



FILE PHOTO

Last year, Dance Marathon raised more than \$67,000 for the Children's Miracle Network. Two years ago, the first Dance Marathon at USC raised more than \$26,000.

Dance Marathon countdown begins

BY CHARLES PRASHAW
THE GAMECOCK

It might be more than five months away, but some USC students are already preparing for Dance Marathon 2001.

The annual event, which will happen Feb. 24 and 25, is a fund raiser for the Children's Miracle Network at Palmetto Richland Memorial Hospital.

The event's organizers are already beginning to count down the days until Dance Marathon. A sign in front of the Grand Marketplace in Russell House said Sunday there were 160 days left until the event.

Participants in the marathon raise money for weeks from various sponsors in order to take part.

Amy Reynolds, the exterior chairwoman of the Dance Marathon committee, explained the rules.

Reynolds said all dancers will have to remain on their feet for the whole 28 hours, but they don't have to dance the entire time. The participants will listen to music, play games, eat and, of course, dance—even learning some new dances along the way.

"I always have to explain to people that we don't dance for the whole time," Reynolds said.

To sign up for Dance Marathon, students can get an application in the Student Life office in the west wing of the Russell House.

Reynolds said anyone can sign up until the event begins, but she suggested students sign up early so they can go to the meetings that start in October. According to Reynolds, participants will train and learn dances for the event during the meetings.

Last year, the marathon raised more than \$67,000 for the Children's Miracle Network, said Ed Bender, overall chairman of the marathon.

Bender said around 300 students and members of the community took part in last year's Dance Marathon.

"We really think that this year is going to be bigger than the last one," Bender said. "We hope to make it a tradition at USC."

The university desk can be reached at gamecockdesk@hotmail.com.

COCKFEST

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p.m. in the Russell House Ballroom Wednesday, Sept. 20. Admission is free. In this cultural awareness program, student organizations will be given the chance to showcase their dance routines, which include Line Dance, Step, Freestyle, and Twist.

Showcase will start at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Koger Center. Admission is \$4 per person. The coronation of Homecoming King and Queen will begin with the presentation of all finalists, including 12 males and females. Finalists for Homecoming King are Erik Crook, Corey Ford, Michael Harmon, Douglas McCartha, Graham Newman and Ripal Shah. Finalists for Homecoming Queen are Lauren Clark, Heather Hornick, Holley Hughes, Jessica Lentini, Rebecca Payne and Leah Steele. The competition is based on academics, service, leadership qualities and character.

Homecoming activities come to an end on Friday with the Homecoming Parade and Cockfest.

The parade begins at 3 p.m. and allows many organizations to exhibit their creativity and represent their group by displaying their floats on the streets of the USC campus, and through Five Points and the city. Prizes are given to the four organizations with the most creative floats.

Cockfest, the largest event of Homecoming week, will begin at 7 p.m. at Williams-Brice Stadium. Cocky, the cheerleaders and the USC band will kick off the fun with a pre-pep rally skit to energize the crowd and prepare them for the excitement ahead.

Featured comedians Dane Cook and emcee Robert Kelly will entertain the audience with amusing jokes and comical parodies. Paired fraternities and sororities will act out six skits: Chi Omega and Tau Kappa Epsilon, Kappa Delta and Sigma Chi, Delta Delta Delta and Kappa Sigma, Alpha Delta Pi and Delta Tau Delta, Delta Gamma and Lambda Chi Alpha, and Alpha Chi Omega and Pi Kappa Phi.

The four-minute skits will be judged on theme, spirit, creativity, originality and presentation. Several themes



Amy Goulding THE GAMECOCK

Three members of Chi Omega, along with a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon, make preparations for Cockfest.

being showcased are time lines, game day and southern traditions. Tickets cost \$5 if purchased at the Carolina Productions office before the event or \$6 if purchased at the stadium.

A small display of fireworks will follow the skits at the stadium. Awards and prizes will be given out afterward in honor of the winners of Half-Time, Parade, Cockfest and Overall Points, or the organization who gathered the most wins throughout the week.

A grand finale of fireworks will explode as the show comes to a closing.

During halftime at the game this Saturday, more awards will be distributed, and organizations will be recognized for outstanding service, national or re-

gional recognition and for representing the "Spirit of Carolina."

Smith said the participation of organizations in Homecoming has increased this year.

Several new organizations were added to the 2000 roster, including Lambda Chi Alpha, Sigma Alpha Iota, Filipino American Student Association, Baptist Student Union, RHA and Chi Psi.

"Hopefully by this increase in participation, more student organizations will be encouraged to join us for next year's Homecoming Week," Smith said.

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GIFT

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olina, Virginia, Florida or Georgia.

"It's unique to the whole Southeast," Huhns said. "We can beat Georgia at more than just football."

Working with the technology will help USC students compete when they enter the job market, Huhns said.

"They're the ones that will be more valuable when industries are looking to hire someone," he said.

The equipment is already being used in one graduate class in the department of computer science and engineering, Huhns said, and will also be used by students in the College of Hospitality, Retail and Sports Management and the business school.

"I'm almost certain it'll be used in those places by the spring semester," he said.

University spokesman Jason Snyder agreed that the donation will help students find jobs.

"The key is that there's going to be demand for this, increasing demand," Snyder said. "It keeps us on the same page with what's going on in technology and business."

The university also announced the complete funding of NCR's endowment for a chair, a donation allowed the university to supplement a professor's salary, in computer architecture. Established in 1992, the chair is now fully funded at \$1 million.

Ralph White, dean of the College of Engineering and Information Technology, said the college was grateful for the two gifts.

"We are truly fortunate to have such good friends of the college," White said.

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A Touch of Southern Charm

Homecoming 2000

Carnival

September 19, 2000
RH Patio 4:30 PM

Showcase

September 21, 2000
Koger Center 7:00 PM
\$4.00 per ticket

Parade

September 22, 2000
Carolina Community
3:00 PM

Kickoff

September 19, 2000
Greene St. 7:00 PM
Russell House

Jamfest

September 20, 2000
RH Ballroom 7:00 PM

Float Building

September 21, 2000
Columbia Parking Lot
behind Koger Center
9:00 PM

Cockfest

September 22, 2000
Williams-Brice Stadium
7:00 PM
\$5.00 In Advance
\$6.00 At the Door

For ticket and t-shirt purchases please contact
Carolina Productions
at 777-7130.

Individuals needing special accommodations, please contact
Carolina Productions at 777-7130.

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