

## New Program Focuses On Women's Studies And Issues

Connie Craig  
Staff Writer

The UNCA Women's Studies program will offer a senior seminar class for the spring semester, according to Pamela Nickless, director of Women's Studies. Nickless said that because the Women's Studies program was new, this will be the first time they have offered the class.

Cathy Mitchell of the mass communication department will teach the seminar, which is open to Honors program students and students minoring in Women's Studies. The seminar will deal with issues of pornography, multiculturalism, the objectivity of science, differing rhetorical stances, and homophobia.

According to Nickless, UNCA students and faculty have shown interest in the Women's Studies program. "I feel like I'm running to keep up with the program," said Nickless. "Every time I turn around, someone whom I didn't think was interested is saying, 'Do you think a course like this would be a good idea?'"

Nickless said the program has two major purposes. "One is to provide class rooms in which the focus is on women, instead of treating women as special cases or special topics," said Nickless.

The second purpose, said Nickless, is, "to provide information about new research and about what is going on in research on women." Nickless said

there is so much research on women in a variety of fields that it is hard to stay informed.

"Since the late 1960s, there has been an explosion of scholarship on the subject of women," said Nickless. "One of the things we try to do is make recent research available."

According to Nickless, the program is not only important to students, but faculty as well.

"Many of us got our doctorates in the mid-70s and in that time period, in almost all our disciplines, there was very little work being done in the area of women's studies," said Nickless. "We find ourselves in a situation where we are playing catch-up and that is very difficult to do."

Nickless said the Women's Studies program helps the faculty stay current with all the research on women. "We can help our colleagues integrate some of the material and help them keep up," said Nickless.

Nickless said before the late 60s, disciplines usually did not study women or minorities because they did not consider them the creators of culture and history.

"Most disciplines had defined themselves so that they studied primarily the activities of white men," said Nickless. "So it wasn't just women that had been left out of the studies. It was also the contributions of African-Americans and other immigrants."

Nickless said the program is interdisciplinary and therefore important to a liberal arts university like UNCA.

Nickless said the core purposes of a liberal arts curriculum were to teach students to integrate methods from other disciplines, think critically, and look at previous research and evaluate it by their own standards.

"That is why we do well at liberal arts colleges and that is what we want to teach our students," said Nickless.

According to Nickless, other North Carolina universities that offer a Women's Studies program includes UNC-Greensboro, UNC-Charlotte, UNC-Wilmington, Duke, and UNC-Chapel Hill.

According to Nickless, UNC-Chapel Hill hopes to offer a major in Women's Studies next year.

Nickless said Women's Studies courses were often available at colleges that did not offer a formal program. "Many of the schools who don't have formal programs, offer Women's Studies classes through various departments," said Nickless.

Nickless said UNCA got started late, compared to the other universities, because no one was aware of an interest in the area of Women's Studies.

"We just never perceived an interest until we started having a steady stream of students coming in saying, 'Will you do an independent study with me?'" said Nickless.

Nickless said the program started about a year ago when Dr. Larry Wilson, vice chancellor for academic affairs, set up a task force to look at the possibilities of creating a Women's Studies minor.

According to Nickless, the faculty never thought there was a demand for a Women's Studies program until the past two or three years.

"The main push for the program really came from the students," said Nickless. "We began to have more and more students who were wanting special courses, special topics courses, or independent studies on women's issues and on the new research on women."

According to Nickless, students can minor in Women's Studies by taking the 100 level "Introduction to Women's Studies" and the "Senior Seminar in Women's Studies" along with 12 hours of electives from other departments or special topics courses.

The departments that offer Women's Studies electives are literature, psychology, sociology, philosophy and mass communication.

The Women's Studies program will offer two additional courses in literature and a course in history for the spring semester.

The literature classes are "Women in 20th Century Literature" and "Major Black Writers: African-American Autobiography." The history course is "European Women: 1700-Present."

Nickless said it is too soon to tell how effective the program would be at UNCA, but they have been effective in getting the course taught in other departments.

"I think there is a lot of excitement among the faculty about teaching these courses," said Nickless.

## UNCA Organization Promotes Programs For African American Students

Adeline Chung  
Staff Writer

The Office of Multicultural Student Affairs was established to promote international and African American student development, according to Carolyn Briggs, program coordinator.

"We plan spiritual, educational and social programs that will help enhance the academic life for both international and African American students," Briggs said.

The office welcomes international students once they have been accepted by UNCA. "My office will send a letter and tell them the kinds of things they would need to bring," Briggs said. "I also offer to pick them up at the airport upon their arrival and try to get them settled in."

"We try to get in touch with them before they get here and tell them that we'll do whatever we can to make them feel at home," Briggs said. Briggs said the office also organizes an orientation program for the African American students who are new to the school.

According to Briggs, the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs also works with other student organizations. "We have the African American Student Association (AASA), International Student Association (ISA) African American Women United, Ebony Ensemble and Project We Hear You Mentor Program," she said.

Briggs also said students are currently working on "In My Black Hands," an African American publication that will be printed this semester. "It will talk about issues confronting African Americans, not only in UNCA and Asheville, but throughout the world," she said.

According to Briggs, there is some kind of overlap between the activities planned by both, AASA and ISA. "What we're trying to do this year is to bring both groups together," she said. "Last year, we had a picnic for both the international and African American students."

"This year, we're going to continue that kind of communication," Briggs said. "There are going to work together for the Spring Fling, which is a combination of the International Festival and Rockmont."

Briggs said AASA is in the process of planning for the Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration and African American Heritage Month, while the international students have planned a food festival, Spring Fling and a host family program.

Briggs said the host family program will involve faculty and staff being matched with international students.

"The program is for the host family to get together with the international student, not necessarily only during the holidays, but also during the semester, to have lunch, go to a movie or just to come over to the faculty or staff's house," she said.

## Women's Collective Aims To Expand Resources

Adeline Chung  
Staff Writer

The UNCA Women's Collective aims to achieve a greater awareness of the needs of women at UNCA, according to Michelle Smith, student leader of the group.

"It (the Women's Collective) started out several semesters ago as a group of women who got together to read poetry and literature written by women because we noticed a severe lack of writing by women in the literature and humanities curriculum," Smith said.

According to Smith, the members will bring articles, works of literature

and anything new about women's achievements to the meetings. "A lot of that is just getting together and just sharing what we've learned," she said. "We have a lot of fun."

Smith said faculty members encouraged them to start a women's resource center. "In order to do that we had to become an officially recognized organization on campus," she said.

"This semester, the Women's Collective is just now getting its organizational feet on the ground. We still want a women's resource center," Smith said. "Hopefully, the center will be a reference point for people who want to know about community

places, such as a rape crisis center, when dealing with women's issues."

Smith said the resource center will be on campus. "Hopefully, there will be a person who can staff the resource center on a part-time basis," she said.

"We're looking for funding from different places and we really want UNCA to take some responsibilities for making it happen."

According to Smith, the resource center will also serve as a meeting place to have workshops on different topics such as child care and self-defense. "That's the big vision for the women's resource center that we're still working on," she said.

Smith said Student Government

Association (SGA) is doing a good job getting a daycare center started.

"It was an idea we worked on and did some research with and the SGA just picked it right up," she said.

Smith said she was very excited about the program that's being offered at UNCA. "I think we've got some great things happening and more people are interested in getting involved," she said. "I'm really pleased with it (the program)."

Smith said the Women's Collective has sponsored lunch seminars. The seminars offered a panel discussion on violence against women and children; Judith Bennet, a woman historian; and a concert by Musica Femina.

# SOUND SHOP

Cassettes, Compact Discs & Accessories

Biltmore Square 665-1694

Jingle Bell




Beth Nielsen Chapman

Jingle Bell



David Sanborn

Jingle Bell



Pixies  
TROMPE LE MONDE

# ROCK


!!! ON SALE NOW !!!



BILLY BRAGG




ERIC CLAPTON  
24 NIGHTS



ROCK & SOUL  
REVUE

Ask About Our One Year Tape Guarantee!



## Astrology

20 page Computerized Birth Chart with complete interpretation

\$20 and 20% UNCA discount

Makes a great Christmas gift

251-2511



## PRO BIKES

ASHEVILLE, N.C.  
PROFESSIONAL BICYCLES  
342 Merrimon Avenue,  
Asheville, NC 28801

Home of:  
Land of Sky Racing Team  
Smokey Mountain Touring Co.


REASONABLE RATES  
Phone 704/253-2800

Reminder:

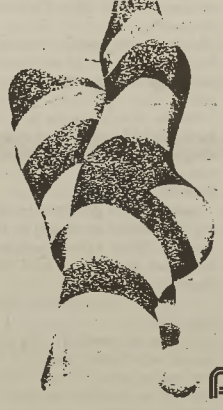
The deadline for the Dec. 12 edition of *The Blue Banner* is Dec. 10 at 2 p.m. Remember, the Dec. 12 edition will be our final issue of the semester.

"Normally, adjusting to new assignments isn't easy. But the help I receive from the staff at Uniforce removes most of my anxiety."

—Uniforce Temporary Employee



Asheville: 254-7009

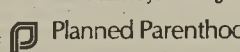


## COLD FEET?

Don't get cold feet about a pelvic exam. Call Planned Parenthood. We know from personal experience that pelvic exams are necessary, but not exactly the high point of your day. We will take the time to answer your questions and treat you like a person.

Your complete exam is only \$40. If you're a student, \$25.

You don't have to get cold feet about your health... or take out a loan. **Just call Planned Parenthood.** What are you waiting for?



131 McDowell Street, Asheville 252-7928 (M-F)