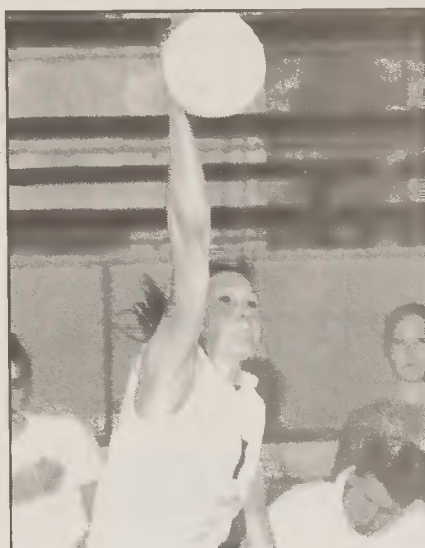


# THE BLUE BANNER



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The University of North Carolina at Asheville

September 25, 2003

## NEWS BRIEFS

Kristen Ruggeri  
News Reporter

### UNCA

The university invites grade schoolers from Western North Carolina to campus for the 17th annual Super Saturday program. The program incorporates 28 courses including dance for musical theater, ancient Egyptian culture, veterinarian science and many more. UNCA faculty, public school teachers, upper-level UNCA students, as well as other professionals, will teach the courses. Tuition is \$55 per class and \$45 for children of UNCA employees. Courses begin Sept. 27 and continue every Saturday for six weeks.

### CAMPUS CRIME

Campus police arrested two students for underage possession of alcohol and charged them each with a university citation. Officers also issued a state charge to an underage student for driving after consuming alcohol. Campus police filed university citations on three students for property damage in a dorm room. An additional student was charged with a university citation for refusing to pay for a meal at the Dining Hall. Two students were charged with misdemeanor simple physical assault for an incident at West Ridge residence hall.

### ASHEVILLE

Protesters against the Grove Park Inn's plan to build a high-rise building downtown are currently holding a petition drive. Many critics say the building will look out of place in Asheville and the City Council's decision was not public enough. The City Council voted Tuesday in favor of granting the Inn an option to buy the land just off of Pack Square for \$702,000. Although the vote was six to one, Larry Summers, an Asheville resident who is part of the petition drive, said he's already collected about 15,000 signatures. Buncombe County leaders assigned the Pack Square Conservancy Organization to redesign Pack Square and City County Plaza as a large park. The Conservancy proposed guidelines for the square that forbid the construction of any buildings higher than the Jackson building in that area. The Conservancy says the architects for this project will work alongside their own professionals to make sure everyone sees eye to eye.

### NORTH CAROLINA

Hurricane Isabel swept through the North Carolina coast Sept. 18, causing the death of three residents. Two people died due to falling trees and a utility worker was electrocuted. In addition, about 189,000 customers in North Carolina were without power as of Sept. 20. Volunteers across the state traveled to the coast to offer food and other assistance to hurricane victims. Experts estimated losses at \$1 billion as a result of the hurricane, half of the expected cost of damage predicted before the hurricane.

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## Campus dispatcher loses battle with liver problems



COURTESY OF UNCA CAMPUS POLICE

The late Michael Gray.

Ryan Sniatecki  
News Reporter

Campus police dispatcher Michael Gray died of liver failure at the age of 42 Sept. 8.

"His greatest fear was that he was going to die and not have succeeded in finishing his degree," said Kae Davis, UNCA graduate and a friend of Gray's. "He didn't want to burden anyone with the concept that he was sick. For that reason, most people didn't know Michael was ill."

Gray's mother died of a heart attack 10 days before his death. Gray

took steps to help her by moving a table out of the way so his father could perform CPR and by calling 911, according to Lou Caliendo, campus police chief.

"Basically, the last dispatching he did was bringing EMS to his Mom," said Caliendo.

Gray completed a UNCA degree despite health problems that forced him to leave school several times. He returned to campus after graduating in 2001 in order to serve UNCA as a campus police dispatcher before passing away this month.

"He knew life was going to be short," said Brian Butler, assistant professor of philosophy. "He

struggled through wanting to go to school, and it was a heroic struggle."

Gray continued to return to UNCA over the course of several years in order to finish his philosophy degree.

Gray's determination to complete the philosophy degree, with a religious studies minor, came from his desire to understand the greater workings of the world, according to Davis.

"Every time he left he would have to catch up with departmental changes, with knowledge that just doesn't sit there if you're not facing it constantly," said Butler. "It's much easier to go through four years straight and do everything by

the book."

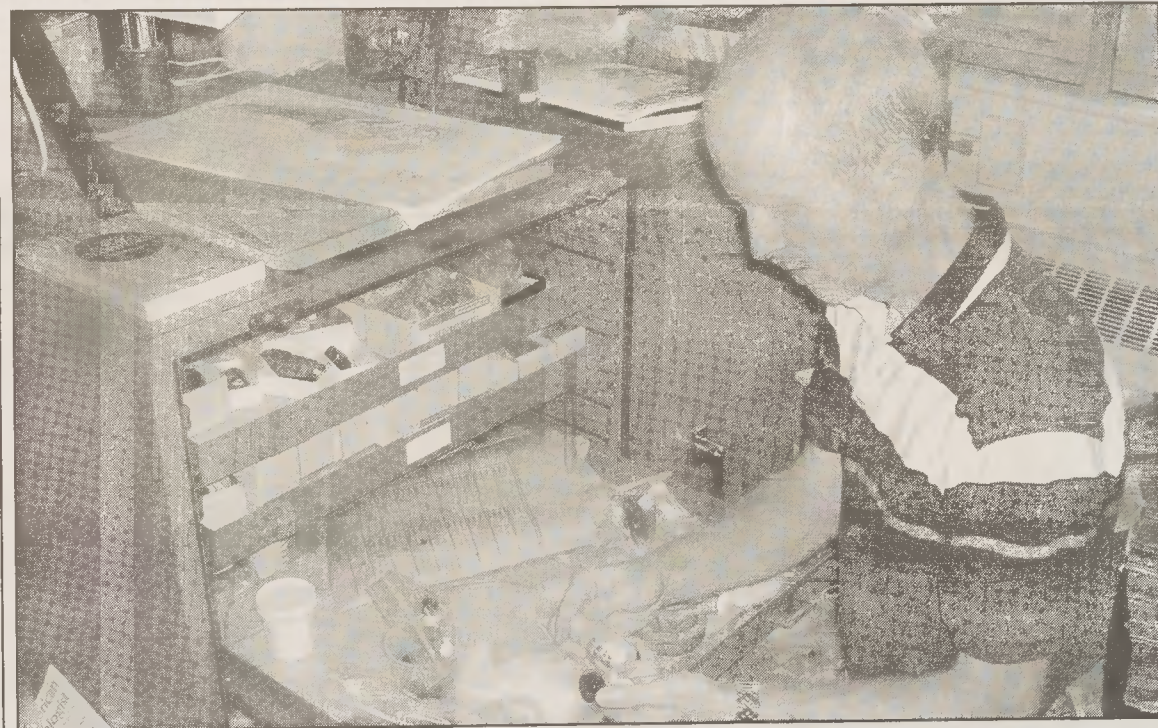
Panic attacks threatened Gray's success several times during his undergraduate career, but he succeeded with the help of faculty members and other students.

"We'd sit down at the table and we'd do 20 logic problems and he would get all 20 right," said Butler. "I'd go, 'hey, now you're taking the test' and write three of the same exact logic problems on a piece of paper, hand it to him and walk away."

"I'd watch him panic and not be able to do it. It was just about as

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## Science professor receives national grant



JAY ADKINS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

UNCA set to receive \$330,000 scanning electron microscope

Erin Beretit  
News Reporter

The UNCA science department received a \$412,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to establish a Center for Nondestructive Chemical Analysis. The center is scheduled to open July 2004.

"This is great for everybody," said Bill Miller, an environmental studies professor. "It's going to contribute a lot to research. There are a lot of students who are a part of our research efforts. This is going to help the students learn research

techniques that they can use later. It can also help them on the research projects here."

The new center will include a state-of-the-art environmental scanning electron microscope (ESEM), an x-ray energy dispersive spectrometer and other accompanying equipment. The new ESEM will be the first type of high-tech instrument in the Asheville region available for use by students and university faculty, according to the UNCA Web site.

The new center is slated for more in-depth research by students and faculty as well as by the Mossbauer Research Group. Research con-

ducted by faculty and students include investigations of prehistoric pottery, regional bedrock and insect species. The Center will make some research possible that would not be possible without the new equipment.

"This will be important in student research and my research studying insects that you cannot tell apart morphologically," said Tim Forrest, associate biology professor. "Perhaps using the scanning electron microscope will enable us to tell them apart."

Professors will also use the new equipment for UNCA science classes. It will enable science stu-

• Bill Miller, environmental studies professor, is the recipient of a national grant that will pay for a scanning electron microscope.

• This microscope creates magnified images via an electron beam rather than conventional light waves and is able to produce three-dimensional images up to 200,000x magnification with a resolution of five nanometers.

• Objects may only be studied if they conduct electricity. Viewing non-conductive specimens requires that they be coated with a thin layer of gold and placed within a vacuum.

dents to see and learn more than ever.

"The scanning electron microscope allows us to look at very minute details of a structure," said Forrest. "It gives students an experience that few get."

The ESEM is unique in that it keeps specimens from being damaged during investigation, and it allows for on-going observation of the same sample at different stages of an experiment, according to the UNCA Web site. The new center that will house the ESEM will also

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## Clarification of a previous Blue Banner article

Jason McGill  
News Editor

The Blue Banner wishes to write an addendum to a story from the Sept. 18 issue. The story "Financial aid office alters scholarship policy on off-campus housing" deserves further clarification not given during the time of publication.

Editorial decisions altered the manner in which Hilary McVicker's article read. Initially, McVicker placed student quotes by seniors Tasha Daniels and Jolene Haymans towards the end of article. By moving comments from Daniels towards the beginning of the article, The Blue Banner staff inadvertently caused an imbalance in the article.

Due to spacial issues, McVicker's article ran much shorter than what was originally submitted. The decision to cut back on article length coupled with an imbalance resulted in a distinct bias against the financial aid office. It should also be noted that trimming the article also forced Haymans' comments out of context.

This unfortunate situation became amplified due to the lack of fact checking. The Blue Banner did not verify certain facts with the financial aid office following initial research. Unfortunately, what originally began as a credible, hard-news article became a misrepresentative piece. The Blue Banner strives to report in a responsible fashion and has taken steps to better do so based upon this incident.

## College hopefuls visit the Asheville mall

Adam Pollock  
News Reporter

Local high school students and others seeking post-secondary opportunities shopped for their futures during College Night at the Asheville Mall Sept. 18.

"It's just about opening the doors to higher education," said India McHale, UNCA's assistant director of admissions.

The program, coordinated by the

Carolina Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers, showcased 140 post-secondary institutions, along with representatives from the North Carolina College Foundation and the U.S. Armed Forces.

Admissions personnel from UNCA, with co-sponsorship from Buncombe County, McDowell County, Madison County and Asheville City Schools, hosted College Night while the Asheville Mall provided free space for the event.

Most College Night organizers

said they viewed the event as a success, and many participants said that the event helped them significantly.

"It gives schools all across North Carolina, as well as outside of the state, an opportunity to come in and offer their information to interested students," said Christi Hollifield, the Regional Representative for the College Foundation of North Carolina.

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HILARY MCVICKER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Leigh McBride, associate director of UNCA admissions, assisted numerous visitors during College Night at the Asheville Mall.