

## Power

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

one million youths sign the pledge by Election Day to "make clean, just energy a top priority in [their] vote this election."

It took Baker less than a week to collect 116 signatures on campus.

Power Vote has a six-part platform, which calls for a cut in global warming pollution and taking dirty money out of politics, among other goals.

An early-August training in St. Paul, Minn. prepared Rhys Baker for his role as an organizer. The training conference, sponsored by the non-profit advocacy group Energy Action Coalition, attracted about 200 young people from across the country, Baker said.

"We have to be telling the politicians that this is what we want, because they can't really make change if we the people aren't telling them to do it," Baker told the group.

The group plans to celebrate months of hard work with a pre-election party in Boone.

"We are going to arrange a party for the Saturday before the election and it's going to be insane, and it's just going to be to thank everybody who worked on the project and to have a good time," Baker said.



MEG RAWLS - EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Students attending a meeting of the UNCA chapter of Power Vote, a national organization aimed at mobilizing youth around energy and environmental issues, divide into groups to develop strategy. The chapter intends to collect 3,000 local signatures for a national petition aiming for one million youth signatures before election day. It is planning a pre-election party in Boone to celebrate its efforts.

Many students cited Baker as a major factor in their decision to get involved with Power Vote.

"The first day of classes, Rhys spoke in my last class, and like I said, he was really enthusias-

tic about it," said Lucas Reyes, sophomore ethics and social institutions student. "So I checked out their Web site and read the party platform and thought it was a great idea for the youth to real-

ly have their voices heard in political campaigns. That appealed to me."

Baker and his family moved to the United States from England in September 2003. He attended Appalachian State

University for two years and transferred to UNC Asheville this semester. "My heart feels a lot lighter. When I came to school the first day, I was so nervous that nobody would be inter-

ested," Baker said. "It's really inspiring to see so many people having such a good reaction."

For more information on Power Vote, visit [www.powervote.org](http://www.powervote.org).

## Notice from Chancellor Ponder

As is our custom, Chancellor Ponder will have an hour set aside each week to meet with students. Students do not need an appointment, they just need to show up in the Chancellor's office on the second floor of Phillips Hall and they can see the chancellor during this hour. Following are the Student Open Hour times for the first half of the semester. All sessions will be held in her office unless otherwise noted. The hours are also posted on the Master Calendar and at [www.unca.edu/admin/co/hours.html](http://www.unca.edu/admin/co/hours.html).

### Student Open Hours

Thursday	- August 21	- 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
Thursday	- August 28	- 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm
Wednesday	- September 3	- 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Monday	- September 8	- 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Monday	- September 15	- 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm - (Student Affairs Conference Room, Highsmith)
Tuesday	- September 23	- 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm
Tuesday	- September 30	- 10:30 am - 11:30 am
Thursday	- October 9	- 10:00 am - 11:00 am

## Housing

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

about \$100,000, not including the costs of new OneCard machines and cards, Barnwell said.

Housing officials plan to add more card access points within the next few years in addition to increasing the number of residence halls.

"We're actively looking at expansion of residential facilities and new construction and options related to that," Barnwell said. "We're working on a strategic plan to increase the number of resident students."

A larger residence hall to replace Governors Village, which houses about 100 students in single rooms, would help increase residential capacity. Replacing the Village would require finding spaces for those 100 residents in temporary housing or off-campus, Barnwell said.

Despite the lack of air conditioning and older buildings, UNC Asheville students continue to fill the Village's private rooms.

"Students continue to want to live in the Village for the privacy, location and atmosphere. All our



KATIE BACHMEYER - STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A student swipes her OneCard, gaining access to Mills Resident Hall. New regulations require use of the card to gain access to all resident halls.

residence halls are that way, they're all so unique," he

said. "Some love the Ridges, the location and quiet atmo-

"We're working on a strategic plan to increase the number of resident students"

VOLLIE BARNWELL  
Director of  
Housing  
Operations

sphere. Some love Founders and Mills because they're right next to Highsmith and so social."

Housing operations also revamped the dorm laundry equipment, replacing many machines and installing Laundry View, an online tool that allows residents to check the progress of their laundry online.

"We've had a lot going on this summer, as we always do," Barnwell said. "Even with all these things starting off, this opening has been very smooth for us."



KATIE BACHMEYER - STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Student Health Services, located in Weizenblatt Hall, embraced the implementation of mandatory student health insurance.

## Health Mandatory insurance in effect

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for students suffering from depression getting the medication they need.

"The health of all of our students is our primary concern," Pyeritz said.

Jay Cutspec, director of Student Health and Counseling, said implementation of the policy has gone well.

"When the board of directors initially adopted the policy, there was a small group of people, students, who did not think it was the right thing for the university to do, and they expressed their opposition," Cutspec said. "What I heard was a general mistrust of insurance companies. But after a series of communications, in general, things have gone pretty well."

All the parents seemed to like the idea, Cutspec said. Pyeritz invites weary students to shop around.

"Look at the cost," he said. "It's the best deal in town."

Pearce and Pearce are also getting a good deal, Cutspec acknowledged. College students are generally healthier than older adults, and Pearce and Pearce only cover them for a limited time.

"After graduation, students will have to seek other coverage," Cutspec said. "There is no rebate or cash back."

Pyeritz also pointed out that UNC Asheville receives no portion of this payment.

Thomas said she is not complaining. After overcoming her medical crisis and avoiding a financial crisis, she returned to school fulltime.

She describes health insurance as a good investment.

"I can see the other side of it, not wanting to pay," she said. "But it's cheaper in the long run if something happens."