

Erin Grigsby
Semi-Formal Story

The Ford Dining Hall has a reputation of being a beautiful structure on campus, and its beauty was strengthened when KCAB illuminated it with candlelight for the Semi-Formal dance.

Over 300 students gathered on Saturday, November 20th to enjoy food and good music, according to KCAB member Madison Willoughby. But before going to Semi-Formal, students had to get ready. Senior Crystal Davis prepared for the dance by meeting up with friends to fix their hair, do each other's makeup and paint their nails.

"It took us three and a half hours to get our hair done, makeup, get dressed to go to dinner and then the dance," Davis said.

Sophomore Katherine McDonald also met up with a friend in their dorm room to get ready, but in less time.

"We did our makeup and hair and went out to eat at Olive Garden. It took us about 45 minutes to get ready for the dance," said McDonald.

Davis and McDonald also took pictures with friends before and during the dance, which is a normal activity students partake in before a formal dance. But students were not the only ones who invested time into the dance; KCAB put forward a lot of effort into setting up the dance as well.

The Ford Dining Hall was decorated with Christmas lights at a photo booth area, where Alan Storey took pictures of students. Tables were set up with dozens of candles for people to sit down and eat food. The candlelight helped set the ambience to enhance the 'Dancin' in the Moonlight' theme, as well as the centerpieces.

Willoughby said that KCAB stayed with a theme of black, white, silver and shades of blue and green, which was seen in the centerpieces.

"Our tables had teal tablecloths which we placed several candles and a black sand filled vase with these really cool sequined, glittery centerpieces on a circular mirror," Willoughby said.

Sarah Bridenbaugh, another KCAB member, said that about one month was spent planning Semi-Formal, which began with reserving the location. The next step involved finding the DJ, then tickets, invitations, decor and food. Not a lot of set-up was required on the day of the dance, however, because a lot of setting up and decorating had been done for the Miss Berry "After Party," which was the night before Semi-Formal.

Last-minute changes and additions, as well as getting the food and setting up the DJ, were done a few hours before the dance began. But all of the hard work done by KCAB was worth it, and Bridenbaugh said the dance was an overall success.

"Semi-Formal went very well this year," Bridenbaugh said. "We absolutely could not have done it without all of KCAB's and KREW's help. There were more people there much earlier than we anticipated so the night started off great and it ended just as well."

Willoughby agreed when she said, "the event went really well. It's a staple event that students look forward to every year and it seemed as though everyone really enjoyed themselves!"

McDonald said she normally does not enjoy dances at Berry because she thinks they are not very meaningful or tasteful, but she had some positive thoughts about Semi-Formal and the fairly large turnout.

“I think the dance went well,” McDonald said. “It was a good turnout. The dance floor actually didn’t seem big enough this time since there were a lot of people. The music was alright.”

Other students said they had a great time, including Davis.

“It was simple, but fun because the DJ played music that fit the era,” Davis said. “Overall, I enjoyed the dance because I had a great group of friends to go with that made the night fun!”