

The Banner

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Professor's work filmed for PBS special



PHOTO BY ROB HAMMONDS

Dr. Ken Betsalel, left, Associate Professor of Political Science, holds one of his photographs steady while Dick Young, center, films it for a North Carolina Humanities Council (NCHC) documentary celebrating the life of Charles Kuralt and the 25th anniversary of the council. Young is the producer/director/photographer for the documentary being produced by his company, Dick Young Productions, Ltd. Betsalel's photographs were part of a NCHC project entitled "The Different Faces and Changing Landscape of Asheville." The documentary is scheduled to be completed in October.

Funding rests on full-time numbers

By Veronika Gunter
Staff Writer

Following comments that the university hopes to see full-time students in the future and expects a decrease in commuter and part-time populations, UNCA's Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs said he has comprehensive goals concerning university growth that go beyond "FTEs" (Full-time equivalent). Eric Iovacchini wants students to immerse themselves in the liberal arts and its philosophy, living its essence while they attend UNCA. To achieve this, he envisions the school "growing better, not bigger," in terms of academic and social offerings, becoming the "best public liberal arts university in the nation."



Eric Iovacchini, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

But, for the time being, talk of university planning will be in terms of "FTEs," a state-mandated funding system based on full-time equivalencies that will end at the close of this year.

To pay for "growing better," as well as regular academic and other programs, UNCA depends on the state, and the term "FTE" arises. North Carolina, via the UNC system, pays 49% of university costs for every student. Services, investments, endowment, and other means account for 40%. Tuition charges, paid by the student, reflect 11% of the total cost.

The state funds UNCA (and all schools in the UNC system) based on the FTE system. It provides approximately \$7,500 to UNCA for each full-time student (those who take 12 or more academic hours). Proportionally less money pays the costs for three-fourth, half and quarter-time students, those taking nine to 11, six to eight

and one to five academic hours, respectively.

Based on this system, UNCA would receive the same amount of money whether it had 3,000 full-time students or 6,000 part-time students. Because they are the basis for funding and having more full-time students is economically efficient, the administration has discussed FTEs when creating growth plans, said Archer Gravely, director of institutional research.

Though the funding system changes next year, administrators must work within the current FTE-based system until the fall of 1998, Gravely said.

In the fall of 1998, General Administration of the UNC system will fund universities based on the cost of each program rather than the academic hour status of the student. This system will reflect the differentiation between faculty, materials and other costs among departments, Gravely said.

FTE SYSTEM (Full-Time Equivalent)

- Students with:
- 1-5 credit hours = .25 FTE
 - 6-8 credit hours = .5 FTE
 - 9-11 credit hours = .75 FTE
 - 12+ credit hours = 1 FTE

UNCA Fall 1997: 2,659 FTEs

Fall 1996: 2,604 FTEs

Via the UNC System, the state pays UNCA approximately \$7,500 per FTE.

SOURCE: OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH

For instance, science courses with labs cost more to implement than literature courses, and computer science teachers are paid more than art teachers, Gravely said.

Until then, enrolling more full-timers is economically efficient. 2,250 are enrolled currently.

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Official calls gym repairs 'normal'

By Mandissa Templeton
Staff Writer

While bowing glass, expanding floors, and a leaking roof have raised concerns about the stability of the newly-renovated Justice Center, one university official claims such problems are routine in the construction business. The gym, which cost over \$6 million to complete, opened its doors last January, after more than a year of construction.

For those involved in construction, this is "very normal" in a project of this size, said Ron Reagan, director of facilities planning. "You open up a new building and, all of a

sudden, it gets used day and night," Reagan said. "There are little problems that you find out about. You fix those and go on. You can't be in this position and think it's the end of the world every time you find a problem."

Damage within the racquetball courts are the most noticeable problem in the gym to date, Reagan said. High humidity levels caused damage to the racquetball courts shortly before students returned to school from summer break. Due to the damage, all four racquetball courts were closed indefinitely, although two have re-opened.

"We noticed that the windows were bowing adjacent to the racquetball courts and the large basketball courts," said Reagan.

"There is more moisture [in the racquetball areas] than the wood floor was designed for," Reagan said. "Therefore, the floors are expanding more than what we planned."

Theories have developed about where the humidity problem is coming from. According to Reagan, the rooms may need to be maintained at a more constant temperature. The observation area at the top of the racquetball rooms and the doors to the courts were frequently left open. This may have allowed moisture from the multipurpose court areas to enter the rooms.

Moisture may also have entered the rooms

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Search continues for safety director

A year after former director's departure, post remains vacant

By Amanda Thorn
Staff Writer

UNCA remains without an official public safety director over a year after the departure of Jeff van Slyke, former director. Administrators attribute the prolonged vacancy to the sudden withdrawal of a favored candidate last year, and have recently assembled a second committee to continue the search.



Dennis Gregory Acting Director

Following a national search conducted last spring to fill the position, UNCA made an offer to an employee at UNC-Greensboro. The candidate accepted the position, but then declined the offer two weeks later, said Eric Iovacchini, vice chancellor for student affairs. "After we made the offer, we thought we had closed the books,"

Iovacchini said. The administration at UNC-Greensboro increased the candidate's salary and gave him a promotion in order to keep him at the university, Iovacchini said.

"We made him what we thought was a good offer in terms of salary and starting time. UNCG not only matched that, but went a little beyond," Iovacchini said. "They really liked him and didn't want to lose him. He is a guy with about 10 years experience at UNCG. He is a real up-and-coming young professional."

Since the chosen candidate's decline, administrators have reassembled a representative committee to continue the interview process.

"We are back to the drawing boards," Iovacchini said. "I think our process (last year) worked well. We had someone from housing, the physical plant, student development, athletics, and a member of the faculty on the committee," Iovacchini said.

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Fiberoptic to link dorms to Internet

By Nate Conroy
Electronic Editor

Busy signals at 251-6102, UNCA's modem access number, will soon be a thing of the past. The campus-wide fiberoptic network, which will bring fast Internet access to every dorm room, office, and classroom on campus, is scheduled to go into operation in fall 1998.

"Construction will start sometime in November, but I'm now convinced that the backbone won't be finished in time to mount a significant dorm computing effort this academic year. It's our goal to kick off a formal dorm networking project at the start of the fall 1998 semester," said Director of University Computing Kern Parker.

The network, which will be able to handle traffic up to 155 megabytes per second, will connect every building on campus.

While getting the main computer labs and dormitory rooms hooked up to the fiberoptic network is top priority, Internet access will "trickle down" to the dorm labs, said Lab Manager Mark Galloway.

"Fiber(optic networking) will impact the dorms more in the individual rooms than in the dorm labs. The biggest impact will be when students can plug their own computers into a jack in the wall and do the Internet for free," Galloway said. Originally slated to be completed

by the 1998 spring semester, the project has been delayed in part by the fact that UNCA is currently working with its second contractor, Key Services Inc. of Chattanooga, Tenn., after rejecting the first "lowest bid" contractor.



PHOTO BY TRISH JOHNSON

Kern Parker, director of university computing

The final price estimate has been set at \$950,000.

"That's one port per person, meaning 'per pillow,' not one port per room," Parker said.

Key Services will complete the first phase, construction of the fiber backbone, from November to April

for a bid of \$384,967.32. The second phase will involve wiring the 10 remaining campus buildings at a cost of \$260,000. Phase three, the purchase of network electronics, such as hubs and routers, will cost approximately \$300,000.

Internal wiring has been an ongoing process, said Parker. South Ridge has been wired since its opening in 1994, while Governor's Village and Mills Hall were wired this summer at a cost of \$95,000. University Computing, in conjunction with Housing Director Pete Williams, made the decision to wire Governor's Village, despite future plans to replace it with new dorms. "We're not sure when that's going to happen. We decided that we wanted the students who live in those dorms for the next couple years to be able to have the functionality of the network," said Parker.

The wiring of Highrise Hall is slated to take place next summer for an estimated \$38,000, at the same time that air conditioning is added to the building.

UNCA's stance on technology has never been, nor should it be, at the absolute forefront of technology, but this new network will do more than catch us up, Parker said.

"The network we are putting in should last for a while," he said. "We're building in extra bandwidth now, so we can handle future needs. No one's planning to do video [over the network] yet, but if they want

to down the road, they will be able to."

For students, the fiberoptic hook-up will bring fast Internet connectivity to anyone with a computer equipped with an Ethernet card, the hardware necessary to connect to the network.

"We're going to offer a basic Internet suite so that students can access e-mail, ftp (file transfer protocol), and the Web," said Parker. There are no plans yet to allow students to access UNCA's internal PC and Mac networks.

University Computing will select one Mac Ethernet card and one PC Ethernet card, which students will be encouraged to buy if their computer is not Ethernet-ready. The cards will be sold in the bookstore and supported by the computer center.

While waiting for the fiberoptic network this fall, the computer labs have already undergone some changes, with more in the works, according to Galloway. Galloway recently came to UNCA after completing an M.A. in project management at Western Carolina University, the first school in the UNC system to wire every dorm.

One of Galloway's first projects was to upgrade Karpen 037's 20-machine lab to Windows '95.

"This lab has software that is geared

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