

# Newspaper

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## \$18K Activities Budget Released Presently Un-Published Yearbook Allotted \$6000

by Amy Buckner

The Student Government Association released the proposed Student Activities budget for the 1996/97 school year last week.

The most significant increase in proposed funds for clubs was the paintball club whose budget jumped from \$630 this year to \$860 next year.

SGA president Karis Boyer emphasized, "I want to stress that this is just a proposed budget because we still haven't received budget requests from most clubs."

According to Student Activities Director Dave Sperry a committee consisting of the SGA president, SGA treasurer, Student Activities chair, and himself meet to discuss the breadth of the impact each club has on campus. They also request a completely itemized budget from each club that lists what they did with the money given to them last year and what they intend to do with the money set aside for them in the upcoming year.

"The paintball club was one of two clubs that put in budget requests and the only thoroughly itemized budget given. This is a club that can impact the entire campus whereas a club such as Alpha Chi

can only reach those students who are members. Since this is only the second year for the paintball club, their budget request was justified because they need more guns and they are trying to build up their equipment base. They have been borrowing guns from Camp Rockmont," Sperry remarked.

The residence hall floor fund is a new program that will allow each resident assistant a certain dollar amount (approximately \$3) for each resident on their floor. This will allow each hall to participate in an activity of their choice.

The International Students Club will fill the gap left by the absence of the ethnic diversity club. The money set aside for the production of the Agape yearbook and the Altheia newspaper is presently absorbed back into the college's operating expenses, however, Sperry is currently researching the idea of contributing that money to a fund for a new computer to produce the yearbook.

The proposed budget will move next to the executive committee of SGA and then to the SGA legislative branch.

"All students are paying for these things as a part of their tuition, so we want to make sure they benefit from these or-

ganizations and activities," Sperry concluded.

### Student Activities Proposed Budget 1996/97

Agape	\$6,000
Aletheia	\$150
Alphi Chi	\$500
Alpha Psi Omega	\$250
Anderson Hall	\$360
Davis Hall	\$210
FCA	\$200
Howerton Hall	\$210
International Stud.	\$200
Logos	\$3,200
Mcgregor Hall	\$120
NCAE	\$500
Off Campus	\$75
Paint Ball	\$860
Residence floor fund	\$500
SCA	\$1,000
SEEDS	\$300
SGA	\$3,600
SIFE	\$100
Student Act.	App. \$18,000

## Secondary Ed. Dept. Passes Accreditation

### Process

by Jeff Sheets

The Teacher Education Division underwent state and national accreditation examinations last week and passed with flying colors, but the final results will not be available until next fall.

The two groups that critiqued the program were the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NC-DPI) and the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).

The NC-DPI consists of 5 members that look strictly at the education programs of an academic institution.

"The 20 state standards (of NC-DPI) were all met which I find unusual," Teacher Education Program Director John Chesky informed. "Most of the time they find something that needs adjustment."

NCATE is made up of five professors from across the country who examine more than just the education program, but the other features of a college such as the overall academic program, financial status, presidential leadership, etc.

This group interviewed all senior education majors and even critiqued some students, such as Aaron Gabriel, while they were in teaching situations.

Gabriel, an English Education major, noted, "The interviews were intense. They really want to be sure they don't accredit a school that's not first rate."

Chesky remarked on the results, "Of the 20 standards NCATE requires, only two were not met sufficiently: diversity of faculty and diversity of students. Their philosophy is 'If you don't have a diversity on campus then it doesn't prepare the student for the classroom.'"

"NCATE has very rigorous standards. They look primarily at processes, not just products. You can have good students, but a bad program. When plans and process are not adequate or have not been demonstrated, a school doesn't receive accreditation."

Over the past five years, eight institutions have been denied in the state by NCATE.

Both groups informed the Teacher Education Division, which consists of English and History teaching routes, that the programs passed the overall accreditation process well above average, but only general remarks could be made at this time. The final decision on accreditation and the specifics of the two reports

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## Retention 14.1% Below Nation Improvements Expected for '96 Fall

by Shazette Davis

Administration has high expectations for the Fall 1996 semester. Changes and additions have been made to improve the academic program and to meet the students' needs.

The new minimum requirements for admissions are 2.25 for GPA, 860 for the SAT score, and 18 for the ACT score as opposed to the past requirement which were 2.0 for GPA, 740 for the SAT score, and 17 for the ACT Score.

Director of Admissions Nick Arnett comments on why the change was made, saying, "The academic rigor at Montreat is beyond a 2.0 student. It is felt that in an attempt to matriculate students who will better be able to graduate from Montreat, it is necessary to raise minimum standards. Furthermore, it is wrong in my opinion to encourage students to attend Montreat who do not have a 75% chance of success for the student, family, and the college," adding, "The emphasis for enrollment should be placed on retention, meaning that if the college provides the product and the services we promise and the students are successful, then satisfied customers will do the recruiting."

Approximately 165 new students are expected for Fall 1996 semester.

Arnett comments on the enrollment of minorities into the college, "Compared to other Coalition of Christian colleges Montreat has one of the highest minority student percentages, but

I am hopeful that we will be able to enroll an even greater number of minority students."

Coordinator of Student Success Dave Walters comments on the college's student retention, "This year retention will be better than previous years based on the fact that we've had very poor retention in the past. We've developed a retention program which consist of three major components: the Retention Council which consist of all Vice Presidents, key staff, faculty, and student leaders who meet once a month and focus on out of class and campus life, Freshman Seminar, which focuses on the transition from high school to college, which statistically, colleges around the United States who use this program have had significant increases in retention, and Early Alert, which focuses on academic matters and allows professors to contact me when students begin to have difficult academic situations and may require additional academic assistance."

The retention figures for Montreat College are not very impressive. The national retention rate for private 4 year colleges from freshman to sophomore year is 73.6%. Montreat's retention rate in past freshman to sophomore years has been 59.5%. In January, 84% of freshman who came in fall 1995 returned for spring semester. Only 34% of the seniors have been at Montreat since their freshman year.

## Wirtjes Resigns

by Jeff Sheets

Elizabeth Wirtjes, Associate Dean of Students, is resigning after this semester to pursue doctoral studies.

Wirtjes remarked, "During my time at Montreat God has really been good to me and the department in the last five years, but it's time to move on.

"I want to get a doctorate in Educational Leadership and Higher Education Administration. I plan to go part-time which will take six to seven years. Right now I'm leaning toward Stanford or Northwestern (for doctrinal studies)."

Since coming to Montreat in the fall of 1990, Wirtjes has held many hats. Twice she was Anderson Hall's RD while assuming Career Counselor duties, one year under the title of Director of Career Development, the next year Director of Residence Life, and the past two years she has been the Associate Dean.

"I feel really prepared going into the program," Wirtjes said. "I feel I got the doctorate training from Him (God) here."

Wirtjes received her undergraduate training at Wheaton, majoring in Communications, and obtained a Master's in Communications from Northern Illinois University.

The smiling Wirtjes added, "I never intended to go into student development, but a mentor saw my gifts and advised me to."