LOCAL GALA GENERATES BIG HAUL TO HELP HEARTS

Scores of business leaders and scallops - a 12-piece band with a full horn section - auction, followed by a live auction. The evening ended with everyone on the floor dancing to the Sleeping Booty, a 12-piece band with a full horn section. Spotted among the crowd were Bank of America CEO Brian Moynihan, UNC Rex Healthcare President Steve Burriss and Advance Auto Parts CEO Tom Greco. The event netted $1.26 million to support research, advocacy and awareness of heart disease and stroke.

The King of NASCAR to sell some of his prized possessions

Want to drive like Richard Petty? Now's your chance.

The NASCAR legend from Level Cross is selling off much of his memorabilia - even some cars. Petty is also selling trophies and other stuff this spring in a May 12 auction, to be conducted by Julien's Auctions. The auction will be live from Las Vegas as well as online.

Among the items up for auction include multiple cars, including the 1974 Dodge Charger that he drove to victory at the Daytona 500. The car is expected to bring more than $400,000. Also being auctioned off is his Daytona 500 trophy from 1981, his seventh and last victory in that event. Julien's expects that trophy to fetch at least $200,000.

Other cars being sold are a 1978 Chevrolet Monte Carlo and a 1992 Pontiac Grand Prix.

"We're putting some pretty good stuff out there, some winning Daytona cars, some rings, some watches, some knaves," Petty, 80, told The Associated Press. "We feel like we've got enough stuff in the museum and none of my kids really want it."

N.C. State looks to prep grads for industry

There's a new way to graduate at N.C. State University thanks to a growing program called Accelerate to Industry, or A2I.

The program - according to Laura Demarse, assistant dean of the Graduate School at N.C. State - is rooted in helping graduate students and postdoctoral researchers explore career opportunities beyond academia.

And following a pilot Industry Immersion Week that accepted 50 student applicants last year, 60 students are slated to be accepted for this year's event at the end of summer. Modeled to be more in-depth and personal than a career fair, students participating in the program partake in training and one-on-one relationship-building sessions with industry partners, who use it as a talent development program. For example, founding sponsors such as Lord and Eastern Chemical have already committed to a return this year.

"Right now, we do have a lot of interest from other universities," Demarse says of the innovative, and now trademarked program, slated to be implemented on other college campuses. The program, she says, is ultimately about "helping students find meaningful outcomes for their graduate degrees," which are then "economic drivers" in regions.

UNC student paper moves in face of revenue challenge

The Daily Tar Heel, the student newspaper at UNC-Chapel Hill, celebrated its 125th birthday Feb. 24, but the swank gala at the Carolina Inn came at a time of real challenge. The DTH is independent of the university and no longer receives student fees or direct financial support from the school. A decade ago, the newspaper had $1 million per year in revenue and moved into expansive offices on Rosemary Street. But national advertising in particular eroded once the recession hit, and The DTH blew through its reserve - losing $300,000 in fiscal 2015-16 alone.

It slashed the professional staff to one full-timer, General Manager Erica Perel, and now prints three days per week. In February, The DTH moved into smaller offices on Franklin Street, cutting rent by two-thirds.

The current budget is $700,000 and Perel says her goal is to eventually return to campus. "There are a lot of wonderful things that come with being independent," she says. "But it comes with its challenges."

Print revenue still drives its funding, but Perel says, "The future is going to be revenue streams that come from different areas. It might not be selling them a rectangle - an advertisement. We have to be more creative in the solutions we are offering."

Scott Duckworth, chairman of the Triangle Heart Ball.

The 600 people in attendance nibbled on beef tenderloin and Po'Boy, a wealth of talent out there."