

NASA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

her work and expertise in the area of study involving sonic boom minimization and supersonic flights. Darden continued to strive in her field and eventually was promoted into the senior executive service, the first African-American woman at NASA Langley to do so, according to the official NASA website.

"What makes her special is she made a significant contribution to mathematics and sciences and was kind of in the background," said Lothar Dohse, chair of mathematics at UNCA.

"In mathematics, there are a lot of groups that contributed that are overlooked."

The Parsons Lectures are an annual event held by the mathematics department. Dohse said the lectures are meant to put mathematics in a light where people feel it is within reach to comprehend.

"Math, especially in this country, is kind of pushed aside. 'Oh, I can't do it or I hated it,'" Dohse said. "I've heard teachers say that's what they give their students as punishments and so it becomes a negative thing."

The audience consisted of more than just UNCA students and faculty. Elaine Demesme, mother of two A-B Tech students, brought her daughters to the lecture and felt it

was an important speech for all to hear.

"It was very interesting, quite uplifting and it gave me a different view," Demesme said. "For me, math was always a drudgery. So to hear her talk about it and her love for it was an interesting side that did not even occur to me that people love it."

Darden said she continued to work on the minimization of the sonic boom until she retired in 2007. The demonstration of proving the sonic boom can be minimized, which Darden spent most of her career working on, was successful in 2002. Darden finished her career waiting for funding.

"We had to wait for NASA to fund the design and integration of a full scale supersonic airplane, that could fly in the air and demonstrate the sonic boom capabilities," Darden said. "The money came last year."

NASA's next step will be choosing a contractor to build the airplane and use that experimental airplane to follow through the tests Darden helped develop. Darden suggests the minimization of the sonic boom opens up possibilities of supersonic commercial flights.

"So as the airplane seats get smaller, we might all appreciate the shorter time flights," Darden said.

PISGAH HOUSE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

ly, the residency will only undergo repairs.

"When we talk about renovations we talk about renovation, modernization and adaptation versus repair. So a renovation tends to change the use of the space or bring it up," Todd said. "You might be adding walls or tearing walls down or something like that whereas maintenance is going in and saying we need to paint that wall and clean this floor."

Replacing lights with new LED lights is an update coming to the Pisgah House, Todd said. Russell detailed the importance of this lighting.

"(One) item was the LED lighting because of the saving from an energy perspective, but also the longevity of those types of bulbs," Russell said.

Todd said the Pisgah House functions as a residence and state building.

"When you go look at it, it's a big structure, but a lot of that is common meeting spaces, where they can hold events and functions. But the actual living quarters are pretty modest," Todd said.

The repairs will occur throughout the entire building, and since the building is currently offline for updates, Interim Chancellor Joe Urgo

does not reside there, Todd said.

"The upstairs is where there's bedrooms and there's a little kind of sort of kitchenette," Todd said. "But if you need a main kitchen you gotta go downstairs and use the main kitchen, which was almost built kind of like a catering kitchen."

The house has a catering kitchen because it was designed to host large events.

"What kind of events we've had in that house is every year the chancellor and the provost have hosted students there for various things," said Shannon Earle, the chief of staff for the office of the chancellor.

Some of the people invited to the Pisgah House were the Order of the Pisgah student inductees, students who received academic achievement awards, the Board of Governors, President of the UNC System Margaret Spellings and all of the UNC chancellors.

The repairs to the Pisgah House will continue while it is offline, Pierce said.

"We're always fixing this thing and that, but it was a time then when Chancellor Grant announced her leaving that we felt like in this time frame before a new chancellor would come in, it's an opportunity to do things that maybe we wouldn't do when somebody was living there," Pierce said.

HOMELESSNESS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

or alcohol, according to an article published in Social Science Research.

"Homelessness doesn't really have anything to do with committing a crime. In fact, we've recognized anecdotally that most folks we end up dealing with on the street for panhandling and related issues are housed somewhere," Coward said.

According to Beloved Asheville, on any night 500-600 people will be homeless in this community and 700 children will be homeless each

year.

Aaron Nasser, a UNC Asheville student, said he has seen people walk into McDonald's and ask for free food. While normally they get denied, he said he thinks they have the right idea going and refutes the stereotype that all they spend money on is drugs or alcohol.

People die from living on the street at a rate of 20 people per year in Asheville and Buncombe county, reported to BeLoved Asheville. One of their projects, the Tiny Homes Community Project, works to create deeply affordable housing by building a tiny house village for

those in need and to get people off the street. According to The Tiny Life, a tiny home is typically 100 to 400 square feet.

"A lot of the times that I've come across panhandlers or someone who is not supposed to be on a private property somewhere, it's a great opportunity to help. I've been able to get folks into the hospital for treatment when they've really felt like they were gonna hurt themselves," Coward said. "The last thing we wanna do is see someone who has died from exposure. It's a horrible thing and it's hard for everyone."

Yet not everyone agrees with the policing of homeless. Cantrell said BeLoved Asheville has a Homeless Voice group that helps to shine light on the homeless population, even going so far as to talk to city officials that work in public safety.

"We have seen a lot of hostile architecture. The largest example of that recently has been the fencing of Pritchard Park to keep people from lying down in the park. Anything that was not paved was basically fenced," she said.

BeLoved Asheville said it takes community effort to help and stop homelessness problems.