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May 4,
1995

The Blue

BANNER

"Spring comes laughing down the valley
All in white, from the snow
Where the winter's armies rally loth to go."
—Amelia Josephine Burr

WEATHER: Mostly sunny this
weekend. Highs in the low
70s. Lows in the 40s

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Biology Professor Receives Award for Excellence

Chris Small
Staff Writer

A UNCA associate professor of biology was awarded the UNC Board of Governors Award for Teaching Excellence April 21 in Chapel Hill.

"This is the crowning glory of my professional career, and there is no greater affirmation that I could get from my students first, and my colleagues second," said Michael D. Stuart, the award recipient.

Stuart has an undergraduate degree from North Louisiana State College and a Ph.D. in zoology from North Carolina State University. Stuart has been a UNCA faculty member since 1986.

"Students are always the fundamental goal, and so it becomes a teamwork operation," Stuart said. "It's a cooperative learning process, and it's really special."

Stuart said he has found his experiences at UNCA unique.

"I am rewarded for using my research as a teaching tool for getting students involved in my research, and doing it with me," he said.

Stuart said what students notice and appreciate most about his teaching is sincerity and enthusiasm.

"If they [the students] know that you genuinely care about what's going on in the classroom, they tend to respond to that very positively," Stuart said. "Enthusiasm is very important [and] everything else is just technique."

Stuart teaches introductory biology, general zoology, mammalogy, parasitology, and invertebrate zoology.

"The most satisfying aspect of teaching, for me, is not what I do," said Stuart. "The rewards come when [students] take off. It's about watching students live up to their potential."

Stuart said he is repaying a favor that was given to him when he was a student.

"The difference was that they (my instructors) treated the knowledge not as if they were the owners of it, but they treated me as a junior partner in the handling of this knowledge," said Stuart. "I have the opportunity here to work one-on-one with the students. I can afford to invest the time in getting to know them as an individual."

Stuart started the course, Biology 499, in which students actually get hands on learning experience in the laboratory.

"We take junior and senior students and bring them into the classroom with us, not as an extra pair of hands, but as a learning experience so that they can work with us to learn where the pitfalls in teaching are, and where the high points are," Stuart said.

He has taken his students on trips, but said traveling abroad is no longer as safe as it once was.

"I have taken students to Costa Rica," Stuart said. "I was in Egypt when Anwar Sadat was assassinated, hopped an air flight to get into Madagascar when they were not recognizing the United States. I probably won't be

See "Professor," page 8

Construction Continues In Highsmith Center

Todd Hagans
Staff Writer

As construction on several UNCA facilities continues, a problem with the newly-constructed dining hall was corrected over spring break.

According to Ken Barefoot, director of Marriott dining services, the carpet in the new dining hall was replaced because it did not lay smoothly in certain areas. The problem was detected by state-construction inspectors.

"The manufacturers [of the carpet] admitted that there were problems with that carpet," said Ronald Reagan, director of facilities planning and construction. "They agreed to replace the entire carpet in the dining hall at no additional expense."

Barefoot said the carpet, covering approximately 5,000-square feet, was replaced in the main dining room, the private dining room, and the dining hall office. The carpet removed from the dining hall was salvaged by the university.

Other construction projects at UNCA include the proposed renovation and expansion of the Highsmith Center, the addition to the Justice Center, and the renovation of Ramsey Library.

Construction and renovations on the Highsmith Center could begin in the summer of 1996, according to Sharyn



Get your piece of the rock while you can. The Mud 500 rock is being demolished.

Photo by Tanya Melton

McDonald, director of Highsmith Center and student activities.

McDonald said an architect for the Highsmith Center project will be selected this week, and the architect will meet with the expansion committee appointed by Chancellor Patsy Reed. The renovations and expansion will be designed during the next academic year.

According to McDonald, students at two forums last week discussed possible

additions to the Highsmith Center. Some of the possibilities included an area to accommodate performances sponsored by Underdog Productions, a student art gallery, a 24-hour computer lab, a television viewing area, and lounge space.

McDonald also said an office for the counseling and career center is a possibility as well as a job placement office.

See "Renovations," page 8

Guest Editor Visits Campus, Offers Advice

Jay Malinoski
Guest Writer

Newspapers should be honest, accurate, and fair, the managing editor of the Spartanburg [S.C.] *Herald-Journal* told a UNCA newswriting class April 20.

"The short definition [of journalism ethics] is honesty, followed by accuracy, followed by a sense of fairness," Scott Kearns said. "You try to apply that as it comes up in a newspaper."

The impacts of the Susan Smith murder case and the BMW plant on media ethics were discussed during the class.

"Basically, you take those virtues, if that's what they are, and apply them to situations that come up in the newspaper," Kearns said.

Kearns, who came to UNCA to critique the *Blue Banner* and speak to mass communication classes, said

journalism ethics are hard to define.

Kearns, the managing editor for the *Herald-Journal* for the past four years, graduated from the University of South Carolina at Columbia in 1975. He has been in journalism for the past 20 years.

One dilemma that newspapers face, according to Kearns, is when a tragedy strikes a family. He said although he doesn't like questioning families immediately after such an event, "If you have to, you have to."

When the Susan Smith story first broke, the *Herald-Journal* immediately placed reporters at the scene. "We were real lucky because we got on the story early," Kearns said. "We were able to talk to David Smith, Susan Smith, and the grandparents. Then they cut everyone off."

Kearns said as the case progressed, he began to doubt the validity of Susan Smith's claims that a black man kid-

napped her two sons.

Kearns said Mark Klaas, a California man whose daughter had been kidnapped, attempted to console Smith. After being denied access to Smith, Klaas returned to California.

When the *Herald-Journal* called him to find out why he had gone back to California, Klaas told them he had not been admitted, and that he did not believe that Susan Smith was telling the truth, according to Kearns.

When the news broke that Susan Smith confessed to the murders of her children, Kearns said he had some regrets about the information received.

"My regret is that we did not have enough sources on state law enforcement," said Kearns.

Kearns said another problem involving ethics occurred when BMW was looking for a site for a new manufacturing plant.

"BMW was looking at Spartanburg County as a place

to build a manufacturing plant," Kearns said. "It was at the same time as the celebration of the Holocaust. They canceled it [because] getting BMW was so important that they didn't want to do anything to upset BMW. And since BMW is a German company, they thought 'Well, lets not say anything about it,'" said Kearns.

Kearns went on to say the mayor then announced there was never going to be a celebration, and if the *Herald-Journal* published the article, it would scare off BMW. However, the newspaper published the story anyway.

"I think that a reporter should think about who he is writing for," said Kearns.

As for journalism ethics involved in both the BMW story and the Susan Smith case, Kearns said, "It is probably the most difficult thing to nail down."

Seniors Establish Scholarship Fund As Gift

Christy King
Staff Writer

This year's seniors have decided the best way they can contribute to UNCA is through a senior gift scholarship fund.

"We could have planted a tree, or bought a plaque with the donations, but we wanted to do something more meaningful with the money," said Jay Jordan, one of the seniors involved in the organization of the senior gift. "That's why



Seniors Willie Black, Patty Chakales, and Jay Jordan are planning the senior scholarship fund.
Photo by Christy King

we decided to establish a permanent scholarship fund."

Patty Chakales, Jay Jordan, and Willie Black are the three seniors who were recruited to work on the senior gift with Mary Chakales, director of Alumni Relations.

"Mary approached us about the project, and we willingly volunteered," said Patty Chakales, an accounting

See "Senior Gift," page 8

Nearly 500 Will Graduate As UNCA's 25th Class

Andrea Lawson
Staff Writer

Approximately 470 students will receive degrees at UNCA's 66th commencement, to be held May 13 at the Asheville Civic Center. Organizers said the class of 1995 is one of the largest ever to graduate from the university.

"I'm ecstatic to be graduating," said Adam Wemberly, a management major. "It brings closure to four years."

Many seniors said they were disappointed that graduation will not be held on the quad this year. According to Thomas Cochran, associate vice chancellor for academic affairs, the library construction made it impossible for the ceremony to be held on campus.

"There didn't seem to be any other logical place [to hold the ceremony]," Cochran said. "We have, for the last three years, rented the Civic Center as a backup site. We obviously never intended to use it, but we didn't see any good alternative."

"Since my freshman year, I've wanted it [graduation] to be on the quad, and that's where I always thought it would be," said Jessica Jones, a literature and education major. "I guess I'm sort of sad because it's not going to be there."

Although some seniors are disappointed, Jones and Wemberly said the library addition was a good idea.

"I'm happy to see that the library is going to be as wonderful as it's going to be," said Jones. "I wish it could have been that way when I was here."

"The university has gone through a lot of changes, and it's really exciting to be here," Wemberly said. "I kind of feel like I'm leaving in the middle of a lot of the changes going on."

"I think the construction is really symbolic of the growth that the university has experienced over the past several years. The idea behind graduation, for me, isn't the place; it's more or less the experience," Wemberly said.

Carol Levin, a history professor at State University of New York-College at New Paltz and the 1994-95 Carol Belk Distinguished Professor in the Humanities, will serve as featured speaker at the ceremonies, according to organizers.

Levin's fields of specialization are late-medieval/early-modern England and Europe, and late-medieval/early-modern women's history.

Irwin Belk, the civic leader responsible for establishing the Carol Belk Professorship, will receive an honorary degree at the ceremony.

In celebration of UNCA's 25th anniversary, the class of 1970 will also be honored, according to Cochran.

"It's great to be in the 25th class," said Jones. "I guess there's more going on this year than in previous years."

"I think the 25th anniversary is fantastic," said Wemberly. "In the four years I've been here, I've been able to witness

See "Graduation," page 8