

The Banner

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NEWS BRIEFS

Four named to Board of Trustees

The University of North Carolina Board of Governors has named four people to UNCA's Board of Trustees. The appointments will be effective in July.

George M. Groome, Sue McClinton, and J. Wells Greeley were appointed to four-year terms and William Carter Orr was reappointed for a four-year term.

Groome, of Asheville, is president of Colton Groome & Co., a financial and benefit consulting firm. He has served on the UNCA Foundation since 1992, serving as chair in 1995.

McClinton, of Asheville, is vice president of William S. Hein & Co. Inc. of Buffalo, N.Y., a legal publishing company. She has served on the boards of Memorial Mission Hospital, the Community Foundation, Pack Place, the BB&T Advisory Board, and the Warren Wilson Board of Visitors. She has also served on the UNCA Foundation Board since 1995.

Both Groome and McClinton will resign their seats on the foundation board when they join the UNCA Board of Trustees.

Greeley, of Waynesville, is president of Wells Funeral Homes, Inc. of Canton and Waynesville. He is a member of the First Union National Bank Board of Directors for Haywood County, the Fund for Haywood County, Community Foundation of Western North Carolina, Haywood 2000, and is a former trustee of Haywood Regional Medical Center.

Orr, of Raleigh, is the executive vice president for statewide commercial credit administration at First Citizens Bank. He is a member of the Wake Community College Foundation Board and has served on the boards of the Henderson County American Cancer Society and the Park Ridge Hospital Foundation.

The UNCA Board of Trustees consists of 13 members, eight selected by the UNC Board of Governors, four appointed by the governor, and the UNCA Student Government Association president.

Crystal Ball Seminar

Two economic experts will explore the business and financial outlook through 1998, including state, national, and international, at the 13th annual Crystal Ball Seminar to be held April 17 at the Owen Conference Center. The seminar will begin with a 6:30 p.m. reception, followed by the speakers at 7 p.m., and a question-and-answer period at 8 p.m.

Seminar speakers are David W. Berson, chief economist at Fannie Mae, and James F. Smith, professor of finance at UNC-Chapel Hill. Berson will discuss the implications of Federal Reserve Policy for financial markets and address various investments, with an emphasis on interest rates and the bond market. Smith will focus on the outlook for inflation, employment, interest rates, and the strength of the dollar, as well as exploring the North Carolina budget situation.

Admission is free, but seating is limited. To register, call the Economics Department at 251-6550.

Correction

In the March 20 edition of *The Banner*, Scott Pastushok was incorrectly identified as Rob Esagro in a photo on page six of the sports section.

Fliers accuse SGA candidate of racism



PHOTO BY DEL DeLORM

Vice-presidential candidate Josh Littlejohn defends himself against fliers posted around campus accusing him of being a racist. Seated to his right is SGA vice-presidential candidate Tiffany Drummond.

By Catharine Sutherland
Staff Writer

Fliers found on campus calling an SGA vice-presidential candidate a racist are the work of an outside source and not a political opponent, said the president of the Student Government Association.

"Looking at everything, I am positive that whoever's doing this is not a candidate nor a member of SGA," Sergio Mariaca said. "This is of a personal nature."

Sophomore Josh Littlejohn, the candidate under attack by the fliers, believes the slanderous assault stems from his involvement in a lawsuit filed against the UNC system to ban minority presence grants, scholarships awarded to students of the minority race at state universities.

"I never imagined that anyone would consider me a racist because I'm against all forms of discrimination," said Littlejohn. "The grants are something that are used to manipulate the ethnic diversity of the campus. I'm all for ethnic diversity,

but I don't think it's fair that the scholarships limit whites on our campus. It's public money and it's used for something based on something other than merit or need."

In a complaint filed against the president of the University of North Carolina last March, Littlejohn, along with two other UNCA alumni and students from four other state universities, asked the court to declare the grants unconstitutional.

The plaintiffs contended that the grants exclude them from competing for or receiving a government benefit based solely on their race, being white students in a predominantly white institution, and therefore the grants violated the fourteenth amendment.

"This is not something we initiated, this is something that was brought to us and we were asked to be a part of it," Littlejohn said. "Some people will say, 'He made this decision and he asked for it,' but I never asked for this."

"I expected the issue to be raised because it is important, but I never expected it to be raised in this manner," said Littlejohn. "This is ludi-

crous. I really don't know what would give someone the motive to do this."

Speculation continues as to who may have posted the fliers.

Mariaca named Tiffany Drummond as Littlejohn's only opponent in the race for SGA Vice President, but said he did not consider her a possible source of the fliers.

"She is way above this," Mariaca said of Drummond. "Tiffany and Littlejohn are good friends. They respect each other and are equally strong candidates for the job."

"I think this was done by somebody new this year who was given the signal by someone else," said Adrian Tatum, a presidential candidate in the upcoming elections. "He wasn't attacked last year at all like this."

Though Littlejohn escaped attack after his stance on the grants came to light last year, he did meet with some opposition to his views on campus.

Alumnus Mark Dann authored a

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140-hour law now in effect, penalizes some

By Chane Simpson
Staff Writer

Some seniors who have entered UNCA since fall of 1994 will soon face a new 25 percent tuition surcharge each semester they remain in school.

Although there are several exceptions included in the legislation, the state-mandated surcharge on tuition will affect students who accumulate more than 140 hours in the pursuit of a single major. Vice Chancellor of Enrollment Services Caroline Miller said the General Assembly in Raleigh approved the surcharge in 1993 in an effort to maximize the use of public education money.

"The reason the legislation was passed was to encourage students to complete their degree in a timely manner," said Miller, "and that is because the public higher education system in North Carolina is funded significantly from taxpayer dollars."

The state of North Carolina contributes nearly \$7,000 annually for each in-state full-time student in the public university system during the spring and fall semesters.

UNCA senior David Marshall plans to graduate next spring with three majors and two minors and a cumulative 210 hours completed.

Even though he was already in school before the surcharge took effect and will not be impacted by the change, he views the situation more as a punitive measure against students who want to explore various academic endeavors rather than an efficient use of tax money.

"It hurts those students that are most interested in learning and expanding their educational horizons," said Marshall.

"You're talking about students who are here for other reasons than merely looking for some kind of marketable skill. You're talking about students who are going to be the leadership of the state tomorrow, and this kind of limitation on them is bound to hurt the state in

the long run."

The surcharge only applies to tuition costs, and does not include fees, Miller said. Currently tuition for a full-time in-state student is \$365 per semester. The 25 percent surcharge would add another \$91.25 to the bill.

Full-time out-of-state students who already pay \$3,523 would be charged nearly \$900 more each semester. Part-time students in this situation will pay a pro-rated amount based on the number of hours attempted.

Because the policy is new and has yet to affect any students, said Registrar Rebecca Sensabaugh, there is considerable confusion and misinformation regarding the change.

Students think "that it's a low threshold that everybody is going to reach," she said. "But we really don't have that many students who cross over the 140-hour requirement."

Also complicating the situation are the exceptions to this new rule. Although the registrar's office will

factor into account all attempted hours by a student, including failed classes, withdrawals, and courses that were audited, it will not count hours earned from advanced placement classes prior to entrance into UNCA nor those courses completed during summer school, Miller said.

She added that this part of the policy stems from the fact the state contributes considerably less money toward summer school, and students themselves pay more of the bills.

While the state began implementation of this 140-hour rule with the freshman class of 1994, each transfer student who has entered the university since that time has been evaluated on an individual basis.

Because requirements often vary from one school to another, Miller said, a transfer student coming to UNCA may have to complete more core curriculum courses in addition to classes in their chosen major.

In this type of situation, she said, the student is allotted more time to complete their education, or specifically 110 percent of the hours remaining to fulfill their degree requirements.

For example, a transfer student needing 70 total hours to graduate would be allowed to complete 77 hours, or 110 percent, before administrators would apply the surcharge.

Miller also said the new policy is not designed to hinder students seeking double majors.

"If they are in fact on track to do a double major, then they won't be penalized for that effort," she said. "It's the student who keeps changing his mind and changing his mind and never completes something that gets penalized."

Describing it as "arbitrary and inflexible," triple-major Steven Gross said the new policy is indicative of the state's attitude about getting students through the sys-

See HOURS page 8

Students tutor for financial aid

By Shelley Eller
Staff Writer

A community service program supported by UNCA's financial aid office makes it possible for students to help pay tuition costs while giving something back to the community.

"The program began three years ago and is designed to help students decrease loan costs while working for non-profit organizations," said Carolyn McElrath, director of financial aid.

In the past, students have worked for organizations such as the Boy Scouts of America, Caring for Children, and the Daniel Boone Boy Scouts.

Students involved with the program have also worked for welfare agencies, public safety, social services, and recreation.

"Ms. McElrath matched me up with a job I was interested in," said Jennifer Wiley, a freshman majoring in biology. "I help with the Daniel Boone Boy Scouts. I do secretarial work, stock work or ba-

sically whatever they need me to do."

Currently, the program is focused on providing reading tutors for students in Asheville and Buncombe County elementary and middle schools.

"I have met with Sandra Byrd, the director of Partners in Learning. We are making plans for her to train prospective students as tutors," said McElrath. "We can still place students in other community service organizations, but the tutoring program will receive the most attention this fall. We've received an increase in work-study funds and the increase goes toward the tutoring program."

UNCA sent out letters to Asheville City and Buncombe County elementary and middle schools offering their tutoring services, according to McElrath.

"We first had to assess the need of the schools," said McElrath. "We had a significant response for help. We need as many tutors as possible. One good aspect of the program is that it generally pays more than jobs on campus."

In order for students to become tutors through the community service program, they must be eligible for financial aid or work study.

The program also requires that student tutors work between four to ten hours a week and provide their own means of transportation. "We're looking for all majors who are interested in working with children and are willing to dedicate time as a paid volunteer," said McElrath. "The tutor must have a sense of commitment toward them."

Tutoring in the upcoming academic year will be different because of President Clinton's promotion of the America READS program, designed to improve school children's reading and comprehension abilities, said McElrath.

"President Clinton wants college tutors to be placed in elementary and middle schools across the country," said McElrath. "His plan is to start kids reading early to improve their abilities."

The community service and Part-

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Spirit of Ireland visits Asheville



PHOTO BY BONNER BUTLER

Irish National Radio Orchestra and Dancers performed "The Spirit of Ireland," at the Diana Wortham Theater at Pack Place on March 18. The orchestra presented arrangements of traditional Irish dances and songs such as "Danny Boy," "Bantry Bay," and others.