

THE BLUE BANNER

VOL. 62, ISSUE 3 | WEDNESDAY, FEB. 4, 2015 | THEBLUEBANNER.NET



The city of London from an aerial view

Photo by Gray Barrett- Contributor

Can you afford to study abroad?

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Studying abroad while in college is an opportune time to have unique experiences and reflect on their lives, students say. Many assume they cannot afford it, said **Cara Gilpin, study abroad adviser at UNC Asheville.**

"It depends on an individual basis when we are talking to students to make this happen," Gilpin said. "I think a lot of students come in with the assumption that it's going to be a lot more, and I

feel like the exchange programs are designed to be more comparable in cost."

UNCA offers exchange, non-exchange and faculty-led programs, Gilpin said.

"Exchange programs are programs that are reciprocal in nature, so students pay their tuition and fees here and either pay room and board as if they are here as well, or they will pay that abroad," Gilpin said. "So those are very comparable in cost to what it would be if they were here."

The majority of faculty-led programs are paid

through UNCA, as well. Gilpin said non-exchange programs require the student to pay a program fee instead of a tuition fee, and the cost for these will vary.

UNCA held study abroad fairs in September and January. The fair in September included affiliates of UNCA which offer more opportunities and support for non-exchange programs. The January fair focused on this summer's faculty-led programs, said **Bonnie Parker, study abroad director.**

"I've been here since 2006 and I've worked in

international education for a long time," Parker said. "We help to create new partnerships, new contacts for the university and students, advise students in programs, work with different departments' at UNCA, get word out to students and campus community and help with scholarships."

Students participating in UNCA's exchange programs may use all types of financial aid, including federal, state, UNCA grants, scholarships and loans. Students can use financial aid in

summer or winter **faculty-led programs** as well.

Students studying abroad through programs other than exchange programs may use federal and state grants, scholarships and loans. These programs include ISEP-Direct or other outside programs. UNCA institutional scholarships and grants cannot be used for these programs, according to information from UNCA.

"Students should talk directly to the financial aid office because they may qualify for things after they apply for FAFSA," Gilpin

said. "We also have some scholarships that we can advise students about. We have a few that are regionally-based, so you would get the scholarships just for going to that particular location, it's not need-based."

Gilpin said she recommends exchange programs instead of the non-exchange programs to students concerned about financial aid. The main difference in cost between exchange programs and UNCA would be travel-related expenses such as airfare, visa and personal expenses.

SEE ABROAD ON PAGE 6

"Poemumbles" fills BMC Museum

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The Black Mountain College Museum + Arts Center (BMCM+AC) saw one of its largest-ever opening receptions Friday night at the unveiling of its new exhibition "poemumbles: 30 years of Susan Weil's poem/images."

The event celebrated the reopening of the BMC-M+AC gallery space at 56 Broadway, where the organization recently completed the first phase of its plan for renovation and expansion downtown.

According to BMC-M+AC, its mission is "to preserve and continue the

unique legacy of educational and artistic innovation of Black Mountain College for public study and enjoyment."

Susan Weil is one of the many influential experimental artists who emerged from Black Mountain. Her aptly-titled "poemumbles" illustrate the college's understated, but sweeping, legacy.

"I hope this show is representative of that big, big story, which is a poem a day, every day for the past 30 years," said Rachael Inch, Susan Weil Studio archivist and administrator and UNC Asheville alumna '11.

Inch co-curated the exhibi-



Photo by Timbi Shepherd - A&F Asst. Editor

Spectators admire Susan Weil's poemumbles.

listed as curators of the show." Butler said. "One flew to New York because he really loved [Weil's] work, realized the person who should curate it was sitting there in the studio,

physically present at the opening reception, but she joined in the celebration via Skype. A laptop floated around the gallery space and allowed Weil to witness — SEE MUSEUM ON PAGE 8

OLLI highlights Black History Month

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For the first time, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UNC Asheville hosts its own series to celebrate Black History Month, as part of their commitment to inclusion, according to members of the organization's inclusion committee.

"When people see how far everything has come — they remember the lunch counter sit-ins and they remember those things that happened 50 years ago, and we elected an African-American president — everybody kind of pats themselves on the

back and thinks everything is over, and it just isn't. I think certainly when you have instances like Ferguson or Staten Island, you recognize that it's not over, but it's a really different struggle now, and trying to figure out how we can all be a part of the solution is part of what we'd like to work on," said **Catherine Frank, executive director of OLLI.**

OLLI at UNCA exists as a separate organization and a department of the university, Frank said, providing lifelong learning opportunities to Asheville residents over 50.

SEE OLLI ON PAGE 5