

# THE BLUE BANNER



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## Bethea case dismissed

Rachel Crumpler  
News Editor

A Buncombe County Superior Court judge dismissed the case brought against Marcus Alan Bethea in a probable cause hearing March 13.

The Asheville Police Department arrested and charged Bethea, a senior sociology major, with assault on a female and second-degree trespassing Jan. 28.

"I did not trespass against anyone, nor assault anyone," said Bethea in an e-mail. "It doesn't get any simpler than that."

Mai Yang, Bethea's ex-girlfriend, brought the charges against Bethea, but she did not attend the probable cause hearing, according to Bethea.

A probable cause hearing allows the plaintiff and the defendant to present their arguments to the judge, who then decides whether or not to proceed with the case.

"Mai Yang did not show up in court, and attempted to drop her claims to avoid having to testify in court," said Bethea.

Yang could not be reached for comment.

Bethea said he attends UNCA on a police scholarship, which provides for his police training, school expenses and future employment as a law officer.

"If I were to get in legal trouble, my scholarship and career would be gone," said Bethea. "But, as I stated long ago, I did no wrongdoing, and it has been proven in court. I am not in legal trouble, and my scholarship remains in effect."

After his arrest, Bethea was suspended from his position as a student employee for public safety. Bethea said he will not regain his position.

"I remain fired from the job I have had since 1998," said Bethea.

Lou Caliendo, director of public safety, was unavailable for comment.

Bethea said his arrest, the charges brought against him and the reactions of the campus made this year difficult for him.

"What was supposed to be my

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# UNCA prepares for graduation

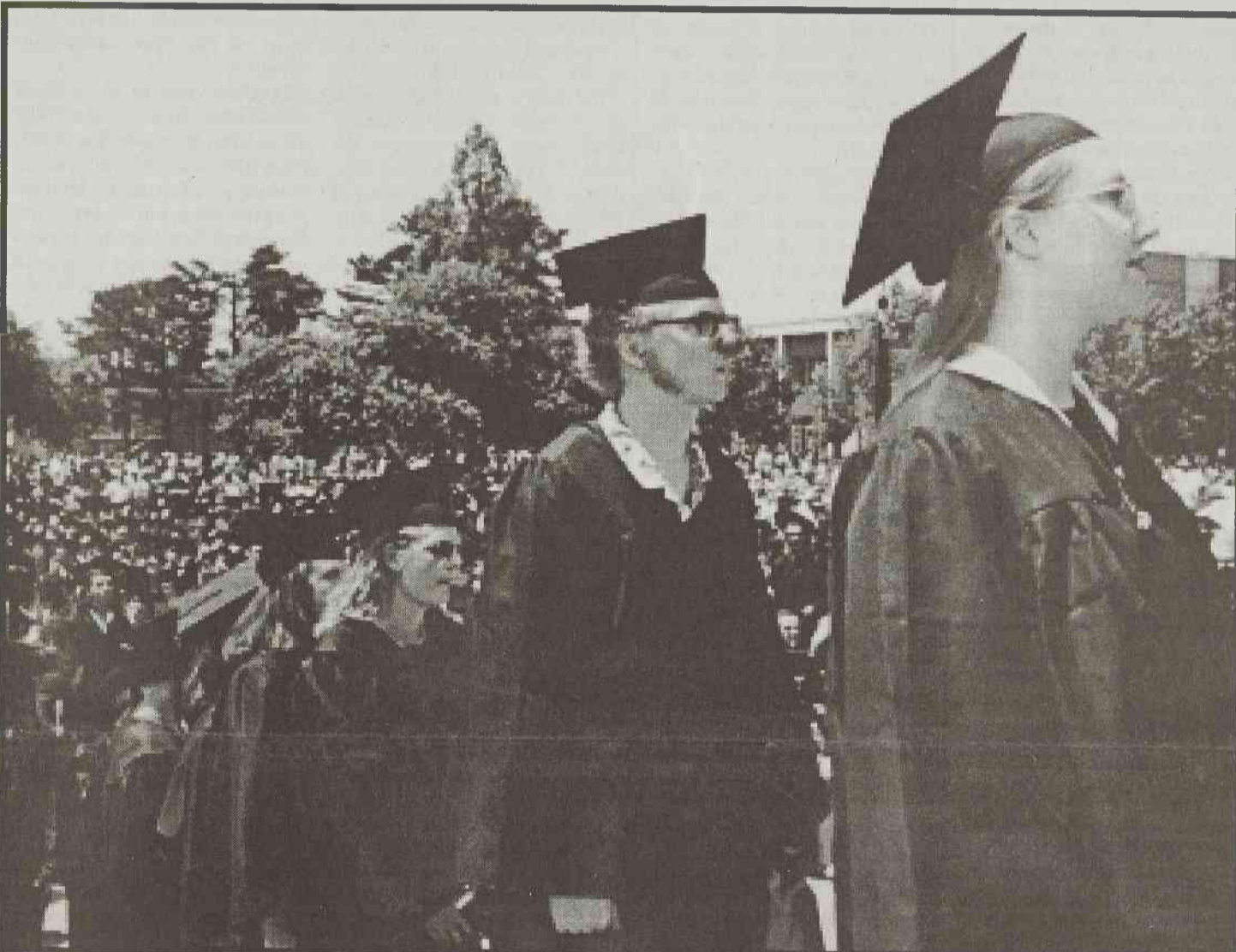


PHOTO COURTESY OF BLAKE MADDEN

Seniors from the class of 2001 wait to receive their diplomas. This year, approximately 520 seniors will graduate May 18 at 9:30 a.m.

## Honorary degree recipients chosen

Rachel Crumpler  
News Editor

UNCA will award four honorary degrees during this year's commencement ceremony.

"Honorary degrees are often given by institutions of higher learning to sort of signify a particular respect and admiration for the contributions of the selected individuals," said Tom Byers, executive assistant to the chancellor.

LeRoy Walker, Tom Fazio, Muriel Siebert and Edward Villella will receive honorary degrees.

"We are singling them out to celebrate them, and in most cases, they present to the graduating class an example of people who have gone out and used their talents and training effectively," said Byers.

Walker will give the commencement address May 18.

Walker worked as a coach and then later as chancellor for North Carolina Central University. Walker went on to become the first black to coach an United States Olympic track and field team, according to Byers.

Fazio, who lives in Hendersonville, N.C., builds gold courses, according to Byers. He and his family also provide for children with the Tom Fazio Children's Charity Fund.

Villella currently acts as the founding artistic director of the Miami City Ballet. He danced with the New York City Ballet from 1958 to 1976.

"He is a well-known dancer, particularly in his early years in New York," said Pat Snoyer, assistant professor in the drama department. "Now, (he) is a highly esteemed choreography and teacher, as well as dancer."

Siebert owned her own financial firm, Muriel Siebert & Co., and was the first woman named a member of the New York Stock Exchange.

UNCA will present all four honorary degree recipients with their degrees in person May 18.

## Faculty, graduating seniors begin the commencement countdown

Rachel Crumpler  
News Editor

About 520 graduating seniors are counting down the days until commencement, which will be held May 18 at 9:30 a.m.

"I am extremely excited about graduating because then, I will not have to go to another class for a long, long time," said Jeanine Ammirati, a senior management major. "I am getting stressed about all the things I have to do before graduation, but not graduation itself. Everything always falls into

place, so I am not worried."

Meanwhile, UNCA faculty and staff members will officially begin preparing for this year's graduation ceremony April 12.

"On Friday, we have the crystallization of commencement, what we call our annual commencement meeting. I'll convene all the people who have anything to do with commencement-- security, physical plant, food service, chancellor's office, registrar, faculty and student representatives," said Tom Cochran, acting vice chancellor of academic affairs. "That kicks off what I call commencement season."

Campus administrators will spend the remaining 36 days making final arrangements for the graduation ceremony. For instance, the registrar must finalize the list of graduating seniors, and the physical plant will make the grounds neat and plan out how many chairs and tents will be needed, according to Cochran, who will read the student names as they receive their diplomas.

Throughout the routine hustle to prepare for this year's graduation, most faculty keep in mind their happiness for the students who will graduate, said Pat Snoyer, assistant professor in the drama department.

"Most faculty never lose sight of what it's all about. It's part of our job, and that's the truth of the matter," said Snoyer, who assists the chancellor with his graduation script and oversees commencement preparation. "But, I don't think anyone truly forgets what it's about even if they're sitting there with a glazed look in their eye."

While the UNCA faculty rushes to complete their graduation preparation tasks, seniors said they are just trying to make it through the rest of the semester.

"I'm tired of studying," said Salewa

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# Key Center spends funding to install new programs

Whitney Setser  
News Reporter

UNCA's Key Center for Service-Learning used its 2001-2002 funding to instate several new service projects, such as offering student scholarships and helping professors pay for text books.

"Service-learning is relatively new. It hasn't been around long," said Lloyd Weinberg, associate director of the Key Center. "People have been doing (service learning) for a long time. But now we have a cen-

ter for it, and we want to share ideas and what we're doing."

The Key Center encourages UNCA students to undertake community service projects. The goal is that students will draw connections between what they learn in the classroom and in the community service, according to Peg Downes, professor of literature and language and director of the Key Center.

Named for its benefactor, Adelaide Worth Daniels Key, the Key Center opened in January 1999. "(Key) is this wonderful woman from in town who helps the community in many ways," said

Downes. "One of the many things she did was give UNCA a half-million dollars to start a center for service-learning."

The Key Center receives a yearly \$25,000, which amounts to five percent of the university's endowment, along with any state funding specifically provided for the center. Any money the center does not use is saved for the next year, according to Weinberg.

"That \$25,000 also goes into paying Weinberg's salary, as well as toward supplies and for the new programs," said Downes.

Next year, the Key Center will

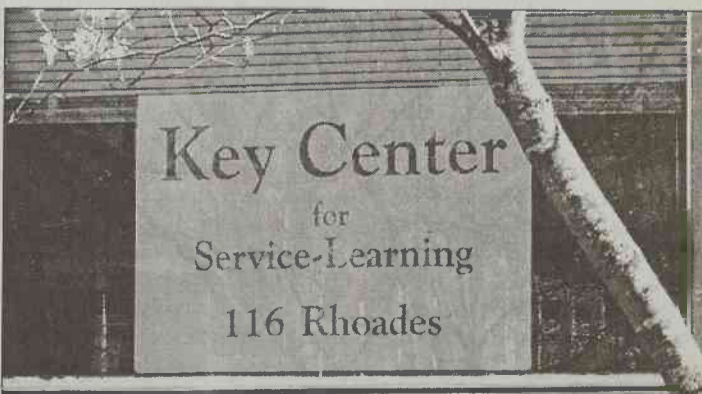
fund a \$500 scholarship program, according to Downes.

"We put bright green notices on all bulletin boards about scholarships," said Downes. "We will have three, maybe more, \$500 scholarships (to give out) for next year."

Students who receive the \$500 scholarships will help run the Key Center, according to Downes.

"We will also ask these students to be an ambassador with two or more faculty members and point out ways in which (service learning) could be used in their classes," said Downes.

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WHITNEY SETSER/NEWS REPORTER

The Key Center will give out three \$500 scholarships next year.