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SGA works toward diversity

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SGA and the multicultural center collaborate with the diversity action council to increase the number of minority students at UNC Asheville.

"We talked about how we can get African-Americans and other minority students and how we can keep them here," said **Keith Knox, executive of multicultural affairs.**

Between 2009 and the current academic year, Knox said 30 African-American students enrolled at UNCA: 89 in 2009 and 118 this year.

Gardner Goodall said he and Harper Spires, co-executives of sustainability, started tabling on the quad in preparation for Greenfest.

James Whalen, SGA president, said SGA and residential education work together to sign up more voters during voter registration week, which occurs this week. National Voter Registration Day is Sept. 23.

"We're going to reach out to the residents and have programs in every hall," Whalen said. "We're going to put on several events, table all over the place and get everyone registered who we can."

Whalen said the registration goal is 1,500. As of last Wednesday, he said SGA registered 90 students.

Sen. Charlie White, chair of the student affairs committee, said work on the gender-neutral bathroom maps will begin shortly.



Photo by Jorja Smith - Multimedia Editor

Students peruse the options at the recently opened Brown Hall during the first weeks of the semester.

Meal plan costs worry students

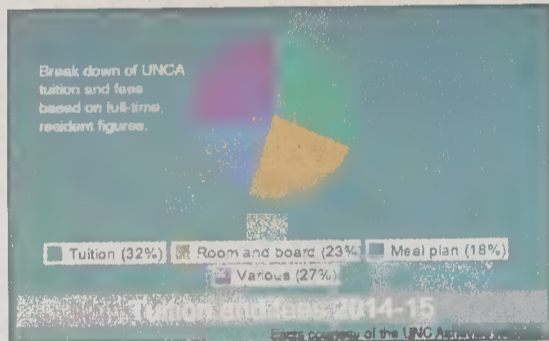
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UNC Asheville is worth the money, officials say, but the recent jump in the cost of meal plans worried some students.

"UNC Asheville has the lowest tuition and fees amongst our peer groups for 2013-14, in-state undergraduate students," said **Suzanne Bryson, UNCA's associate vice chancellor for finance.**

Between 2010-13, the university's meal plans saw a modest increase of less than 3 percent per term, only to undergo an almost 10 percent jump for 2013-14. Concerned students, many expressing they knew nothing about the increased costs, said prices increased for menu items at the campus' dining locations and meal equivalency options diminished.

Of the 10 percent in-



crease, 7 percent resulted from the North Carolina General Assembly's tax increase, a fact the university attempted to make clear to students, according to **Nancy Yeager, associate vice chancellor for student affairs.**

"The university sent out notices to students before their bills last December and also posted the information on the Student Affairs website," Yeager said. "To my surprise, we actually heard very little from students at the time."

According to campus

employees, the university gains nothing from the tax increase and the money goes directly to the state. The campus finance department works with Chartwells, the university's food service company, to keep price increases to a minimum while providing options uncommon at other campuses.

"Meal equivalencies aren't common at other universities and they're very cost ineffective for the food vendor, due to the fact that many of the retail outlets are franchise

or local businesses who set their own prices," Yeager said. "Chartwells actually ends up eating any additional cost for a retail-meal equivalency."

Yeager said UNCA worked to preserve meal equivalencies under its most recent contract with Chartwells, but eliminating them may have found support among some students.

"We originally agreed, but since the new dining hall wouldn't be open until this year, we didn't think it would be fair to students to completely take away the meal equivalencies without giving them the new dining hall," Yeager said. "This year, we negotiated to still keep meal equivalencies, but at a limited number per menu."

According to students who purchase meal plans, more options in a meal plan makes the deal sweet-

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Family celebrates student's life, degree

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Robbie Coin, a UNC Asheville student, passed away on Sept. 7 from complications following neurosurgery at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta. Coin's name will be read for his commencement.

"Robbie was kind -- he always thought about others. The most consistent thing I keep hearing, from people who

I don't even know, is that he would always call just to see how they



Robbie Coin were doing," said **Shannon Coin, Robbie's wife.**

"I never knew that I could meet someone I could be that comfortable with. He was my best friend. We laughed a lot and just had a wonderful friendship."

According to **Courtney Bell, Robbie's sister,** their parents struggled with alcoholism, causing their grandparents to take over raising them when she was around 11 years old.

"We were really close growing up. We kind of raised each other. I was probably more like his mom for a long time, rather than his sister, since our grandparents were so much older," Bell said. "It was pretty much just me and him."

In August of 2000, he started to notice that one of his eyes was jumpy, so he went to the eye doctor to have it checked out. They performed a MRI that showed a small spot in his brain. He went in for a follow-up and it had grown by around 6 centimeters, according to Bell.

"They did brain surgery in January 2001. They then diagnosed him with Hodgkin lymphoma. There were so few cases of Hodgkin's disease in the brain, St. Jude's Children's Hospital accepted him for treatment," Bell said. "They did a full body scan and realized the cancer spread throughout his body. They performed three months of aggressive chemotherapy and three months of total body radiation."

After successful treatments, Robbie's cancer went into remission. "During and after his treatment, Robbie was on a lot of medication. With

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Students fight stress while trying to stay ahead

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According to UNC Asheville students and counselors, stress levels remain at a peak.

"I just have to remind myself why I'm in school. I have to have those moments where I'm just not doing anything and think about why it's important, what it has to do with my life and how it's improving my life," said **Taylor Brown, a 20-year old junior at UNCA.**

The average student at UNCA, according to school

officials, takes around 16 credit hours a semester. Nearly double the requirement for full-time students, some students take more than 20 hours.

"If you take into account my 16-hour school schedule and extracurricular work, I think I have about a 23-hour work week. That's probably low compared to some other people. Thankfully I'm not working currently, but I am still employed," Brown said.

According to Brown, who is part of Cru Ministries, having a full schedule as well as an active social

life makes it harder to find time to study.

"I usually find study time in between classes or when I get home, but at that point I'm already half asleep. The stress level's pretty high. I usually try to study from my notes, I'll look at the book, but I get distracted very easily -- with everything, with life in general," Brown said.

Students, such as Brown, wonder if professors take into account how much work students have to deal with when planning midterms and finals.

"I think it depends on

the professor, I think some consider it and realize that we're only in our 20s and have lives, but others just think that we need to focus in on their class," Brown said.

According to the Health and Counseling Center, early fall is their busiest time. For the spring semester, more students come in later because of midterms and finals.

"I would say the vast majority of sessions deal with stress. Each student may be stressed about different things, but generally, I would say over 50 percent.

About 25 percent of the complaints on the medical side are probably stress related as well, like stomachaches and headaches," said **Jay Cutspec, director of health and counseling.**

According to Cutspec, each year the American College Health Association finds stress to be the No. 1 factor known to affect academic performance. This data comes from 123,000 students from approximately 153 schools.

"The thing about stress and how to relieve it comes

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