

The Blue BANNER



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Professors receive awards for research, excellence in teaching

Program co-founder accepts honor for campus community

James Hertsch
Staff Writer

The North Carolina Association of Colleges and Universities presented an award to the UNCA Undergraduate Research Program. The award cites the program's "unique service to students," and calls the program a "model to the Nation."

"The award is to honor the UNCA Undergraduate Research Program for its strong program and leadership, as being a model program for the nation," said Michael J. Ruiz, chair of the physics department. "We've had other people ask about it (and) start an undergraduate research program at their schools."

Ruiz accepted the award as one of the co-founders of the Undergraduate Research Program, noting that John G. Stevens, a co-founder of the program, was unable to attend the conference.

"I figured if we worked together on this proposal, we would be able to make it more successful, so I went to him, and he bought into it because chemistry has been doing research with students all along, we were doing it in physics, biology was doing it, so we had the base, and then we brought the proposal and got funding," Ruiz said. "We expanded the idea of undergraduate research everywhere on the campus, and encouraged everyone to get involved, to enable students to have the opportunities to get grants to help

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Photo by Marri Parson

Professor Michael D. Stuart was honored last May for excellence in teaching. The award is only given to one professor from each school in the UNC system.

Biology instructor recognized by Board of Governors for unique style, instruction

James Hertsch
Staff Writer

A UNCA biology professor received an award for excellence in teaching from the Board of Governors last May.

According to the event program, Michael D. Stuart, an associate professor of biology, received the award for his unique teaching style.

The award is given to one professor from each of the 16 universities in the UNC system, he said.

"I was just fortunate enough to be the one selected (from UNCA), but I don't think there's anything that I do that is not matched or exceeded by any other professors on this campus," Stuart said.

According to the program, Stuart employs "war stories," puns, and jokes to draw students into his lectures.

Additionally, he uses computer graphics, fossils, and replicas.

"Whenever you can attach an emotion to an idea, when you can make the students laugh, make them angry, and shock them, the concepts that you're trying to get across, the ideas tend to stick," Stuart said.

"They're no longer academic things to memorize and regurgitate. I use the war stories to show the relevance of these concepts, that they are real-world events that happen to real people," he said.

Stuart said he dropped out of college originally, and was not as good a student as he should have been.

After leaving college, he worked in a zoo for six months.

"(I) got the magic letter from Uncle Sugar, saying 'Greetings, you are hereby ordered to report for induction,'" Stuart said. "1967 was not a good year to be inducted into the Army. I spent two years getting my teeth slammed back down my throat, learning the differ-

"Whenever you can attach an emotion to an idea, when you can make students laugh, make them angry, the ideas tend to stick."-- Michael Stuart

ence between those who had the credentials to be accepted as an equal, and those who did not, and developed the maturity that required me to go back and complete my degree."

After his term in the Army, Stuart returned to school, and finished work on his bachelor's degree.

Stuart said it took him a total of 10 years to get his bachelor's degree and four years for his masters, as he worked while going to school.

It wasn't until his doctorate that he went to school full-time.

Stuart said the students he has worked with at UNCA are of a high caliber, and credits them, as well as UNCA faculty and administration for creating an environment conducive to teaching.

Dorm drug bust leads to felony charges for student

Paul Buttles
Staff Writer

A male student's efforts at attracting a female student led to the discovery of two to three ounces of marijuana in his dorm room and his arrest on felony drug charges Nov. 8, according to the office of public safety.

"We had a complaint from a female student that a note had

been left on her car," said Dennis Gregory, investigation/crime prevention officer. "The note was not in any way vile or anything, it was just, 'I'd like to meet you, gee, you're nice looking,' and so on. We checked out the number (on the note) and it came back as a student living in Scott Hall. His name was Andrew Slawek."

According to Gregory, Jeff

VanSlyke, director of public safety, followed up on the complaint, and went to Slawek's room for what he expected to be a cordial visit. Upon knocking on Slawek's door, VanSlyke was asked to identify himself. Slawek then opened his door, only to slam it shut again, whereupon VanSlyke knocked

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Date for Student Court session not disclosed

Andrea Lawson
News Editor

Student Government officials have refused to comment on the upcoming court date of Lucas Reid, the student who pled guilty to second-degree rape in a case involving a Statesville woman.

Phil Parsons, SGA chief jus-

lice, said members of the student court are not allowed to discuss the case before it comes before the court.

Other SGA members said they could not release the date of the court session.

According to SGA policy, a student may request that their court session be closed to the public.

The student does not have to provide a reason for closing the session.

It is unknown whether or not Reid will choose to close his court session.

Dhaval "Doc" Patel, SGA president, said he hasn't said anything to SGA members about refusing to discuss the case.

Peer education presentations focus on diversity, awareness

Paul Buttles
Staff Writer

According to the health and fitness department, students enrolled in its peer education class will be making a series of presentations on campus in the coming two weeks.

Events include, among other things, condom races, and short videos highlighting the problems of racism and homophobia.

"Actually ('Condomology 101') is a lecture type of thing on safe sex, and we also present abstinence," said Jennifer Peterson, a sophomore psychology major. "We're also doing a condom race (using bananas) just to prove that it doesn't take that long to put on a condom."

Peterson said "Condomology 101" will also focus on birth control options, and what health services are available.

"Even though (the course) is fun, and of course that's one of the things we want with peer education, it's very informative," said Vicki Brunnick, adjunct instructor in health and fitness.

According to Jack Newton, a mass communication senior, invitations have been extended to the African American Student Association and UNCA Out! (UNCA's gay and lesbian organization) for a presentation titled "Valuing Diversity."

"We're going to look at homophobia and racism," said Newton. "Using video, our group is going to look at four short role plays, and we're going to have discussions about each (one)."

Newton said one video will show two white students sitting on a couch in the Highsmith center, witnessing two black students exchange money. The white students will assume a drug deal is occurring.

"In the second role play we're showing a

close-up of the two African-American students exchanging money and a (type-written) paper, to highlight someone jumping to conclusions. They're just exchanging money for a paper that the other one typed," Newton said.

"Inner City: Violence, Youth, Hope" a presentation focusing on the plight of youth in the inner cities, has been approved as a humanities cultural event, according to Timothy Sinatra, a senior sociology major. "For the past eight years I (have) worked with disadvantaged and at risk youth, and worked with gangs in the Fort Lauderdale area. I decided that (with this presentation) I could enlighten my fellow students to the truth and reality of the inner city."

Sinatra, who hopes to establish his own inner city ministry in Miami, said Asheville

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Photo by Marri Parson

Members of the peer education class put together a presentation on nutrition awareness.