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Student support preserves a graduation tradition

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UNC Asheville administration decided to hold commencement indoors at Kimmel Arena, due to "logistical, safety and financial reasons," according to the chancellor's April newsletter. Concerned students said they protested the decision by signing a petition that received more than 1,000 signatures from students, faculty, staff and alumni.

"UNC Asheville is bound to go through growing pains," said **Caitlin Hallorin, UNCA alumna**, "but I think it's really important to preserve traditions whenever possible, especially because we don't have that many to begin with."

For the past 50 years, graduation on the Quad has remained a tradition at UNCA, alumni said.

"I'm a member of the 'damp' commencement class of May 2012," Hallorin said. "It was cold. And, well, damp -- but mine. My classmates and I still joke about it. My parents laughed about how it was better than heat, and how my brother wore a trash bag," she said.

According to alumni, weather made the outdoor ceremony impossible on occasions forcing the event to be moved indoors, but not in the spring of 2012.

"Once it began sprinkling that day, my sister texted me from the audience: 'Life is about learning to dance in the rain,'" Hallorin said.

Alumni said the Quad gave them their own place



Photo contributed by Ashley Elder- News Staff Writer

Despite rain, Caitlin Halloran participated in the 2012 spring commencement on the UNCA quad.

on campus to relax, study or spend time with friends.

"When we invite our families to campus to celebrate our accomplishments, we do it because we want to show off our home. The Quad, where I spent years giving tours, studying, having smoothies with friends, never looks better than with all those white chairs facing the library.

That's the image I have when I think about coming home," she said.

James Whalen, former student body president and graduating senior, said the Quad is the only place every student shares and it serves as a symbol for a united community.

"Commencement should be a celebration of the university," Whalen said. "We

should strive to make that celebration as welcoming as possible to the entire UNC Asheville community, past and present."

After seeing the petition, Joseph Urgo, provost, sent a one-question poll to seniors via email asking if they would prefer to graduate on the Quad or in Kimmel Arena.

"UNC Asheville has

a history and culture of working together with its students to come to compromises. Discussions about commencement have been exactly the same -- everyone wants to put together a plan that is cost-effective, safe, accessible, and best celebrates the university and especially the graduating seniors," Whalen said.

The poll closed Sunday evening at midnight. Whalen predicted accurately, as Urgo revealed Monday the majority of the class of 2015 chose the Quad.

"I like being outside, I'd like to graduate outside. It'd be nice to be under the sun while sitting through the long ceremony," said **Wes Markusfeld, graduating senior**.

Bulldogs snap three game skid with win over ETSU

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The UNC Asheville baseball team traveled to Johnson City, Tennessee, Tuesday night to trump the East Tennessee State University Buccaneers with a 6-3 victory in Thomas Stadium. The win broke a three-game losing streak for the Bulldogs and improved their overall record to 16-17 on the season. ETSU fell to 12-19 on the

season with the loss.

UNCA won the previous matchup 8-6 at Greenwood field in Asheville and, with Tuesday's win at Thomas Stadium, they swept the season series over ETSU two games to none.

"We played a good game tonight, used a lot of pitchers, but in the end we got the job done tonight over a tough team in the Buccaneers," said **Scott Friedholm, UNCA head baseball coach**.

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-- Scott Friedholm

UNCA and ETSU combined to use 15 pitchers in the contest. The Bulldogs threw seven of their own pitchers out on the mound and the Buccaneers saw eight pitchers throwing for them Tuesday night. ETSU Freshman right-

hander, Logan Gentry, started the game and also earned the loss for the Buccaneers. Gentry's night was cut short as he only pitched two innings, walked three, struck-out four, allowed two hits and gave up two runs, includ-

ing giving up a solo home run in the first.

Spencer Orr, UNCA sophomore southpaw, started the game for the Bulldogs and pitched four innings, allowing only three hits, two walks, one earned run, and striking out two Buccaneer batters. Bulldogs Senior righty relief pitcher, Evan Joura, picked up his first win of the season by coming in and pitching his one inning of relief in the fifth inning. Joura

allowed no hits and struck out one ETSU batter.

UNCA senior closer Nick Schavone came in and picked up the save by pitching the last four outs of the game. Schavone faced five batters, allowed no hits, walked one, and struck out one ETSU batter. Schavone earned his seventh save of the season.

"Their pitchers were on tonight, we couldn't get much going and create any

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