



The Blue Banner

Seniors give it their all



JESSICA BLYTHE - STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

UNCA held the seventh annual Spring Symposium on Undergraduate Research on Tuesday. Above, students present their projects in the lobby of Karpen Hall. Some 365 students presented research about topics ranging from air quality in Asheville to democracy in Latin America.

More than 300 students present research at annual symposium

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Most senior college students know that balancing classes, work, extra curricular activities and maintaining any kind of social life can be difficult.

But some seniors went the extra mile by choosing to do undergraduate research, much of which was presented Tuesday at the Annual Spring Symposium on Undergraduate Research and Creativity.

"Doing undergraduate research your senior year is very challenging," said Jonathan Barnes, senior environmental studies student. "I personally had to give up extra curricular activities to schedule 20 interviews with people in the building industry, and the time used for research definitely competed with time spent in my classes."

Many students choose to conduct undergraduate research their senior year to pursue an area of interest or to fulfill a degree requirement.

Regardless of their motives, the quality of material students present at the symposium is very impressive, according to psychology professor and co-director of undergraduate research Mark Harvey.

"I'm always very impressed with our students. They consistently go toe to toe with some of the best students in the country every year," Harvey said. "There are always a wide variety of presentations, and it is a great learning experience for students."

Some students like Barnes, who chose to do his research on green building techniques, decided to do undergraduate research for several reasons.

"I chose to do my research on green building technology because I wanted to do exploratory research and examine a new issue," Barnes said. "I wanted to do the research for the experience and credentials, as well as to put a little padding in my resume. You also graduate with the distinguishing experience for students."

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Ladd named new student body president

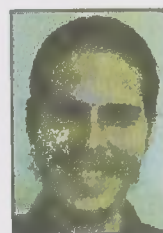
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UNC Asheville students voted in new Student Body President Nick Ladd and Vice President Andrew Johnson during last week's Student Government Association elections.

The election ran from April 7 to April 9.

Ladd spoke after the polls closed April 9 about his goals with clear reasoning and a certain resoluteness in his voice.

"It feels good," Ladd said. "I wanted to make sure that me being in office was something that the student body was actually interested in knowing that they voted for me, for my ability to enact change, it feels good."



Nick Ladd
STUDENT BODY
PRESIDENT

Tristyn Card, whose term as president ends in May, said leaving is bitter-sweet.

"I had a wonderful time being president. It was a wonderful learning experience. It was great to be behind the scenes

and see the on-goings of the university, but I have got to say I am all kinds of relieved," Card said. "It's a lot of responsibility, it's a lot of pressure, it's a lot of people looking at you expecting a lot of things from you and you expect a lot of things from yourself. I still had my little cry moment."

Johnson said he is looking forward to implementing his plans.

"I am really excited about being the new vice president because I think there is a lot of things that can be done for our campus. I am ready to take charge and get things done."

Students expressed their satisfaction with Wednesday's results after the polls closed. Karen Moriarty, junior drama student, said she is happy with the results as well.

"I voted for Andrew because he is really involved on campus and I have known him since his freshman year. I am not excited to see Tristyn go, but I know that Nick worked with her and I think he will

do a good job of picking up where she left off, not filling her shoes, but picking up where she left off."

Freshman student Miranda Wilson said she is pleased with the results.

"I am really excited. I knew a couple people who were running so I was looking forward to seeing them elected so they can make changes at UNCA," Wilson said.

Ladd said he has a lot of ideas for the campus in the upcoming year and looks forward to getting started.

He said providing scholarships for the university's new health insurance requirement is a top priority.

"The first thing I wanted to get started on is a scholarship, if not multiple scholarships, for the required health care that is going on. In all of the committee meetings that I have gone to, the major concern is the few number of students who were just able to come to UNCA financially speaking, who were just being covered by financial aid with just enough money from their various jobs. This extra \$600 would push them over the edge and prevent them from receiving an education," Ladd said. "I don't want anyone to be revoked from UNCA because they can't afford health insurance."

Ladd also wants to keep students informed with direct speeches on the steps of the library to students.

"There used to be an old tradition of giving the 'State of the University' speeches, like the State of the Union speech given by the president. I would like to see, like once a semester, going up on the steps and saying how things are, just getting out and trying to talk to the students again," Ladd said.

Johnson said Card will be missed by her colleagues.

"Everyone is sad to see her go. Nick Ladd is a great guy, but no one can replace 'Mama Card.'"

Ladd echoed Johnson's praise.

"It's rare that you see someone who is willing to put in so much time into something that they believe. Tristyn has been a great asset to this campus and I think we are all going to be sad to see her go," he said.

Underdog Productions plans end-of-the-year extravaganza

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It is the time of year at UNC Asheville for all students to bolster their achievements and tie up any loose ends, but for many on-campus clubs and organizations, it is the time to show the culmination of their hard work with a year-end party.

"We're really looking forward to the Lawn Party this year," said Underdog Productions President Amanda Pritchard. "We're having live music, a comedian, inflatable toys, lots of food and free stuff."

The Lawn Party is an all-day event starting at noon and ending late that night featuring the blues/rock

band Porter Davis, movie screenings, free giveaways and well-known Saturday Night Live comedian Finesse Mitchell.

Underdog Productions, in its 22nd year as a student-run organization, aims to give back to the students, who inevitably and unknowingly keep it afloat, according to Pritchard.

"Student fees go to every student organization on campus," said the senior psychology student. "It's basically put in a big pot and people go to Campus Commission and ask for the money."

Campus Commission exists for the purpose of funding student organization sponsored activities, according to the 2007-2008 student handbook.

Because UP is one of the oldest student organizations and because they consistently use the money appropriated to them in responsible ways, they are given one of the largest budgets, according to Pritchard.

UP's budget goes to hosting "Up All Night" events in the Highsmith University Union, musical acts, comedians and other activities for the students.

"We have a very unique student body," Pritchard said. "We have to play to that uniqueness in order to get student involvement in what we do."

The recurring slogan expressed by the organization is "Because UP loves you," and is a fitting way to describe the organizations intentions, Pritchard said.

Even though UP is dedicated to accommodating student requests, some aren't sure the organization serves the majority of the student body.

"I've seen the flyers around campus and I get the Facebook messages, but I still don't feel like UP is doing much for those of us who live off campus," said junior sociology student James Anderson.

Anderson said most of the events he sees featured by UP are geared toward the younger UNCA crowd, and he is interested in seeing a better representation of the

commuter student body.

"I agree it's important to keep the students living on campus from going stir-crazy, but if UP has so much money, they can afford to give back to the students that don't want to spend their off-campus time back on-campus," he said.

UP has 11 staff members including a president, an internal and external vice president and a music committee chair, among others. They have specific duties, but all work toward the common goal of giving back to the student body.

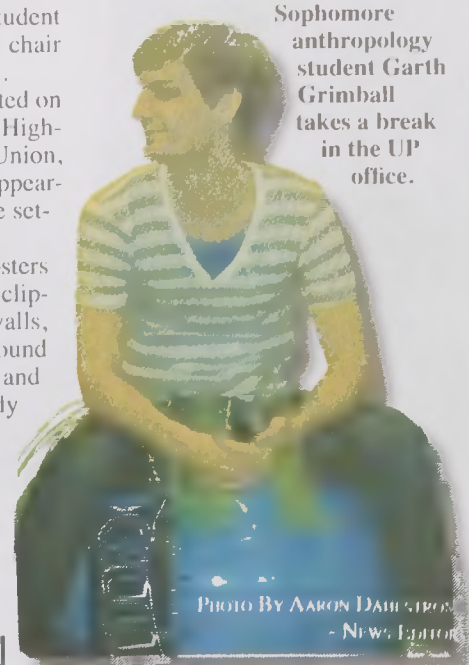
"We're very serious about what we do. We always want to do a good job in our events, but we also want to have fun at the same

time," said freshman student and music committee chair of UP Andrew Lection.

The UP office, located on the second floor of the Highsmith University Union, does not have the appearance of a typical office setting.

There are event posters and random Internet clippings hung on the walls, there is a wrap-around couch for lounging and two inflatable kiddy pools overflowing with an assortment of candy.

Lection said the UP office is a reflection of the loose attitude the organization



Sophomore anthropology student Garth Grimball takes a break in the UP office.

PHOTO BY AARON DANIELSON - NEWS EDITOR

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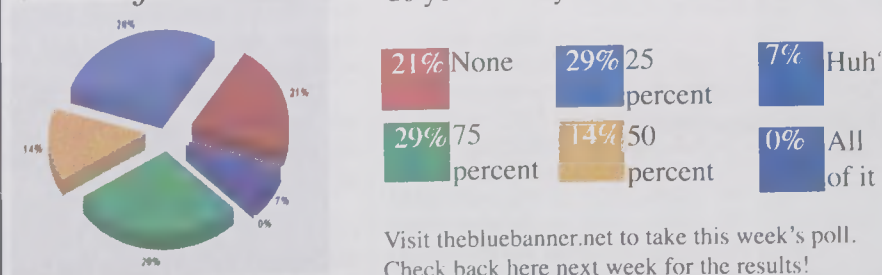
This Week

Features

The Blue Banner takes an in-depth look at the prevalence of hard drugs on campus.

Full story on page 6

Poll of the Week: How much of your Humanities readings do you actually read?



Visit thebluebanner.net to take this week's poll. Check back here next week for the results!

Weather

FORECAST BY SANDY LACORTE

	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	73	74
	42	46
	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	65	66
	47	46