

University spends \$42 million on new health center

New athletic facilities and health center set to open in April 2011

By Heather McGaha

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Although work continues on the multi-million dollar health and wellness building off of Campus Drive, some students said they are still unsure of the building's purpose.

"I don't really know what is going on. I'm not sure what the outcome is. All I know is I see construction," said Sam Maser, sophomore health and wellness student.

A state committee wrote a proposal for a new degree program to be developed as the North Carolina Center for Health and Wellness in 2003.

The proposal went directly to the N.C. Legislature, and when UNC Asheville received funding it went specifically for the new degree program and the center.

"We intend to be a catalyst and resource for the state in terms of promoting healthy lifestyle," said Dr. Keith Ray, associate professor and director for North Carolina Center for Health and Wellness.

The facility is a way for the state to close the gaps for promotion of childhood wellness, improving workplace wellness and optimizing healthy living among older adults, Ray said.

The new facility will include classrooms, offices, a fitness training area, dance studio, the Wellness Café, meditation room, three biometric labs and the Kimmel Arena.

The facility will also house the new



Susan Terry- Photography Editor

Construction laborers work on clearing space for the new multi-million dollar health and fitness center, planned to open in spring 2011.

Health and Wellness degree program.

The Kimmel Arena is named after local businessman Joe Kimmel who donated \$2

million to the project in 2005, according to UNCA officials. and will be used for many different occa-

The arena will seat 3,600 to 3,800 people

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UNCA and NC A&T launch student exchange program

By Josh Robinson

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UNC Asheville and North Carolina A&T University plans to exchange more than 20 to 25 students each next semester as part of a premiere transfer program.

"A lot of times, it's hard for white students to imagine what it's like to be a minority, so this will be a very different experience than what our white students have ever had, going to a place where they're actually the minority," said John

Bucher, assistant vice chancellor for student affairs.

Attending different schools regions of the state requires an open mind, said Evan Foote-Hudson, Student Government Association's executive of multicultural affairs.

"Going to school in Western North



John Bucher

Carolina is simply different from going to school in the Piedmont. Having lived in the piedmont my whole life, I can tell you that," he said.

Because N.C. A&T is a historically and predominantly black school, the students there will have a much different experience to share, Foote-Hudson said.

"I think this is a great opportunity for people at this school, especially for people like me. As a black American on this campus, where the student body is over 90 percent white. I would not normally

have a chance to attend a historically black school, where people tend to have more of the same interests as me," said Residential Senator Lemar Newsome.

This would be a great way to raise diversity on campus and to also spread our culture there and spread their's here, in the classroom and socially, Foote-Hudson said.

"Greensboro is a city that has about five or six different colleges. It's built up, a lot

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