

Lewis novel comes to life on GPAC stage

By Carlos Peralta
Contributing Writer

Studio One Lab will kick off its 2009-2010 season with "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe" on Nov. 26, 27, 28 and 29 at 7:30 pm at GPAC.

C.S. Lewis' epic fantasy novel is brought to the stage by Studio One Lab of the public schools of Robeson County. The Studio is composed of students from all over the county.

"This is a family event that people should not miss," said Jeanne Koonce, director of the Studio.

"Rehearsals have begun and production is in full swing," Koonce said. "We are working really hard to bring the essence of the book to life; we are

even gonna make it snow on stage," she said.

The wondrous world of Narnia comes to life when Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy embark in this magical adventure by stepping through the wardrobe into the frozen land where the White Witch now reigns.

They must find the courage and faith to join Aslan the Lion in a valiant battle to restore beauty and hope – and to earn their places as kings and queens of Narnia.

"We have some very talented kids in this show," said Erin Elliott, choreographer for Studio One. "They are very committed to this project and eager to put on a great show."

Ticket prices range from \$7 to \$12. For more information or reservations call (910) 224-4000.

Breast cancer awareness celebrates 25 years this month

Rhian Merwald
Staff Writer

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month and this year celebrates 25 years of awareness, empowerment and education.

National Breast Cancer Awareness Month works to promote breast cancer awareness, share information about breast cancer and works on trying to provide greater access to screening services.

UNCP students are participating in many different ways to help support the fight against breast cancer.

UNCP's bookstore has put on a sale in honor of breast cancer awareness month.

You can find anything pink for around 15 percent off.

The volleyball team and Zeta Tau Alpha also sponsored events.



Photo by Kayloni Wyatt
The bookstore is full of materials about breast cancer awareness. There are books, balloons, stuffed animals, beads and shirts that relate to the fight against cancer.

Grad Finale still successful after 10 years

By Brittney Burt
Staff Writer

Grad Finale on Oct. 21 and 22 in the University Center Annex brought out fall graduates to get them prepared for graduation.

This year, Grad Finale reached its 10th anniversary after first being started by bookstore director

Karen Swiney.

First called Senior Salute in 1999, it started because students were running around to many different offices to get prepared for graduation. Now called Grad Finale, the event has grown every year since then.

"I am very pleased with the way it's been going over the years,"

Swiney said. "We have tried many different things in the past and it works out very well year to year."

At the event, students can pick up graduation tickets, cap and gown orders, place ring orders and speak with different departments about anything related to their personal student profile.

A number of departments showed up for grad finale, including grad studies, yearbook, Disability Support Services, Alumni office, Career Center and the Registrar's office.

One special treat students received on their way out were freshly baked cookies which are made onsite just to make

the students smile.

Future graduate Kimberly Carter and Karen O'Neal were excited to attend Grad Finale.

"I'm certainly nervous about graduating and going into the job market considering how the economy is right now, but I've been looking forward to attending grad finale and finalizing everything,"

Carter said.

All types of students graduate from UNCP, including O'Neal who is a non traditional student. She filled out a survey from the career center.

"I'm very excited about this. It's funny because I'm graduating and my son is going into college," O'Neal said.

Alumni Association to host a graduate brunch

Staff Reports

December graduates are encouraged to attend a special celebration hosted by the UNCP Alumni Association on Nov. 4 at 10 a.m. in the University Center Annex. The event is free.

The Graduate Brunch is held each semester for students expecting to graduate at the end of that term.

A light brunch is served and a program is presented with speakers including Chancellor Charles Jenkins and rep-

resentatives from the Career Center, the Office of Graduate Studies, the UNCP Alumni Association and more.

"This is an opportunity for graduating seniors and graduate students to hear some final words of encouragement from the

University and the Alumni Association," said James Bass, director of Alumni Relations.

"This is a way for us to say congratulations, but it's also a way for us to let students know that their alma mater welcomes them back and wants them

to stay in touch," Bass said.

Guest speakers at the event have included alumni from such diverse backgrounds as education, politics and business.

For information, visit the UNCP Alumni Relations website at:

<http://www.uncp.edu/alumni/news/brunch/index.htm>.

Students wishing to attend should RSVP to the UNCP Alumni Relations Office by calling 521-6533 or sending an e-mail to alumni@uncp.edu.

Student stage production gives lesson in tolerance

By Tony Lewis
Staff Writer

The Givens Performing Arts Center will open the 2009-2010 University Theatre Series on Oct. 27 at 8 p.m. with the stage production of "The Laramie Project."

"The Laramie Project," a play by Moisés Kaufman and members of the Tectonic Theater Project, is based on the reaction to the 1998 murder of University of Wyoming gay student, Matthew Shepard, in Laramie, Wyo.

The play centers around hundreds of interviews conducted by the theatre company with citizens of Laramie, company members' own journal entries and published news reports.

According to the director, Holden Hansen, the

play is creating a lot of excitement around the campus and the community.

"The murder was believed by many to be a hate crime motivated by homophobia," Hansen said.

Annette Glenn, a stu-

dent and member of the University Theatre, said, "The Laramie Project" is more than just a stage production.

"The Laramie Project is an opportunity to educate audiences about prejudice and tolerance," Glenn said.

In addition to the opening show, the play can be seen Oct. 28 to 30 at 7 p.m. and Oct. 31 at 2 p.m.

For more information including ticket sales, call GPAC at (910) 521-6361 or (910) 521-6287 or visit www.uncp.edu/gpac.

Tony award 'Avenue Q' expecting sold out crowd

By Carlos Peralta
Contributing Writer

The hilarious stage show "Avenue Q" comes to the Givens Performing Arts Center.

The 2004 Tony award winner for best musical is set to be performed on Nov. 14 at 8 p.m.

This outrageously funny musical, which includes a cast of people and puppets, is sure to have you laughing from beginning to end.

"We are very excited to have 'Avenue Q' come to GPAC," said Patricia Fields, director of GPAC.

"This show is one of a kind and will have you in tears laughing," she

added.

"Avenue Q" is a comedy that tells the story of Princeton, a bright-eyed college grad who comes to New York City with big dreams and a tiny bank account.

He soon discovers that the only neighborhood in his price range is Avenue Q. Still, the neighbors seem nice and together they struggle to find jobs, dates and the always constant purpose in life.

"Avenue Q" is a perfect show for teens and adults because it is about real life.

It addresses issues like sex, drinking and surfing the web for porn.

"Avenue Q is one of

my favorite musicals of all time," said Matt Smith, a junior at UNCP.

"I have already bought my ticket and I cannot wait to see it," he added.

Much like "Rent" and "Hairspray," this show may sell out.

"We are expecting a sold out crowd for this event," Fields said.

"We are encouraging students to get their tickets early and to come out and support the arts," she added.

"Avenue Q" runs two hours and 15 minutes with one intermission.

Tickets range from \$5 to \$35.



Photo courtesy of GPAC
The musical "Avenue Q" will be performing at GPAC on Nov. 14. The puppet above is named Trekkie.