

A Final Word

Spring is a season of rebirth, new beginnings, and second chances and it has come to Wilkes Community College. As the daffodils and tulips open their faces to the sun and as the campus is washed clean by the Spring rains, a new generation of students readies itself for its own new beginning. The class of 1996 will have graduation services on Thursday, May 23, in the John A. Walker center. As new graduates of WCC they will have many further opportunities to grow and change, whether in the work force or in another school. Their experiences here at Wilkes have been worthwhile, and they have hopefully been well-prepared for the experiences that await them. As editors of the *Cougar Cry*, and as fellow graduates, we have come to know many of the students here and we have hopefully earned your friendship. Working for this publication has been an enlightening experience for us, and we appreciate all of the students, faculty, and staff we have worked with this year. Since this has been the first paper we have worked on, we apologize for any offense we might have given and for any mistakes we have made. We sincerely hope that the material covered by the *Cry* has been enjoyable and worth reading. Thanks to everyone at Wilkes Community College for supporting the *Cougar Cry*. Congratulations to the Class of 1996 and good luck to all returning students.

-Christy & Amber

Local Chapter Gets International Recognition

The Alpha Kappa Omega Chapter of Wilkes Community College was recognized recently for its outstanding accomplishments during the 1995-96 year. On April 18-20, two representatives of the WCC chapter attended the 78th Annual Phi Theta Kappa International Convention in Washington, D.C. During the Hallmark Awards Banquet, Alpha Kappa Omega won several awards, including: Distinguished Chapter, Robert Giles Distinguished Advisor, recognition for the Fellowship Essay, and was ranked number eighteen in the nation. To be considered for the Distinguished Chapter Award, chapters had to submit applications for the Hallmark Awards in Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Fellowship, and their scores for each award were averaged. Those chapters with the highest scores were recognized as Distinguished Chapters, and Alpha Kappa Omega placed with chapters from states such as Michigan, Colorado, Texas, California, Florida,

and Arizona. Dr. Josephine Hendrix was one of only twenty-nine advisors chosen from the advisors of over eleven hundred chapters, to win the Robert Giles Distinguished Advisor Award. Amber Burgess wrote a Fellowship essay that placed tenth out of over eleven hundred in the nation, and overall, Alpha Kappa Omega tied for eighteenth in the Top 100 Chapters.

Attending the convention were Christine Boulton, President of the chapter, and Kevin Gentry, Vice President of the North Carolina Region, both of Ashe. Kevin and Christine, along with members from the Alpha Kappa Omega's sister chapter from Wake Technical Community College in Raleigh, attended several discussions on the coming Honors Study Topic. The 1996-97 Honors Study Topic was: "Arts: The Landscape of Our Times," and speakers included: Sam Donaldson, Governor Kirk Fordice, Steve Allen, and several members of the House of Representatives.

When your heart has been pulverized to a powder,
And you feel it seething through the cracks,
Your mind seems as if answers will never come,
Your soul seems to have disintegrated,
And a second in time appears to never end.
Remember one thing:

Matthew: 17:20

**"If Ye Have Faith As A Grain Of Mustard Seed,
Nothing
Shall Be Impossible Unto Thee."**

by Jana Hall

WCC Profiles Chris Cheap



Chris Cheap

Perhaps the busiest instructor on the Wilkes Community College campus is the man in the white hat, Chris Cheap. Mr. Cheap is responsible for three degree programs on the campus: the Hotel-Restaurant Management program, the Foodservice Management program, and the Foodservice Specialist program. He also serves as a full-time instructor in the WCC Business Department.

Mr. Cheap earned his degrees in Foodservice Administration and in Business Administration from Morehead State University in Kentucky in 1979, where he received the Foodservice Student of the Year Award. Before becoming a part of the Wilkes Community College staff, he served as an instructor in the Continuing Edu-

cation Department teaching Basic Quantity Cooking and in curriculum division teaching foodservice courses at Catawba Valley Community College.

At Wilkes, aside from his regular teaching duties, Mr. Cheap advises the Ye Host Hospitality Management Club, which is a very active organization on campus. As advisor, he guides members of the organization in operating a working restaurant, known as the Tory Oak Room, on the WCC campus, and in providing five separate booths at the Eddy Merle Watson Memorial Festival. The money earned during the work at the Festival provides tuition for all active members in the Ye Host Club and earns the organization enough money to allow the students to attend the National Restaurant Association's show in Chicago, Illinois. While at the show, the students participate in a seven course gourmet dinner. This year's show will be on May 18 through May 22. When Ye Host students compete in culinary competitions, Mr. Cheap acts as their coach. In his further duties for the college, he serves on the Faculty Senate. Earlier in the year, Mr. Cheap was on the re-engineering committee that helped re-write the course descriptions for the Foodservice Management, Foodservice Specialist, and Hotel and Restaurant Management program in preparation for the upcoming changes to the semester system.

Mr. Cheap has been a part of the Wilkes Community College campus for the past eleven years, and he has done much to contribute to the campus environment.

Echo's of the Mountains: Ashe Campus

On the other side of the mountain lies a scenic region referred to as the High Country. Within Ashe's borders Wilkes Community College has an additional campus that gives a new outlook on the twenty-first century. Within this beauty and calmness a group of individuals finds a second home in the Ashe Campus of Wilkes Community College.

Recently the expansion of the college faculty has sparked into full action. The expansion according to Marla Miller, a WCC secretary, began in mid November and will hopefully be completed by May 3. The expansion of the campus consists of adding eleven new classrooms for the use of students and faculty.

On the other side of the innovations at Wilkes Community College is the creation of a consolidated high school near the campus. Wilkes Community College and the high school students in the near future will be closer than ever before. The creation of the consolidated high school and its proximity to Wilkes Community College Campus in Ashe will be beneficial. This will provide more opportunities for students in high school to gain college credit during their high school years.

Furthermore, the college also houses and supports the literacy league. According to Julie Smith, coordinator of the literacy league, they offer confidential, one-on-one tutoring services to people interested in learning how to read. They are also seeking individuals with patience and persistence to train as tutors. The training usually consists of 15 hours and many hands-on activities to give them an accurate idea of being tutors. (Think about it - Make a difference!!)

The Ashe County campus demonstrates the value WCC holds for the community. Wilkes Community College is assisting its students, future students, and the community. It is becoming an innovator heading toward the twenty-first century.

-Alido R. Cardó