Rider CEC hosts inclusive dance at Daly's

By Nicole Southern

Once the DJ started playing, the fun began. There were faces everywhere, each one with a beaming smile. The dance was a success the second it began.

On Friday, April 15, the Rider chapter of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), a national organization that supports individuals with disabilities, hosted a luau-themed dance for community members with special needs.

"The guests were mostly from the surrounding area, including West Windsor, Plainsboro, Ewing, Trenton and Lawrenceville," said CEC Adviser Dr. Diane Giannola. The organization had been planning the dance for awhile and, after a lot of hard work, had managed to put together a booming event, according to junior Amy Zaborowski, CEC secretary and future president.

"We've been planning this for four to six weeks," she said. "We started talking about it in February. We had different committees for decorations, activities, food, et cetera."

Getting enough money to pay for the event was a challenge, according to Zaborowski. "In order to raise money for the dance we did fund raising," she said. "We also had a bake sale and part of member dues paid for it."

According to Zaborowski, the CEC provided several different activities for its guests. "We [had] a beading arts activity, sand art, key chains and ring toss," said Zaborowski. "We also [had] munchies and a DJ."

The members of CEC went out of their way to get as many people as possible to attend the dance, said senior Jenn Hensler, CEC public relations manager. "We sent out invitations to special needs organizations," she said. "I also communicated with parents through e-mail."

Many invitations were sent out and some guests had been invited by Rider students, according to Zaborowski. "We invited students from LARKS and the Association for Retarded Citizens (ARC) at Rider also handed out invitations to the dance," she said. Although individuals with disabilities of all ages were invited, mostly younger guests came, said Hensler. "The guests who came to the dance were ages 16 to the mid 20s," she said. According to Hensler, this imbalance was because of another dance that was being thrown by the ARC Mercer, an organization for individuals with disabilities that provides them with job options and social activities.

"The ARC Mercer was having a dance for the older age group, so the younger age group came here," she said. Despite the scheduling conflict, a larger number of guests showed up than the organization had originally expected. "There were approximately 20 individuals with disabilities from the community in attendance," said Giannola.

After all was said and done, CEC members were happy with the dance's outcome. "The kids had a great time," said senior Carmen Reyes, CEC president. "The seniors even had a great time."

Thanks to the help of CEC members and Zeta Tau Alpha, the dance was a great success, according to Hensler. Rider students who helped had a good time and learned a lot from the guests. "They were friendly and they definitely know how to get down and have a good time," she said. See 'Dance' page 7

Videoconferencing links Rider to Egypt

By Charlie Olsen

Every week, around 20 Rider representatives have been meeting in the Bristol-Meyers Squibb Center for Science Teaching and Learning with about 15 delegates from Egypt to discuss current affairs.

One of the first things I noticed was that the women are so outspoken," Fiske-Rusciano said. "The students are very forthright, very honest, sincere and intelligent."

Senior Jaime Parker said that communicating with the students involved throwing away stereotypes and misconceptions to act as unofficial diplomats for their countries.

"Initially, they had a videoconference last semester," Parker said. "The students said they were surprised we weren't all overweight."

Likewise, one of the women from AU-Cairo said that, while visiting the United States, a waiter asked her, "Do you live in your own pyramid or do you live in your parents'?

Rider and AU-Cairo stu-