

THE BLUE BANNER



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New student group aims to promote diversity

Christina Clayton
News Reporter

Nucleus, a multicultural organization committed to promoting diversity at UNCA, will hold its first interest meeting Nov. 5.

"Nucleus aims to recruit minority and multicultural students," said founder Sean McDonald, an undecided junior. "There's an incredible amount of people on this campus just waiting to do something, and we want to give them something to do."

A student led organization, Nucleus aims to bring together student organizations, specifically those for minority students, to discuss how UNCA can improve campus diversity.

Sai Vue, a junior multimedia arts and sciences major, attended the Asian Students in Asheville (ASIA) meeting when McDonald first introduced the idea for Nucleus to them.

"When Sean came to propose Nucleus to ASIA, he did an great job of describing what the purpose of it is. It sounds very promising to me because we, minority students, are tired of hearing about the ways of improving diversity; we want to see it happen soon," wrote Vue in an e-mail. "I think Nucleus can make this happen with the help of everyone and anyone who is interested."

McDonald stresses the need to work with students and faculty to improve diversity.

"We have had requests from the faculty to bring together an area where they can share information and ideas beyond curricular development, such as student interaction ideas, self-development ideas,"

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Student dies after fight with cancer

Some people come into our lives and quickly go.
Some people move our souls to dance.
They awaken us to new understanding
with the passing whisper of their wisdom,
and make the sky more beautiful to gaze upon.
Some people stay in our lives awhile,
leave footprints on our hearts,
And we are never, ever the same.

UNCA student Amanda Massey meant for this poem to inspire a cheerleading squad she coached. Amanda didn't know at the time that these words would be prophetic of her short, but fulfilling life.



COURTESY OF WWW.CARINGBRIDGE.COM/AMANDA

UNCA student Amanda Massey, pictured above with her mother, died of complications from leukemia Oct. 19.

Jessica Hensley
News Reporter

Amanda Lynne Massey lost her 10-month battle with leukemia due to heart complications from treatments Oct. 19.

"As a cancer survivor, I think it is hard for others to understand how difficult the last year must have been for Amanda and her family," said Penny Brunner, management and accounting professor. "Their strength and grace will serve as an inspiration for others always."

Although she successfully beat the cancer, her heart was too weak to continue functioning. Massey was a courageous fighter.

She was a dancer, coach and student; a daughter, sorority sister and friend.

To all of her relatives, she was so much more than just a cousin or niece, and to her close friends, she was a true sister. Even in the face of death, she remained brave and held on to her faith. Her love for family and friends was evident to everyone who knew her.

In the fall of her junior year at UNCA Massey first noticed her declining health. In February 2002, she was diagnosed with leukemia. Because of her illness, she was unable to return for the spring semester.

When doctors suggested Amanda Massey would need a bone marrow transplant, 350 friends and neighbors flocked to Woodland Hills Church in Weaverville to be tested for being a possible donor.

After finding a suitable donor, Massey's treatment occurred at Duke University. Her parents, Gary and Kathy, moved to Durham to be with her. During Massey's long days of treatment she wrote journal entries on her Web site, www.caringbridge.com/nc/amanda.

Friends and family contributed daily to a guest book to lift Amanda Massey's spirits. Through her perseverance and courage, she instead lifted everyone else's spirits.

"I also appreciate that even during the darkest days of treatment, Amanda lived with hope: a plan to return to friends; a plan to return to school and classes; a plan for a normal life. She was truly remarkable; I feel blessed to have known her even for a short time," said Brunner. Massey was a sister of Gamma Phi Beta sorority and a member of the dance team while at UNCA.

"I was glad and touched that she made the effort to help me make this campus home," said Lindsey Galloway, a sophomore management major. "Shortly thereafter, she became my sister through the bonds of Gamma Phi Beta. She is the reason that I signed my bid and took the pledge." Amanda Massey was born Dec. 1, 1980, in Buncombe county, where she lived all of her life.

"I only knew Amanda for a short time when she was my suitemate in Mills Hall, but I'm glad that I got to know her," said Kristen Willett,

junior psychology major. "She was a wonderful and friendly person who always made me feel welcome. I can't think of a single person who I would have rather lived with than her."

Massey was a former cheerleader and a 1999 graduate of North Buncombe High School.

Before her illness, she served as the varsity cheerleading coach at NBHS. "Massey was a great person, coach, friend, and most of all, Christian. She set an example on how to live and how to die, trusting in the Lord," said Alice Powell, senior cheerleader from NBHS.

"Massey had the strategy of life we all search for. She perfected the way to survive in a dying world. She assisted so many in finding the goodness of living and of dying. Never will we forget her strength. It is living through us."

During her two years of coaching, Amanda made a tremendous im-

print on the lives of the cheerleaders. "Little is much if God is in it," Coach Massey always told me. She was considered a little person, barely reaching over five feet tall," said Tiffany Honecutt, senior cheerleader. "She lived for such a short time. But life is a vapor that seems to pass us by like the wind. One thing I will never forget of our Massey is how anything could be brought to her feet, and she would simply pick it up and smile with resolution."

There is no possible way to capture her essence with words. Amanda Massey will be loved and missed by many people for many years.

Powell summed it up well when she said, "Massey will live on, and in time, our tears will turn to smiles, and we can talk others about this incredible person who touched so many lives. We truly believe you can only take what you what you have given away."

Campus protests help affect change

Sara Miller
News Reporter

Sodexo, UNCA's food service provider, faced controversy in recent years concerning stock ownership by its parent corporation in Correction Corporation of America (CCA), a private prison industry. "Sodexo in North America, the company that provides your (UNCA's) food service, never owned any stock or had any direct link with CCA," said Leslie Ann, vice president of public relations for Sodexo. "Our parent company did own the CCA stock, but that stock was sold before they purchased all of our company."

The French-based Sodexo Alliance owned shares of a company formerly named Marriott Management Services, according to Ann. During this time, Sodexo Alliance owned stock in CCA.

This spurred controversy because CCA is the world's leading investor in private prisons, also known as

for-profit prisons.

Private prisons are meant to relieve the overcrowding of public prisons, but others see how the under-trained and under-qualified staff, maximum capacity filled cells and poor treatment of the prisoners in private prisons led to escapes, murders and rapes, according to a Web site for a student activist group. The group, from Northwestern University, opposes the unregulated expansion of the prison industry.

Activists see these for-profit, private prisons as a modern day slave trade, according to the Northwestern activist Web site.

"Private prisons tend to be poorly managed and largely unregulated, while private prison guards are underpaid, unorganized and minimally trained," according to the Northwestern activist Web site. "As a consequence, mistreatment of prisoners and escapes are all too common."

Sodexo holds contracts with universities across the country. In April 2000 when students heard



CHERYL SKAGGS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

D.C. Chapman, pictured above, works in the UNCA dining hall. The university receives food services comes from Sodexo.

about the Sodexo ties with CCA, sit-ins, boycotts and protests up to 1,000-strong occurred according to www.socialistalternative.org, a politically-charged, socialist Web site. Protests occurred at some schools, including Oberlin College in Ohio and Ithaca College in New York.

Four Sodexo contracts were revoked as a result of student protests according to

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Former drama professor shared positive legacy

Melissa Doyle
News Reporter

A retired UNCA acting professor, died from heart complications in September.

Elaine Hunter Myers, also a UNCA alumnus, suffered from heart problems since birth.

"It was always startling to see. Out of this tiny, petite person would come this booming voice, and really high expectations for doing well," said Pat Snoyer, associate drama professor. "(She was) kind of like a friendly dirt sergeant."

A small person, barely 5 feet tall, Myers was full of life and enjoyed living it. She had a great sense of humor and liked making people laugh.

An Asheville native, Myers graduated from UNCA with a BA in drama in the early 1980s, and returned to UNCA to teach drama. She retired from the university in

1997.

That school year (1996-1997), Myers won a teaching award as a distinguished non-full time faculty member. She always demanded good work from her students and from those around her.

"She had a lot of students who really enjoyed her and her honesty," said Rob Bowen, associate drama professor.

Myers was around acting and theater for her entire life. Her parents were very active in the local, community theater, and as a child, she acted, directed and produced many local plays.

She continued this level of involvement in theater her entire life. In her 20s, Myers moved North to Boston and New York to gain professional experience. She acted with the Henry Street Playhouse, a renowned playhouse in the profes-

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