLY

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

### ROTC sponsors run, building dedication

The Reserve Officers Training Corps will hold a Mystery Relay Race at 3 p.m. Oct. 1 at Kentner Stadium.

Cadet classes and other undergraduate students will compete in a one-mile Mystery Relay Race.

The Matthew Alexander and Alexander Gedicks Memorial Run will follow immediately.

The department will dedicate its part in the new Information Systems Building from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Oct. 2.

The dedications will include the Matthew Alexander Conference Room, which features a portrait of the late student.

ROTC will also rededicate a library and a classroom, which had been dedicated to two individuals, to the new facility.

The classroom complex is being rededicated to retired Brig. Gen. Evelyn Foote, a graduate and member of the university's college board of visitors.

The library is being rededicated to Robert M. Helm Jr., a Worrell Professor of philosophy.

### Alumnus to address global economy

James R. Helvey III, a managing director at J.P. Morgan and Company in New York, will present "Managing Capital and Credit in a Global Economy" at 4:30 p.m. Oct. 1.

The free, public event will be in Benson University Center's Pugh Auditorium.

Helvey's discussion is part of the Critical Issues in Business and Accountancy speaker series sponsored

by the Calloway School of Business and Accountancy.

Helvey has worked in J.P. Morgan's global markets and derivatives area since 1986.

Since 1994, Helvey has been based in New York focusing on a broad range of risk management issues.

Helvey, '81, is a university trustee and a former member of the college board of visitors.

Helvey has a master's degree in international affairs from Columbia University and was a Fulbright Scholar to the University of Cologne.

### Calloway school receives \$10,000 grant

The Calloway School of Business and Accountancy was selected to receive a \$10,000 grant from General Electric for its marketing executive-in-residence program.

The grant is provided by the GE Fund, General Electric Company's charitable giving division.

Calloway uses executives in residence to provide students more opportunities to interact and learn from professionals currently working in business and accountancy.

For the marketing resident, Calloway will recruit an executive from a local advertising agency or corporate marketing department to teach one or two elective marketing courses.

### Anthro museum to host afternoon tea

The Museum of Anthropology will host an "Afternoon Tea" from 3-5 p.m. Oct. 4.

The event will include English and Japanese tea, Egyptian coffee

and Mexican chocolate drinks and will explore the tastes, ceremonies and histories of the drinks from around the world.

Tickets are available in advance for \$5 or at the door for \$6.

For tickets or other information, call the museum at Ext. 5282.

### Presentation to focus on sexual assault

The Anti-Sexual Abuse Project will present a program at 8 p.m. Oct. 6 in Brendle Recital Hall.

ASAP is a national touring education group composed of eight recent college graduates from Brown University, the University of Virginia and Yale University.

The group will present a skit about sexual assault with university-specific information. The performers will then answer student questions.

For more information, call junior Layce Huffaker, a co-chairwoman of Policy Group on Rape Education, Prevention and Response, or Betsy Taylor of the counseling center.

### Babcock to hold information session

The Babcock Graduate School of Management will hold information sessions for its evening and executive MBA programs from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Oct. 6 for both its Winston-Salem and Charlotte sessions.

The Winston-Salem meeting will be held in the Worrell 1117.

### Cuban poet to discuss her life, read work

Cuban poet Nancy Morejon will present "Where the Island Sleeps

Like a Wing," a poetry reading and discussion about Cuba Oct. 6.

The free, public event will begin at 7 p.m. in Scales A102.

Morejon, a poet, journalist and literary critic, will discuss her life in Cuba in English and read from her poetry in Spanish.

Students will provide English translations of her poetry.

Morejon's work has received international acclaim and been translated into several languages.

Her best known English translation, "Where the Island Sleeps Like a Wing," was published in 1985. Morejon's most recent collections are "Paisaje Celebre: Poemas 1987-1992" and "Botella al mar."

The event is sponsored by the department of Romance languages, the women's studies program and the Year of Globalization and Diversity planning committee.

### Ethnic Heritage Faire set for campus

An Ethnic Heritage Faire will celebrate the music, food and dances of world cultures from 4 to 9 p.m. Oct. 17.

The free, public event will be in Benson 401.

Faire highlights include performances by the Otesha, an African dance ensemble, and Magic Carpet, a Middle Eastern dance troupe.

Members of the Greek Orthodox Church in Winston-Salem will play traditional music and demonstrate dances during the event.

Other activities include Indian dance demonstrations and food samples from Italy, Japan, Nigeria and the Caribbean. The Ethnic Heritage Faire will also feature information booths by student and community groups.

The Faire is part of the Year of Globalization and Diversity.

For more information, call Ext. 5788 or go to <http://www.wfu.edu/yogd>.

### Juniors, seniors can enter essay contest

Students enrolled as full-time juniors and seniors in the fall semester of 1998 are eligible to submit an essay on ethics in competition for the Elie Wiesel Prize, which carries award amounts of \$5,000 for the first prize, \$2,500 for the second and \$1,500 for the third.

The three best essays from the university will be sent to the national competition.

Application forms and instructions are available in the lobby of the office of the dean of the college, Reynolda 104.

The deadline is Jan. 5.

Questions may be addressed to Billy Hamilton, an associate dean of the college, at Ext. 5311, or by e-mail at [hamilton@wfu.edu](mailto:hamilton@wfu.edu).

### Mathematics, science scholarships offered

The Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation offers merit-based scholarships to current sophomores and juniors interested in research careers in biology, chemistry, computer science, mathematics and physics.

The scholarships of up to \$7,500 per year can cover tuition, fees, books and room and board.

Students will be nominated by the Goldwater Wake Forest Scholarship Committee.

The committee consists of one faculty member from each of the departments of biology, chemistry, mathematics and computer science and physics.

Pre-applications are due by Oct. 26. Successful candidates will be notified by April 1999.

For information and pre-applications, see Cindy Davis in Winston 226.

### Irish Festival looking for participants

The Irish Festival is looking for students who are interested in participating in this year's festival.

The weeklong cultural celebration includes a film festival, poetry readings, traditional Irish music and a St. Patrick's Day celebration at Shorty's. This year will be the second annual celebration of the Irish festival. The University Press is renowned for publishing Irish Poetry.

For more information, call coordinator Susan Murphy at 722-8018.

### Corrections

In the Sept. 24 editorial "Hate group's arrival stirs controversy," the Gay Straight Alliance was incorrectly identified.

Also in the Sept. 24 issue, the article "Greeks kick off '98 Piccolo fund-raisers" should have reported that the Delta Sigma Phi fraternity had previously participated in the cancer drive.

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