

WPCC student leaders striving to make a difference

By RAE BEASLEY
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In an election year when each political party strives to make changes for the better, several students in the Student Government Association on the campus of Western Piedmont Community College are doing more than striving.

They are actually contributing not only to the campus but the community around them.

Each year the student group plans relevant and timely forums, makes an effort to keep students informed about activities on campus and coordinates several community service

projects.

SGA President Terra Lane says she is involved in the campus organization because it's a great way to serve students.

"I love people and I like to help them," she said. "As student government president, I am visible and I can let them know if they need help, they can call on me."

Upcoming events for the group include: an all-you-can-eat ice cream day on Oct. 13 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Members of the community and students, faculty and staff have the opportunity to make ice cream sundaes for 25 cents.

All proceeds from the day go to the Burke Collegiate Scholars Program, a program which offers scholarships to local sixth-grade students.

A splatter paint day will also be held on Oct. 14 for students, faculty and staff. The organization will provide the T-shirts and the paints.

But more importantly, the group is planning forums for students dealing with issues that may save their life.

"Right now we are working on an AIDS forum and an alcohol awareness week," Lane said.

Last year the organization sponsored an AIDS awareness week, inviting different speakers to inform

those attending the forum about the disease.

The forum also included a panel of men and women who carried the HIV virus and told community members first-hand what it was like to live with the AIDS virus.

"This went over real well last year," said Wendy Pascal, former SGA president and current vice-president. "We want to sponsor something like this again. We feel it really helped the community understand the disease."

Shane Cook, SGA secretary, said he enjoyed being a part of the group because he wants to have a part in what takes place at the school.

"I like to know and be a part of the decisions that are made as well as get a good education," he said.

Brian Garrison, treasurer, says he enjoys working with both students, staff and faculty.

All four SGA leaders spread themselves thin by participating in numerous campus and community organizations.

Lane participates in church activities at Drexel First Baptist Church.

Cook is a WPCC Ambassador, which includes planning new student orientations and serving as a greeter at college functions.

Garrison also serves on the sound committee at Pleasant Ridge Baptist

Church, delivering tapes of Sunday services to homebound members.

Both Cook and Garrison work at Jones Drug Store on Avery Avenue after school and on the weekends.

And Pascal works at Grace Hospital full-time in addition to taking a class at Piedmont and serving on the executive committee with SGA.

Yet, all four make time to tell students to vote in this and every year's election and to participate in student groups on campus.

Students can become involved in SGA by petitioning for student senate. Currently, there are 10 positions open and 14 newly appointed senators.

"All students need to do is have 60 students sign a petition and be willing to attend the meetings and help out," Cook said. "We have 10 positions open but we would be willing to take 11 people. It's a great way to get involved."

The group meets each Tuesday at 12:30 p.m. except for the last Tuesday in each month and then they meet at 7 p.m., Pascal said.