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Sept. 8,
1994

The Blue

BANNER

"One can live in the shadow of
an idea without grasping it."--
Elizabeth Bowen

WEATHER: Mostly sunny
through the weekend. High
temps in the 70s. Lows in
the 50s. Patchy morning fog.

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STUDENTS PROTEST CHESTNUT RIDGE CONSTRUCTION

Some members of student group claim the university is in violation of the law

Holly Beveridge
Guest Writer

Student protesters gathered in front of the Highsmith Center Thursday morning to speak out against the planned conference center construction on the property known as Chestnut Ridge. Although not yet organized into a formal group, the students said they wanted to raise campus awareness about the construction issue.

With signs and posters criticizing the Chestnut Ridge construction, the group of about five environmental studies students invited passersby to join the effort by signing a petition and sending letters of protest to four local state legislators.

"We want to put pressure on these people because they are the ones that have the authority to make the decision," said Paul Myers, the group's organizer. "No one at UNCA has the authority to

make that decision. State legislators have to be told by the public that the public is highly opposed to this project, the students are highly opposed to this project, 'you're not going to get our support unless you oppose this project.'"

One of the group's posters, however, specifically criticized UNCA Chancellor Patsy Reed for failing to conduct an environmental assessment on the Chestnut Ridge tract.

In an Aug. 3 public meeting, held at the request of the Chestnut Ridge Conservancy protest group, Reed assured residents that UNCA has complied with North Carolina requirements regarding "environmental studies and related permits."

Despite Reed's statement, Myers believes UNCA is in violation of state regulations that require the completion of environmental assessments for projects in excess of \$150,000 and projects that involve the relocation of homes.



Blair Musselwhite asks for students to sign a petition to stop construction on Chestnut Ridge.

Photo by Randy Marrs

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New Faculty And Staff Announced

Janice Sitton
Staff Writer

New faculty and staff joined UNCA this fall, and the faculty were introduced at the faculty Senate meeting held on August 22. The new members of the faculty will meet the new chancellor and the other professors and instructors at a faculty gathering on September 10.

"They [the new faculty] all show a certain degree of enthusiasm, and are student oriented," said Thomas Cochran, associate vice chancellor of academic affairs. "They are interested in the campus culture, and appear to be very interested in being participants in the life of the university."

The music department has seven new members joining the department, including Robert H. Baker, chair of the department of music. He has been an associate professor at UNCA for 13 years prior to becoming the new department chair and is also the director of the Asheville Symphony. He has also received two awards from the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers and worked this summer in Hungary as a conductor.

"I am interested in helping to expand and coordinate the total music curricu-



Robert H. Baker, new chair of music department.

Photo by Randy Marrs

lum for the students," said Baker. "I've been involved in trying to get not only the music majors, but also more undergraduates to participate in the department."

Other new faculty in this department include Tim E. Haden, artist-in-residence in music; Phil Dettra, Karen Salvucci, and Elsa O'Farrell, piano instructors; Inez Redman, violinist, and Cynthia Perkins, who is a voice instructor experienced in musical theater.

"Our goal this year is to have the undergraduates be aware that the music department is a resource for them, rather than just another academic department,"

said Baker. "We have 30 applied or music majors, but we know that there are many, many more musicians on campus who are not necessarily music majors, and in the past it has not been made really clear that we would like them also to participate in the department."

There are many ways for students to participate in the department, such as the Jazz Ensemble Band, the Guitar Ensemble, and the Asheville Symphony, according to Baker. An in-house catalog will be available soon for those interested, or students may contact the music department for further information.

New faculty in other departments include Melinda L. Costello, instructor in management, Grant Hardy, assistant professor of history, specializing in Chinese history, Emamuddin Hoosain, assistant professor of education, Diane C. Melroy, assistant professor of biology, Sophie J.V. Mills, assistant professor of classics, David E. Peifer, assistant professor of math, and Debby F. Singleton, lecturer in health and fitness, according to the UNCA public relations office.

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UNCA Exceeds Goal For Grant

Kemberly V. Graham
Staff Writer

The University of North Carolina at Asheville has exceeded a \$750,000 fund-raising goal to meet a National Endowment for the Humanities [NEH] grant. The NEH will match UNCA's funds with \$250,000, creating a \$1 million endowed fund for a distinguished teaching professorship in UNCA's humanities program.

In 1992, UNCA and six other colleges and universities received the distinguished professorship challenge. Since receiving the challenge, UNCA has conducted a fund-raising program to achieve the \$750,000 goal.

The NEH challenge grant has several purposes.

"The distinguished teaching professorship will provide an opportunity for whoever is the endowed chair holder to work with other faculty who teach in the humanities program," said Larry Wilson, vice-chancellor of student affairs.

"The way it will help our students is that it will give a master teacher an opportunity to work with others teaching in humanities, both full-time faculty and adjuncts," said Wilson. "It will improve an already high level of teaching and make it even better."

"Students really come first," said Beverly C. Modlin, vice-chancellor for university relations.

Modlin gives several other purposes of the grant. According to Modlin, whenever the university recruits to hold this position will have a special development fund.

A visiting scholars fund will be available to bring in at least two visiting scholars or lecturers to campus.

Enrichment awards will be available to send faculty to attend conferences, and teaching seminar awards also will be given out to faculty.

"The distinguished professor will hold workshops and seminars for faculty in the humanities program," said Wilson.

Chris Curry, a member of the UNCA Foundation Board of Directors, and Pamela Turner, a member of the UNCA Board of Trustees, co-chaired the campaign.

"These are the two major boards," said Modlin. "They are really responsible for making sure that this institution has the resources that it wants."

"It was the first major joint venture between those boards," says Modlin.

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CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE CANCELLED, ORGANIZERS HOPE TO RESCHEDULE

Greg Deal
Staff Writer

The debate between Republican incumbent U.S. Rep. Charles Taylor and Democratic challenger Maggie Lauterer set for Sept. 6 at UNCA's Humanities Lecture Hall was cancelled reportedly because the date conflicted with the Jewish holiday, Rosh Hashana.

Lauterer and Taylor are campaigning for the 11th District U.S. House seat. The Sept. 6 date would have been their first head-to-head debate,

according to Bob Farzanegan, UNCA political science professor and the debate organizer.

"We had gotten a lot of feedback from the community that they would appreciate it if we did not do [the debate] on Rosh Hashana," said Grier Weeks, a spokesperson for the Lauterer campaign.

Rosh Hashana is a celebration of the Jewish New Year. In observance of the holiday, Jews attend synagogue services.

Weeks said that he was shocked when the Asheville Citizen-Times announced the debate. He said that the Lauterer campaign had no prior knowledge that it was being announced.



Taylor



Lauterer

"We felt we were still in the middle of negotiating details of the debate," said Weeks. "It put us in a very difficult position."

"We talked seriously about going ahead with the

debate regardless of our concerns because it had been put on the front page of the newspaper," he said. Weeks said that as late as 5:30 p.m., the evening before the announcement was printed in the Asheville Citizen-Times, the Lauterer campaign was still trying to negotiate details with Farzanegan.

"We had given tentative okay to the date, and we had given tentative okay to the general outline of the debate," said Weeks. "We had not seen anything on paper, and we were still in discussion stages."

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