

Premiere leaves many guests enchanted, thirsting for more.

ilgamesh



SEE ENTERTAIN 4

# The Blue Banner

Soccer

Women get first conference win.



SEE SPORTS 8

Volume 45, Issue 4

Serving the University of North Carolina at Asheville since 1982

September 21, 2006

**WHAT'S INSIDE**

**PAGE 2** STUDENT ART EXHIBIT CAUSES CONTROVERSY

**PAGE 5** WELL-BRED BAKERY OFFERS A LOT MORE

**PAGE 6** LEARN ABOUT THE QUAKER'S RELIGION

**PAGE 12** WEEKEND WEATHER FORECAST

## Widespread rumors infiltrate student body

By Caity Pelliccia  
STAFF WRITER

UNC Asheville's newly installed granite replica of the university's seal on the Quad has created questions among the student body over where the school spends their tuition money.

"I didn't even realize they were putting it (the seal) in," said Laura Ingersoll, sophomore student. "I just walked by one day and was like 'Where did this come from?'"

Many students assumed the school used tuition money to build the new addition.

"I figured the school was using our money to try and make our school look better," said Megan McGrady, sophomore student.

In fact, the class of 1999 gave the seal to the university as a gift.

"Every senior class makes some sort of collective gift to the university," said Rebecca Lamb, annual fund officer. "In 1999, they decided to give a giant replica of the university seal."

Many students said they do not actually know what their tuition money is being used for.

"I guess I don't really know where my tuition goes," McGrady said. "We seem to pay so much, but I just don't see what it is all going to."

William Massey, vice chancellor for alumni and development, said it is important to point out these issues and inform students and families, who spend thousands of dollars a year, where their money goes.

"Tuition basically becomes part of state dollars," said Jolene Elkins, the university controller. "It's combined with other money like our state appropriations and other things that are collected that belong to the state. This becomes part of the state budget and this is allocated usually through university senior staff."

Administrators said it is important to know the difference between gifts given to the school and things bought by the university through tuition and state money.

"Most of it (tuition money) goes to the academic support, to pay faculty and to pay staff," Elkins said. "That's a good portion of our budget."

Other material items covered by tuition funds include classroom supplies, according to Elkins.

Some students trust the university with the money they give to



ABBY KENT - STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The graduating class of 1999 raised about \$7,000 in order to purchase this unique granite seal for the main Quad. Weighing more than 4,000 pounds, the sudden presence of the gift caused many students to speculate the university used student fees and tuition money to purchase the seal. While the school uses student fees to pay salaries, among other things, no tuition money was used to purchase the seal.

the school, according to Jared McGee, intern for the University Ambassadors and senior music student.

"I got a great deal for a four-year college," McGee said. "I trust the school with the utmost confidence that they can keep the money in order."

However, when the extensively detailed seal made its home on the

Quad at the beginning of the semester, students began to wonder.

The school became so excited about installing the seal, that a sign explaining the gift did not appear until after the it previewed, according to Rebecca Lamb, annual fund officer.

"We had the seal ready and wanted it to be in place for the

installation," Lamb said. "And so, we haven't had the dedication yet. It hasn't been identified who the gift came from. We know that caused confusion."

The gift adds something special to the Quad, where it was previously lacking, according to Laura Beth Payne, junior history student.

"I think the new seal on the quad

is beautiful. It seems to complete the flagpole area," Payne said. "My question is why did it take so long for the gift from the class of 1999 to arrive?"

The purchase of the seal required the entire class to raise more money than any other preceding class.

"It was really the most ambitious campaign," Lamb said. "It was more money than anyone had ever needed to raise. They didn't get the money before graduation, and they continued to raise money."

The class of 1999 raised the money for the replica entirely by themselves, according to Lamb. They did not use any tuition or state funds.

The project ended up costing around \$7,000, which proved to be a huge endeavor for the 465 students who graduated in 1999, according to Lamb.

"(The seal) is made from a single block of granite that weighs over 4,000 pounds," Lamb said. "They had to mine that piece of granite specifically for this project because normally they quarry granite in four-foot blocks. They had to identify a piece of stone in the quarry that was perfect to be able to use for a project like that."

Students and administrators said the senior class' tradition of giving gifts to the university is important. "I think giving gifts show that students can actually give back to the campus since students were given the opportunity for higher education," McGee said.

The university seal is an important part of the university's history, according to Lamb.

The seal depicts Mount Pisgah, which can be seen from the steps of the Ramsey Library. Created in the 1930s by a local engraver, Harry Safe, it is symbolic of the university's ties to the community and its setting around the mountain, according to information provided by the university.

"I think putting the seal on campus really helps the university bring forth more understanding of why we are a liberal arts university," McGee said.

The school expects to receive gifts from other graduating classes, including a clock for the Quad from the class of 2000, a mobile for the Highsmith Union from the class of 2003 and a waterfall for the front entrance into campus from the class of 2005.

## New Pledge law causes controversy across state

By Courtney Metz  
STAFF WRITER

A new law passed this summer, which mandates all North Carolina classrooms schedule a time for students to say the Pledge of Allegiance, sparked controversy throughout the state.

Boards of education across North Carolina must require the display of the national and state flags, the recitation of the Pledge and must provide age-appropriate teaching on the meaning and history of the flag and the Pledge, according to the senate bill.

"As a grandparent and as a parent, I'm opposed to it," said Brenda Hopper, director of the Teaching Fellows program. "I would tell my children or my grandchildren, 'Sure, participate. But if you don't want to, that is okay too.'"

While the bill requires class-

SEE PLEDGE PAGE 3

## Installation brings Ponder home, reminds campus of its history

By Christa Chappelle  
STAFF WRITER

In an emotional ceremony featuring words from longtime friends, colleagues and public figures from across the nation last week, Chancellor Anne Ponder took an official oath to serve as UNC Asheville's sixth chancellor.

"I've actually felt the joy I've seen only twice in my life," said Erskine Bowles, president of the UNC system. "The first time was when I told Madeline Albright she was going to be secretary of state. (Chancellor Ponder's installation) was really the second time in my life I've felt the joy I saw."

Before Ponder left her hometown of Asheville, Ponder served as the president of Colby-Sawyer College for 10 years.

"She had a wonderful part of her career at Colby-Sawyer College," said Doug Atkins, former colleague and vice president of administration from Colby-Sawyer College. "Knowing that this was her mountain home and her roots, I'm sure she will do wonderful things for the university because she loves this area and the people of this area from the bottom

of her heart."

After the university formally installed Ponder in a ceremony on the Quad Friday afternoon, guests and participants attended a mountain picnic.

Several attendees said Ponder will serve as the perfect fit for UNC Asheville.

"She is the right leader for this university," Bowles said. "The one thing I heard when I talked to academics throughout the country about Anne Ponder was what a great strategic mind she has. I've called her a lot and asked her for advice on strategy."

The chancellor came into office in October, but the installation decided not to have the installation ceremony in the spring because of the already scheduled National Conference of Undergraduate Research, according to William Massey, vice chancellor of alumni and development, who also chaired the committee of students, faculty and staff that planned the ceremony.

"We did not have the capacity to stretch ourselves to do two huge events in the same season," Massey said. "Chancellor Ponder

was very generous in saying that NCUR has already been scheduled for many years, and the date of that should not be changed and her installation can be moved to the fall."

While Founders Day fell on last Friday, the installation ceremony took the place of the regular program held each year, according to Massey.

"We traditionally have a program for tradition and felt that (Ponder's installation) was the most important thing to bring to our university community," Massey said.

Rather than the ceremony concentrating solely on Ponder, it also focused on the university, according to Jared McGee, senior music student.

"I spoke with some people about the installation, and some say they thought the installation was primarily focused on her, but the way I witnessed it and during her speech, she really emphasized the university on how she wanted it to grow through the liberal arts education by raising the curriculum level up

SEE INSTALLATION PAGE 3



MEGAN WILDMAN - STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Chancellor Anne Ponder took an oath and officially accepted the seat as the head of the university on the Quad Friday. Many friends, colleagues and public figures from across the nation came together to celebrate this significant transition, not only for Ponder, but for the university as well. After the ceremony, guests welcomed Ponder back to her home in the South and enjoyed a buffet of fried chicken, green bean casserole, biscuits, cole slaw, watermelon and apple cobbler, all topped off with a ice-cold glass of sweet tea.