



The Anointing of Dracula Lures Record-Setting Audience

Amid a setting of goblins and ghosts and goth-tinged rock songs, Theatre/Converse's Halloween production of *The Anointing of Dracula* drew more people to Hazel B. Abbott Theatre than any single show in the past decade.

The production, which ran October 24 – November 1, was an original written by Brent Glenn, Assistant Professor of Theatre. "We wanted to create an atmosphere that is conducive for people to be creeped-out. Jumping out from behind to scare someone is startling; our intention was to frighten," said Glenn, who also directed the production.

Featured in the production was a cast of thirty-five members of the undead and a four-piece band performing popular rock songs by acts such as Garbage, the Toadies and Evanescence.

Although *The Anointing of Dracula* is loosely based upon Bram Stoker's classic *Dracula*, Glenn says that he "wanted to write something original. I knew that the ideas of vampires would be fun. I liken *The Anointing of Dracula* to a Catholic mass run by vampires, and it does a good job of updating Bram Stoker's version and makes it more accessible to today's audiences."

"I scare easily so I thought it was good," said Camrey Oczkowski '10 of Wellford, South Carolina. "Everyone in the cast had a lot of discipline, talent and passion. They performed wonderfully."

Alumna Returns to Direct Converse II Program

Laurie Giles Hillstock '96 has always been a natural leader. Prior to replacing Martha Rogers as the Director of Converse II, she managed distance learning at Clemson University and directed summer school at Virginia Tech. An English major and computer science minor, Hillstock's Converse education helped shape her into the leader she is today. "I think my time at Converse helped me to



Laurie Giles Hillstock '96

become broad-minded, patient, straightforward and forward-thinking. I also learned the value of having strong ethics, perseverance and displaying sincerity in my actions. In my opinion, all of these characteristics are critical for quality leadership." Hillstock also holds a master's degree in human resource development from Clemson University and expects to complete her PhD in educational leadership from Clemson by Summer 2009.

Serving in her new position since August 2008, Hillstock's goal is to grow the Converse II program. Converse II is an affordable undergraduate academic program that allows working and family-oriented women over the age of 24 to complete a bachelor's degree, participate in continuing education opportunities, seek training for a specific specialty or take courses for personal development. The most prevalent majors among Converse II students are education, art and business. Many adult learners benefit from their employer covering all or some of the tuition costs.

Hillstock hopes to make the Converse II program more conducive to working adults by increasing the number of course offerings administered through distance and hybrid learning, and by working closely with faculty and staff on student advisement to increase awareness about various student activities and services available to Converse II students.

"Words cannot express the level of humility that comes with being involved in helping with the educational experience of so many adult women on a daily basis," Hillstock comments.