

# News

## Pitts given new position

Vice chancellor will use service projects to connect with the Asheville community

Rachel Crumpler  
Staff Writer

Jim Pitts, former vice chancellor of academic affairs, recently accepted a new title as vice chancellor for public partnerships and special programs. Pitts will promote community service projects that connect UNCA to the Asheville community, but some students have questions about present and up-coming service projects.

"I think every student should be inspired to serve, to be a good citizen and to give something back to (his or her) community," said Chancellor Jim Mullen, who created the new title. "When you come to a great college and learn extraordinary lessons, you are given an opportunity that few people have. All of us have an obligation to take our experience and give something back."

While several students say they support Pitts in his goal to promote community service, some students feel currently uninformed of community service events, while others remain unsure that they will have time to participate in any upcoming events.

"I do not hear much about (service events)," said Brian Lovern, a senior atmospheric science major. "That tells me that maybe we are not doing as much as we should. I am not sure exactly what we should do, but it is important to have that bond between the school and the community."

"I am already very busy with a couple jobs and school as it is," said Steve Ansari, a junior physics major. "The difficult part is finding the time to get off campus."

Pitts' new duties include working with enrollment management and the Key Center for Service Learning. According to



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNCA

**Jim Pitts, vice chancellor for public partnerships and special programs, recently assumed his new position.**

Mullen, Pitts also plays an integral part in forming special academic, childcare and recreational programs. He will primarily work to build stronger relationships with the city of Asheville.

"My new assignment is to bring to fruition relationships that UNCA has with people and organizations off campus," Pitts said. "There are programs that are fledgling or could be brought into existence. They could be mutually beneficial to the university and the outside party. My job is to explore that."

According to Pitts, there are two reasons why community outreach is important. One reason is educational and the other is political.

"Through our connections with our community, we can greatly enrich the learning (experience) for both the staff and the students," said Pitts. "In many ways, we all educate each other."

"Politically, as a state institution, it is important for us to provide benefits to our local environment," said Pitts. "Then people will value our existence and be willing to speak up for our needs for resources. If we do not benefit someone more than ourselves, then our resources are poor."

In his mission for UNCA, Mullen said that he wants to maintain UNCA's academic standards, create a more diverse campus and, most importantly, serve the Asheville community.

Since he cannot enact his mission alone, Mullen chose Pitts to help him steer the campus towards more community involvement.

"If we are going to move as aggressively as we need to move on building these partnerships, I need someone at the vice chancellor rank with me," said Mullen. That person "must have strong academic capability, an understanding of the term 'liberal arts,' great respect in the community and the ability to articulate a vision for UNCA."

"I realized that I had the right person who fit all the criteria right here," said Mullen. "So I went to (Pitts) and asked him if he would do this. And, as is typical of (Pitts), he stepped to the plate and said, 'I will do this.'"

When Pitts first came to UNCA in the summer of 1996, he held the position of the vice chancellor of academic affairs. This summer, Tom Cochran became the new vice chancellor of academic affairs. On August 15, Pitts accepted his new position.

Pitts said that his first project will bring students and faculty together to teach computer skills to the residents of inner city Asheville. Currently, Pitts works with Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church and the

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## Military signups

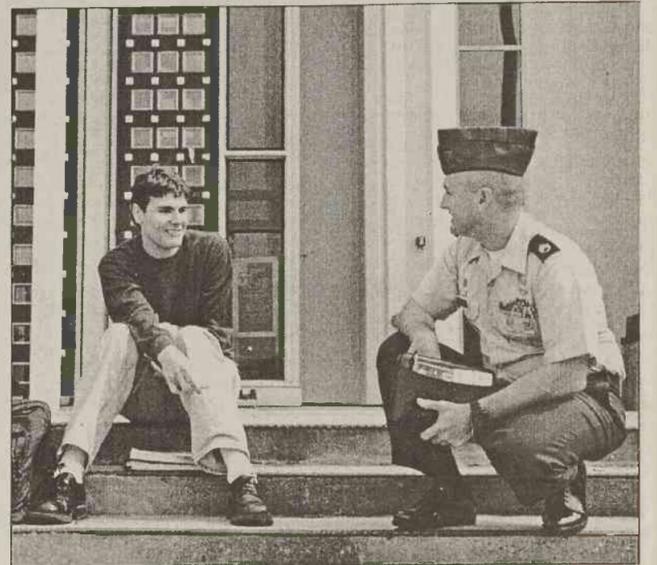


PHOTO BY SARAH LACY

Military recruiters came to UNCA Sept. 6 to recruit students to join their linguistic school. After learning several languages, students would become translators for the military.

The Health Adventure at Pack Place is beginning Fabulous Friday/Family Saturdays on Sept. 8. Cost is \$4 for members and groups of five or more, \$6 for non-members. Caregivers are admitted free. To register or for more information, call (828) 254-6373, ext. 300.

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