

## Legislative Update

The 2001 North Carolina legislative session lasted 317 days at a cost to taxpayers of about \$20.2 million.

("Session's End Grants One Holiday Wish," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, December 11, 2001.)

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In case you wonder where the \$20 million went, members of the Senate received \$50,333 in total compensation (on average); members of the House of Representatives received \$56,034.

All rank-and-file legislators receive base pay of \$13,951 per year. Per diem and expense allowances are added to this. Legislators are eligible for \$104 per day for per diem expenses; they may collect this seven days per week, even if they are not in Raleigh. Legislators usually come to Raleigh on Monday afternoon and leave early Thursday afternoon; however, they may still collect \$728 per week for a few days' work.

Legislators also have two expense allowances — travel and office expenses. With the exception of Wake County residents, they are reimbursed for travel to and from Raleigh. They also receive \$559 per month for office expenses, even though they receive a supply of personalized letterhead and envelopes and \$1,800 per biennium for postage and long-distance phone calls. Staff salaries are funded out of the appropriations budget and do not have to be covered from this allowance. Legislators are not required to turn in receipts showing how they spent the money.

In a chart showing the compensation awarded to a sample of legislators, Wilma Sherrill received \$60,726.60 for her services and Stephen Metcalf received \$55,038.00 total compensation. House and Senate leaders receive even larger salaries and compensation packages. Total compensation for all 170 legislators was \$6,555,959.07.

SEANC Executive Director Dana Cope commented, "It isn't fair that legislators are compensated in this manner when state employees

actually suffered a loss in pay this year due to increased health care costs. At a time when state agencies budgets are being cut to the bone, employees' jobs are being threatened, and working conditions are at an all-time low, it is shameful to see all this waste. Legislators should be reimbursed like state employees, then it wouldn't be so attractive to come to Raleigh and stay, and it would save taxpayer dollars."

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## CSAC Scholarship Winners

**Rob Schoen and Steve Cooke** are the recipients of the CSAC scholarship award of \$1,391 for spring 2002.

Rob is a senior Atmospheric Sciences and Applied Mathematics major. He currently has a 3.5 GPA, and his volunteer efforts include helping with the UNCA Bicycle Club and working at the Whitewater Cove foster home in Brevard.

Steve is majoring in Business Administration and is currently a sophomore. He has maintained a 3.2 GPA while donating time to help with the physical therapy of a boy with

cerebral palsy and also volunteering with Relay for Life and the *Asheville Citizen-Times* Half Marathon.

Winners of the fall 2002 CSAC scholarships will be announced before the end of the semester. Contributions to the CSAC Scholarship Fund may be sent to Phyllis Davis, CPO #1890. A donation of \$5 is suggested, but all contributions, no matter how small, make a big difference. The generosity of the many who have contributed, and continue to do so, has made a difference in the lives of several UNCA students. We thank you.

**Rob Schoen**



**Steve Cooke**



# Chancellor's Staff Advisory Committee

(Continued from other side)

(*The Reporter*, January 2002. Sources include the General Assembly's Legislative Services Office and a special report issued by the North Carolina Citizens for Business and Industry.)

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The average annual wage for a government employee in Buncombe County in 2000 was \$32,862. The average annual salary for Buncombe County was \$27,662.

("A Look at Jobs in the Region," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, Sunday, March 3, 2002.)

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Nearly 63 percent of UNCA employees (SPA) make less than \$27,662, the Buncombe County overall average. Over 79 percent of UNCA employees (SPA) make less than \$32,862, the Buncombe County average for a government

employee. In 2001, the percentage of UNCA employees making less than the Buncombe County overall average was 61 percent.

(UNCA Office of Institutional Research Statistics, Spring 2001.)

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The State contributes 1.97 percent into the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System Pension Fund. It contributes 23.2 percent to the Legislative System Pension Fund and 14.05 percent to the Consolidated Judicial System Pension Fund.

("What Good Have They Accomplished?," *The Reporter*, December 2001.)

## Mark Your Calendar!

The 2002 UNCA Faculty/Staff Summer Picnic is set for Thursday, July 25. There will be food, fun, and a return of the highly successful yard sale to benefit the CSAC Scholarship Fund. It's spring cleaning time, and you're certain to discover items you can live without. Bring them to Freda Cooper at the Bookstore. Remember: "One man's junk is another man's treasure"!



## Printing Services Gets New Home

Although located on the outskirts of campus, the little blue building at the end of Campus Drive houses an integral part of university life. Surprisingly, this new home of UNCA Printing Services offers 1,000 more square feet than was available in its Zageir Hall location. If you missed Printing Services' open house, or haven't yet been down to visit, it's worth the trip.

Cindy Branton, Printing Services director, is the meticulous planner of this comfortable, efficient facility. The change presented a bit of a challenge, says Cindy, but she and the Printing Services staff—office assistant Elizabeth Hickman, graphic designer Nanette Johnson, and a team of work-study students—are happy with their new space. A new convenient and cost-saving feature of the building is the loading dock. Previously, suppliers were charging Printing Services, which is receipt-funded, a fee to unload and deliver.

The Copy Center, located behind Café Ramsey in the library,

provides Printing Services an on-campus presence. This is the place to go for quick or small copy jobs, or to drop off larger projects. If you want to "shop" paper colors, you'll find the same selection as at Printing Services. Nova Stuart-Jamerson and Louise Ray are the Copy Center staff.

Printing Services recently installed two drop boxes—one outside the Copy Center and one outside the new blue building—which allow you to drop off jobs before or after regular business hours. This is especially handy if you are traveling on Campus Drive to and from work. Also for your convenience, completed jobs will be delivered to you (on request) from Printing Services.

The folks at Printing Services are happy to show visitors around their new facility and explain the setup. There is plenty of parking available, but if you suffer from "cabin fever" on a warm spring day, you can walk down and visit the blue building and its occupants.

## Did You Know?

### The Good News

The following is a "Did You Know" we are truly happy to report. It reflects the UNCA community at its best. On March 12, 2002, an urgent message was e-mailed to campus requesting shared leave for one of the employees. As an evening-shift housekeeper, this gentleman was relatively unknown to most of UNCA. However, by the following afternoon, 580 hours of shared leave had been offered and Human Resources cut off donations. In addition, a faculty member volunteered to pay the employee's insurance if necessary—continuing evidence that this is a campus of good and caring people.