

# THE BLUE BANNER



VOL. 61, ISSUE 4 | WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 17, 2014 | THEBLUEBANNER.NET

## SGA finishes plans for Peace Day

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SGA continues to work on sexual assault prevention as planning for Rights Week and Peace Day ends.

"We're going to work on educational campaigns," said **James Whalen, student body president.**

"We're going to help students be part of the solution, and not just talk to them about what students do wrong," Whalen said. "We're going to teach students to do things that can help prevent sexual assault."

Whalen said this effort includes informational pamphlets as well as encouraging students, the administration and government to increase awareness.

Whalen said a focus of the senate is also voter engagement through registration events including a voter registration drive currently held in Highsmith 249.

Gardner Goodall and

**Harper Spires, co-executives of sustainability,** said they continue their work on Greenfest.

Keith Knox, executive of multicultural affairs, continues plans for MOSAIC in October.

Austin Hanna, executive of external affairs, works with *The Blue Banner*, Blue Echo and other organizations on developing a better communication network for students and the city of Asheville.

**Sen. Connor Siegmeister** said his committee is working on legislature for a petition for in-state tuition for undocumented immigrants.

**Sen. Alex Perry, chair of academic affairs,** said Rights Week, happening this week, will feature many speakers and events. He also said his committee continues promotional work for Peace Day on Sept. 21.

Sen. Charlie White continues working on the "Did You Know?" campaign.

## Students address identity prejudice

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Students discussed experiencing subtle discrimination and racial aggression on and off campus as part of the Multicultural Student Programs' series "Lunch 'N Learn: Microaggressions" last Friday.

Microaggression refers to a statement that may seem complimentary or innocuous to the speaker, but is perceived as a put-down to a person from a different background.

"It's hurtful as an instructor to hear a microaggression," said **Tiece Ruffin, assistant professor.**

In 2008, Derald Wing Sue, a psychologist and professor at Columbia University, defined microaggressions as "brief, everyday exchanges that send denigrating messages to certain individuals because of their group membership."

Microaggressions extend to gender, sexual orientation, ability and economic class. For the first Lunch 'N Learn event of the semester, discussion focused on racial issues.

Designed to get students talking to each other about tough subjects in a safe space, students used the Lunch 'N Learn to voice concerns about how persistent subtle racism inhibits their mental, emotional and physical health.

**Dahlia Hylton, director**

**of the intercultural center and MSP,** said she coordinated the topic for a Lunch 'N Learn discussion because students increasingly told her they were dealing with slights and insults about their identities.

During the discussion, students said they often don't know how to respond to microaggressions in the moment. They fear others will tell them they are overreacting or bringing up racial baggage better left unmentioned.

**Maya Newlin, a junior political science and sociology student,** said she changed her major at UNC Asheville in part because all the other biology students — mostly white students — in her classes excluded her every time they were told to pick a partner.

As the only black female in the department at the time, she said she didn't tell anyone. It's something she's used to experiencing.

Newlin experienced a microaggression in the past, which inspired a scene within a short film that opened the event.

In the film, a strange woman approached Newlin and said, "Your hair is so beautiful. It's so wild."

"Not in a bad way," the woman said as she returned to apologize a few minutes later.

Ruffin facilitated the discussion and said microaggressions affect not only

SEE IDENTITY ON PAGE 2



Photo Illustration by Brian Vu - Photo Editor

Blue Echo, UNCA's student-run campus radio station, ramps up for the new school year.

## Student radio makes waves

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Hosting events for more than 300 people, providing a creative outlet for students and preparing jam sessions, UNC Asheville's radio station Blue Echo, serves as more than the community's typical college radio station, according to students.

"Blue Echo allows students to express their creativity while sharing their interests with others. Essentially we are able to become a stage for people to share their ideas with the UNC Asheville community," said **Allison**

**Widner, events director and co-station manager.**

Widner along with Drew Proctor, co-station manager, and Ian Johnson, art director, as a group ensure the station runs smoothly.

"I am in charge of planning all of our events such as Arcade Night, which happened a few weeks ago. We actually broke our record with 365 people in attendance this year. I also keep up with the paperwork side of the organization as well as running meetings and helping with the budget," Widner said.

Blue Echo is a completely student run online radio station for the

university. According to staff, Blue Echo provides a voice for UNCA, but they are disheartened only a small percentage of students tune in to listen.

"It seems like only 30 people know we exist, but this is what we try and tell people: we do a lot of cool events. We do Arcade Night in the fall and spring, we do college radio day, Music Fest and we put on jam sessions throughout the year," said **Isabella Daniels, business director and disc jockey.**

Blue Echo staff said they hope to expand Arcade Night, especially since they were close to

reaching capacity in the Grotto. In honor of Mario Kart 8's launch, Mario provided the theme for Arcade Night. Along with popcorn, pizza and snow cones as refreshments.

"It was really cool. I was really excited. People were jumping around and having a good time. We always hope for more people to attend. Once something is your best, then it's no longer your best and you have to strive for a new best," Daniels said.

The second most successful event Blue Echo hosts is Music Fest. Music Fest is a new event and only

SEE RADIO ON PAGE 2

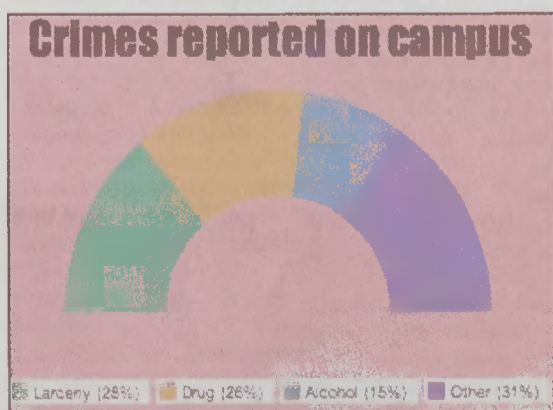
## Alcohol policy aims for rehabilitation

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Students say college is a cocktail of alcohol and stress, especially for newly independent freshmen, but when diversion becomes addiction, UNC Asheville provides resources for assistance, focusing on rehabilitation over punishment.

"We're trying to teach students how to modify their behavior, because we believe the behavior they develop here impacts their future decision making,"

said **Jackie McHargue, dean of students.** "We don't use the lens of punish-



As of September 2014, alcohol violations made up 15 percent of all crimes reported on campus.

ment. Every sanction that we designed has some educational component in it."

Sanctions, according to campus administration,

escalate on a three-level system, growing more involved with each violation and the campus' alcohol policy is treated the

same, whether citations are initiated by campus police or dormitory staff.

"If campus police officers interact with students and discover that they have been drinking underage, the enforcement really depends on the number of times that students are caught," said **Eric Boyce, assistant vice chancellor for public safety at UNCA.** "Students get a student conduct citation and that student conduct citation refers them to residential education."

Resolution, according to McHargue, is by mutual agreement. SEE POLICY ON PAGE 2