



# the Seahawk

"Excellence Through Truth and Dedication"



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Erica Pittelkow, left, is sworn in as SGA Vice-president by outgoing Vice-president Nathan Powell last Monday. Pittelkow is the acting SGA president until a winner is declared in this week's held-over election.

## New SGA presidential election today, Thursday

*Other officers inaugurated last week*

by THOMAS M. RUYLE  
*Editor-in-Chief*

The Student Government Association (SGA) presidential election resumes today after a three-week delay caused by the disqualification of all three original candidates.

Katie Russell, Lee Keenen and Laura Southerland were each disqualified during the original elections for various violations of campaign policies.

Russell was given a warning for using SGA materials and facilities in her campaign on March 17 and disqualified April 6 for campaigning too close to the Wagoner Hall polling station. Keenen was cited April 4 for posting campaign materials on a non-public bulletin board in the University Union and posting materials too close together in the Warwick Center. Southerland failed to provide her expenditure report forms by 11 a.m. April 7, which resulted in automatic disqualification.

All three candidates filed appeals for the disqualifications. They were heard by the special Election Appeals Committee made up of President Patrick Gunn, Vice-president Nathan Powell, Attorney General Christian Kilgore and Senior Class President Shane Fernando as the chairman. The committee upheld all three disqualifications, at which point a new election was organized.

Potential candidates have until today at 5p.m. to file their election packets at the SGA office. The candidates will meet at 7 p.m. to discuss election guidelines, and will begin campaigning immediately afterward.

Southerland, who will not run in the new election, said, "They (the appeals committee) did the best they could, but it was a little rushed." Her former opponents, Russell and Keenen, will campaign again.

Russell said the new election should go smoother this time around.

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## Recreation center open for business

by SOMER STAHL  
*Staff Writer*

The long awaited Student Recreation Center officially opened on Tuesday, April 11. UNCW students, faculty, staff, alumni and other community members joined Chancellor James R. Leutze and Campus Recreation in a ribbon cutting ceremony, marking the grand opening of this facility.

"I think this [recreation center opening] says volumes about our students body. About their generosity, about their willingness to dig deep, their willingness to think beyond the moment, to think beyond their own instant gratification and to do what's good for the university and what's going to be good for their fellow students," Leutze said.

Patricia L. Leonard, vice chancellor of student affairs, provided the welcome at the opening for a large crowd including the UNCW Pep Band and Seahawk mascot.

"I can tell you that the staff and the student workers for both our campus recreation and wellness programs have been working diligently to get everything moved in and ready," she said.

Construction of the new Student Recreation Center began in September 1998. The project cost \$8.2 million and was paid for with student fees. In 1994, the UNCW Student Government Association, acting on behalf of the student body, approved a student fee increase to fund construction of the center. The building encompasses 64,400 square feet and has two floors.

Inside the building, a 6,000-square-foot fitness center is joined by a sports forum with three multipurpose courts, a 2,200-square-foot exercise room, an elevated track with three lanes and a 28-foot climbing wall. The building also houses locker rooms, the Discover Resource Center, a training room, Wellness Services, Campus Recreation Administration, and a lounge.

The center will open weekdays at 6 a.m. On Monday through Thursday, the center will close at 11 p.m. and on Fridays at 9 p.m. The facility will be available on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and on Sundays from 1 p.m. to 11 p.m.

"The Campus Recreation Program now has the capability to offer all students the opportunity to work out and exercise as many as seventeen hours a day, compared to the seven hours they had in Hanover Gym," Leonard said.

During the ceremony, Rec Center Director Rex Pringle offered

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Chancellor James Leutze addresses students and faculty at the grand opening of the Student Recreation Center on April 11. The 64,400-square-foot facility took over a year to build at a cost of \$8.2 million in student fees. State-of-the-art exercise equipment, an indoor track, and a climbing wall are available for use by students and faculty.