

The Blue Banner

SERVING THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE SINCE 1982

Volume 41, Issue 12

www.unca.edu/banner

April 28, 2005

NEWS BRIEFS

by **Jamie Ellingsen**
Staff Reporter

Campus
Campus Police reported the arrest of Charles Evan Johnson, on charges of second degree trespassing and driving without license April 18. Officers pulled Johnson over after noticing no tag light or license plate clearly visible on the vehicle. After pulling the vehicle over, officers said they noticed a license plate displayed on the back window, according to Campus Police.

After asking for Johnson's license, officers saw him shuffle through a large stack of cards, which contained a UNCA One card. Officers said they asked Johnson if he was a student and Johnson said he was not. Police said Johnson could not produce a valid driver's license from the back.

Campus dispatch informed the officers that Johnson had a suspended license and was on the campus ban list.

The attending officers took Johnson to jail, where officials took inventory of the card stack. Officers found at least two of the cards stolen, including the UNCA one card, according to Campus Police.

Police issued a felony arrest warrant for Johnson for financial card theft, according to Campus Police.

Campus Police also reported two incidents of larceny from a motor vehicle. Both vehicles were parked at the dining hall. The larcenies are still under investigation, according to Campus Police.

State

Fifty North Carolina counties will have the opportunity to receive further flood recovery assistance with the opening of Recovery Operation Centers. Governor Easley signed the Hurricane Recovery Act on Feb. 5. The centers are part of the effort called "Operation Brighter Day." The centers offer hurricane victims the chance to apply for aid from different funds at these one-stop locations.

People eligible for the state financial aid include those who got assistance from their insurance companies and/or the Federal Emergency Management Agency and who still have uninsured losses.

World

Newly-elected Pope Benedict XVI said he views his election to the papacy as a trip to the equator, according to the Associated Press. Benedict's election was one of the fastest in conclave history, concluding in 24 hours.

Fifty-seven people died as a result of a commuter train collision in Japan on April 25, according to the AP.

The commuter train crashed into an apartment complex. Investigators are unclear as to the cause of the crash, although speed may have been a factor. Investigators are also questioning the inexperience of the 23-year-old driver as a cause.

This derailment earned the title as Japan's worst rail accident in 40 years, injuring 400.

Asheville native donates \$3 million to UNCA

by **Angele Mainhart**
Staff Reporter

UNCA received \$3 million April 20 from a couple who only attended UNCA for one year. This is the largest private gift in UNCA's history.

"We are pleased, honored and proud that Steve and Frosene Zeis have established two scholarship funds with a \$1 million bequest," said James Mullen, UNCA chancellor. "When fully funded, these scholarships will annually add some \$50,000 toward our effort to provide an affordable college education. In addition, Steve and Frosene have provided a \$2 million life income gift for university programs, and when fully realized, this endowment will provide some \$100,000 annually to help accomplish pressing university priorities."

Steve, a native of Istanbul and of Greek heritage, immigrated to the United States. Frosene, an Asheville native and also of Greek heritage, married Steve 44 years ago.

Steve Zeis arrived in Asheville in 1957 hoping to study textiles at what is now North Carolina State, according to Mullen.

Steve Zeis began taking classes for a year at Asheville Biltmore College, UNCA's predecessor institution.

"Steve's career in textile research, development and technical services paved the way for him and Frosene to start their own business," said Mullen.

"They presented some of Europe's most prominent textile machinery manufacturers in the United States and Canada. They started their own firm, ZTM Sales and Service Inc., in Asheville in 1983."

The UNCA Board of Trustees voted to name the science and multimedia building, which will be completed in 2007, after the Zeises. In recognition of their contribution, according to Sue McClinton, the chair of the Board



Steve Zeis accepts a stone from the site of a new building at UNCA. Zeis donated \$3 million for the multimedia arts and science building, to be completed in 2007.

of Trustees. "The Zeis' life together is a wonderful example of partnership and cooperation," said McClinton. "They have worked together every day in their business, which is remarkable. This working together in partnership and forming collaboration is the one single value of a liberal arts education. At the very heart of the liberal arts education is learning how to form partnerships, learning how to meet common goals, to question and continue to learn throughout life."

The Zeises previously sponsored career fairs at UNCA. Their support will help students be able to afford a liberal arts education, according to Mullen.

"In their quiet but meaningful way, the Zeises have observed UNCA from infancy to a point in history where we have national stature," said Russ Martin, chair of the University Foundation Board. "The Zeis' gift is a remarkable example of alumni giving."

Russ Martin
chair of the University Foundation Board

like the Zeises help make this possible, according to Mullen.

"I think it's marvelous," said Jo Steininger, office assistant in the

history and philosophy department. "It's overwhelming, really. Now we're right out there among the first as far as liberal arts universities around the country, which is nice to know. Money speaks volumes. You can invest in more equipment, better faculty, although we do have some outstanding faculty, but, you know, bringing some other minds from other parts of the country."

The Zeises said they invested in the liberal arts education because they believe so strongly in it.

They wanted to pass on what they considered one of the most valuable gifts to others, according to Mullen.

In addition to naming the new science building after the Zeises, UNCA also gave them a stone from the site where the building will be built. This gesture adds to the collection of stones the Zeises gather from their travels abroad.

Students host chancellor's final farewell ceremony

by **Justin Wagner**
Staff Reporter

Students held one of the final receptions for Chancellor James Mullen inside the Highsmith University Union, expressing camaraderie with the chancellor before his planned departure from UNCA at the end of the semester.

"I think Chancellor Mullen has been a great asset to the university—especially to Alpha Xi Delta," said Stephanie Hedrick, senior psychology student. "He's always at our events. He's always wants to speak, and he's very proud of us."

Students noted Mullen's ability to interact and relate with students on a more personal level, transcending the traditional divide between students and faculty.

"I think James has been an amazing chancellor, and I think this campus is really going to miss him," said Porscha Yount, senior environmental science student and SGA president. "But, I think that we'll find someone that we like just as much."

Yount and Mullen often worked together at UNCA. Yount got to know the chancellor on a friendly level and said that he's not just a professional person.

Students also recall Chancellor Mullen as a person they could associate with on a personal level.

"Chancellor Mullen and I had many differences," said Harry Johnson IV, undeclared freshman. "He was a Yankees fan, and I'm a Red Sox fan, but we found common ground. We saw through those differences."

Mullen noted his impact on UNCA and its



Chancellor James Mullen expressed his faith in the students at a final reception before his departure.

evolution as an institution during the past six years.

"I think UNC-Asheville was a tremendous institution six years ago," said Mullen. "It is a tremendous institution today."

"I think it is a first-choice institution for young men and women across North Carolina

and the country, and I'm really proud of that."

Mullen also discussed the personal impact that his experience as UNCA chancellor exerted over him.

"I would just like to say to the students, in a very special way, how very proud I am of them and how honored I've been to be their chancellor," said Mullen. "Wherever I am, and wherever they might be, I hope our paths cross again."

Mullen's new position at The College of Our Lady of the Elms generated enthusiasm, but he also acknowledges nostalgia in terms of the experiences he has forged with students in Asheville.

"There is excitement about going home to Elms," said Mullen. "It is my hometown and an opportunity to try to help a place whose folks were very good to me, but the friendships here will go on forever."

Mullen expressed faith in the students he has interacted with at UNCA and noted his own solidarity he has derived as a result of his experiences with UNCA students.

"I really feel like the students have become part of my family and in ways that they don't even know," said Mullen. "You've inspired me, and you've touched my heart, and I'll always remember that and be thankful."

Mullen also said his view of UNCA students and the education they have gained leaves him satisfied.

"I'm even more convinced now than ever that the world is in good hands with you all inheriting it," Mullen said. "I feel greatly inspired by the students here."

I think my confidence in the future is even stronger today, because you are really wonderful citizens of the world."

Service program becomes new class

by **Sarah Schmidt**
Staff Reporter

UNCA will turn a local community service program into a class to help retain employees.

In response to a reported 15 out of 50 employees dropping out of the program, Project Putting Opportunities Within Everyone's Reach will become part of a class in sociology during the Fall 2005 semester, according to Project POWER director Tammy Capps.

As an AmeriCorps community service program, Project POWER trains tutors and places them in tutoring positions with elementary and high school students in Buncombe County.

The Asheville-Buncombe Education Coalition pays the tutors \$8 an hour. After 300 hours of service, students receive a \$1000 scholarship.

"This year, we have had several folks drop out," said Capps. "A lot of it, I think, was because it just didn't coordinate with their school schedule. They were busier than they thought they were going to be and weren't able to get out for the tutoring. That was the reason for developing the class."

Some of the former employees of Project POWER reported different reasons for quitting the program, citing delays within their program as their reason for leaving.

"Going into it, it sounded like a deal," said Kellie Plemmons, sophomore literature student. "In October, I quit because I understood we were supposed to get our assignments at the beginning of the year. I hadn't even had one yet, and a lot of people hadn't gotten one either."

Criticism of the program came from some UNCA students whom Project POWER had employed over the current school year.

Most of the criticism circled the level of organization of the program and the delay in starting the program.

"I was told in the interview and in all the paperwork that I filled out that we would be placed with children early on in the fall right after school started," said Briana Rabon, junior psychology student.

"I wasn't placed with a child until late October, so a good bit of the semester was over by the time I was actually placed with a child."

Capps said the tutoring started at a later date due to a delay caused by Buncombe County schools not giving the children's names to the organization.

Other employees said that there were communication problems with the organization and with trying to get their paychecks.

"There was a miscommunication, and we weren't informed as to when our time sheets were due, so we were told that we might not get paid for the previous months," said Rabon. "It was December before I received my first paycheck. I had to get another job, because I was relying on that income."

UNCA students can earn money and school credit in the sociology class done in conjunction with Project POWER, said Capps.