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The Blue Banner

"Where there is an open mind, there will always be a frontier." — Kettering

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Photo by Joy Edmonds

Scenic beauty

The peak leaf season brought many to Chimney Rock Park this year to view the colors of fall.

Exchange program seeks participants

English teachers and international relations graduates needed in Japan

Leslie Gilliam
Staff Writer

The Japanese Consulates General are seeking Americans, under the age of 35, to participate in the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program, according to Stephen Allen, Information Officer for the Consulate General of Japan in Atlanta.

The JET program promotes cross-cultural understanding between young adults of different nations and gives aid to Japanese students learning the English language, a JET press release said.

Allen said the Japanese Consulates want to fill two types of positions. "We need some people to be assistant English teachers in Japan's public schools," he said. "Others are needed for international relations in either a city or state government office."

The teacher assistants will be working hand in hand with Japanese teachers helping students master the English language, according to Allen.

"English is a required course for Japanese students between the 7th and 12th grades," Allen said. "They (the students) are able to read English and write it, but can't speak it as well. That's where the teacher's assistants come in."

No knowledge of the Japanese language is required for the teaching assistant positions but is required for the international relations job, according to the press release.

Allen said the ideal candidate would have teaching experience,

an education or English major and have some knowledge of Japan's history and culture. "However, the standards aren't extremely high," he said. "We have been accepting one out of four applicants."

"Participants will receive a yearly salary of \$28,000," Allen said, "and all transportation costs will be paid."

"Housing costs are paid by the participants," he said. "Most people usually pay between \$200 and \$400 a month in rent, which is very reasonable."

Allen said previous participants have thoroughly enjoyed the experience. "Almost 60 percent of the teaching assistants decided to stay another year."

Allen believes the experience will be helpful to recent graduates, and will be an excellent resume builder. While the Japanese Consulate can not guarantee a job after the participants return from Japan, they will help participants in their job search.

Applicants must be U.S. citizens, hold a bachelor's degree by August 1, 1991 and exhibit "model" English speaking and writing skills, according to the press release. If accepted, participants will leave for Japan on August 1, 1991 and live overseas for a full year.

Allen said completed applications must be received by December 20, 1990. Applications are available through the Consulate General of Japan in Atlanta at (404) 892-2700 or write to the Consulate General of Japan, Suite 2000, 100 Colony Square Atlanta, Georgia 30361.

Child care needs addressed

Bonnie Phillips
Staff Writer

(Editor's note: This is the first of a two part series concerning the possibility of child care for faculty, staff and students of UNCA.)

UNCA administrators and students have long talked of having a child-care program on campus. According to Amy Potter, such a program is feasible for UNCA.

Potter, vice president of Corporate Child Care, Inc., recently completed a project analyzing the benefits of an on-site center.

Potter said that the rise in non-traditional students has contributed to the interest in child-care programs.

"Latest research shows that four out of ten colleges and universities offer some sort of child-care program. Many schools are developing or expanding a full-service program -- not just a part-time nursery school," said Potter.

By the turn of the century, 50 percent of college students will be non-traditional, said Potter.

"This campus is a prime example of the increasing non-traditional, older students," said Potter.

Many schools are finding that child care is an important feature of their university, said Potter.

"Campuses have changed too. Universities are seeing that in order to attract the older student and keep them, child care is essential," said Potter.

UNCA administrators were interested in the possibility of developing a child-care program.

"This project was about gathering and developing the information that would be useful to the administration in making a decision about child-care service," said Potter.

Potter researched the need for child care in-depth. Child-care surveys were distributed at last spring's pre-registration, and then analyzed. She also reviewed student and faculty demographic data, as well as researching Asheville's child-care market. Over the summer, Potter conducted two focus groups.

"We did one group with members of student government, which were primarily younger, traditional students, and we did one with [older] adult students," said Potter.

The demographic information of UNCA showed a need for child care. This semester, 3,291 students are enrolled. Seventy-six percent of the students live off campus, and their average age is 27. UNCA currently has 230 faculty members, in addition to 287 staff members.

Respondents to last May's survey reported a total of 176 dependents under the age of 13. This fall, there are 157 children under the age of five, and 45 children over five years old.

"Fifty-one percent of those responding said they had been absent from class or work at the university because of an inability to find child care. Forty-four percent reported being absent because of unavailable child care more than three times a semester. Fifty-nine percent reported bringing their kids to class or work because of lack

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Polish activists to attend environmental workshop

Lane Hollifield
Asst. News Editor

Polish environmentalists and activists will attend a community environmental workshop in an effort to learn ways of dealing with Poland's current environmental problems, said Gary Miller, Director of Environmental Studies.

Miller says the workshop, co-sponsored by The Environmental Quality Institute UNCA and The Center for Appalachian Studies, Appalachian State University will deal with the topic of "Expertise and the Democratic Process: Strategies for Action" and will be held Nov. 10 in room 125 of Robinson Hall.

"Poland's ranking, as far as a general views of environmental degradation is basically the worse," said Miller.

"Most of their water is heavily polluted. The air of the country, especially the cities where there is industry, is extremely heavily polluted, some of the worst in the world," said Miller.

Miller said Poland's former totalitarian regime is responsible for their current environmental situation. "They were under a totalitarian regime who would not respond to conventional wisdom for basic information regarding environmental clean-up," said Miller.

"If you don't have a robust economy where there is a decent profit margin you probably aren't going to be able to afford environmental clean-up," he said. "When you couple that with a totalitarian regime where, in essence, there is no discourse with

the people, they really don't care about how terrible the conditions get in terms of air or water or any other environmental issue."

Miller said lack of concern and money combine to leave Poland with a problem today that will take decades to get control of.

Miller says the Polish government has not really rebuilt since World War II.

"Their industry is old, it is decayed, it is requiring total modernization. Much of their industry will have to be destroyed and completely rebuilt from the ground up. Modern pollution control is virtually unheard of in their country."

Miller says the group coming

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Miller



Photo by Miranda Wyatt

Fly like an eagle

Sean Helfrich plays Superman on the steps of Highsmith.

Professors compare election predictions

Wicki McCoy
Editor

Even though UNCA professors Bill Sabo and Mark West made different predictions in the Nov. 6 elections, both political activists agree the re-election of Senator Jesse Helms was no surprise.

Sabo, associate professor of political science, predicted Jesse Helms the winner of the U.S. Senate race by a narrow margin.

"All the campaigning that Harvey Gantt did was unnecessary exercise because he (Helms) gets the same vote every year," Sabo said.

West, assistant professor of mass communication, chose Gantt to win the election by a margin of two percentage points.

In the race between incumbent Jamie Clarke and challenger Charles Taylor for the House of Representatives, both West and Sabo predicted Taylor the winner by a small margin.

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