

# features

## New Grad Center head raises controversy

By Anna Wilson and David Proffitt

The appointment of Dr. Eugene McDowell, head of the psychology department at Western Carolina University, as director of the new Graduate Center caused a ripple of agitation to pass through faculty and staff members at UNCA.

Dr. Milton Ready, of the history department, said that a lot of staff members did not want anyone from UNCA or WCU, but a neutral person.

"We just wanted someone with graduate school background," said Dr. Eugene Rainey,

of the political science department.

"Someone with some experience in teaching and administering graduate school programs



Dr. Eugene McDowell

would have been good."

McDowell; however, said, "I have been the head of the WCU psychology department for 15 years and we have three master's degree programs in psychology at WCU."

"Dr. William C. Friday, president of the Consolidated University of NC, selected the director on the basis of experience and background, not because of where the person was employed," McDowell said.

"After July 1, when the Graduate Center becomes official, I will no longer be a faculty member of WCU. I will work for the

General Administrations office of the NC university system."

Many unanswered questions remain about the graduate center and how it will to operate.

"I have three major concerns about the graduate center," said Rainey. "The major issue in my mind is our graduate engineering program here. We've done so much and the community has done so much to bring the program here. But will it stay or go to WCU?"

Another concern, Rainey, said is where the money generated by graduate students will go.

"There is a lack of

clearness on how the money will be spent-- whether it will go back to WCU or stay here where the graduate students are," he said.

McDowell said no decision has yet been made as to how budget matters will be handled.

"The faculty should have been consulted about the name we submitted," Rainey said.

Rainey was quick to add, however, that he has no problems with McDowell. "I'll be glad to work with him because it's all water under the bridge," he said.

## There's more than chemistry between these two

By Ramona Huggins

Two childhood sweethearts who grew up and attended three universities together now teach here at UNCA.

Charles James, Jr. teaches chemistry and

his wife, Deborah, teaches freshman literature.

There doesn't seem to be any common ground, but they found it!

Although friends in high school, they were not romantically in-

involved until later.

After graduation, Charles attended the University of Dayton in Ohio, and Deborah came to UNCA. Charles came to visit Deborah and decided to attend UNCA also since it was so close to home.

Eventually, they fell in love.

They graduated together in 1973 and were married the next day.

"Since we have relatives here, it was convenient," Deborah said. "I was a dorm proctor so I checked out (after the wedding) by 5 p.m.

They both then enrolled at Clemson University in South Carolina where they obtained their masters degrees.

Following their second graduation together, they attended the University of South Carolina at Columbia for their doctoral studies.

"Our dissertations need to be completed before we get our degrees," Charles said.

They are glad to be back at UNCA.

"It's fun, but it's kind of odd to teach instead of being a student," Deborah said.

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Deborah James, freshman literature instructor  
Photo by Gary Skidmore

## Students get chance to pick favorite teacher

By Ramona Huggins

Each year an outstanding teacher is elected for the Distinguished Teacher Award, according to Dr. Gerald Gullickson of the literature department.

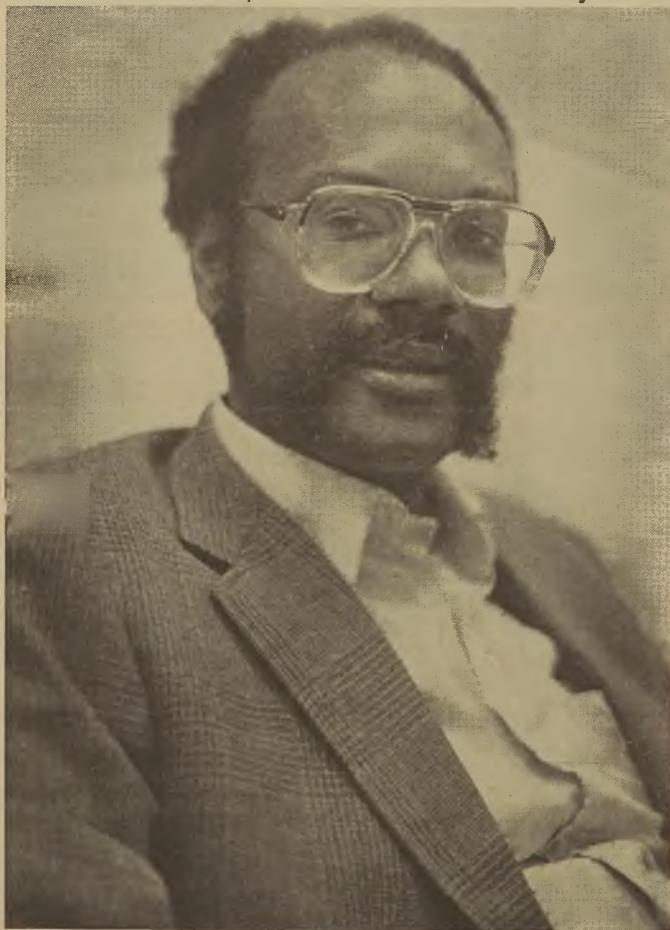
"This is an effort by the Committee to Recognize Distinguished Teachers to find one who merits the honor of outstanding teacher," Gullickson said.

He explained that the eligibility qualities

of judgment are character, personality, enthusiasm, creativity, and dedication. The deadline for nominations is April 1.

He explained, "To be eligible, the nominees must be full time instructors." Dr. Gullickson and chemistry professor Dexter Squibb are exempted because they have already won the award once.

Nominations can be made by all students, faculty and alumni with continued on page 8



Charles James, freshman chemistry instructor  
Photo by Gary Skidmore