

The Blue Banner

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Bond to bring \$3.1 billion to N.C.

UNCA needs almost \$50 million for renovations and construction

Sanna Raza
Staff Writer

The \$3.1 billion bond referendum could bring almost \$50 million to the UNCA campus for construction and renovations if N.C. citizens vote "yes" in the Nov. 7 election.

"I would like to encourage students to remember that this is a bond that will not only help them, but the students of UNCA in the future," said Kevin Brinson, a junior atmospheric science major and vice president of the Student Government Association. "If you really care about the school itself and its future, this is something that you have to vote for."

If the statewide bond goes

through, \$2.5 billion of the \$3.1 billion will go to the 16 public universities and UNC-TV, while \$600 million will be awarded to the 59 community colleges in N.C. UNCA will receive almost \$50 million, according to Tom Byers, executive assistant to the chancellor.

"I truly do not see (a downside)," said Byers. "Some people who may have sort of a cynical outlook believe that it would raise taxes, but we simply do not believe that is true. The big risk is if the voters should fail to approve this, N.C. is in jeopardy of falling behind (in education)."

According to a survey conducted by *The Blue Banner* of 50 students, faculty and staff, 84 percent said they would vote for the bond referendum. The remaining 16

percent said they would not vote at all.

The only reason why people would vote against the bond is the belief that taxes will be raised as a result, according to Brinson.

"There has been a rumor that it would increase taxes, and that is not true," said Brinson. "I have not heard a large amount of anti-sentiment towards the bond. Maybe it is because I am on this campus and, obviously, anybody who is a student here would see the value in voting for the bond."

The bond is very much like a loan and will not raise taxes, according to State Treasurer Harlan Boyles in a letter to Governor Jim Hunt.

"Some critics have argued otherwise, but the truth is, this state can afford it," said Boyles in the letter. "With a continuation of responsible budgetary practices and economic growth, we will not have to raise taxes to repay the money borrowed."

"The financial return on the investments from these bond proceeds will far outweigh their costs," said Boyles in the letter. "The bond rating agencies consider the condition of our colleges and universities when determining a credit rating for our state. Continued deterioration of those facilities could adversely affect the state's bond rating."

Students that are presently enrolled might not benefit from the changes, but they have to think of future students, according to Bill Scharf, a junior computer science and German major. "We probably will not see

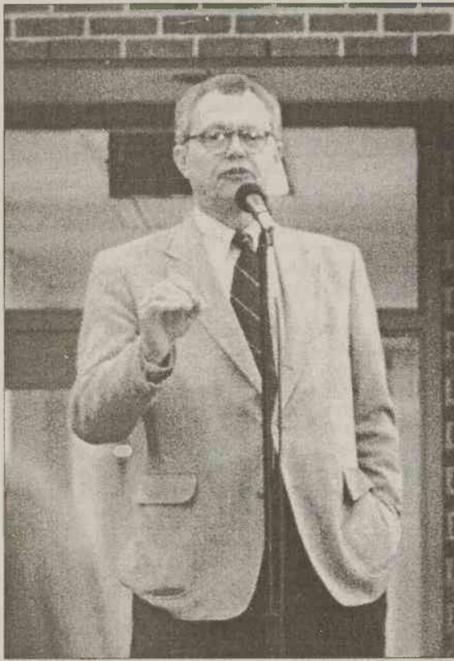


PHOTO BY WALTER FYLER

Tom Byers, executive assistant to the chancellor, talks to students about the bond referendum at a Student Government Association Town Hall meeting Sept. 26.

anything by the time we graduate, but seeing how professors have limited facilities, (we know) they need to keep having increased technologies and resources," said Scharf. "If anybody even thinks about complaining about this university not being adequate enough, they should vote."

"You have to think about what is best for the university and for future students," said Laura Facciponti, assistant professor of drama. A total of \$49,912,400 will

go to UNCA. This includes \$22,203,200 for a new math and science building, \$11,522,000 for Highsmith Center, \$6,318,900 for a new physical plant building, \$5,524,200 for Carmichael Hall, \$2,569,100 for Zager Hall, \$1,023,800 for a primary electrical distribution system upgrade on campus and \$751,200 for an expansion of technology infrastruc-

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Communication system needed

Lauren Owens
Staff Writer

A student communications implementation task force will find solutions to fix communication problems between students and faculty.

"I think there is a definite lack of communication with residential and computer population as well as with faculty and staff," said Julie Shaddix, a junior history major and member of the task force. "I know a big issue the campus is dealing with now is how to communicate with students, faculty, staff and administration to better inform and retain students."

The idea of the communications force was recommended to Chancellor Jim Mullen by the Task Force on Retention, which concluded its report in the spring, and its objective was to find out why UNCA has a problem with retention, the ability to keep students coming back to school. Com-

munication was noticed as a problem, according to Kevan Frazier in an e-mail, chair of the force and head of the honors program.

"Institutionally, we still do not have the mechanisms in place to effectively communicate with our students," said Frazier in an e-mail. "Students complain that they do not know what is happening on campus, (and) faculty and staff complain that they do not know how to get information to students."

Although 56.9 percent of the fall 1996 entering freshman class stayed at UNCA for the full four years, 48.5 percent of students graduated in the spring of 2000. Out of that freshman class, 77 percent stayed for

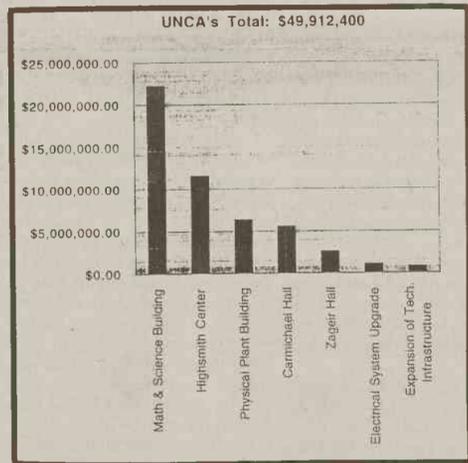
their sophomore year at UNCA. After two years, 61.5 percent of students came back to UNCA, and 56.4 percent of the students remained at UNCA after three years.

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PHOTO BY WALTER FYLER

Kevan Frazier, head of the task force, said communication is a problem at UNCA.



GRAPHIC BY KEITH CROMWELL

The \$50 million gained from the bond referendum would be divided among different resources.

Corps shows international exhibits

Casey Blankenship
Staff Writer

Peace Corps volunteers answered questions and displayed exhibits reflecting their experiences at UNCA Sept. 27 for Peace Corps Day.

"It sounds glorious to say, 'Well, I am going to volunteer in this country' but it takes a lot," said Erta Byers, an undeclared freshman. "It is a more of a mental thing than people realize. It is a really big step that you have to know that you are capable of doing."

The Peace Corps is a government-sponsored volunteer organization that currently has over 7,000 volunteers serving worldwide. There is a 27-month commitment to serve in the Peace Corps, including three months for training and 24 months within the host country as a volunteer, according to the Peace Corps Web

site.

"Our objective is to give people an opportunity to open up their imagination about how international service might shape their future," said Mary Anne Tierney, an organizer for the WNC Returned Peace Corps Association.

"People that have served in the Peace Corps share common experiences and values as a result of having served in the developing world," said Tierney. "We are really vital members of both the local and global community."

There are five assignment areas where volunteers can be placed for service, and, within each one of those assignment areas, there are a variety of jobs. These areas include agriculture, environment, business, health, nutrition and education, according to Logan Brown, a Peace Corps recruiter.

"What we are doing is giving (students) the information,



PHOTO BY PATRICK BRASWELL

Amy Panikowski, a Mars Hill College student, gathers information about the Peace Corps from representatives on Sept. 27.

and then they sign up and receive an application in the mail," said Brown. "Once they apply, if they are from this area, the application will be sent to me, and then we will do an interview."

Several students from varying majors took an interest in

the Peace Corps exhibit.

"I have been wanting to do community service and travel around the world for a while now," said Tabitha Renaldi, a senior psychology major. "The only hesitation would be leaving my family for two years." Chris Vanderford, a senior

music major, said he is considering joining the Peace Corps out of a desire to help people in developing countries and to see what is going

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Annie Crandall
Staff Writer

A group of Teaching Fellows students traveled to Cambridge, England this summer with a program designed to give students the opportunity to study in another culture, according to Brenda Hopper, Teaching Fellows director.

"A high percentage of students are of English or Irish descent, or some type of Celtic background, and they feel a connection to the United Kingdom," said Hopper. "They were able to connect with others, and the UK is such a safe place to go."

One of the goals of the experience was to take notice of the educational differences in the school systems in England,

according to Hopper.

"The study abroad program was developed for Teaching Fellows as a junior enrichment experience, (and) it has grown to include other students on campus," said Hopper. "They have a cultural experience,

pick up hours they need for certification and, at the same time, fulfill state requirements."

The students were accompanied by, among others, Laura Facciponti, drama assistant professor and David Hopes, literature and languages professor. For three weeks, students and professors stayed at Lucy Cavendish College, attended classes and visited historical sites in the area, according to Facciponti.

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY BRENDA HOPPER

Evan Guyer, a junior German major, drinks tea in Grandchester, England, where Virginia Wolfe used to visit.