

The Banner News

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"This semester we are encouraging senators to approach students in order to find out their concerns," said Drummond.

SGA comprises 18 annually-elected senators: three senators per class, three senators to represent the resident student body, and three senators to represent UNCA's commuter population.

"Every student has six people that are a direct link to SGA. It is just a matter of utilizing those people," Tatum said. "Students need to realize that the senators are there to listen to their concerns and to act upon those concerns."

A vice president and a president are also elected each year, and the positions of executive for the inter-

nal (which handles affairs such as officially recognizing campus organizations) and executive for the external (which involves coordinating activities such as blood drives and Greenfest, in which the campus community participates) are appointed.

All senators have office hours during the week in which they are available for the students, Tatum said.

"To have somebody in the office is an essential thing because you never know when a student or faculty member's going to come in and need the help of SGA," Donaldson said. Donaldson worked five hours per week in the SGA office last year, when he served as a



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sophomore senator.

In addition to protecting students' concerns, SGA exists to help turn student ideas and suggestions into actual improvements on campus.

Past SGA actions have resulted in the addition of the walkway across the quad and the new stop sign near the Humanities Lecture Hall, as well as the presence of more students at campus commissions hearings, in which student fee allocation is decided.

"SGA is...the place for students to have a governing body that can work with administration to further develop our campus community," said Drummond.

Despite its small student body population in comparison to other, larger universities in the UNC system, the size of UNCA's SGA remains comparable to those of other

UNC schools.

UNCA elects 23 officials to SGA positions annually, compared to around 25 at UNC-CH.

In fact, some officials view UNCA's small size as a plus in terms of SGA.

"The fact that UNCA is a small university with a large number of SGA officials benefits the students. Due to a small community of students, SGA is able to have a greater knowledge of what the students want," Drummond said.

The power of UNCA's SGA surpasses that of other schools' student government organizations, according to Tatum.

"We have a close relationship with the general administration, which means that we have more power as a body to approach the administration on issues and get a response quicker than other schools," Tatum

said. "Power is what we make it and it is important for students to use that power," said Tatum. UNCA's SGA strives to bring students together in a cohesive unit to push for policies, he said.

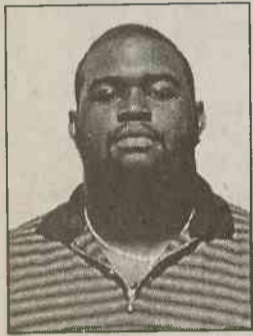
"Students need to realize that they have power and that SGA is here for them. That goes for any student not just those directly linked to SGA."

SGA meetings, held on Wednesdays at 9 p.m. in the Side Door, are open to all students.

"Students are welcome to attend SGA (meetings) and take a part in what is going on," Tatum said.

"I want students to understand that SGA is here to help make changes that are necessary at UNCA," Drummond said.

Get to know your SGA representatives



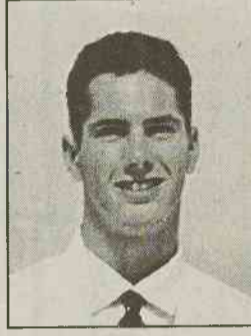
Name: Adrian Tatum
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Email: ejfreebu@bulldog



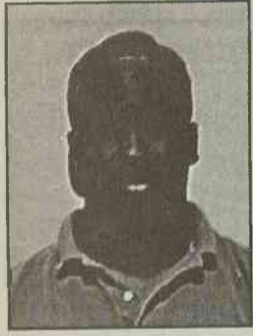
Name: Zach Petersen
Position: Freshman Senator
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Phone: 255-7151
Email: zjpeters@bulldog



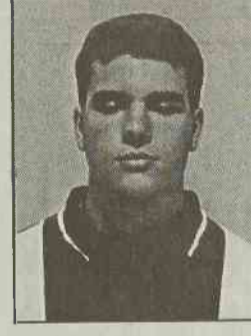
Name: Jessica Weiss
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Name: Eric Winters
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Name: Alphonso Donaldson
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Name: Stephan Horvorth
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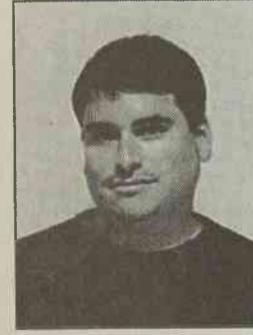
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Position: Senior Senator
Legislative Librarian
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Name: Doug Jones
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Officers not pictured:

Name: Kevin Briggs
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Best Buy

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program. As a nontraditional student, he said he appreciates that UNCA's professors are open-minded. DuVall attended another local college after high school graduation that did not offer a liberal arts education.

It was not just the quality of education his last two years at UNC-CH.

The Fiske Guide uses certain guidelines to rank the schools including their locations. Whether a school be in a small or large city, in the suburbs, or on the out-

skirts of a city is noted in the guide.

Other factors taken into consideration include enrollment numbers, male/female ratios, financial aid recipients, graduation rates, numbers of returning freshmen, and extra expenses.

Fiske listed UNCA's strongest programs as accounting, environmental studies, education, pre-med and engineering, though the report mentioned management and biology as the "most popular" majors.

According to Fiske, UNCA's strengths lie

for a large part in the hard sciences.

"Students sing praises about environmental science, chemistry and psychology. The location of the campus within a national forest provides an abundant laboratory for students interested in the environment and other natural sciences concerned with ecological issues," Fiske stated.

The guide noted that the history department has produced several Fulbright scholars and called mass communications "another bright spot."

"Literature and music elicit strong opinions, but mixed reviews, and mathematics is a definite downer," the guide stated.

As far as campus culture, "environmental

causes, gay and lesbian issues, various campus issues, such as parking and multiculturalism are a few of the buzzwords on campus," stated the guide's review.

Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, Va., stands as a "best buy" similar to UNCA in size and structure.

Also located in a small city, Mary Washington college's "core curriculum" emphasizes its strong liberal bent," according to Fiske. The school boasts an 85 percent freshman return rate, comparable to UNCA's 80 percent rate. Both schools received the same high quality of life rating.

Other North Carolina colleges to make Fiske's overall listings were Davidson,

Duke, Guilford, N.C. State, Wake Forest and UNC-Greensboro.

In addition to earning a "best buy" listing in 1996 and 1997 from Fiske, UNCA was named one of the nation's 10 best liberal arts institutions in its 1993 edition.

Other N. C. colleges and universities named among the Princeton Review's 311 included Warren Wilson, Davidson, Guilford and Catawba colleges, Duke University, N. C. State University, N. C. School of the Arts, the UNC-Chapel Hill and Wake Forest University.

The 1998 edition of the Fiske guide edited by Edward Fiske, former education editor at *The New York Times*, and designed to help potential students learn about institutions across the country.