

# The Blue Banner

"Attack another's rights and you destroy your own." -- John Jay Chapman

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## Six professors receive grants from University Research Council

Alex Eastwood  
Staff Writer

The University Research Council has awarded Faculty Fellowships to six UNCA professors. The research projects pegged to receive the funds were chosen from nine applications for the June 1994 to June 1995 period.

The faculty awarded include Merritt Moseley, professor of literature, who is assembling material for two books on the academic novel in English and American fiction. The \$1,220 he will receive will fund the extensive reading required to provide an original critique of this subject, as well as assembling an anthology of previous criticisms of this subject. Moseley has published two books in the past, and is under contract to publish a third, in addition to this project.

Mark West, assistant professor of mass communication, and Charles Bennett, associate professor of physics department received the largest awards, each in the amount of \$1,500.

West's project, titled "Psychological Antecedents of Continuous Audience Responses," will attempt to measure viewer response to television via immediate physiological changes. In other words, instead of answering a questionnaire, viewer response will be measured much like a lie detector measures responses

to questioning.

The largest portion of West's grant will pay 20 students to participate and assist in his research.

Bennet's project is titled "The Image Location of Non-Gaussian Structure on Gaussian Laser Beams." The results of the study has applications to those who would use laser technology for optical probe experiments.

To Bennet's knowledge, this study has never before been conducted. Bennet plans to use the funds to obtain a computer with speed and memory capabilities sufficient for the project.

Chris Bell, assistant professor of economics, and Don Locke, from the NCSU ACCE Doctoral Program, jointly received \$750 for a study titled "Race, Gender, and Bargaining Behavior." They plan to match study participants in a way that will allow observation of bargaining behavior. The results should determine if there is a correlation between behavior, and its outcome, of this type, race, and gender.

Economic theory predicts that there should be no influence by race and gender. Some researchers have found this not to be true. Bell and Locke plan to use the largest portion of their grant to pay participants and provide the "goods" with which subjects will bargain.

Irene R. Mackun, assistant professor of environmental studies, received \$1,464 for laboratory equipment to enhance plant ecology research opportunities at UNCA. Specifically, these are a light meter that will accurately measure photosynthetically active radiation, and a laboratory oven to dry vegetation

samples.

These two pieces are fundamental to conducting specific research that is contemporary and publishable, she said. This equipment will provide essential information as to the distribution and adaptation of plant life.

Bill Spellman, assistant professor of history received \$550 for a projected book tentatively titled "Death and the Afterlife in Seventeenth Century England." There has been no modern scholarly treatment of this subject beyond an unpublished college dissertation in the 1930's.

Spellman has already been awarded \$1,800 by the Huntington for an Andrew Mellon Summer Residency Fellowship, in which he will research the largest collection of 17th-century English books outside Britain.

The award from UNCA will pay for Spellman's airline ticket to Los Angeles. "The Research Council grants, funded by the UNCA Foundation, are the only internal mechanism that provides grants primarily to faculty," said Pam Laughon, chairperson of the University Research Council. The council of eight elected faculty members determines grant distribution by a set of criteria that includes the significance of a project, its probability of being published, and the availability of other funds.

Certain types of expenses are excluded from consideration for awards. These include self-publication, preparation of introductory textbooks, and journal subscriptions.

The fellowships may, however, be used for travel to museums, concert halls, and theatres, computer expenses, and continuing research projects.

## Panelists discuss national debt

Robin Burris  
Staff Writer

Joseph Sulock, professor of economics, and William Sabo, chairman of the political science department, were the panelists in a discussion about the national debt last Thursday night. Sulock gave an idea of how large the national debt is.

"If you were to take a stack of one dollar bills and stand them skyward, that stack would go 750,000 miles into the sky. The moon is about 240,000 miles away. So, with the national debt, you can go to the moon and come back, go to the moon and still have 30,000 miles of dollars left," said Sulock.

"In 1992, the federal government spent approximately 1.4 trillion dollars. They brought in approximately 1.1 trillion dollars," said Sulock.

"The 1992 deficit, therefore, was about \$300 billion, and represents the amount that the federal government borrowed in 1992," according to the handouts available at the discussion. "The national debt you can think of as being the running total of all these deficits," said Sulock.

Sulock said the country is not at the

verge of bankruptcy due to the fact that our economy has the "ability to pay debt." The "gross domestic product is over six trillion dollars, and a stack of dollar bills equal to this would extend over 1.4 million miles into the sky. The national debt is, therefore, a bit over half of our income," according to handouts distributed at the event.

"The bottom line is we're not in any danger of going into bankruptcy," said Sulock. The debt and deficit do have several disadvantages, according to Sulock. "They impose cost on taxpayers in the future. Most people would think this is unfair, but some think most government spending benefits people in the present," according to handouts.

"Every dollar the government spends, they got to pay for it in some way. They usually do it in the form of taxes," said Sulock. There is a chance that deficits can lessen the growth of the economy, said Sulock. Deficits may also "lead to political pressures that cause inflation," according to the handouts. "I'm not saying that deficits cause inflation. I am saying that may draw unique political pressures that lead to inflation," said Sulock.

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Staff Photo By Annemarie Riley

Marilou Awiatka, author of the book *Selu*, spoke on March 3 for Women's History Month.

## UNCA celebrates Women's History Month with events

Robin Burris  
Staff Writer

UNCA will observe the month of March as Women's History Month. The discussions throughout this month are sponsored by UNCA's Women's Studies Program and the UNCA Office of Student Development.

UNCA has celebrated women's history for at least 11 years, according to Pamela Nickless, director of women's studies programs. "This is the third year of the women's studies program. Before we had a women's studies program, Student Affairs organized it [Women's History Month]. We've been able to do more now that we got the director of women's studies who can work with student affairs," said Nickless.

They have been able to get more involvement from the faculty and are able to do a larger program, said Nickless.

Before the women's studies program, some departments would offer courses about the roles of women, said

Nickless.

The work of two local heroines, Thelma Caldwell and the late Florence Ryan, will be celebrated with a reception from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. on March 11 at Ramsey Library, and extensive library displays throughout the month. Caldwell was named Asheville YWCA executive director at the time of integration in 1963, making her the first African-American YWCA executive director in the South, and the second in the nation, according to a press release.

Ryan, who died in January, worked for social justice causes for most of her 99 years, starting as an active suffragette at 19 and working steadily for the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment in the 1970s and 1980s, according to a press release.

Carol Kolmerton, director of the Honors Program at Hood College, will discuss Ernestine Rose on March 31, according to the press release. Rose was "an early activist for women's equality," said Nickless. Kolmerton "will talk about who Ernestine Rose

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## Weather Report

Friday Saturday



Hi 56 Lo 28 Hi 56 Lo 32

Weather Report courtesy of the National Weather Service

UNCA Atmospheric Science Department offers updated forecasts through the 24 hour Weatherline...251-6435

## Seventh-grader awarded UNCA scholarship

Teri Smith  
Staff Writer

A 12-year-old Buncombe County student has been awarded a tuition scholarship UNCA for winning the regional MATHCOUNTS competition.

Allison Master, a seventh grader at A.C. Reynolds Middle School, competed with 155 other students from 31 schools in Western North Carolina on Feb. 19 to win the competition.

She will compete at a state competition in Greensboro on March 12.

Organizers expect approximately 28 schools will be represented at the state meet. The top four students in the state competition will form a team to compete at the national level in Washington D.C.

Master said she had not thought much about college choices before receiving the scholarship.

"Now I'm considering UNCA," she said. "But I'm considering other colleges too. I'd sort of like to go somewhere else besides Asheville for college."

"MATHCOUNTS is a national mathematics competition that has been in operation for about 15 years," said Marc R. Worth, chairman of the Western North Carolina chapter of MATHCOUNTS. "The goal of the program is to spur interest in mathematics."

The math problems are mostly algebra and geometry, according to Master.

Master said that the following was just one of the problems she was

required to solve, "A circular sheet of paper of radius six inches is cut into three equal sectors, and each sector is formed into a cone with no overlap. What is the height in inches of each cone?"

"UNCA made a commitment in 1988 to support the MATHCOUNTS program by awarding a tuition scholarship renewable for up to four years maximum," said Carolyn McElrath, director of financial aid at UNCA. "Students who receive the scholarship must maintain a 3.2 grade point average."

One of the first recipients of the award also was a Reynold Middle School Student. Christopher Sams, an eighth-grader, received the scholarship in 1989.

The MATHCOUNTS scholarship is part of the university's community outreach, according to Caroline Miller, assistant vice chancellor for enrollment management. "We support a number of area academic competitions, MATHCOUNTS is just one of them," she said. "We do it to support scholarship and academic growth in our community."

The MATHCOUNTS testing is broken down into four divisions, the sprint round, the target round, the team round and the countdown, according to Worth.

Both the sprint and target rounds are written tests.

"In the sprint round, the students are given 30 problems to work individually," said Worth. "They are given 40 minutes to complete the problems without a calculator."

In the target round, students work a total of eight problems, using a

calculator, according to Worth.

Master had to defeat nine other students in the countdown round to win first place.

"At the end of the sprint and target rounds, I was in third place," said Master. "The countdown round put me in first."

"The kids really like the countdown round," said Worth. "That's where the excitement begins. It's game show time."

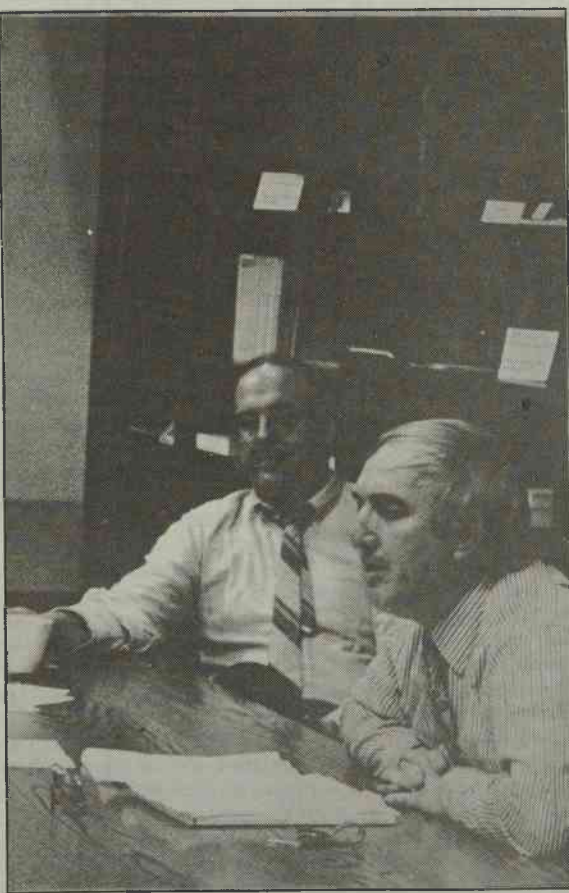
"In the countdown round, the top ten students go head-to-head in the auditorium at Reynolds," he said. "There is an overhead projector and the students race to complete the problem. The first student to complete two problems correctly wins the round, and the next opponent comes up."

In the countdown round, the students have 45 seconds to complete each problem.

Close to 200 people attended to watch the countdown round, according to Worth.

"Everyone in the audience is trying to work the problems too," said Worth. "Sometimes we get it and the students don't, but sometimes they get it before we do. One of these days we'll get courageous and put an engineer up there against one of the students."

Master is the captain of the Reynolds Middle School MATHCOUNTS team. The team placed second in the region and also will compete at the state level this week. Other members of the team include Kevin McAbee and Brock Edmiston, seventh graders; and Daniel Campbell and Tracy Harbison, eighth graders.



Staff Photo By Lat Ray

Joseph Sulock, professor of economics, and William Sabo, chairman of the political science department, participated in a discussion on the national debt on March 3.