

The BLUE BANNER



Lifestyles
Mountain State Fair
brings the fun,
see page 5.

Travelogue
Student travels to Ecuador
and brings back thoughts on
politics, see page 10



THUR. 79 61 FRI. 77 59 SAT. 78 56 SUN. 77 56

Thursday, September 13, 2007

www.unca.edu/banner

Vol. 47, Issue 3

THE NEWS IN BRIEF

Apple iPhones go cheaper thanks to customer feedback

Apple announced a price cut on its iPhone model last week, dropping the price of its most powerful model from \$599 to \$399. The change came days before Apple announced it sold its one-millionth iPhone weeks before its Sept. 30 deadline.

Responding to consumer complaints the price cut came too soon after its introduction, Apple offered a \$100 credit to anyone who purchased the iPhone before the drop.

The iPod received facelifts recently, with updated versions adding touch-screen technology and Wi-Fi capabilities.

Boxer continues to find himself with legal woes

Former heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson faces drug charges in his upcoming hearing, scheduled for Sept. 24. Tyson previously pleaded not guilty to possession of cocaine, which police accuse him of having on his person and in his car last year.

Tyson was convicted of rape in 1992 and pleaded no contest to assault charges in 1999.

Hispanic heritage celebrated all month on campus

UNC Asheville honors Hispanic Heritage Month with special events celebrating Latino culture. Films, dance performances, open discussions and lectures highlighting Hispanic contributions to American culture take place on various dates between Sept. 15 through Oct. 15.

-compiled by Aaron Dahlstrom

Campus accessibility maintained

By Neal Brown
INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER

While UNC Asheville scored fairly well on a study regarding accessibility for the handicapped, the report done by outside consultants checking on the university's compliance with the American Disabilities Act as well as state mandates, there are a few areas where improvements could be made, according to Ethan Fesperman, head of disabilities services.

"There a lot of areas where we are not in compliance and that's true of any college," Fesperman said. "We could improve things like proper signage and people's familiarity with buildings and bathrooms. Lots of areas in the report indicated that we needed a lot better signage."

When evaluating a campus' accessibility there are many factors a person has to take into account and UNC Asheville did pretty well compared to a number of schools, according to Fesperman.

"I think that when they did the evaluation they were surprised at how accessible our campus was considering the topography that we have," he said.

The issue of accessibility for people with disabilities is on the mind of some faculty members often, especially issues with parking and the issue of sidewalk curb cuts.

"I'm always looking at parking and asking myself, 'Are there places where we could lower curbs of sidewalks?'" said Jackie McHargue, dean of students.

For Garrett Male, junior environmental science student, who is in wheelchair, accessibility on campus for him has not been too big of an issue. Faculty and staff have been accommodating, according to Male.

"Overall, it's actually pretty good," Male said. "Everyone works really closely together and I don't see any glaring areas."

The student organization Project Access, which Male heads up, has been around for about eight years and currently has around 20 members, according to Ken Betsalel, professor of political science and a faculty co-advisor to the group.



Long Heu, sophomore multimedia arts student, ascends the ramp outside Carmichael Hall between classes. Despite a study stating UNC Asheville's accessibility is decent in comparison to most universities, campus officials said there is always room for improvement and continue discussing the issue.

CLINT LATHINGHOUSE - STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

There are around 200 people on campus with disabilities, including learning disabilities, and there are probably four or five people on campus who are mobility disabled, according to Betsalel.

The university's size helps with the issue of accessibility, according to Heidi Kelley, anthropology professor and faculty co-advisor for Equal Access. While size is an advantage, a map of campus accessibility would be helpful for students, faculty, staff and visi-

tors. "We are small and being small helps," Kelley said. "Individuals do not become isolated from one another. But, some easy to read guides for students and campus visitors would be nice."

The accessibility of the library is also a concern, according to Betsalel. A person has to go around to the side of the library in order to get to an elevator so that he or she can enter the library.

"There should be more than one

way to access knowledge from the library," he said. "This has been a major complaint among students."

Faculty and staff try to address every aspect of campus access for people with disabilities, but it is an expensive process that varies extremely on a case-by-case basis, according to Fesperman.

"If we were mandated to fix everything and bring everything into compliance according to the accessibility plan, you're talking about \$20 million."

The choice of upfitting buildings is an issue because of the expense and also because with all the new construction on campus, a person never know when a building might be demolished.

"It's really expensive to retrofit all existing buildings, but in my work with students here who have accessibility issues we work together with the faculty and with facilities to come up with a reasonable solution," Fesperman said.

While there are a few areas that faculty, staff and students all agree in need of improvement, many are happy with the university's accessibility, according to McHargue.

"I think that we are a very aware campus," she said. "I think that if there's a concern, it gets addressed really quickly because we care so much about our students and their experience and their success."

There are things that the university does well when it comes to access around campus for people with disabilities, according to McHargue.

"I think we do a pretty good job in comparison to a lot of places that I've been," she said. "I think we have better ramp systems than a lot of places."

Everyone around campus is helpful and accessibility is a collaborative effort shared with everyone involved in and around campus, according to Betsalel.

"People have always been open, accommodating and friendly," he said. "It has never been a people problem."

Male said he agrees that people around campus have always been helpful as well.

"Communication between faculty and staff has been good," he said. "The facilities management staff are always conscious of disabilities management."

There are many areas of accessibility to be proud of, and the university is great at following up with issues like this, according to McHargue.

"I think that one of the things we do best is that we pay attention. I think we pay attention to our facilities, and most importantly, we pay attention to our students," she said. "We say that we care, and we show that we care."

City council hopeful, alumnus plans big

By Caroline Fry
STAFF WRITER

UNC Asheville alumnus and Asheville City Council hopeful William C. Meredith wants to raise awareness for local issues and get people interested in voting.

"I think that the modernization of our infrastructure, which is very old and in disrepair, needs to be our No. 1 priority," Meredith said.

Meredith, who attended UNC Asheville from 1992 to 1994, said a lot of these repairs could cause major problems in the near future if they are not handled immediately.

"A recently released report notes that one-third of all of the bridges under the care of the city of Asheville are in desperate need of repair," Meredith said. "If these repairs are not made, we could encounter a major tragedy like the bridge collapse in Minnesota."

Meredith, who has lived in Asheville for the past 20 years, is raising many issues about the current state of Asheville. One of his

main concerns is with the city's water supply.

"Most of the long term citizens in Asheville are aware that the water system is in terrible shape," Meredith said. "We spend \$30 million currently on our water system, yet we are losing 25 percent of the water just delivering it from the reservoir. This is unacceptable, especially because we are currently in a drought."

The system can easily be modernized, but it is a priority that has been pushed to the back burner by the current city council many times."

WILLIAM C. MEREDITH
UNC Asheville Alumnus

Asheville City Council, also said she agrees the city's water system is in need of repair.

"I am working to make sure that our infrastructure is upgraded in order to provide a quality product to the users," Bellamy said. "Additionally, I am working with neighboring communities in order to assist them with their short and

SEE ALUMNUS PAGE 2

Creative retirement focuses on the future

By Jon Walczak
STAFF WRITER

While receiving international accolades and appearing in publications ranging from Parade magazine to the New York Times, the North Carolina Center for Creative Retirement remains relatively unknown to UNC Asheville students.

"Despite our efforts over the years to create more recognition on campus through intergenerational venues, our successes have been sporadic," said Ron Manheimer, executive director.

The center, which celebrates its 20th anniversary this year, is always looking for creative ways to engage students in its programs and with its members, according to Manheimer.

To mark its anniversary, NCCCR planned three main events, including an intergenerational course entitled Introduction to Complementary and Alternative Healing Therapies. Around 25 undergraduates and eight senior citizens are participating in the class this semester.

The intergenerational aspect of the class is beneficial because of the life experience of the seniors citizens, according to George Dobson, sophomore physics student enrolled in the course.

"They are very willing to share

their experiences and knowledge with us, but at the same time are interested to hear what we have to say and what is important to us," Dobson said. "This is what a true learning experience is, in my opinion."

NCCCR is also facilitating a health fair on Nov. 15 and an intergenerational dance and fashion show scheduled for February.

"The theme we are using is looking forward from 20. Rather than focusing on the past, we are focusing on the future, including our role at UNCA," said Manheimer.

Intergenerational computer literacy courses will be taught again this semester. The classes are free to participants and designed to teach local low-income and minority seniors basic computer skills, according to NCCCR. They are funded through a Smith Barney grant.

Classes are taught by UNC Asheville students, who receive a stipend. NCCCR is currently searching for teachers.

"Intergenerational, to me, is a lot like diversity," said Patti Cameron, Smith Barney and Leadership Training for Older Persons program coordinator. "Diversity brings a fuller, richer and more meaningful experience to the learning process. The beau-



PENNIE LEAS - PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

A senior and several students participate in a yoga session during an intergenerational class offered in the Reuter Center through the North Carolina Center for Creative Retirement.

ty of the Smith Barney program is that the intergenerational experience enriches the lives of both undergrads and participants."

On Oct. 21 and 22, three execu-

tives from NCCCR, including Manheimer, will travel to Taiwan to attend an international forum

SEE NCCCR PAGE 2