

Step show featured during Homecoming

BY ROB JONES
For the Index

National Pan-Hellenic Council organizations will be members of Homecoming teams this year, and will have the opportunity to receive bonus points for purchasing tickets to the NPHC's annual Homecoming step show.

The NPHC reduced the price of the show from \$8 to \$5 to encourage more people to attend the event. The Homecoming committee passed the regulation during the summer to make Homecoming and the Oct. 20 step show more inclusive for campus organizations, said Laura Bates, Director of the Center for Student Involvement. NPHC organizations are not required to participate in all other Homecoming team activities to have time to prepare for the show.

"Since the step show is an active program on the Homecoming activities, and we have a large number of alums that come back and go to that show, [the NPHC's] main role is to help with the promotion and execution of that show," Bates said.

This year the Homecoming committee's goal was to incorporate the step show with the rest of the week, said Rachele Williams, Program Advisor for Campus Activities. Homecoming teams can receive up to 30 bonus points for buying more than 30 tickets to the show. Bates said during the past two years, the Homecoming committee and the NPHC have made great strides to include the step show with the rest of Homecoming. Bates said two years ago, the committee moved the annual Homecoming comedian's performance to Wednesday instead of the Saturday of Homecoming, so it wouldn't conflict with the step show.

NPHC President senior Candice Alcaraz said the NPHC agreed at the end of the spring 2012 semester that it wanted to be more involved with this year's Homecoming, which is why the NPHC presented the Homecoming committee with the proposal. The decision could bridge the gap between NPHC and the Interfraternity Council and Panhellenic Council, she said. The step show is a great way for the NPHC organizations to show who they are and what step-



Jane Krienke/For the Index
Seniors Janelle Brooks, Shanequa Tolliver and DeAndri Maitre practice Oct. 2 at the Pershing dance studio. The Delta Sigma Theta members will perform during Homecoming.

ping means to them, Alcaraz said. "The step show is something that NPHC takes a lot of pride in because of our backgrounds and our founders and things of that nature," she said. "The things that make us 'us,' stepping is a part of that. It's a culture, it's something that we do and we really want other people to understand that it's not just a show that we do."

Alcaraz said her sorority has practiced for the show six to eight hours a week since the beginning of the semester, and performing in front of the whole school is something the NPHC organization looks forward to.

Bates said single NPHC organizations have been on Homecoming teams throughout the past, but it was unsuccessful because of expectations from team members of the organizations to participate in certain events. One year the NPHC as a whole council was put on a team, but this was not successful because single NPHC organizations were unable to represent themselves individually, Bates said.

Williams said this year's approach to was to allow the orga-

nizations to be a part of Homecoming, while making the process convenient for both parties.

"I know a lot of the organizations were excited to work with NPHC organizations again," Williams said. "We tried to put organizations — the NPHC organizations since they are so small — with people they've worked with in the past so they would kind of know a few people so it would be an easier transition period, and that seems to be working out really well."

Bates said the step show is a pivotal event during Homecoming and connects the weekend events together.

"It reminds people that Homecoming doesn't stop after lip sync and I think for a lot of our groups that's the event that they look forward to the most during the week," Bates said. "It tends to take the highest demand of most of the teams, but there are things that happen on Friday and Saturday and Sunday so I think [the Step Show is] a nice bridge."

Homecoming teams will be able to sell tickets for bonus points through Friday. Ticket prices will be \$8 the day of the show.

Movie inspires local fundraiser

Sorority hosts charity event based on "The Hunger Games"

BY PAIGE YUNGERMANN
Staff Reporter

The tributes assembled, each with a mockingjay pin clipped to their shirt. The competition was about to begin. These tributes, however, were not fighting to the death — they were competing in Tau Lambda Sigma's campus wide Oct. 5 "The Hunger Games" fundraiser.

Junior Chelsea Rickman, TLS Relay for Life chair, organized this fundraiser, which she said was bigger than anything TLS has done before.

Rickman said she started planning this event during spring 2011, while she was running for Relay for Life chair. She said she saw "The Hunger Games" movie with other girls in TLS and thought it could make a good fundraiser theme.

"I love the "The Hunger Games,"" Rickman said. "It is something that I was super interested in. When I became Relay for Life chair, I was like, 'We should really do something with this because it's so popular.'"

Prior to the event, junior Burgundy Ramsey, TLS Public Relations chair, said she noticed a lot of interest in the fundraiser because of the unusual theme. She said everyone she told about the event was interested and wanted to know more.

"The Hunger Games' automatically catches people's eye," Ramsey said. "It is such a well-known thing. That automatically comes with a certain amount of recognition, whereas other events haven't been as eye-catching."

Rickman said students paid \$5 to be a tribute and completed seven competitions inspired by "The Hunger Games" for a chance to win prizes. She said the tributes had 90 minutes to go to seven districts around campus. At each district, tributes could compete in challenges and answer trivia about "The Hunger Games," she said. For each challenge completed and each correctly answered

question, she said the tributes received tickets.

Rickman said all the tributes went back to the Student Union Building and participated in a reaping where the tickets were drawn for prizes at 8:30 p.m. She said the prizes, which included a Nook and various gift cards, were all donations, so the \$125 raised went straight to the TLS Relay for Life team to benefit the American Cancer Society.

"It's a very participant-involved challenge," Rickman said. "It's not a lecture you go and sit to. It's not something you are there for 10 minutes and you leave. It's not a card game. You get to go and participate in these challenges."

The challenges included archery, a marshmallow blow dart game and "The Hunger Games" Pictionary.

Rickman said the cold and rainy weather somewhat hampered the fundraiser. Districts that originally were outdoors had to be moved indoors, and the target practice challenge and final fight had to be canceled. The final fight was planned to be a giant game of tag on The Quad, where tributes had to try to steal each other's mockingjay pins. Rickman said the event was a success despite the weather.

While 24 people preregistered and paid for the event, 18 to 20 showed up, Rickman said. She said she attributes this to the weather. Of the people who did attend, Rickman said she was surprised to see more boys than girls.

"I love "The Hunger Games," so I was really excited to participate," sophomore Danny Buenger said. "I [was] excited to see what kind of challenges they [had] to represent the games."

Rickman said because the event was successful, TLS is considering making it an annual event.

"A lot of people seem interested in doing it again," Rickman said. "I think if we did it again we would have a bigger turnout than we did this year. Everyone that was there enjoyed themselves. I thought it turned out great, and I just loved seeing it."

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