

## LIVING IN TRUMP'S AMERICA: Asheville is proof of the nation's resilience

KARRIGAN MONK  
A&F Editor  
kmonk@unca.edu

The Democratic Party was sure they were about to elect the first female president. The Republican nominee was a businessman who had yet to run for any lesser office.

Nearly every major pre-election poll came to the same outcome: Hillary Clinton would be the next president of the United States. When Nov. 8 arrived, it became clear these polls were wrong.

Ashley Moraguez, UNC Asheville assistant professor of political science, said the polling procedures for elections are flawed.

"The Democrats thought they had a comfortable lead because of polling results and that may have affected their strategy," Moraguez said. "In the end, however, it looks like the polls systematically missed important segments of the population. They focused on likely voters and did not count on inactive voters being motivated to vote in this election."

The inactive voters Moraguez talks about are those who do not typically vote in elections, but were moved by Trump's campaign to make their voices heard.

"I think his major campaign strategy was to run against Washington, to run as an outsider," Moraguez said. "He had no prior political experience and could credibly say he wasn't part of the swamp in Washington. Even though he ran for the Republican nomination, he was still able to run as an outsider within the party."

According to Pew Research Center, the inactive voters Trump most heavily influenced were white males without college educations.

While many of these voters may

not have the same troubling views Trump infamously declares himself to have, an increase in problematic behaviors and hate speech seems to be spreading across the nation and Lt. Joe Silberman of the Asheville Police Department has a theory as to why.

"We have a role model in a president that's comfortable supporting people that say some stuff, and even he himself saying some stuff, that it's making people who have these opinions more comfortable coming out with them," Silberman said.

Silberman refers to those who cling onto Trump's "grab them by the pussy" comments and who march in Charlottesville, Virginia, with tiki torches in an effort to preserve Confederate monuments.

"Trump, as an individual, did not organize or lead the protests or violence in Charlottesville but that does not mean that he is not culpable for what happened there," Moraguez said. "I think Trump's campaign rhetoric, the policies he has supported and even some of the individuals he has chosen to put into this administration have sent signals to certain segments of that population that radicalism, discriminatory viewpoints and even hate speech is acceptable."

Moraguez said it does not matter if Trump has never gone on record saying he shares these ideas, as he makes it clear he is OK with this rhetoric by not speaking out on it. When he does speak against it, Moraguez said it is often too late to make a difference.

With a political climate that seems to breed hate, it appears natural for it to seep into every corner of the nation. However, Silberman

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19



PHOTO BY EMKA WILLIAMS