

Dear Editor

How many times have you looked out at the fountain and remarked of the beauty surrounding it? How often have you strolled the walking trail or climbed the stairs and smelled the sweet perfume of rhododendrons or daffodil blossoms?

The floral display that blankets our campus is the achievement of a staff of unapplauded, yet committed, gardeners. These hardworking "green thumbs" endure the heat of summer and the bite of winter, to nurture and shape the flowers, shrubs, and grasses into a spectacular horticultural ensemble.

As they wield their tools to produce such bounty, they often go unrecognized and uncredited for their labors. So, if you feel as I do, when you approach someone working the grounds, take a moment to express your appreciation for their craft and the beauty they bring forth.

— Bruce Monks



PTK

The PHI THETA KAPPA mini honors institute was held at Lees McRae College on July 3 in Banner Elk, NC. Two representatives from our chapter attended: Darien Huffman and Cindy Poindexter. This year's honors theme is "Our Complex World: Balancing Unity and Diversity." Branching from that theme were a variety of lecture and discussion topics, such as the new world order, Afrocentrism, immigration, ethnic relations, and culture wars — much food for thought.

— Bruce Monks

Involvement Is Important

September 1 begins a new academic year at WCC. Whether you are an incoming freshman or a returning student, please take advantage of the opportunities you have to get involved in organizations and activities on

campus. Perhaps you are not aware of the many things you can do, outside the classroom, at WCC? First, this is not to say that studying should not be your first priority. Second, I know you have important obligations such as work and family that limit your free time. However, all full-time students pay an "activity fee" as part of their tuition. This fee is used to provide for your entertainment, social events, clubs, sports, etc...Did you know that in the first two weeks of the quarter, alone, there are four student activities you can take part in? There will be entertainment at orientation, a movie — outside — in front of Thompson Hall, welcome back refreshments on the first day of class, and a back-to-school dance on September 9. Beyond participating by going to a dance or eating a free ice cream sundae, you can **make things happen** on campus!!

For instance, in October the Student Government Association (SGA) will hold elections for Freshman and Sophomore officers and senators. There will be 18 positions available. Members of WCC SGA are representatives for the entire student body. Any full time student (enrolled for 12 credit hours or more) with a 2.25 GPA can run for office. SGA members share, as best they can, the opinions and needs of the student body with faculty and administrators. SGA members sit on campus committees. SGA members help plan and promote social and cultural activities for the entire campus.

In addition to SGA you can join various student clubs. Some of these clubs are study-related. Others, such as the Baptist Student Union, are interest related. If there is not a club that "floats your boat" you can start one. The student activity fee, beyond its use, symbolizes something. It symbolizes the fact that WCC, like other colleges and universities, thinks that opportunities for involvement outside the classroom are important to the total development of students. Research studies have shown that involvement on campus increases a student's likelihood of success and graduation. You can gain valuable skills by participating in SGA, clubs and sports. These skills will help you in job situations.

Early in the quarter there will be publicity about joining SGA, clubs and sports all over campus in addition to announcements of activities and events open to the whole campus community. Keep your eyes open. If you don't see something that appeals to you, come by the Student Activities Office in Room 205 TH and share your ideas with the student activities coordinator. Your input is invaluable!

New Nursing Lab

Several changes have been made on campus during the past summer. One of those is the new nursing lab in room 817 of the Technical Arts building. This lab offers more space for the incoming class of 40 students. It also provides a more realistic setting for lab exercises.

The over-all opinion of those who will be using it and instructing in it is one of excitement. "It's wonderful," said Wanda Douglas, R.N., a nursing instructor. "It gives us plenty of storage space. We've received new modern hospital beds. They have built a nursing station, a medicine room, a dirty and clean work room, and a large supply room. These extras provide the necessary elements to create the realistic hospital environment for our students," she stated. This feeling is shared by the students as well. "I love it," said Andy Rhodes, a student of the 1994 nursing class. "It gives us the much needed space. I only wish it had been added last year — for us."

As the site of the class expanded, so did the need for a larger facility. The students of the nursing program sure have something to be proud of in this new lab.

— Bruce Monks

"Pens" And Needles

It was another quarter of "pens" and needles for the 1994 Associate Degree Nursing Class with the completion of summer marking the beginning of their second year. It was a challenging summer, but its conclusion signifies the "top of the hill" leaving only the trip down the other side to go.

Heavy course loads required serious "penmanship," leaving little time for the more traditional summer pastime of fellowship. The Adult Care Class itself comprised 11 credit hours and 20 contact hours. In addition, nursing students faced Microbiology, Sociology, and Writing Through Rhetoric, bringing the total to 21 credit hours and 32 contact hours. What a way to spend a summer vacation!

Now, as if that weren't enough, the "needles" came into play each Monday and Tuesday as students made their way to Winston-Salem's Forsyth Memorial Hospital for their clinical training.

"We received experience that we could not have gotten locally," said Richard Kirk of Mulberry. "But it was a rather long drive to get it," he added.

Students benefited from the diversity of care that Forsyth Memorial Hospital offers, including Neurosur-

gery, Orthopedics, General Surgery, and Oncology. That variety will better prepare them for the careers that lay ahead.

With all eyes set on graduation in May, student's approach the next quarter with the satisfaction of having come a long way and with hopes of swiftly passing future quarters.

— Bruce Monks

Student Profile

I didn't meet Woody until the third block of pre-calculus last summer. After a few days of class I began to wonder why he was even in there! To me, he was so far ahead of trigonometry that he would have been the envy of Isaac Newton! A close friend of mine, that was in the class as well, told me Woody was a superior alien. Probably from a planet in the far reaches of the galaxy! It was at this point that I had to get to know this fellow better. I was no stranger to higher math, and often times considered it to be my best subject. So, of course, mathematics dominated our initial conversations. We began studying and doing homework together. This soon became a spectator sport. As we did our assignments, our minds clashed, and heated debates occurred frequently. My foolish pride demanded that I prove him wrong. I was, as well, very rarely successful. I was never intimidated by Woody, though many people were. He represented the ultimate challenge. He became to me that spark that would, sooner or later, help me to the top.

Woody's name is actually Robert Woodside. He is the son of Francis and Beverly Woodside. He is an older student, but I still cannot convince him that I do not fall into that category! He attended Ragsdale High School, as well as UNC-G, with a strong emphasis on computer science. He has three children, Ziantha, Roberta Dawn, and Grayson, ages 18, 15, and 8 respectively. His future plans are to obtain a doctorate from NC State or UNC-Chapel Hill and perhaps teach at the university level.

Woody will no doubt accomplish a vast majority of the things he sets out to do. He is driven by a madness all too familiar. A need to understand everything that is possible to know. Ever expanding and ever seeking, he is a true companion to those who dare to know him.

He became my best friend in my toughest times. Do not cower down under his demands, for he asks no less of what you dream to be!

I demand no less thanks to Woody.

— Joe Correll