

Students get involved on the UNCA campus

KATIE WALKER
News Staff Writer
kwalker6@unca.edu

Students and family members fill every available seat in the Highsmith Grotto, some standing along the perimeter while others choose to sit on the ground. The lights dim as the Fortisimamas take the stage. Everyone in attendance leans forward in their seats as the female acapella group captivates them with their twist on modern music.

"What we know about student involvement is that when students are involved on campus, they are more likely to retain, graduate and succeed at universities," said Fred Tugas, associate director of programming at UNC Asheville. "Student involvement promotes student success."

UNCA presents students with numerous opportunities to get involved with the campus community. Involvement can range from attending a student organization's event to being president of a student organization.

Tugas said around 1,000 UNCA students are members of a student organization. UNCA currently has around 70 student organizations

on campus.

"There is just so many different opportunities for students to get plugged in. We are working to continue to promote that to the campus community," Tugas said.

A portion of student fees go to student organizations

Each year students pay a fee which goes to different departments on campus, such as student organizations, Highsmith Student Union and the recreation center. The facilities that receive a portion of the money are available for students to use free of charge. However, only a small number of students take advantage of these facilities.

"There is the allocation of organizations, which is part of a larger process. Our office only gets a portion of it," Tugas said. "Highsmith Student Union, our actual department and the management of this facility, is completely student-funded."

Tugas also said student organizations, such as Underdog Productions, get a portion of the allocation. To get the money, each organization has to present its

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UNCA staff give advice on time management

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Many incoming UNC Asheville freshmen struggle to manage their time along with their new freedom and academic challenges.

"Self-discipline is not fun but it is pretty much the thing that has to happen for students to be able to manage their time," said Karen Cole, UNCA director of advising.

Julia Quigley, a sophomore new media student, said it can be easy to put a term paper or study guide aside in order to make time to go to an exciting event happening on campus.

Quigley said participating in social events around campus is important to the social life of most college freshmen. However, deciding to do school work ahead of time may not seem like the most important thing. Knowing what needs to be done first is hard when the school work begins to pile up.

"Some explanation of what their priorities are would be helpful because I think that is one of those things we all struggle with," Cole said.

Planning out assignment due dates is one of the many things that ensure a freshman will get things done on time. Free time will allow for non-academic activities, such as going to a movie being shown on campus or supporting the basketball team at the next home game.

All freshmen who attend UNCA are required to take a freshman colloquium course which helps provide the skills needed for a smooth transition from high school to college. Rodger Payne, chair and professor of religious studies, said UNCA has offered some form of the freshman colloquium program for the last 20

years.

"We want to offer students in these courses academic content so it is not just that we are focused on general information for being a college student but we put that into context of studying, particularly some kind of academic subject," Payne said. "So ideally what we are helping first year students do is settle into college life."

Payne said the freshman colloquium course intentionally introduces students to such resources as the Writing Center, different styles of learning and time management. During the time of the course, the instructors will often bring in outside faculty members to talk about their experiences and what they did to help themselves succeed.

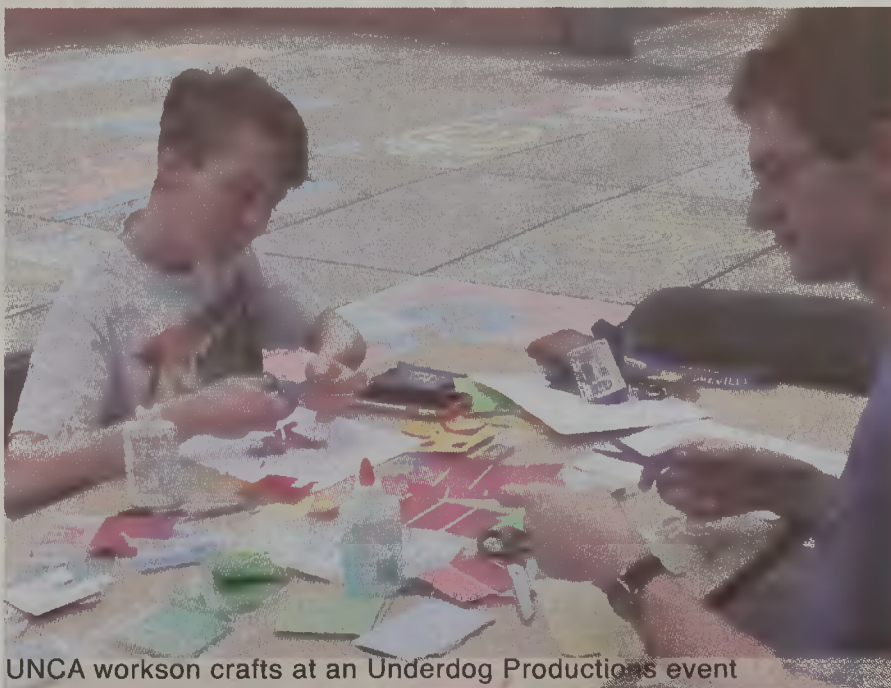
"I have a Google Calendar for everything and that's how I stay on top of things," Quigley said.

Prioritizing different assignments helps keep students organized and ensures students get assignments done on time.

"I tend to try to do the things that I do not like doing first so I can get those done and out of the way. I find that seems to help," said Robert Campbell, director of service learning.

Quigley said rewarding herself with her favorite movie is a great way to stay motivated and finish assignments. If a student sets their goal of things to finish before watching movies or going to the game, it provides the motivation needed to get everything done rather than put assignments off until the last minute.

"There is no big secret to it," Payne said. "Come to class, keep up with the work and talk to professors."



UNCA workson crafts at an Underdog Productions event
PHOTO BY KATIE WALKER