



Sports

Men's baseball beats Winthrop in record 18 inning game.

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The Banner

Features

Drumming instructor gives workshop at YMI cultural center.

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UNCA aware of eco-issues

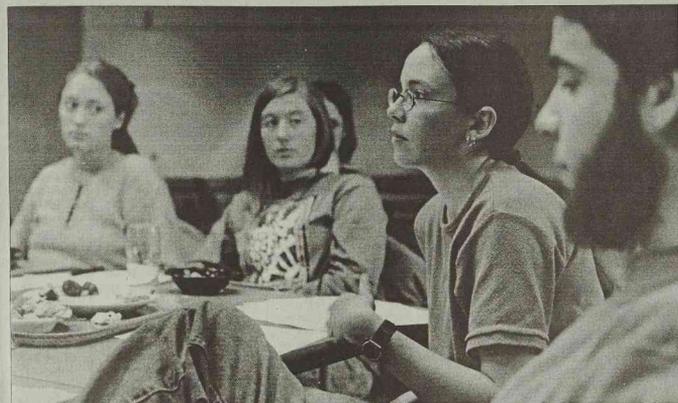


PHOTO BY WALTER FYLER

Students expressed concerns about environmental awareness for the campus and curriculum in a meeting on April 3. Beth Fogelman, a senior environmental science and chemistry major and a leader of Active Students for a Healthy Environment, participated.

By Kathryn Krouse
Staff Writer

A January environmental conference resulted in a gathering of students and faculty on April 3 to discuss campus and curricular changes.

Several members of the faculty attended the conference "in order to explore ideas on how environmental science and issues might become more present in the general education curriculum for all UNCA students," said James Pitts, vice chancellor of academic affairs.

The conference consisted of institutions around the country that came together to discuss their efforts and goals for the "greening" of their campuses, according to Pitts.

"The goal of the workshop was to get us thinking about these issues, and develop a plan of action for our campus," said Leah Greden Mathews, assistant professor of economics and participant in the conference.

The Biosphere is a controlled environmental study area where businesses can mimic natural environments indoors and test affects on them, according to Pitts.

"The Biosphere site was very provocative," said Pitts. "UNCA is interested in raising student awareness of environmental concerns and making UNCA an environmentally friendly campus, according to Greden Mathews.

The campus has already begun acting on environmental concerns, such as reducing pesticide use on campus landscaping, according to Greden Mathews. The environment affects economics, culture, science and people's perceptions of their world.

In order to raise student awareness of the issues, UNCA would like to begin incorporating environmental topics in classes, according to Pitts.

"One way to ensure that students, faculty and staff are more environmentally aware, is through the humanities program," said Greden Mathews. Humanities reaches the majority of students, since all UNCA students are required to take four humanities courses, according to Downes.

"Service learning gives students a real sense of empowerment," said Greden Mathews. "Particularly related to the Key Center for Service Learning, we want students to be able to be more aware of and more active in service learning projects as they relate to the environment," said Greden Mathews.

"There are three of us that are offering service learning projects this semester as an off-shoot of this, like that in my natural resource economics class," said Greden Mathews.

"One student is working on organizing a carpool-ride board," said Greden Mathews. "The idea is to get an icon on the UNCA web site so that students could coordinate rides with others."

"I also have a handful of students working with the recycling coordinator to figure out what they could do to be of more service to the campus," said Greden Mathews. This could be done by helping separate the recyclables, or through further education."

"These events were co-sponsored by the cultural and special events committee, the humanities program, the alumni office and multicultural student programs. Other contributors to the series were Alex Huang, associate professor of atmospheric sciences, Archa Turner, a junior art major, and Haripriya Del Villar, a undeclared freshman.

"We had high positive comments" in regards to the series, said Wright.

Opportunities in Middle East

By Alison Watson
Staff Writer

UNCA will offer exchange programs with colleges in Israel to students beginning next year.

"Our goal is to build the program and encourage many students to participate in the future," said Rick Chess, associate professor of literature and director of Jewish studies program.

The exchange program allows students from any of the 16 N.C. campuses to attend any of three Israeli universities for a semester or full school year.

The cost of a semester is relatively the same as a semester at UNCA. The only real extra cost deals with airfare, according to Chess.

The classes offered cover general education requirements as well as department credits.

The exchange program allows Israeli students to attend N.C. universities as well.

"We would like to see as many Israeli students to come over here as possible," said Chess. "We have to attract these students to N.C."

This can be difficult since the students in Israel tend to be older and ready to finish school, as a result of mandatory service in the military for Israelis before college, according to Chess.

Men must serve for three years and women must serve for two years. After service, many Israeli men and women choose to take a year off before school and travel, according to Chess.

"The students are not as interested, historically, to study abroad after such a break," said Chess. There is a 16 member committee set up for the program. The committee tries to recruit Israeli students to attend a university in N.C.

Currently, there are only two students from N.C. who will be participating in the exchange program, since it was announced in January.

One of the students is from UNCA. Katie Machalek, a junior literature major, will be attending Ben-Gurion University (BGU) which is located in the city of Beer Sheva.

Another student, Zech Malina, a freshman philosophy major, has applied to the program.

The summer programs will begin in 2001, and the program will send students from N.C. to BGU. The university is in the desert and is known for being in an exceptional area, according to Chess.

"Sounds like a great way to learn about such an interesting place by studying abroad. It could really add to the curriculum that is offered now," said Aaron Beck-Schlachter, a senior classics major.

"You don't see a whole lot concerning a combination of ancient religion as well as modern Israeli politics."

BGU was established in 1969 by the government of Israel. The school was named after David Ben-Gurion.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BEN-GURION UNIVERSITY WEB PAGE

An exchange program with Israel will be offered next year to UNCA students. The Ben-Gurion University is one of the colleges that students could enroll in and earn credits.

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Asian and Pacific Islander celebration at UNCA

By Davon Heath
Staff Writer

A four part series celebrating the Asian, Asian-American and Pacific Islander cultures, intends to provide UNCA students exposure to the Asian cultures, according to Cecelia Wright, coordinator of multicultural student programs.

"We're hoping that we are increasing awareness in the campus population in terms of Asian culture," said Wright. Three of the four sections of this series have concluded. The series started with Japanese Taiko drumming on March 30.

On April 6, there was a reception held featuring Asian food followed by a panel discussion facilitated by Heon Lee, assistant professor of sociology. Lee also helped develop this series, according to Wright.

"The panel discussion topic, 'Myths vs. Realities of Asians in America,' discussed the historical, political and sociological impact that America and (other) western civilizations have had on the Asian culture in America and vice versa," said Wright.

A film focusing on the Tiananmen Square Massacre will be shown as the fourth part in this series, according to Wright.

The celebration was meant to be brief and condensed to speak student interest for a future series, according to Wright.

Lee's "idea was to do something we could build off of in the future," said Wright. "This will hopefully lead to something bigger as students express more interest."

There are 39 Asian students currently enrolled at UNCA this semester, or just over 1 percent of the student population, according to the office of institutional research fact book.

"We had a high amount of student participation for the drumming, with about 200 students in attendance," said Wright. "Approximately 30 people attended the reception and discussion panel, (and) a few Asian students participated."

This is the first attempt at creating a program for the Asian culture, and is a way to create diversity on campus, according to Wright.

"These events were co-sponsored by the cultural and special events committee, the humanities program, the alumni office and multicultural student programs.

Other contributors to the series were Alex Huang, associate professor of atmospheric sciences, Archa Turner, a junior art major, and Haripriya Del Villar, a undeclared freshman.

"We had high positive comments" in regards to the series, said Wright.



PHOTO BY WALTER FYLER

As a part of the series celebrating Asian, Asian American and Pacific Islander cultures, the Japanese Taiko drummers performed for students on March 30.