

NC tuition rates rank top notch with financial website

By Sarah Pardys

STAFF WRITER

Kiplinger's Personal Finance included UNC Asheville among the best educational values in public colleges in the nation, according to Kiplinger reports.

The financial organization based its rankings on a survey and ranked UNC Asheville as the 36th best educational value for in-state students and 47th best value for out-of-state students.

"The state of North Carolina has always said that they are going to make sure that public higher education is affordable and available to its citizens," said Scot Schaeffer, UNC Asheville director of admissions and financial aid. "It's almost like it's in our charter."

For the 2006-07 school year, UNC Asheville's tuition for full-time, in-state students is \$1,940.75 per semester. For full-time, out-of-state students, the tuition is \$7,003.25 per semester. In comparison, UNC Chapel Hill charges full-time, in-state students \$2,516.54 per semester and \$9,840.54 per semester for full-time, out-of-state students, according to the UNC Chapel Hill cashier's office.

The survey ranks universities

attracts a great number of students, he attributes other factors to the school's place in Kiplinger's ranking.

He said attending UNC Asheville is almost like going to a small private institution.

"The small classes, the individualized attention, faculty teaching the class, not teaching assistants or graduate assistants are all appealing attributes for students," Schaeffer said.

In addition to affordability and individualized attention, location can play a major role in the decision, according to Schaeffer.

"We have the best of both worlds. We have a vibrant city with lots to do, but our students are into the outdoors, too," Schaeffer said.

In her college search, freshman Baily Griffith wanted to find a school outside her home state of Georgia.

"I thought the town (of Asheville) was kind of interesting," Griffith said.

Freshman and transfer student Kristen Reeves also considered location when choosing UNC Asheville.

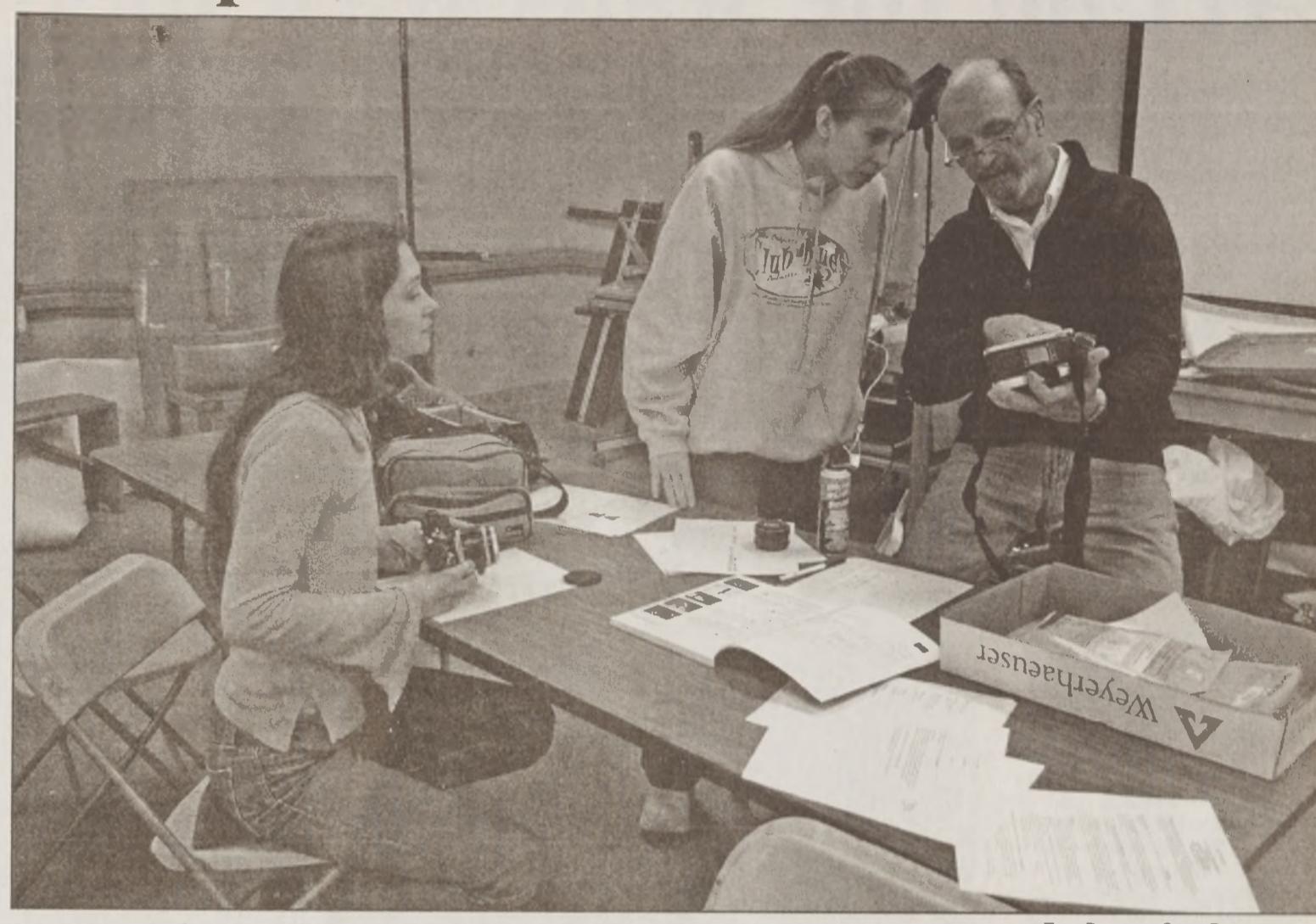
"I wanted a variety of places," Reeves said.

Reeves applied to schools across the state, including Davidson University, Wake Forest University, and UNC Chapel Hill, but she ultimately chose UNC Asheville.

"It's a small liberal arts college. It's in a great place," Reeves said. "I love Asheville, and it has everything that I was looking for."

Though Schaeffer said that UNC Asheville's students mostly come from within the state of North Carolina, the Kiplinger survey also declared UNC Asheville to be a good educational value for out-of-state students for its academic qualities and its tuition.

"If you were looking at a school comparable to us, you're probably talking even as an out-of-state student, instead of a tuition of \$11,000 or \$12,000, more like a tuition of about \$26,000 to



TREY BOUVIER - STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Larry White, photography professor, works with Melissa Terreza, senior art education student, left, and Marie Eller, senior sociology student, after class. One of UNC Asheville's values is the small classrooms and intimate learning environments, according to Schaeffer.

\$30,000," Schaeffer said.

Schaeffer said the fact that so many North Carolina universities were included in the list said something for the system as a whole.

While the other universities on the list are reputable institutions, UNC Asheville draws students because of its smaller size, according to Schaeffer.

The Kiplinger list ranks UNC Asheville alongside other North Carolina schools, including North Carolina State University, Appalachian State University, UNC Chapel Hill, UNC Greensboro and UNC Wilmington.

"The most important thing that we look at (when accepting students) is the curriculum that the student has followed when they were in high school," Schaeffer said.

The admissions staff at UNC Asheville looks for these requirements along with other special qualities, according to Schaeffer.

"We really take a look at the total package," said Schaeffer.

In reviewing potential students, the admissions staff looks at the applicant's high school curricu-

lum, class rank, grade point average, standardized test scores and extracurricular activities, while keeping special talents or abilities in mind.

While Schaeffer does not speak of an admissions formula, he said these aspects greatly influence admissions decisions.

"There are a lot of things that go into it," Schaeffer said. "I think one of the big things why it is such a best buy is that even for out-of-state students, it's still affordable."

Blue Echo

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"I can't wait to use the new equipment," Griffin said. "The station is going to have a whole new feel."

Griffin, who goes by DJ Lyrical Glock on his show, can be heard co-hosting with Davis Sundays from 10 to 11 p.m. "I am looking forward to giving away prizes and having crazy competitions," said Davis, who doubles as the library manager for the station.

The show is more than just music, according to Griffin.

"If they want some poetic enlightenment, the best way is to listen to our show," Griffin said. "There is nothing like it."

Other disc jockeys for the station, such as freshman Sijal Nasralla, have similar thoughts on

how to make the show more interactive.

"I want to make use of the microphones so I can have people come in and play their songs on the air," Nasralla said.

Student organizations will also begin advertising and hosting their own shows on the Blue Echo. Time slots for these organizations run from 3 to 4 p.m. every day of the week. Currently confirmed are the Blue Banner and the Hispanic Outreach for Learning Awareness.

The biggest challenge faced by the radio station was recreating something that had already existed in the past, according to Bowser.

"A lapse in existence causes

more trouble than starting something new because it shows we have failed in the past," Bowser said.

Even with all of the changes for the spring semester, Bowser still has goals for the future, such as broadcasting on FM by 2010.

"We are looking for more rewards for DJs to be involved," he said. "The Blue Echo would be more successful if I propose class credit or stipend for staff members."

The Blue Echo belongs in a radio broadcast degree program, Czarny said, and DJs deserve rewards for the effort they put into their shows.

"I would really like to see it

come under the guidance of a faculty advisor and department of mass communication," he said.

Czarny wants to make the Echo an integral part of campus life.

"Every department and student organization should be a part of the Blue Echo because it is a great format for them to get their information," Czarny said.

Bowser remains optimistic about the future of the station and said things should only continue to improve.

"Everything is working," he said. "And that is good to know."

For more information on the Blue Echo, or to listen, visit www.theblueecho.com.

Hands On

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still extensive and very costly, according to the organization.

The Key Center is collaborating with Habitat for Humanity for another Hurricane Katrina relief trip over spring break to New

Orleans, which will cost \$75. All students interested should go by the Key Center located in the Highsmith Student Union for an application.

Grove

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Department, patrol the site nightly, allowing us the fastest possible police presence when needed," Wiles said.

Chase, Guske and Walsh said they wanted to see immediate action from The Grove after each incident.

"There should be more open dialogue with residents," Walsh said.

The Grove plans to let Chase out of her lease this week, according to Chase.

"I'm very happy about that," Chase said.

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Where's the Love? Thursday, January 25, 8:30-9:30 p.m. New Hall 012

What's for lunch? Tuesday, January 30, 12:15-1:30 p.m. Highsmith Grotto

Sororities AREN'T Taboo! Wednesday, January 31, 9-10 p.m. Governors Hall Kitchen

If you would like more information, please contact Caity Pellicia at cpellicia@unca.edu

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