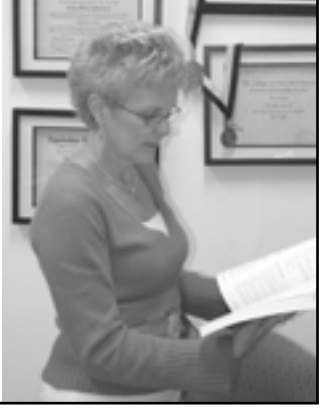


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Jonathan Williams | The Appalachian

SGA President Miriam N. Makhyoun (right) and Secretary H. Elizabeth Yokley (center) speak with Jamen K. Miller, vice-president of financial affairs for the Association of Student Governments (ASG) and a student of N.C. State University, talk before Student's Day at the Capitol Wednesday in Raleigh, N.C.

Students voice concerns during day at the capitol

ANNA OAKES
Senior Staff Writer

Students from across the state traveled to Raleigh, N.C. yesterday, braving cold temperatures and high winds to voice concerns to legislators about higher education.

The event was called "Students' Day at the Capitol" and was hosted by the Association of Student Governments, a student body representing the 16 schools of the University of North Carolina system.

"One of our big goals is to give students the opportunity to meet face-to-face with representatives," ASG President Amanda M. Devore said. "The most important thing today is telling your story."

Devore is a graduate student attending North Carolina State University.

As part of the event, students met with legislators throughout the day to discuss issues facing students in the UNC system. At 11 a.m., students and speakers gathered at Halifax Mall for an outdoor rally.

Appalachian State University Student Government Association President Miriam N. Makhyoun said the event

was "more educational" and not a protest. Makhyoun and SGA Secretary H. Elizabeth Yokley served as the "lead team" from Appalachian.

SGA Sergeant-at-Arms Jamian C. Polk, Rules Director Chris R. Pereira, Cannon Residence Hall Senator Jada L. Jonas, off-campus Sen. Travis G. Page and senior international and comparative politics major Gary J. McCoy also represented Appalachian in Raleigh, N.C.

"It's an important opportunity to voice direct concerns to the people who make the most influential decisions concerning students in the university system," McCoy said.

Approximately 100 students gathered in a huddle of coats and signs to rally on Halifax Mall.

Rep. Alma Adam, a democrat from District 58, gave a rousing speech at the rally.

"Power is what makes a difference in lives and communities," Adams said. "You don't ask for it - you take it, students!"

Students were encouraged to emphasize key issues currently affecting UNC system students.

These include funding for enrollment growth, fund-

ing for financial aid, faculty and staff salary increases, obtaining a student vote on the UNC Board of Governors, same day voter registration, and lowering the age eligibility to run for office from 21 to 18.

Rep. Gene Wilson, a republican from District 82, agreed there should be a student vote on the Board of Governors. Wilson is a native of Boone and owner of the Daniel Boone Inn restaurant.

"I think you need your young people involved and your senior citizens involved," Wilson said.

Rep. Jim Harrell, a democrat from District 90, said he supports same-day voter registration, but doubts the age to run for office will be lowered to 18.

"I applaud anyone who tries at any age, and I would be open-minded [to lowering the age limit]," Harrell said.

Harrell was less clear about financial aid.

"We're in a budget shortfall," he said. Harrell said the half-cent increase in sales tax expected to occur this summer might help alleviate the financial aid burden.

A state lottery, however, "is a real poor way to raise revenue," he said.

Peacock to Rotary: 'Edwin-Duncan needs to come down'

JUSTIN BOULMAY
Senior Staff Writer

Chancellor Kenneth E. Peacock addressed Appalachian State University alumni and members of the North Wilkesboro Rotary Club Monday night and shared his goals for Appalachian.

"My task as the new guy ... is to not mess it up, because it's already good," Peacock said at the beginning of his speech.

One idea Peacock shared with the group was his desire to tear down and rebuild Edwin-Duncan Hall, where Appalachian's education classes are held.

"I was in Raleigh last week making a case for this: we need a new College of Education building," Peacock said. "Edwin-Duncan needs to come down."

The building has been in use since 1964.

The condition of the building does not reflect Appalachian's value on training students to be teachers, Peacock said.

"When you tell a young person 'this is an important task,' and you go to Duncan, it looks like we're not really giving it its emphasis," he said. "I firmly believe it is time for the College of Education programs to have a new facility."

Peacock said Tuesday he wants to get \$5 million from the North Carolina General Assembly for the initial state of the project. The total cost for rebuilding Edwin-Duncan is projected to be \$35 million.

The university will not know for a while if they will receive the money. The N.C. General Assembly is currently in long-session and is expected to adjourn in June.

After missing out on direct appropriations for campus construction projects last semester, Peacock said Appalachian should get some money.

Beth E. Koplin, a senior special education major, said she would like to see a new building.



Jonathan Williams | The Appalachian

Chancellor Kenneth E. Peacock addressed the Wilkesboro Rotary Club Monday night.

"It would be nice to have a new building," Koplin said. "I know they need to add more handicapped spaces to doorways."

Peacock said there was a need for cooperation between Appalachian and Wilkesboro Community College.

"We've got to work together



Hugh Kellenberger | Associate Editor

Edwin-Duncan Hall has been open for 40 years. Chancellor Kenneth E. Peacock spent last week in Raleigh pushing to tear down and rebuild the department of education building.

er to make sure there's not competition, but cooperation," Peacock said. "That's the only thing that will move us forward."

He also said the university still has not decided what to do with the 60-acre Edmisten property.

The university purchased

the land last semester and has held off on deciding whether to build a new foot-

Continued on page 2

Winter blast clean-up



Trey Allman | The Appalachian

Physical Plant workers work tediously to remove a tree stump without further damaging an exposed cable. The stump is a left-over from the winter blast of two weeks ago.

28 ASU students deployed

JENNIFER SCHNEIDER
Staff Writer

Appalachian State University is working hard to stay connected to its students, even if those students are miles away and fighting in a war.

Appalachian has 28 students deployed overseas. Of those 28, 26 are in Iraq and two are in Kuwait.

Although the process may be taxing, Appalachian State is doing all it can to stay connected with the students and make their transitions back to campus as easy as possible, Dean of Students and Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Development Susie L. Greene said.

"We are trying very, very hard to let them know that we are connected with them and that we are just a phone call or an e-mail away," Greene said.

One way the university is showing its support is by sending care packages to students in combat.

The first packages were

sent last semester.

The packages contained basic supplies such as hand sanitizer, shaving cream and non-perishable foods.

Assistant Director of Residence Life Diane Brittingham said the university wanted to send the students things they may not see on a regular basis while overseas.

The boxes also contained letters from the Appalachian family to let the students know they are appreciated and not forgotten.

Brittingham said they have received e-mails and phone calls from soldiers and their parents thanking the university.

Appalachian hopes to send care packages to soldiers every semester from now on and the university is currently working on plans to send another batch in March.

Once the students get back from active duty, a new transition awaits them as their environment will change from combat to an academic mindset.

"I've met with a couple of

them and offered our services, to see how things are going," Greene said.

Appalachian State offers counseling and other services to students returning from combat.

Junior criminal justice major Sean C. Fagan said that each deployed student's transition back into the university setting is different. Fagan was deployed to Iraq with the Marines in December 2003 and returned October 2004.

He said his transition back to the university was not that difficult.

"I have been really impressed with Appalachian and how smooth it was," Fagan said. "Getting back to school was no hassle at all."

He said he settled back into classes and his RA job without any problems.

Anyone interested in assisting with the preparations of the boxes that will be sent out in March should contact Campus Resident Student Association at 262-7591.