

Running of the OXes



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The Blue Banner

UNCA family answers the call

Drive collects groceries, cash to help victims

By Paige Reinhard
STAFF WRITER

The UNCA community is bonding together to aid the victims of Hurricane Katrina. The management and accounting department put together a drive to collect money and goods for local organizations.

"What they wanted to do was try to fill a tractor-trailer truck with collected goods on campus," said Tammy Huffman, assistant professor of management. "In addition, they are also collecting money for the Red Cross."

According to Huffman, the management and accounting students chose to set up the drive for the service project they are required to do every semester.

"It is actually the senior seminar community service project that we do every semester," Huffman said. "So they are sort of taking this on as their project to try to get donations for the truck."

Each of the branches of the management and accounting department has a different role to play in the drive.

"The marketing classes have tried a marketing campaign," Huffman said. "They are the ones who've put up a lot of the signs around campus and put boxes in all the buildings around campus, including the dorms."

"The management students went around to all the businesses in town to see if they would help sponsor it and they tried to partner up with some of the businesses in town."

Ingles donated the truck, and the items in it will go to Hearts with Hands, while the money that is collected will go to the Red Cross. Hearts with Hands is a non-profit Christian organization. They were founded in response to Hurricane Andrew in 1992 and have helped send aid after nearly every natural disaster since.

Huffman said although the department would like to have the truck full by Monday, it is difficult to tell how full the truck is now.

"Instead of just letting people throw stuff in the truck, we have



CHRIS BUBENIK - STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Rebecca Cashion, senior management and accounting student, organizes a few of the goods donated to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Ingles donated the truck to store the goods, which UNCA will then give to Hearts with Hands.

been sorting it and loading it and packing it until it's packed in there really tight," Huffman said.

Huffman said the drive will most likely end on Wednesday.

"Ingles is probably going to come and get the trailer on Wednesday," Huffman said. "We are also partnering with the Asheville School and they are coming over on Wednesday because they have some things that they are going to put into the truck."

According to Huffman, other individuals and groups were more than willing to help out.

"There are a couple of church groups, I wish I could tell you their names, but I do not know them. They are just people on campus who called me and said,

"My church would like to bring some things," Huffman said. "Creative Solutions, who is a sign company in Fletcher, made the sign we put on the side of the truck and did not charge us anything for it."

Huffman said the UNCA community has been extremely charitable as well.

"This program was really open to the entire campus," Huffman said. "We sort of did the promotion of it, but people have brought things from all over campus."

"The housing staff on campus has been tremendously generous," Huffman said.

According to Huffman, some UNCA students and staff members have been willing to give more than canned goods.

"I believe we've collected over a thousand dollars in cash for the Red Cross," Huffman said.

For those who missed the drive, Huffman said there are other ways people can help out.

"I think everybody is helping out in any way they can. I have noticed there have been a lot of fraternities and sororities that have their own drives to try to help the Red Cross," Huffman said.

"I know, for example, several of my students have talked to me, they are interested in fostering the dogs that are coming up from the Gulf Coast.

"I have had people calling me and asking me what to do because they have clothing and things that Hearts with Hands is not taking."

This is not the first time the management and accounting students have used course work to better the community.

"Well, last semester we actually went and worked in a public housing community on a Saturday, helping them clean it up," Huffman said. "Last year was the first year we started the service-learning component of the course and it worked out really well. It has been a great experience for the kids."

Huffman said the effort has been a success.

"Even though it was a management and accountancy project, the project was really to get the campus involved and I think they have done a really good job," Huffman said.

Women's groups wary of Roberts

By Allie Haake
STAFF WRITER

Many organizations for women's rights have said the chief justice nominee's involvement with former administrations shows where he stands on abortion, while others have argued this does not reflect how he will act in office.

For three days, chief justice candidate John Roberts answered questions from senators of both parties. Roberts gave no indication that he would protect the holdings of Roe v. Wade, a federal law that legalized all abortions during the first trimester, according to The National Organization for Women.

"Women deserve to know whether this judge will protect our most basic rights," said NOW President Kim Gandy. "If John Roberts cannot support Roe v. Wade, he must be rejected."

By not commenting, the nominee was doing the right thing, according to John Noor, a junior economics political science student currently working as an intern in Washington, D.C.

"John Roberts, just like any other justice, is not allowed to comment on how he will stand on an issue, case, or any pending matter before the court," Noor said. "Their personal opinions on any issue have no place in the courtroom."

Women's organizations do not think John Roberts will protect their right to have an abortion, according to Alliance Co-Vice President Joel Siegel.

"I would imagine that NOW does not want Roberts to become chief justice because they're afraid that Roe v. Wade will go out the window if he gets voted in," said Siegel. "His rights as women would be limited again. They don't want to go back to the alleyways of abortion."

Siegel said that he would not be surprised if lawmakers made changes to the current laws of abortion.

"I definitely think that the Roe v. Wade decision could be overturned easily enough with the way we have our administration right now," said Siegel.

Noor said he does not think there is much of a chance they will vote to overturn the decision.

"Roe v. Wade has been considered a super precedent," Noor said. "Because society has become so used to the right to have an abortion, the Roe v. Wade decision, which has been upheld 38 different times, is not something that can be easily struck down."

Senators will raise questions about abortion in the upcoming session, according to Noor.

"There is a case that is coming up that has to do with Roe v. Wade," said Noor. "It's not completely about Roe v. Wade and striking down abortion, but it's talking about what point during pregnancy an abortion is legal to perform."

It is unclear if Roberts endorsed his personal beliefs in his arguments, according to Siegel.

"When he was representing the first President Bush, he signed a document saying that the Roe v. Wade decision should be overturned," Siegel said. "We don't know if he was just representing his client or if that was his personal view."

Program lets new writers hone their craft

By Rebecca Taylor
STAFF WRITER

The Great Smokies Writing Program gives aspiring authors the chance to improve upon their talent as writers and learn more about themselves as individuals.

The GSWP is designed for writers who would like the opportunity to learn how to express themselves effectively through written word.

The program offers a series of workshops on poetry, prose, nonfiction, and freelance writing.

"The experience I've had with the Great Smokies program has changed my life," said Hollie McKinney, a UNCA creative writing graduate. "I've learned not only about writing, but also about dedication, discipline, and life."

The executive director of the GSWP is Tommy Hays. Hays teaches a workshop on prose, and helps students learn more about themselves in the process of becoming a successful writer according to McKinney.

"When I first started the class, I was amazed at Tommy's insight and comments on my work," McKinney said. "He can find the strength of a story even when it's buried in a pile of problems and inconsistencies."

According to Elizabeth Lutyens, a creative writing graduate, Hays plays an important role in shaping each of his students into accomplished writers.

"With the help of Tommy and the other workshop members, my writing has become deeper and truer," Lutyens said. "I love it when, commenting on some passage or other in our writing Tommy will say just one word, 'Nah.' We know this has nothing to do with his being negative, and everything to do with his insisting on the truth."

One of the goals of the GSWP is to get people involved from the community. The participants in workshops are often non-traditional students, and people that live all over Western North Carolina. The workshops are held at The Asheville School,

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HOLLIE MCKINNEY
UNCA creative writing graduate

and First Presbyterian Church of Asheville.

"The object is to not meet on campus, but to meet around town and be accessible," Hays said.

It may seem hard to believe that you would be able to teach creative writing using structured methods, but that is the very objective for teachers that instruct workshops through the program.

"If you're in an environment that forces you to sit down and write, that's a good thing; creative writing classes provide that (environment)," said Lori Horvitz, assistant professor of English at UNCA.

Opportunities for publication

become available to students that join the program. Many of the participants have their work published, and have become part of an even bigger community of writers.

"Once I graduated I began a novel that had been in my head for a long time. I'd hoped the Great Smokies workshop would keep me motivated, and it did," Lutyens said.

The instructors that teach in the program all have experience in the writing field. They have published works and make contributions to magazines and newspapers across the country.

"Work that I wrote in Great Smokies classes was published both in literary journals, and in my first book 'Better Homes and Husbands,'" said Valerie Leff, co-director of the GSWP.

According to McKinney, if someone decides to take part in the workshops provided by the GSWP, they are entering into a community of writers that are willing to give insight into each other's work.

"Throughout fall and spring, I began to recognize that the members of our class are equally as important," McKinney said. "The sincere way they approach another writer's work is powerful. Their dedication is invaluable."

Courses provided by the GSWP are designed to help students reach beyond their potential as a good writer, and go deeper into the art of creative writing, according to Lutyens.

"He (Hays) gets us to do the best writing we can, and so much of best means digging deeply and not just skating on the surface of our stories. At the same time, our workshops are relaxed and convivial," Lutyens said.

There is a free reading series that features local writers called Writers at Home, it showcases writers that have taken classes through the GSWP. The series takes place at Malaprop's Bookstore/café.

"It (Writers at Home) has been well attended," said Hays.