

Features

New vice chancellor for academic affairs hired after four-year search

Jason Wicks
Staff Writer

The selection of UNCA's new vice chancellor for academic affairs stemmed from a year-long national search, which included reviewing 200 applications. Only four applicants were selected to visit the campus, according to Chancellor Patsy Reed.

Dr. James Pitts recently filled the previous position of Tom Cochran.

"His credentials, his responses, his manner, his deep understanding of liberal arts institutions, all of those things really shone through during the selection process," said Reed.

"UNCA is a jewel, and I'm very impressed that the state of North Carolina tries to make that jewel affordable," says Pitts.

Pitts became interested in college administration after visiting the campus of a private liberal arts college. He saw the priorities of a great research university and the experience gave him a strong attraction to a liberal arts environment. After the visit, Pitts decided that he would like to work in such a place to help faculty shape a

learning environment which focuses on student growth.

"I feel very good about the quality of the faculty and the quality of student learning here at UNCA," said Pitts.

Pitts' main responsibility is to provide leadership for the day to day academic life of the campus, but also to listen to faculty needs, help faculty plan for resources and time arrangements, and be available for consultation of faculty.

Pitts also helps in the selection and awarding of faculty for their service to the university. He plans to remain at UNCA indefinitely.

"I don't have my eyes on something else. I just let life happen," said Pitts.

Pitts, originally from Chicago, Ill., has already been swept away by western North Carolina's mountainous terrain. "I like Asheville

and the beauty of the region very much. "It's an inspiration and a definite bonus," said Pitts.

In his spare time he enjoys walking, reading and, "sometimes just doing nothing at all," said Pitts. Pitts is married and has two sons who currently attend college.



Dr. James Pitts

Review

AC/DC leaves Knoxville thunderstruck

Jay Malinoski
Staff Writer

AC/DC's Ballbreaker tour hit the Thompson-Boling Arena at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville on Wednesday, Aug. 28.

The show kicked off at 7:30 p.m. with an opening act out of San Francisco, the Alley Boys, who played a 30-minute set during which most of the crowd visited the concession stands. I thought they were good, but not a good opener for AC/DC. Their music was remnant of Green Day and Stone Temple Pilots, not the bluesy hard rock that everyone came to see.

After the Alley Boys left the stage, a 30-minute intermission built the tension as stage hands prepared for the main show. At 8:30 the lights went out, and some 12,000 people screamed in unison.

Soon after, a huge screen dangling from the rafters was lit up with those two most classic of stoners, Beavis and Butthead, as they stood outside AC/DC's dressing room screaming for the band not to hog all the women. Very... cute.

Then, as Beavis and Butthead ran from a rather frightening woman, a cartoon figure of lead guitarist Angus Young dispatched to usher them away. The sound of a massive crane filled the arena as a huge wrecking ball was lowered before a stage set of buildings and windows. To top it off, lead singer Brian Johnson climbed up on the ball, which was about 30 feet above the stage, to begin that particular number.

The ball swung back and forth for about five minutes and then obliterated the set as a motorized platform shot from beneath the wreckage, wielding drummer Phil Rudd, rhythm guitarist Malcom Young, and bassist Cliff Williams. Within a microsecond of the carnage and destruction, Angus Young tore across the stage in his school uniform as Johnson tore into the title track from the band's 1980 release "Back In Black."

Throughout the two-hour set, the Australian mega-stars jammed to such crowd favorites as "Dirty Deeds Done Dirt Cheap," "Thunderstruck," "Highway to Hell," and "Jailbreak" as Angus blitzed across the stage not missing a lick. Such props as a giant blow-up doll for the song "Whole Lotta Rosie" and the patented bell for "Hell's Bells," from which Johnson dramatically swung, caused the crowd to roar even louder.

The encore was by far the greatest I have ever seen at a concert. To the beat of "For Those About To Rock, We Salute You," six cannons were rolled forward on the top of the set and bellowed the 21-gun salute, the band's hallmark since the release of "For Those About to Rock" in 1981. It was one helluva concert.

Formed in 1973, AC/DC has released over 15 albums and have toured the world over. Though marred by band member changes, culminating in the tragic death of their first lead singer, Bon Scott, in 1980, AC/DC has stuck to what works.

They still wear blue jeans and t-shirts, they still sing about liquor, women, and brawls, and they still put on one fantastic show. Some call them a "redneck" band. *Whatever.* Today's angst-ridden musicians could learn something from bands like this. Of course, that's just the way I see it.

THE CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES

The University of North Carolina at Asheville



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One-man show comes to campus

Renee Slaydon
Features Editor

The UNCA Cultural and Special Events Committee will present a play entitled, "Oh, Mr. Faulkner, Do You Write?" on Sept. 6 at 8 p.m. in Lipinsky Auditorium.

According to a UNCA press release, the one-man performance by John Maxwell presents a portrait of Nobel Prize-winning novelist William Faulkner. The monologue opens in Faulkner's study at his home in Oxford, Miss., and carries the audience to Europe, Hollywood, and Sweden, where Faulkner accepted the Nobel Prize.

Audiences in 12 countries and almost every state in the nation have seen the play since it began touring in 1981. *Southern Living* magazine calls it "a living tribute to the high-comedy essence of the man."

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Eudora Welty said that this, "... warm, serious and well-rounded

performance gives us William Faulkner the man in a rewarding evening of theatre."

Maxwell, who is currently serving as the interim artistic director at New Stage Theatre in Jackson, Miss., has a Master of Arts Degree in

Theatre from the University of Mississippi, and also has 12 years of teaching experience on the college level.

In addition, Maxwell is the 1992 recipient of the Susan B. Herron Playwriting Fellowship from the Mississippi Arts Commission. His newest project, "The Last Epistle," is a monologue he wrote and delivers based on the conversion of St. Paul, according to a personal biography provided by the actor.

Maxwell has also served as "artist-in-residence" at Mississippi University for Women for two years where he wrote "Mississippi Jewel," a docudrama based on the history of the school.

Maxwell has over 20 years of acting experience in community and regional theatres and is a member of Actor's Equity and the Screen Actor's Guild.

Maxwell's television credits include several appearances on "Northern Exposure" and a role on an upcoming national television series entitled "Medicine Ball." He currently resides in Jackson, Miss., with his wife, Sandy, and son, Townes.

Maxwell will hold an acting workshop for all interested students on Sept. 6 from 1:10 to 2:10 p.m. in Carol Belk Theatre.



Actor John Maxwell will perform in the one-man show "Oh, Mr. Faulkner, Do You Write?" on Sept. 6 in Lipinsky Auditorium. Maxwell will also hold an acting workshop for interested students on Friday afternoon.



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