

# THE BLUE BANNER



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## Weekly Calendar Sept. 10 - 16

### Sept. 10

Annual Art Faculty Exhibition  
Owen 101  
9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

GRE class  
Owen 202  
6 - 9 p.m.

LSAT class  
Owen 203  
6 - 9 p.m.

Blue Ridge Orchestra open rehearsal

Reuter Center 102 - The Manheimer Room  
7 - 9 p.m.

Photography Group meeting  
Reuter Center 206  
7 - 9:30 p.m.

### Sept. 11

Banner Finance  
Phillips Hall 114  
8:30 - 10 a.m.

Annual Art Faculty Exhibition  
Owen 101  
9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

STEM lecture "New Developments in Space-Based Astronomy"  
Reuter Center 206  
4:30 - 6 p.m.

### Sept. 12

Annual Art Faculty Exhibition  
Owen 101  
9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Human Rights and Global Justice Carmichael Humanities Lecture Hall  
11:25 a.m. - 12:35 p.m.

### Sept. 13

Confident Commuter Class Buncombe Bike Education  
Sherrill Center 442  
H & W Conference Room  
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Hillbilly lecture series  
Reuter Center 102  
The Manheimer Room  
2 - 4 p.m.

### Sept. 14

Carolina's Nature Photographers Association portfolio presentations  
Reuter Center 206  
5:30 - 8 p.m.

### Sept. 15

Annual Art Faculty Exhibition  
Owen 101  
9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Medieval India  
Lipinsky Hall Auditorium  
11:25 a.m. - 12:35 p.m.

Department Chairs and Program Directors Meeting  
Highsmith University Union 221-223  
3:30 - 5 p.m.

### Sept. 16

Annual Art Faculty Exhibition  
Owen 101  
9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Red Cross blood drive  
Highsmith University Union 221-223  
11 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

## Ferguson forum ignites debate



Photo by Amanda Cline - Staff Writer

Marcus Harvey speaks during the UNC Asheville discussion panel on Ferguson.

## Faculty discuss racism in America

**VALERIE MCMURRAY**  
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Asst. News Editor

Four UNC Asheville faculty members addressed the significance of Michael Brown's death, the prevalence of racism and structural violence in America during a discussion panel in Highsmith Union Sept. 3.

"Yes, the murder of Brown is tragic. But what is also apparent to me — I think this will likely become -- with respect to this country's recent history, yet another failed opportunity for America to frankly examine its history," said **Marcus Harvey, assistant professor of religious studies.**

Harvey also said the difficulty in feeling optimistic about an event such as Ferguson stems from the way these events are discussed.

"This society has a marked tendency to seize on these events when they happen in a very spectacular way, to talk in a very sort of superficial, non-threatening way about race — in a way that really doesn't go anywhere at all," he said.

Harvey said Americans are socialized into a pattern of memory recon-

struction that dismisses victims of the dominant culture, a pattern he called "the myth of American exceptionalism."

"What happened in Ferguson is not surprising. It's very much in keeping with this country's social history," Harvey said. "It's to be expected."

Immediately after Harvey's speech, an audience member challenged Harvey's use of the word "murder" in describing Michael Brown's death.

"I'd like to respond to the racially-motivated word 'murder' that one of your speakers used," an audience member said. "I don't believe the grand jury's back yet on whether or not this was an unlawful killing."

Harvey said the use of the word still remains true given the dominate narrative of American society.

**Dwight Mullen, a political science professor,** called for "a resolution to the tension between being black and being American."

Mullen recalled an incident from his youth in Los Angeles in which a white police officer was accused of the wrongful death of a black citizen and acquitted by an all-

white jury -- an all-too-familiar story, he said.

"We know that community policing works. Why would you have officers in an area that don't know the people they're stopping -- let alone shooting?" Mullen said.

Growing up in LA, Mullen said many people distrusted the police and the media.

"We treated all of them the same, as violators of our territory," he said.

As a teen, Mullen realized he had to get out of the troubled city of LA before he got into trouble himself.

"It got to a point, by the time I was an undergrad, I had two different wardrobes. That's how far the contrast goes. I had two different vocabularies. I lived two different lives," he said. "I just didn't know if the one would last long enough until I could get to this other one."

Mullen said, at the university level individuals realize that getting out of areas facing racial tension isn't where the issues end. The ultimate goal should be constructing alternative futures.

Mullen left LA, but his children inherited some of the same struggles.

"Watching them go through the same things I went through, and here I sit in little ol' Asheville, thinking I was safely out of LA, that ain't gonna make it. Watching them get stopped by the police at the same ages I was stopped by the police," Mullen said.

Inequality in the criminal justice system often results from institutional policies, according to **Keith Bramlett, a sociology and anthropology lecturer.**

He said policies aren't created with malicious intent, but in many cases, factors like joblessness affect more people of color than white people, resulting in comparatively more African-Americans denied bail.

In Ferguson, African-Americans make up 67 percent of the population. In 2013, blacks comprised 93 percent of the arrests. In a police force of 53 officers, three are African-American.

Bramlett said disparity is an indicator to examine the policies for neutral intentions gone awry.

"The police subculture as exists, often referred to as the Blue Curtain, is

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