

# THE BLUE BANNER

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# UNCA to Spend \$80 Million

## UNCA Groups Offer Help

### Funding Expected to Bring New Buildings, Improvements

Rae Stephens  
Staff Reporter

Ed Fickle  
Staff Reporter

Over the next five years, an estimated \$80 million will be spent on construction projects on the UNCA campus, according to Steve Baxley, the director of facilities management at UNCA.

"Eighty million dollars is a lot of money, but I feel good about UNCA spending it," said Kat Kearney, a senior environmental science major. "UNCA really needs to make improvements to continue giving us the education that we need and the school wants to give. I am looking forward to coming back in five years to see all the construction results."

The university received \$49.9 million from the Michael J. Hooker Higher Education bond which passed last year, according to Baxley.

Most of the remaining money will come from a state loan which will be paid back with UNCA room and board charges.

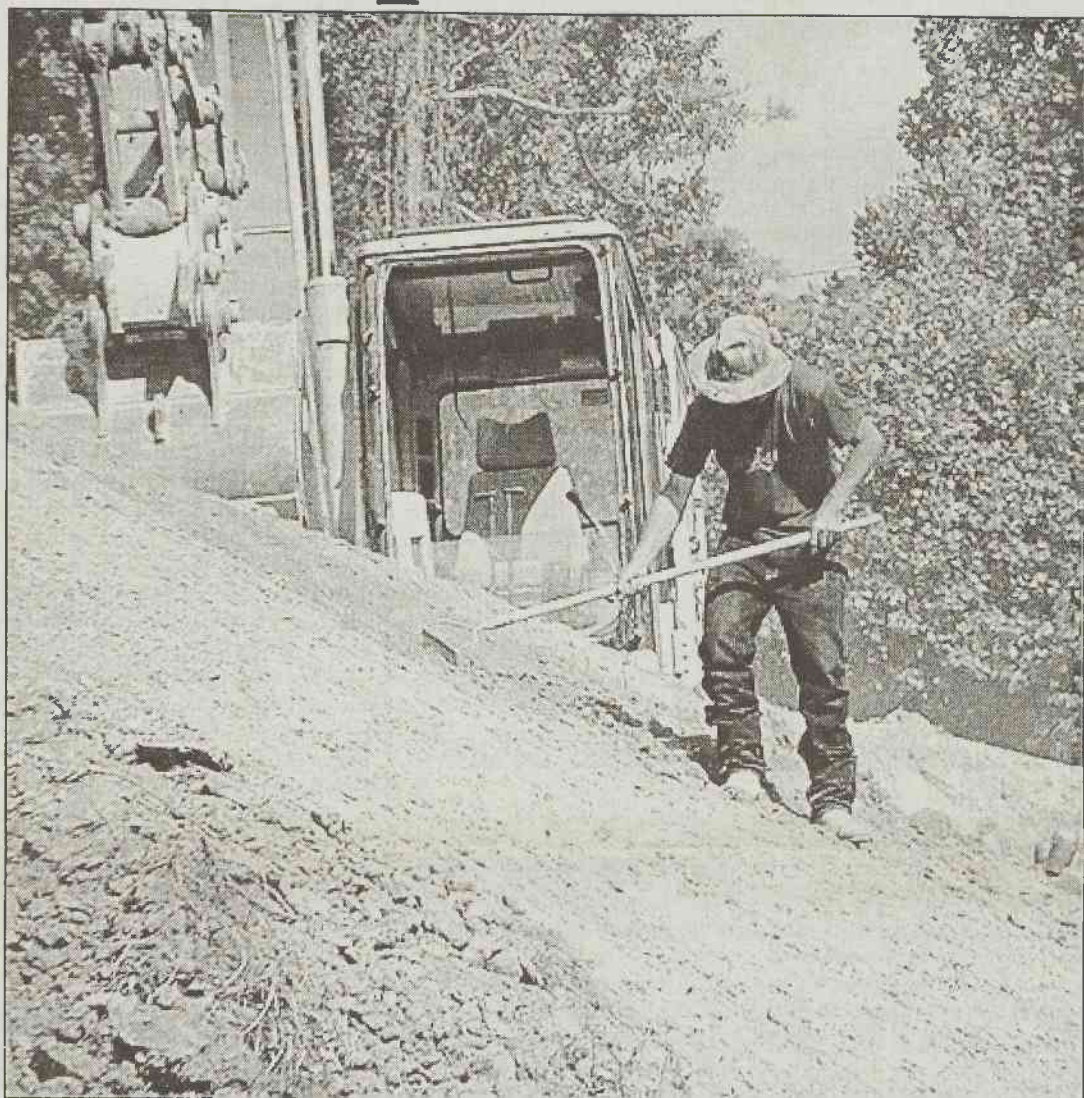
The construction will bring to UNCA a new science building and improvements to the Highsmith Center, Carmichael, and Zaiger buildings.

UNCA plans to build a new physical plant and put a parking area in its place. The internet connections around campus will be quicker and a new Governor's Village dormitory is planned.

New roads, sidewalks and painting around campus will also be added, according to Baxley.

"It would be nice to have a better looking school, because our school looks like it's from the '70s," said Erin Lesley, a junior literature and psychology major.

"We aren't up to date. We are a great school and nobody has heard of us," said Lesley. "We need to be proud of our school, as well as our campus."



JAMES PRITCHETT/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A worker moves dirt near the Justice Center. UNCA's campus is expected to undergo several renovations.

Parking has been a major complaint by students at UNCA.

The number of parking spaces available to commuter and residential students alike has been a topic worthy of discussion and improvement, according to some students.

"It's about time we got more parking, even if it is for residents," said Lesley. "We have so many decals and not enough parking spots. The parking situation is a joke. More parking is a must."

Students from many different departments are looking forward to the new science building, but they also wishing for a new Justice Center. Students recognize the need for an improvement on the Rhoades

and Robinson buildings, as well as on the current athletic teams' facilities.

"As an environmental science major, I really appreciate the new science building," said Kearney. "There is so much needed in the science building that isn't there."

"I think they should have spent some of the money on a new and improved athletic facility," said Mike Calbaugh, a senior sociology major. "The Justice Center needs to be totally redone or at least expanded and improved. It's too old."

Most students interviewed agreed that something must be done with the Highsmith Center. Despite recent renovations, the building needs to be drastically updated, according to students.

**"I am looking forward to coming back in five years to see all the construction results."**

-Kat Kearney  
Senior, Environmental Science major

Highsmith, it would be really nice for residential students," said Lesley. "Mail would be faster and simpler. That would be a great idea for the new Highsmith."

However, improvements in the curriculum and additional majors would be more useful than new buildings, according to some students.

"We really need an extension of the foreign languages that are being offered," said Jeremiah Jacques, a senior business administration major. "We need to branch out with the foreign languages at UNCA. Right now, we only have the basics that are offered at any high school. Maybe UNCA should spend some money on the curriculum."

Some students feel the money should go to new equipment for different departments.

"I would love to get new equipment for a photo journalism major," said Katie Campbell, a sophomore literature major. "I know so many people who would be interested in that field."

"I think the money should go for better equipment for the students in a bunch of the departments," said Lesley. "I like the idea of the new buildings, and they are a great idea as long as we get what we need."

Students have also expressed concern for the construction that the upcoming renovations and additions will bring to UNCA.

"I am not looking forward to the mess that will be all over campus, but I think it will be worth it when they are done," said Bru Rodriguez, an environmental science sophomore.

Lana Coffey  
Staff Reporter

In the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., many UNCA students, organizations and employees have come together to raise money for the relief efforts.

"In lieu of all the stuff going on, it's really affected a lot of our girls," said Kathryn Bolton, a junior marketing major and member of the sorority Gamma Phi Beta. "It's therapeutic to know that even though we're here, and we can't leave and go there to help, we can send the money to help."

Several fraternities and sororities, the Student Government Association, Underdog Productions and UNCA dining services have all contributed to the relief effort.

Gamma Phi Beta held a 12-hour rock-a-thon Sept. 20. All the donations the sorority received for this benefit went to the Firefighter's Fund, according to senior Faith Boyd, chair of philanthropy for Gamma Phi Beta.

The donations for the rock-a-thon usually go to a local organization set up to help battered women and children, but the sorority said there was more of an immediate need to help the victims of the terrorist attacks, according to Bolton.

The girls also wrote letters to the victims, firefighters and police, according to Bolton, who addressed her letter as "Heroes."

Several of the fraternities organized blood drives, including Kappa Delta Rho and Theta Chi.

Kappa Delta Rho has already organized one blood drive, and helped out with benefit car washes, according to junior marketing major Jonathan Roper, a member of the fraternity.

They will also hold a dinner in November to raise money for the victims, according to Roper.

The majority of the money will go to the American Red Cross, according to Roper. To donate money, students can contact Casey May at 252-1115.

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## Professors Express Views

Abunura, Omer Offer World Perspective on Tragedy

Stuart Gaines  
Staff Reporter

Two UNCA faculty members, both originally from the Middle East nation of Sudan, were interviewed last week about their reaction to the terrorist attacks that occurred in New York City and Washington D.C.

"My concern now is the political impact to the American-Muslim community," said Elmoiz Abunura, Director of Africana Studies and a lecturer in the political science



WALTER FYLEK/PHOTO EDITOR  
Elmoiz Abunura.

department at UNCA. "I feel that people should understand that the terrorists who have committed these barbaric acts do not represent mainstream Islamic faith."

"They are a marginal group whose actions are very similar to the terrorist acts of Timothy McVeigh, or people like Jim Jones and David Koresh. Those individuals do not represent the mainstream Christian faith of Americans," said Abunura.

There are six to seven million Muslim Americans in the United States

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## Stream Restoration Project Ready to Begin

Ed Fickle  
Staff Reporter

A joint project between UNCA and the Botanical Gardens to restore Glenn and Reed Creeks will soon get fully underway because of a \$100,000 grant from the N.C. Clean Water Management Trust fund.

"These improvements will be a major asset to the campus and to Asheville as a whole," said Tom Byers, executive assistant to the Chancellor.

The UNCA grounds department, using the university's \$40,000 portion of the grant, will complete three of the five projects included in the project.



LEAH TEDRICK-MOUTZ/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Randy Burroughs, garden manager of the Botanical Gardens, discusses erosion with recent landscape architect graduates Rachael Klecker and Sabra Kelley.

The main purpose of the project is to improve the quality of water feeding into Glenn Creek from the

UNCA grounds, before it reaches the Botanical Gardens and eventually the French Broad River.

The Botanical Garden's \$60,000 portion of the grant will be split into two parts, and will focus on improving the condition of Reed Creek.

"This is one of the prettiest spots in the gardens and people treasure it. We are very pleased to be able to save it," said Randy Burroughs, garden manager of Botanical Gardens at UNCA, in reference to the area around Reed Creek where it enters Glenn Creek.

Much of the push for these projects came from Melissa Acker, landscape director at UNCA, who sees the improvements as mandatory to deal with current water conditions and foreseen problems related to campus

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