

New program to have the 'write' stuff

By Kelly Mayo
News Editor

Incoming students are about to face a whole new level of writing instruction at UNCP.

The Writing Intensive Program (WIP) will introduce Writing Enriched (WE) and Writing for the Disciplines (WD) courses in each department on campus.

Students will need to take three of these courses in addition to first-year composition in order to graduate.

The program requirements will begin with this year's freshmen and transfer students.

Current sophomores, juniors and seniors will not be required to take the WE and WD courses.

The WIP is part of the Quality Enhancement Program (QEP), which was developed by a committee of 10 UNCP faculty members in order to meet requirements for the school's accreditation.

Campus overhaul

QEP co-chair and Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Planning Dr. Elizabeth Normandy described the process of implementing the WIP. She said that during the 2010-11 school year, the WE and WD courses were added to the graduation requirements, faculty applied to teach the courses and then those faculty went through training to "beef up" their course writing.

Dr. Normandy said there are currently 16 instructors teaching 19 WIP courses. She hopes there will be 25 courses by the spring 2012 semester.

Dr. Normandy explained that the WE requirements will be injected into existing lower-division courses and are "designed to build on English 105 and 106."

She also said that new upper-division courses will be created to teach WD writing, which focuses on major-specific writing techniques.

For example, Director of Composition Dr. Anita Guynn said that the Department of English and Theater has introduced a course this semester called Writing in the Fine Arts, taught by Dundee Lackee, which will be a WD course.

Dr. Normandy also explained how technology will apply to the new program. She said that courses will be marked as WE or WD when students register for the spring 2012 semester.

She also said that

BraveWeb will track whether students have fulfilled all of their WIP requirements for graduation.

Additionally, Dr. Normandy said that new software is being tested to assess students' writing and aggregate data so that students will not have to make portfolios for their professors.

Dr. Normandy said the nursing department has been "ahead of the game" by improving its writing requirements before the WIP was finalized.

She also praised how the departments of History and English and Theater, as well as the School of Education, have eased into the WIP.

However, the transition to the new program has not been completely smooth. Dr. Normandy said that the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science had one professor teaching several WIP courses this semester.

Still, Dr. Normandy was happy with the overall faculty response to the WIP.

"The faculty are ecstatic about it...It's kind of scary, it's going so well," she said.

'A national problem'

Dr. Normandy said that the WIP came about after a survey asking faculty what academic area should be improved for students came back with "writing" as the overwhelming answer.

"It's built based on faculty's perception on what needs attention...Every student who graduates from here should be able to communicate effectively in writing," she said.

Writing abilities also stretch beyond the classroom. Dr. Normandy said that most employers require good writing skills, but many are dissatisfied with their employees' writing.

"It's a national problem. We're just trying to take a piece of it," Dr. Normandy said.

Dr. Guynn agreed that writing needs to be improved among students.

She said that students may write a lot in first-year composition, then may not need to write much in their upper-division classes, only to get blown away when it is time for them to make a senior project or write a thesis.

Dr. Guynn said writing is a skill that can constantly improve. She said that she still learned more about writing when she worked on her dissertation in her 40s.

"Writing abilities build over time...You're never really finished as a writer," she said.



Inflatables sit in the tailgating lot as part of the Homecoming festivities in 2009. Homecoming week 2011 is anchored by the UNCP football game on Oct. 8 at 2 p.m.

Students pepped up for 2011 homecoming

By Chantel Moore
Around the Campus Editor
Brittany Davis
Staff Writer

A lot of organizations on campus have been working hard planning one of the university's highlighted events of the school year—homecoming Oct. 3-8.

The most anticipated event is the homecoming football game.

The UNCP Braves football team will be playing Tusculum College Pioneers on Oct. 8 at 2 p.m. on Lumbree Guaranty Bank Field.

There will be tailgating from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. in general parking lot 14.

The Association of Campus Entertainment (ACE) and the Office of Student Involvement and Leadership will have a tent set up with free food.

Senior Martin Boykin and junior Carl Simpson said the highlight of this

week will be the UNCP pep rally and cookout Oct. 6.

"I go to the pep rally every year. I haven't seen a lot of flyers about the rest of the homecoming events, but I know I'll probably attend most of the activities," Boykin said.

Another event will be the women's volleyball team playing Catawba Indians at the Jones Health and Physical Education Building Oct. 4 at 7 p.m. This will be the team's 19th game this season.

There will be more than athletic events to keep everyone entertained during the week.

Sophomore Tiffany McCall said that she was definitely looking forward to attending the Slam Poetry contest hosted by ACE at the UC annex on Oct. 3 starting at 9 p.m.

ACE Traditions Committee chair and 2010 Homecoming Queen

Shaketa Williams said that her committee has been planning homecoming activities since May.

"Everything is falling into place like it's supposed to," Williams said.

Grammy Award winning music group Kool and The Gang will be performing at the Givens Performing Arts Center on Oct. 7 at 8 p.m.

Tickets range from \$15-40 for the general public, and \$12 for children or students. UNCP student tickets are \$5 and faculty and staff tickets are \$15.

Along with the concert, there will be a homecoming dance on Oct. 7 from 10 p.m. until 2 a.m. in the UC Lounge.

There will also be a step show on Oct. 8 from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. in GPAC.

For dates and times of more events, visit <http://www.uncp.edu/homecoming/schedule/>.

Dr. Canada hopes 2+2 will equal new benefits

By Kelly Mayo
News Editor

Dr. Mark Canada began the 2011 school year with a new position and a new project.

The new Acting Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences created the 2+2 Program this semester with the goal of connecting students with faculty members who can help them throughout their college lives.

Dr. Canada explained that as part of the program a UNCP faculty member would invite a colleague and two students to an event on campus. He said that by doing this, the faculty members build familiarity and trust with students, and the students receive confidants in faculty members.

The acting dean has already accompanied colleagues and students to several events this semester. He went to the year's first

science seminar with Dr. Meredith Storms of the chemistry and physics department and two of her students. He also went to Constitution Day Sept. 16 with Dr. Scott Billingsley of the history department and a student.

Dr. Canada said he will go to the "Al Norte El Sur" art exhibit with Dr. Jeff Lucas of the history department Sept. 26. He also pointed out Pembroke Day as a good 2+2 opportunity.

To help promote 2+2, Dr. Canada said he will send his colleagues in the College of Arts and Sciences a "Tip of the Week" to help them make the program work, such as pairing older and younger students together for events.

Dr. Canada said that he will promote 2+2 mainly among Arts and Sciences faculty, but that faculty from any college or department is welcome to partici-

pate. Dr. Canada quoted research that stated interaction with faculty was more effective a sign than entering GPA when measuring student achievement.

Dr. Canada explained other benefits 2+2 could bring to UNCP. He said that getting to know their professors outside of class may make students more willing to go to them with problems or concerns. He also said the program may boost attendance at campus events.

"It's a good way to get people involved and engaged on campus," he said.

Dr. Canada said the 2+2 Program can promote a sense of community and provide an opportunity for students and professors to talk about such subjects as choosing a major and post-graduation plans.

"A lot of that conversation doesn't take place in the classroom," he said.

CCE uses food drive to educate campus, area

By Dustin Porter
Managing Editor

Civic and Community Engagement's annual Can the Van Food Drive began on Sept. 12 and will end on Sept. 28.

Christine Poteet, associate director for CCE, said the food drive serves as an opportunity to raise awareness about hunger in Robeson County and the organizations that are work-

ing to end it.

The Robeson County Church and Community Center served over 1,800 families in Robeson County last year, Poteet said.

"As people are donating food, which is a simple way to give back, we make sure they know how important their donation and contribution is to the people in our community," Poteet said.

She added Lumberton Ford provides CCE with a

van and joins them at Pembroke Day to inform people about the food drive and the Church and Community Center.

Poteet said student and community members can donate food, but more importantly they can become more involved in the "fight against hunger in Robeson County."

"Over 30 percent of our population lives below the poverty line. It is our re-

sponsibility as members of this community to do something about this shocking statistic," Poteet said.

She added that it is hard to measure the success of a food drive, and CCE evaluates the success of the food drive by its impact.

Poteet said CCE measures the success of the food drive not only by calculating how much food they collected and how many people they feed, but "more

importantly" asking themselves the following questions:

- Did we educate our campus about the issues facing our community?
- Did we tell them how to end the cycle of poverty?
- Did we provide them with opportunities to be active and engaged citizens?

"If the answer is yes to any of those questions, the food drive was successful," Poteet said.