

# FEATURES



## UNCA marketing student enjoys reenacting Revolutionary history

By Jennifer Heglar

Donning a blue hat topped with a red yarn ball, blue coat, white ruffled shirt, blue and green kilt and red-checked socks, student William Marquis looks as if he just stepped out of eighteenth century Scotland.

Marquis, a marketing management major, is a member of the North Carolina Highland Regiment, a traveling revolutionary reenactment organization.

He sometimes wears his kilt to class when he has a lecture or performance scheduled.

"I get a couple of double looks every now and then," he said, "and occasionally someone will stop to ask me about it, but most of the time, I look just like everybody else."

Marquis said his is a typical Scottish kilt, made of nine yards of pleated wool.

"My wife made mine," he said, "and she swore she'd never make another one. They're very hard to make, and in the summertime, they're hot."

Despite the discomfort of his uniform, however, Marquis enjoys his hobby.

"I've always been interested in history, and I got into the regiment a few years ago at Vance birthplace," he said.

"I got to talking to some of the people settled

in the area of the British camp, and the commander said, 'Why don't you come join us?'"

Marquis said that even though he wears a blue coat, he is a redcoat in the regiment.

"Somebody's got to be the bad guy!" he said.

Everyone in the regiment has some knowledge of the Revolution.

"Some know very little and some of us know a lot. It depends on your interest," he said. "For me, it's fascinating to find out how people lived then."

"Wherever I find material, I pick it up," he continued, pulling out several items he has collected over the years.

"These are 200-year-old glasses," he said, producing a small pair of spectacles that cost him \$18 at an antique store.

"And this is a dollar," he continued.

He demonstrated how he could break the circular ounce of pure silver into pieces to produce two bits, four bits, or six bits.

Another seventeenth century coin, said Marquis, was the ha' (half) penny.

Women who performed domestic chores for soldiers during a campaign received a ha' penny for each man she served each day.

"That could buy her half

a loaf of bread or a mug of near beer," a drink made of fermented pine straw and beer.

Finally, Marquis held up a solid musket ball used in the 1700s.

"Most men didn't die of their gunshot wounds," he said. "They died of infection because this bullet took their clothing into the wound."

"Whiskey or rum were the only painkillers they had then," he added.

This lack of anesthetics sometimes made visits to the doctor or dentist a horrifying experience.

According to Marquis, dentists pulled teeth by driving a nail into the patient's gum until his tooth just popped out.

"Back then, it was just get out the probes and dig," he said.

Other early medical practices were just as painful and unwittingly harmful.

To treat rabies, for example, doctors placed the offending dog's hair on the bite.

Marquis said that he plans to speak at a UNCA history class in the near future.

His next official reenactment will be at the Historic Homes and Garden Tour and Spring Festival April 13-14, New Bern, N.C.

**WILLIAM MARQUIS' traditional Scottish costume turns many heads when he wears it to school. A real history buff of the eighteenth century, he travels to various historical sites for reenactments with the North Carolina Highland Regiment. He sometimes lectures at schools, including UNCA and elementary schools. "Elementary kids think the battle stories are marvelous," he said.**

Staff photo by Sylvia Hawkins

## Oxford University lecturer will visit campus in April

By Francine Holmes

A British lecturer will arrive at UNCA April 2, said Merritt Moseley, assistant professor of literature.

Dr. Martin Holmes, a political science lecturer at Oxford University in England and specialist in British political history will make three public appearances from April 2-6.

On April 2 he will speak on "British Foreign Policy and the Jews During World War II" at 4 p.m. in Room 104 of the Humanities building.

On April 3 he will speak on "British Politics and the News Media" at 12:15 p.m. in Room 104 of the Humanities building.

On April 5 Holmes will speak on the "Anglo-American Alliance" at 12:15 p.m. in the private dining room of the Highsmith Center.

All presentations are free and open to the public.

Holmes is a graduate of University College at Oxford. There he received his bachelor's degree in politics along with his doctorate degree in poli-

tics, philosophy, and economics.

He currently lectures at Oxford University and is on the faculty at 13 Oxford University colleges including Lady Margaret Hall, Balliol College, Christ Church, and Magdalen College.

The British lecturer teaches summer school for foreign students from various universities including UNCA and North Carolina State University.

Holmes has also written several scholarly books based on his research.

The Literature and Communications Club, the Political Science Association, and the Office of International Studies are sponsoring Holmes' visit to UNCA, said Moseley.

The UNCA Campus Commission, which allocates money to worthy projects, is paying for part of Holmes' expenses, according to Moseley.

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