

Annual Lip Sync blends past and future

Chelsey Fairfield
Contributor

Rowan University's 2015 homecoming Lip Sync Battle brought with it 1980's mash-ups, hover boards, ballroom dancing, twerking and the repetitive echo of The Jonas Brothers' "Year 3000."

The battle, held on Oct. 15 in the Student Center pit, was hosted by Long Island comedian Evan Wecksell and judged by faculty, staff members and alumni.

"You come for the acts," Wecksell said. "It was a packed house and everyone was into it. They stayed the entire time and they loved supporting their friends onstage. To be able to facilitate that is pretty awesome."

According to Director of Live Events for the Student University Programmers Carly Samuels, this year's battle had the most participants in comparison to previous years. Because of the large turn out, Samuels said that the event may possibly take place in a larger venue in the coming years.

Homecoming's "Back to the Future" theme played a major role in song selections, ranging from Michael Jackson's "Beat It," to Bon Jovi's "Livin' on a Prayer." They paired with more current tunes like Hailee Steinfeld's "Love Myself" and musical ballads such as "Love is an Open Door," from "Frozen."

Acts were performed by individuals and groups, with Boro Bucks awarded to the winners in each category. Some of the groups included members from The Student Center, the Women's Rugby Team, Leadership Rowan and an array of sororities and fraternities.

The Sigma Alpha Epsilon (SAE) fraternity and Sigma Delta Tau (SDT) sorority teamed up as "The Tune Squad," and performed a mash-up rendition



Theta Phi Alpha and Alpha Chi Rho won second place at the Lip Sync Competition with their mash-up of classic and current music. -Staff Photo/Anthony Medina

of the Space Jam's soundtrack.

"It's a good way to have fun during homecoming," said Arashdip Singh, a sophomore accounting major who participated on SAE's team. "Obviously I'm a little nervous because I don't know what to expect, but I feel like as soon as I get onstage it's all going to be gone. We're ready to have a good time."

For the group category, third place and a prize of \$100 went to SDT and SAE, known as the "The Tune Squad."

Second place and \$200 went to Theta Phi Alpha (TPA) and Alpha Chi Rho (AXP). The group did a futuristic performance with robotic dancing and choreography to songs from Queen and The Jonas Brothers.

The top prize of \$400 in the group category went to the "THD Deloreans."

The group performed Elvis' "A Little Less Conversation" which starred junior theatre arts major Russell Palmieri as Elvis wearing a white jumpsuit. Palmieri became an immediate fan favorite with his spot on Elvis impersonation and

moves to complement the song.

Other group members included freshman theatre majors Emily DeSimone, Kayla Byrd, Kerry Jules, Michael Barcellona, Seth Jackson and dance major Gabrielle Impriano.

The routine was choreographed by Impriano and Jules and included hints of ballroom dancing such as The Charleston and The Jive.

Palmieri said the theatre department participates in the Lip Sync Battle every year and when it came time to think up a performance he had the perfect idea.

The group started practicing just two days before the event. The rehearsal before the show was the first time the group practiced altogether.

"I've been an Elvis fan all of my life," Palmieri said. "I bought the costume last year before school started. Even if we didn't win, we still had fun doing it."

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Team OSA1 sinks the competition during battleship

Anthony Medina
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The stands were packed with cheering students at the Rec Center's pool during Rowan University's 2015 homecoming Battleship Competition.

This is the third year that Rowan has held this event during homecoming and 23 teams competed on the evening of Oct. 14.

The competition drew large crowds to the pool area and even had groups of people gathered around the windows in the lobby of the pool to watch. Many sororities and fraternities gathered together to cheer on their fellow brother and sisters, like Emily Smolenski, a junior elementary education major.

"I came to support my friends," Smolenski said. "I'm in Delta Phi Epsilon and we came here to win."

The object of the game was to maneuver a canoe around the pool while using buckets to fill opponents' canoes with water, and sink their "battleship."

Each team consisted of up to six people, but only four were allowed in the canoe during the competition. Several heats were held to

divide up the action due to limited space, with the winners of each heat grabbing a spot in the final round. As many as six teams competed in a heat, armed with three buckets, a paddle and a canoe.

Each round started off chaotically, with five teams charging at each other. However, rounds slowed down when there were only three teams left in the pool and strategy took over.

"We mostly just balance the boat and then we have the guy in our boat, David Miller, he's just going to run the show," said Becca Spinks, a Rowan graduate student on team "Bae-Watch."

Some students coordinated their attire to represent their teams, ranging from matching purple handkerchiefs to fairy wings. The names varied as well, with names like "Bae-Watch" and "No Formal Attire Necessary."

Some attendees, like Julia Johnson, a junior elementary education and English major, came out to support her co-workers from the Chamberlain Student Center.

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Competitors of the annual Battleship Competition try to sink their opponents' boats. -Staff Photo/Justin Fata