order to worship God you must know Him, love Him, and serve Him in your daily activities. To know God, you must first speak to Him in prayer every day. There are many, many ways to serve God whether it is in mission work, or just talking to someone who is lost and not saved, you can serve God. Worship doesn’t just happen in church; it happens everywhere around you. The Lord guides you to where He wants you to go, but it is your choice to follow Him and make the right decisions. The retreat was a great opportunity to meet new people from all over the campus and from different churches and even from UNCW.

Juanetta Dunn, a second semester grad student at UNCP said, “I love that during the retreat people step out of their comfort zones and opened up themselves for ministry; whether it was dancing, singing, or speaking. I truly enjoyed everything about the retreat from the bus ride, spending time on the beach joking around, small group discussions, ice breakers, the talent show and even time at the beach house.”

Outside of worships and group sessions students enjoyed time on the beach, camp fires, wacky games and a talent show that showcased their vocal abilities, acting skills, dancing skills, worship leading and modern exercise techniques.

Kelsi Lynn Smith, a sophomore at UNCP said, “I really felt like I just got plugged in and just having Christian friends really encouraged me just knowing that I am not alone out there.”

Senior Kelli Lambert and four year member of BSU agreed with Smith. “This is my fourth Winter Retreat. Winter Retreat is my favorite trip that the BSU takes throughout the year. I really love having the opportunity to worship God with so many people from different campuses and outreaches. I really enjoyed this trip. It was such a great opportunity to hang out with other students that are outside of BSU on the campus of UNCP.”

Most in attendance were first time goers, and are looking forward to next year’s retreat.

Sophomore Andrew Young is among these. “I am so glad that I got the opportunity to go, even though I was a little skeptical and unsure of what to expect, I was extremely blessed. I was blown away by the word of God and being surrounded by so many Christians who act the same way I do. This retreat allowed me to see and understand the importance of knowing God, loving Him, serving Him and worshipping him all together.”

The organizers of the retreat from UNCP, UNC Wilmington Baptist Student Union, Berea Baptist and Bear Swamp were Ron Sanders, Chris Hunt, Albert Locklear, Carlene Holden, Brendon Jonsson, Brandy Larson, Katie Junisz and Laura Whethertinon.