

The Banner

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\$62,000 stolen



PHOTO BY WALTER FYLER

The money was stolen from the business office on Jan. 11 and Jan. 14.

By Alison Watson
Staff Writer

Over \$62,000 in cash and non-endorsed checks were reported stolen from UNCA's Business Office during registration, according to incident reports by Public Safety. The State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) has been called in to investigate the matter. Business office employees reported \$757 in cash and \$10,223 in non-endorsed checks stolen on Jan. 11. A second report claimed \$1,500 cash and \$90,500 in non-endorsed checks also missing on Jan. 14. Jolene Moody, a UNCA controller, reported the losses. The SBI stepped in because if money is stolen from UNCA, it is stolen from the state, said Merianne Epstein, director of public information. Public Safety has already aided its investigation and turned over all records to the state. The money was collected during registration and part of the stolen cash and checks were deposited for tuition and other payments. Arthur Foley, vice chancellor of financial affairs, stated that at least 11 students would have to write replacement checks and most had already topped payment on the originals. The university will reimburse all of the students for any stop payment costs.

Foley said that, ordinarily, there are two cashiers working. However, registration is such a busy time for the cashiers' office, more employees fill in. Foley estimated that there were five to 10 UNCA employees working other than cashiers. Statements were already taken from all the employees involved.

"Unfortunately, at this point, because this is under investigation, I cannot offer further details on this matter," said Epstein. The ongoing investigation makes any information that is not already public record, unavailable.

The incident report was filled out on the day the money was discovered missing, Foley said the business office was very efficient.

"Because of the good internal procedures that we have in the cashiers office, we were able to determine the funds were missing," said Foley.

At the end of the day, the controllers made record of their deposits and found the money to be missing and reported it immediately. The Chancellor said he intended to prosecute to the full extent of the law. Until SBI completes its procedures, more information and names will not be released.

Corrigan evaluates athletics

By Kathryn Krouse
Staff Writer

An assessment of the UNCA athletic program by Gene Corrigan, former National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) President, will provide guidelines to search for a new athletic director after the current director's retirement.

"He stands for everything that's right about college athletics," said Associate Athletic Director Mike Gore. "We always want to look to improve, and this is a perfect time to bring in someone like Gene Corrigan to look over our program. He can tell us what we are doing well and what we're not doing so well. It's just fantastic."

Tom Hunnicutt, UNCA's athletic director for seven years, announced he will retire in April. Chancellor James Mullin has taken this opportunity to evaluate the program before hiring a new athletic director.

Hunnicutt's announcement has given the school ample time to look at the program and see where improvements can be made, according to Mullin.

"I think Gene Corrigan coming in to assess where we are now, what our possibilities are and the timeliness of him coming is excellent," said Hunnicutt.

Right now, there are no candidates for Hunnicutt's position. A committee will do a nationwide search for a new athletic director after Corrigan's assessment. His evaluation will give the committee advice to look for in a new athletic director, said Mullin.

Corrigan has chosen not to comment on his assessment until it is completed. "Corrigan will suggest ways for the athletic program to

continue to increase public awareness of UNCA teams and strengthen the program itself to bring more money into it, according to Hunnicutt.

A range of issues concerning the athletic program will be Corrigan's focus, yet it will not be looking at the job performances of UNCA personnel, according to Mullin.

His assessment will cover how UNCA can successfully compete in Division I athletics.

Corrigan's efforts will deal with how to organize to compete, how to budget money, fundraising and recommendations on increasing community relations, according to Mullin.

As a smaller athletic program that does not include a football team, finances are a challenge, according to Hunnicutt. UNCA's athletic focus, the men's basketball team, continues to gain community support.

"It's very important that the community continue to develop a sense of ownership for our teams in this program, that they feel a commitment to attend our games and support our programs," said Mullin.

Corrigan met with community representatives to discuss ways to gain support.

A prominent figure in intercollegiate athletics, Corrigan was president of the NCAA and commissioner of the Atlantic Coast Conference, according to Gore.

Corrigan also served as athletic director of the University of Notre Dame and the University of Virginia, and has done assessments of programs similar in size to UNCA's, like that at Niagara University.

"Gene understands intercollegiate athletics in a way that very few people do. He understands not only large

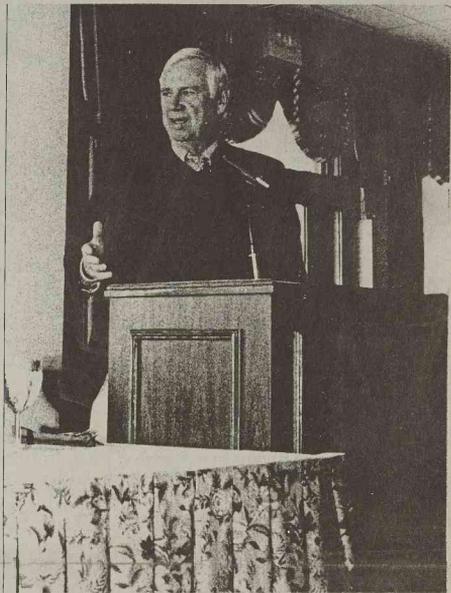


PHOTO BY JASON GRAHAM

Gene Corrigan's assessment of the athletic department will establish criteria for the new athletic director.

programs, but how programs of our size can compete and succeed in Division I," said Mullin.

Hunnicutt's retirement announcement gives UNCA the time to evaluate the program before hiring a new athletic director.

"We've gotten to a point where I feel its time for me to step aside and let someone with some new ideas and

maybe some experiences that I haven't been exposed to, come in and raise the level of our programs," said Hunnicutt.

"Chancellor Mullin could not have picked a more prominent man to come and take a look at UNCA," said Hunnicutt. A private donor funds his efforts at UNCA, so funds will not come from the university's budget, ac-

ording to Mullin.

The current position of the athletic program provides an opportune time for Corrigan's assessment. Support from the community continues to increase and UNCA athletes continue to stay competitive, athletically

See ASSESS page 8

Job options increase for graduating students

Bachelor's Degree Candidates
Total Offers = 29,777

PROPORTION OF OFFERS BY CURRICULAR AREA

Master's Degree Candidates-Inexperienced
Total Offers = 2,095

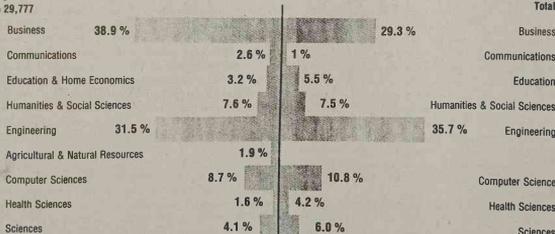


ILLUSTRATION FROM THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND EMPLOYERS

UNCA's Career Center provides students with illustrations of growing career fields.

By Davon Heath
Staff Writer

new graduates are not as abundant in Western North Carolina (WNC) as they are nationwide, according to a representative from the UNCA Career Center.

"I think we've known for the last year (that) the job market has been much improved for graduates coming out," said Kerri Day Keller,

UNCA Career Center director. "The challenge behind all that is the job opportunities depend a lot on what kind of a job you're looking for and geographically what you're looking for."

About half of the graduates that use the UNCA Career Center services are looking for jobs in WNC,

according to Keller.

"The unemployment rate for college graduates is the lowest it has been in 30 years and the demand for skilled employees is very high," said Ken Ramberg, Co-Founder of Jobtrak.com. "The index shows a 31.5 percent increase in total jobs with an average starting salary of

\$36,897."

There are two contributing factors to account for the job increases. The Internet and other technical developments are contributing to the growth of the economy. Also, as baby boomers retire, there is a shortage of qualified candidates to fill their positions, according to a Jobtrak.com press release.

The most promising fields are education and high-tech. "These two industries have the greatest disparity between the demand for employees and the supply of recent graduates," said Ramberg.

"As far as teaching goes, I think the area is wide open," said Donnie Alan Slye, a continuing student majoring in education. "You can find a job if you're willing to look for it."

"I don't think the opportunities for a history major are expanding like technology, service and education," said Reed Wood, a senior history major.

"I feel optimistic," said Becca Causey, a junior Spanish major. "I think with a Spanish degree, I can use it no matter what. I think it will help a lot because the way things are

going, it's pretty marketable now."

"There's a wide array of management positions, but that's not just for management majors," said Keller. "Some folks may be interested in applying their liberal arts skills to a business type setting."

"Broad studies of liberal arts indicate a payoff down the road," said Keller. "Those are people that are the chief executive officers, managers and people in higher level positions, so there is hope."

Jobtrak.com is an on-line job listing and resume service. Jobtrak works with over 960 colleges and university career centers nationwide. "The Jobtrak index provides information about the job market for recent college graduates, details about the employment outlook, hot jobs, salaries, career planning and development," according to the release.

"Since Jobtrak has a unique relationship with university career offices and has posted jobs from more than 400,000 employers, it is in the

See JOBS page 8