

The Banner

UNCA faced with crowding problems

By Maria Horton
News Editor

More students on campus will require new strategies for handling the problems of overcrowding. For those who must deal with the day to day logistics of providing housing, classes, and parking spaces for the growing population at UNCA, the increased enrollment is a mixed blessing.

Dr. Eric Iovacchini, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, and Charles Carreno, Chief of Campus Security, are working to alleviate problems.

"We're filled but not over-filled," Iovacchini said.

Iovacchini said the crowding in the dormitories of three students occupying a room formerly shared by two is a temporary condition due to "overbooking."

"Every year there are around four percent of the students who send in their money for the semester but never come here, so we have to juggle a little in the beginning to make everyone fit," he said.

He added that total enrollment was around 3100 for the semester with around 2400 of those students classified as FTE (full time enrollment).

Carreno said the number used to calculate the enrollment does not accurately reflect the number of people using the campus on a weekly basis.

"The figure is more like 4600 when you add in all the activities that go on around here such as the College for Seniors, the Community Chorus, or folks who just come on campus for a lecture series," he said.

"They are all part of the community and have to be taken into consideration with regards to security," he added.

Carreno said people are going to have to change their old habits in order to get a parking space.

"You're not going to be able to come to class five minutes before it starts and park in your old favorite spot," he said.

"We even have people in the

dorms who drive to class and those days are over here at UNCA."

Carreno added that construction on campus has made it impossible to project where parking will be available.

"Decisions are made as to where spaces will be and by the time we get the map back from the printer, it's obsolete," he said.

Dorm rooms and parking spaces are not the only areas affected by the greater enrollment. Classroom space is also in short supply, but Iovacchini said crowded classroom conditions are probably more a result of poor space planning than too many students being on campus.

"Maybe we should have looked more carefully at the class size and assigned facilities accordingly," he said. "Sometimes we have small classes meeting in large rooms when a seminar room was available while larger classes are crowding into smaller

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Safety measures increased

While most students will probably say the main duty of the security office is to hand out parking tickets, Chief Charles Carreno will quickly respond to the contrary.

"The parking issue is only part of the picture. Safety and security are a big issue at UNCA," he said.

As the university continues to grow, the amount of crime grows proportionately, the chief pointed out.

"We are an open campus. It's not like Bob Jones University where there is a wall and a gate to control who comes on campus," he explained.

Carreno called the majority of crimes committed at UNCA "crimes of opportunity." "Vandalism and theft are problems that can be lessened if students and faculty will take precautions to prevent them, he said.

"If people would take care and lock their cars and not leave purses or keys unattended, the opportunity to commit a crime would be lessened," he said.

Carreno said there has been very little increase in physical attack and measures have been taken to make UNCA even safer.

"We have increased the patrol around campus, added more lights, and trimmed trees in an effort to improve visibility," he said.

The increase in people on campus will also help since "there is safety in numbers. The best kind of protection is people watching out for each other similar to the community watch system," he added.

Carreno cautioned students to be safety conscious in order to prevent crime.

"You wouldn't go to the Asheville Mall at 2 a.m. and not be careful," he said.



Staff Photo--Natalie Reinbold

There is always time to squeeze in a little fun and games between classes. Volleyball is a favorite pastime on college campuses.



Staff Photo--Stacey Higdon

The new year begins with the traditional procession of scholars on the Quad and an invitation to freshman to get involved in campus life.

Campus leaders greet new students

By Maria Horton
News Editor

The Class of 1992 received a formal welcome from faculty and staff at a convocation on the Quad, Sunday, August 21, at 7 p.m.

Chancellor David Brown urged the students to enter into a "covenant" with the university.

"If you are serious and work up to your capacity, we'll bust our gut to make sure you succeed in your learning objectives while at UNCA," Brown said.

The chancellor, vice chancellors, department chairs and other university officials walked in cap and gown to seats at the top of the stairs in front of Ramsey Library as remaining faculty filed to seats below.

The invocation given by David Smith, director of Religious Affairs, asked God to keep the "hope of discovery high" within those present.

Brown told the assembled new students that this year's incoming class was the largest ever at UNCA. They also had the overall highest entrance scores.

He added that he changed his remarks for the day after reading an article in the Asheville

Luther King which quoted King as saying that "America had given the Negro people a bad check marked insufficient funds."

"Understanding King's speech is what college is all about. College is providing a context for that understanding," Brown said.

College is an opportunity for testing out new beliefs and for interaction with people from "Kenya to Murphy," Brown said.

It is also a time for acquiring skill and self-confidence as well as gaining a "civic education" in order to vote wisely, according to Brown.

"It's intended to change you. That's why you're here instead of the factory or Wendys," he said.

Brown also emphasized the role of the faculty as partners in the learning experience.

"We're here to encourage you to take risks, help you make choices, and to help you over the rough spots," he said.

Rosalee Hart, president of Student Government Association, extended her welcome to the new freshmen and encouraged them to get involved.

"There is something here for everyone...SGA needs your help to better serve you," she said.

Brown echoed that statement saying there were "hundreds of sports teams, internships, clubs

and causes to protest which were opportunities to get involved."

"Involvement is part of the education you're paying money and years for," he said.

Dr. Charles Prokop, chair of the Faculty Senate, urged students to take advantage of the close relationship between faculty and students available at UNCA as part of his greeting to the new class.

"There's a close relationship here because of the small classes. It's easier for advising and research or to just shoot the breeze than at other campuses in the United States," he said.

Prokop also said registration would be easier in the future for the freshmen.

"From now on, someone else will be told they don't have a seat in a class," he said.

Vice Chancellor Lauren Wilson made the introduction of the various university officials and department chairs. The faculty stood for recognition by departments, with the management department having the largest attendance of the day.

Brown's final remarks to the new students urged them to start immediately to get involved and to become acquainted with the faculty by introducing themselves to those present during the reception which followed the service.