By Dustin Porter

Around the Campus Pond

Dr. Joseph Lakatos, associate professor in the school of business, gave a lecture as the first Last Lecture speaker at UNCP on April 13 to convince students to live everyday like they were just diagnosed with cancer because they might not be here tomorrow.

"Live today like you will not be here tomorrow, but plan to be safe," Dr. Lakatos said. "Life is a journey with no destinations, but the journey itself. Enjoy what you learn about yourself along the way and give yourself as much as possible every day, for a day is a lifetime in and of itself."

Dr. Lakatos was diagnosed with follicular lymphoma in 2004, but did not focus his lecture around his struggle with the disease, but rather talked about his relationships with his students, and how any student can "find their core." His goal today was to surprise you by focusing the lecture on you, "rather than me," Dr. Lakatos said. "If you focus on the problem, you can't solve the solution." He told students to always be themselves whether they are in a suit and tie, a swimsuit, in the shower, on the toilet, in an interview, with their friends or at church. He added that they should always have a relationship with others and put themselves in their shoes no matter what. He said they should always keep a piece of their childhood with them because without their inner child they have no passion.

The theme of the lecture was "finding your core" and Dr. Lakatos explained how he helped numerous students find their core, and how he found his.

He said that many things will attack your core during your life, but students should not get discouraged because "when a man falls into an abyss he finds his character." Dr. Lakatos said it took him 15 years to find his core because he was living his life to please his father.

"I wanted to teach, and when I told my father he asked, 'Why do you want to do that?,'" Dr. Lakatos said. "He didn't ask it in a mean way, but it came off mean to me because I was 16." He added that his father told him there was no money in teaching, and he should become a doctor or a lawyer, and he did the latter for 15 years.

Dr. Lakatos said he realized one day that he was not happy and decided to chase his passion, and it was that day when he discovered his core. He used that example to show students to always live for themselves.

Pressure from their par- ents or their peers will at- tack their core, and they should always "look-out for number one." Throughout his lecture Dr. Lakatos encouraged students to find their passion and stick with it. He used a piano to demonstrate this.

"This piano looks like a wooden box with black and white keys to me because it's not my thing," he said. He spoke about a busi- ness student named Randy who wanted to be a chef, but did not know how to do that with a business degree. Dr. Lakatos added that his parents questioned his pas- sion, but he told Randy to go to culinary school and use his business degree to open up his own restaurant where he can cook.

Dr. Lakatos reminded students to put themselves first, do what makes them happy and told them they are never alone because he is always with them. Dr. Lakatos was chosen by students to present the Last Lecture speech. This event occurred during In- stallation week for Chancellor Kyle R. Carter.

Dr. Lakatos and his son, Dillon, wrote and illustrated a book entitled Angel and Dinosaur: A Change in Family Plan. The book was pub- lished by New Hanover Printing of Wrightsville Beach, NC. All proceeds from the book will go towards lymphoma and leukemia re- search.

Editorial:

Editor promises to cherish moments

By Kayloni Wyatt

Editor

As the end of the spring semester approaches and graduation is now on the horizon, I can’t help but think about all the time we have invested into UNCP.

I think of the everlasting friendships I have made throughout the years. People I met at UNCP that I will forever hold close to my heart. It’s hard to think of life after gradua- tion. I am beyond proud of the accomplishments I have made and also those of the Pine Needle. I am beyond proud of the communication department with her and others will continue after college. I know my friendship with her friends. I have an amazing sup- port system with two huge parts of my life. I’ll also cherish the mo- ments that I have made at UNCP, such as the en- counters I’ve had with im- portant figures like Doug Flutie and the many others I have interviewed for The Pine Needle. I also cherish the mo- ments that I have made in Front of Pine Hall and how he’s become a huge part of my life.

Throughout his lecture Dr. Lakatos explained how he found his passion, and it was that day when he discovered his core. He used that example to show students to always live for themselves. To end I would like to share my lyrics from one of the many songs I love, “Sometimes in life we wan- der aimlessly, searching for a purpose, searching for ourselves, and yet, some- times in life, we are so oblivious to the obvious, be- cause everything is right in front of us, and we’re missing the point of living.” —“Everlong” by Foo Fight- ers