

The Banner

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Mullen appointed as UNCA chancellor

By Meghan Cummings
Staff Writer

The University of North Carolina Board of Governors elected a new chancellor for UNCA on April 9. James Mullen will take office in mid-summer after Chancellor Patsy Reed retires.

"I am deeply honored by my appointment as chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Asheville," said James Mullen in a news release from the UNCA public information office.

"I think he seemed really energetic," said Hoyt Phillips, a senior economics major who met with several of the chancellor candidates. "He has a lot of good ideas for the university."

Mullen's experience with liberal arts institutions and his vision for a strong liberal arts university will make him a good chancellor for UNCA, according to Alphonso Donaldson, president of the student government association.

"I really like Mullen, and I think we will do well under his leadership," said Donaldson. "He understands the liberal arts, and he has a

real vision for what this university can be."

Mullen received his bachelor's degree in history from the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass. his master's degree in public policy from Harvard, and his doctorate in higher education administration from the Uni-



James Mullen

versity of Massachusetts in Amherst. He has worked at Trinity College in Hartford, Conn. since 1995. Prior to that, he worked at Middlesex Community College in Lowell, Mass. for seven years, according to the news release.

Mullen is currently the senior vice president and executive director of Project 2002, a \$300 million initiative to help invest in neighborhood revitalization and campus improvements at Trinity College, according to the news release.

Mullen's experience in fundraising will be helpful to UNCA as it continues to try and

raise money for campus programs and scholarships, according to Phillips.

"He seems like he really knows how to do fundraising because he has been successful at it in the past," said Phillips. "Hopefully, he can do the same here."

As part of Project 2002, Mullen worked to improve and strengthen the relationship between Trinity College and its surrounding community, according to the news release.

"One of the things I really liked about him was the fact that at his current college, he has reunited the

school with the community, and I think that's something we really need to do here," said Donaldson.

Several members of the UNCA faculty who sat on the chancellor search committee said Mullen will be a strong leader for UNCA.

"He is very charismatic and a good leader," said Tracy Brown, psychology professor. "I think he will be a really powerful student advocate, and he will be a good representative of UNCA in the general administration in Raleigh."

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Complaints voiced on graduation requirements

By Mike Bryant
Staff Writer

UNCA seniors have voiced complaints about university requirements and fees surrounding graduation on May 22.

"I do not understand why seniors must pay a commencement fee of \$50 in order to graduate," said Christopher Hunt, an atmospheric sciences major. "Many seniors have already paid tuition and fees for four years. I do not think the university should require payment of an additional fee so that a student can get their diploma."

In addition to the commencement fee, graduating seniors must also purchase a cap and gown for the ceremony, according to university requirements.

"It is disappointing that the university requires seniors to buy caps and gowns," said Jason Cooper, an atmospheric sciences major. "This essential costs the senior another \$25 in order to obtain his graduation diploma from the school. If UNCA is unable to furnish caps and gowns, it seems the university could at least establish some type of inexpensive rental for them."

Graduating seniors at UNCA must also participate in commencement ceremonies, according to a university administrator.

"Unless a graduating senior has appealed the university to be excused from the ceremony, each student is required to take part in commencement exercises," said James Pitts, vice chancellor of academic affairs. "We feel it is extremely important to have all the graduating seniors present for this special day in the life of the university community."

The university is sensitive to individual or special situations that may cause an unusual hardship or difficulty for a graduating senior relating to the participation requirement, according to Pitts.

"There are extenuating circumstances which justify the university excusing a student from the graduation ceremony," Pitts said. "However, it is the student's responsibility to submit his request for waiver of this requirement to the office of student affairs during the semester prior to graduation. It is important that the student's request be made known as early as is reasonably possible."

Pitts said he understands the concern students have expressed regarding the additional fees required for graduating seniors.

"There have been tremendous investments made by both the student and the university prior to graduation," said Pitts. "These fees finalize that investment for the student and are utilized by the university to assist in the preparation of graduation ceremonies and related events."

It would not be in the best interest of the students or the university to make graduation participation optional for seniors, ac-

Students asked to help homeless

By Emma Jones
Staff Writer

UNCA students could be doing more to help with Asheville's growing homeless population, according to a shelter's director.

"You need to know all aspects of your community," said Donna Wilson, director of the Asheville-Buncombe County Christian Ministries (ABCCM) shelter in downtown Asheville. "Not everyone has it easy."

The ABCCM shelter gets most of its student volunteers through class requirements rather than personal motivation, according to Wilson.

"We get a lot from the psychology and sociology departments. They're very helpful, and I hope they go back and spread the word that we need help," Wilson said.

Class service requirements are good for students who would not otherwise be involved, according to Jeannie Johnson, president of Circle K International, an on-campus service organization sponsored by Asheville's Kiwanis Club.

"I think it's a good thing that it's offered through classes," said Johnson. "I don't think a lot of students know how to get involved in any other way. Sometimes people are uncomfortable going out and doing things on their own, or they're uncomfortable being in that kind of setting face to face."

"When you say 'homeless shelter,' you think it's really rough, but you come in here and it's really not bad," said Wilson.

Information about service opportunities is not readily available to students, according to Johnson.

"Better communication of things that are already offered would get more stu-



PHOTO BY SCOT WARING

"How can people worship a homeless guy on Sunday and ignore a homeless guy Monday?" said Malachai, pictured above.

dents involved," said Johnson. "I know they just started the Key Center for Service Learning on campus, so through that a lot more information will be provided. As for now, the only way for students to get involved in service is through a service organization or through something they have to participate in for class. Our campus really is service oriented, but I just

don't think people know it."

The shelter welcomes volunteers in any capacity, whether through an organization or on an individual level.

"Everyone working here is very dedicated," said Wilson. "They've been here six to 10 years, and once a month or so they just have a night when they need to do something else. It'd be nice to have a

group just come and fill in on different nights during the month. If students want to call and ask when we need someone, that would be great."

The shelter is always in need of volunteers, especially now with a change

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UNCA campus controversy on Kosovo

By Krystel Lucas
Staff Writer

The conflict in Kosovo has created a conflict of views about the war in the UNCA community.

"I recognize people have different views, and some people may say this doesn't affect us, but it does," said Tom Sanders, director of Western North Carolina World Affairs Council. "Our government is involved, our money is being spent and our soldiers are being put on the line, so it's very important for us to understand what going on."

The United States is trying to cease the mass exodus of ethnic Albanians from Kosovo, according to David Goodrum, a UNCA alumnus and psychology major. The president of Yugoslavia, Slobodan Milosevic, is attempting to take back the province of Kosovo, which was previously an integrated part of Yugoslavia.

"We're bombing Yugoslavia in an at-

tempt to get Milosevic to stop his forced exodus of these people from their country," said Goodrum. "We're trying to make this a surgical-type procedure where we're going after resources, military bases, and main lines of transportation and trade such as bridges."

Ivana Hughes, a senior computer science major at UNCA from the city Uzice, located in central-western Serbia, said NATO should not be involved in the conflict.

"I think what's going on is horrible," said Hughes. "Serbian people who were once against Milosevic don't see him as the enemy anymore. NATO is the enemy right now."

The bombing has to stop before ethnic Albanians of Kosovo and Serbians can come to an agreement, according to Hughes.

"Milosevic is a shrewd politician, and he can't be trusted to sign any peace treaty," said Goodrum.

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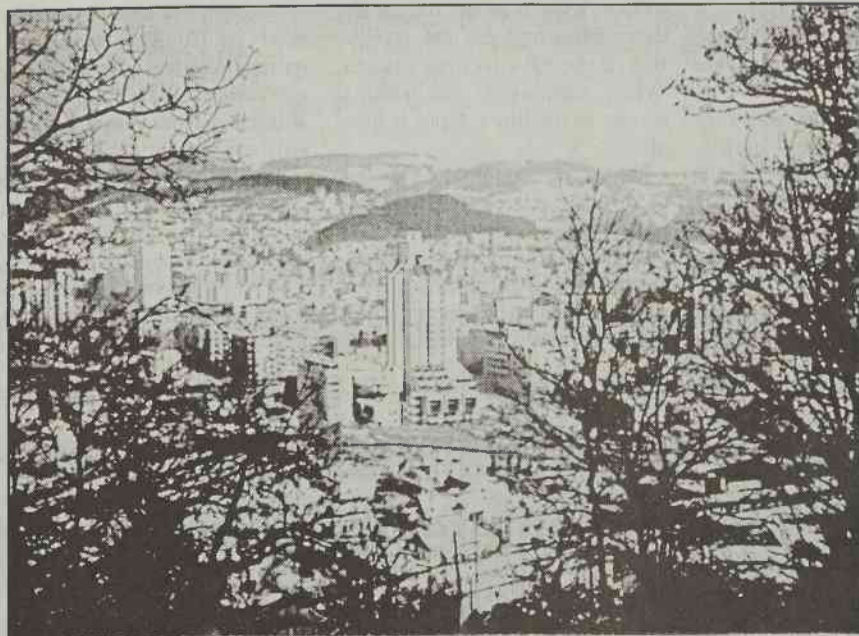


PHOTO COURTESY OF IVANA HUGHES

Hughes' hometown, Uzice, Yugoslavia (above) as of December 1998

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