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The Blue Banner

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

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Professors address Gulf war issues

United States should continue foreign aid

Steve Peake
Staff Writer

A UNCA economist said Monday the United States should maintain its commitment to providing economic aid to foreign nations, but also said the U.S. government should reconsider who receives that aid, and in what form.

Kofi Apraku, assistant professor of economics, told an audience in Owen Conference Center that continued U.S. foreign aid would benefit one country above all others: the United States.

"A nation does not give aid because it serves other people's interests. A nation gives aid because it serves its own economic, political, and strategic interests," said Apraku. "If the United States has given foreign aid in the past, nothing has changed to demonstrate the United States should not continue to give that aid."

Apraku said U.S. foreign aid fills a vacuum of leadership among nations, and the uncertainty of international situations demands continued U.S. aid. "There is tremendous need for the U.S. to become even more assertive in playing leadership and moral roles in the world," he said.

Apraku's remarks were part of the "Great Decisions 1991" lecture series, sponsored by the World Affairs Council of Western North Carolina, and UNCA. His lecture, "Rethinking Foreign Aid: What Kind? For Who?" focused on the direction of U.S. foreign aid in

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War in art
This three-dimensional design on display in Owen Hall expresses the artist's feelings of war.

Photo by Lisa Burleson

Media influence opinion of U.S. involvement

Steve Peake
Staff Writer

The media can influence what a viewer thinks about the current war in the Persian Gulf, though they can't influence what a viewer feels about that war, said Alan Hantz, assistant professor of mass communication, at a lecture Monday night.

"We do what we do about the war, and we know what we know about the war mostly because of information obtained through the media," said Hantz. "However, we feel what we feel about the war, not because it's what the media have told us to feel, but rather as a reaction to what the media have told us is going on."

Hantz, who chairs the department of mass communication at UNCA, told the audience at Owen Conference Center that media coverage of the

gulf war has given the American public many new things to think about in a short period of time.

"We know more about Kuwait, SCUD missiles, Saddam Hussein, cruise missiles, chemical warfare, and many other things," said Hantz, "than we ever thought we would in the short span of a few weeks. More importantly, we're developing opinions about those things."

The media serves as a springboard for popular opinion on the war, said Hantz. "Whatever you believe about the war, your evidence in support of that belief will likely have come from the media. Even your impressions about the media are likely to be shaped by the media."

Hantz said five "stakeholders," which don't always have common goals, have helped shape the

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Program earns presidential recognition

Davey Ramsey
Staff Writer

President George Bush named volunteers in UNCA's North Carolina Center for Creative Retirement as the 360th "Daily Point of Light," on Jan. 23.

"Daily Point of Light Recognition is intended to call every individual, group, and organization in America to claim society's problems as their own by taking direct and consequential action; to identify, enlarge, and multiply successful initiatives, like the efforts of the volunteers of the North Carolina Center for Creative Retirement," said a White House press release.

"The award was a pleasant surprise," said Ronald Manheimer,

director of the Center for Creative Retirement program. "The biggest value in the award is to the seniors who have been participating in our programs. They're not expecting awards or any kind of special recognition, they are doing these things because they like to and they think its valuable. So when somebody comes along and says 'hey, this is great,' they get a special feeling," said Manheimer.

UNCA's Center for Creative Retirement began in 1987 as an educational program for older adults.

"The program provides an opportunity for people to continue to learn and gives seniors access to volunteer roles in the community

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Students in UNCA's Center for Creative Retirement participate in an inanimate drawing class.

Photo by LeeAnn Donnelly

Lecture clarifies Islamic views

Stacy Libby
Staff Writer

Ahmed A. Soliman, associate professor of management, spoke of the religion and culture of the Persian Gulf area Feb. 7 at Rhodes Hall.

Aimed at providing a better understanding of the Arab people and Islam, Soliman discussed important war issues from a different perspective.

"Saddam Hussein is not Islamic," said Soliman. "I saw a story on CNN that Saddam killed his brother-in-law over a dispute. That is not surprising. He is ruthless."

"The Koran, the sacred book of Moslems, says Moslems must be kind and hospitable to their

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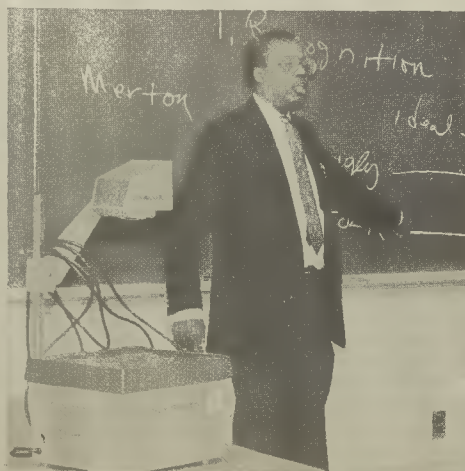


Photo courtesy University of Washington

James A. Banks will be the featured speaker at UNCA's Conference on Multicultural Education.

UNCA hosts multicultural conference

Renee Rallos
Staff Writer

UNCA will host a two-day multicultural education conference on Feb. 28, at 7 p.m. and March 1, at 9 a.m. in the Owen Conference Center.

On Thursday, there will be readings from three authors, African-American author Eleanora Tate, Hispanic poet Pat Mora and Southern Appalachian author Wilma Dykeman.

On Friday, James A. Banks, professor of education at the University of Washington in Seattle, will speak about "Education for Survival in a Multicultural World." Afterwards there will be a panel discussion including Banks, Tate, Mora and Dykeman.

"The idea is to enable people to

see that it's through the literature that they can come to know other cultures," said Jim McGlinn, assistant professor of education.

"Multicultural education is a movement, a contemporary issue about the way to educate children. It's an attempt to promote interest in and awareness of a variety of cultures," said Jeanne McGlinn, lecturer of education.

"We're inviting the university community with a special focus on students who are going to be teachers. It's really important for them to be aware of how multicultural education can be achieved in their teaching," added Jim McGlinn.

The McGlinns said that the idea of the conference originated because they wanted to "promote awareness of different cultures among student teaching

candidates."

The McGlinns feel that literature is a "powerful way to experience another culture" because a reader can see other cultures not as stereotypes but as "real individuals."

"By reading books of different cultures a reader 'can identify with it,' said Jim McGlinn, and 'can see that underlying this we're all the same people.'"

"A lot of people think that multicultural education is just for black people, or just for Hispanics or just for the minorities, but that's not true. We all have culture and it's for all of us," said Jim McGlinn.

The idea behind multicultural education is that ethnicity is positive. It really enriches who we are as an ethnic or cultural being. If you study different ethnic

groups it gives you a fuller view of life. It makes you more sensitive," said Jeanne McGlinn.

The McGlinns hope that multicultural education will move more into the school systems and move the focus away from the Anglo dominant perspective of education.

The McGlinns also hope that multicultural education will become a way of life and that it won't be a month set aside to recognize other cultures such as February as Afro-American month.

The University of North Carolina Board of Governors Distinguished Visiting Scholars Program to Improve the Education of N.C. Teachers is funding the conference with a

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