

Lakeside Student Center

Renovation of 'Old Gym' Completed

Chowan College has a new student center and its many features are impressing students, faculty and staff and visitors alike.

Alumni and other friends returning to Chowan are surprised to learn that the "new" Lakeside Student Center is really the "old" gym. The facility was made available as a student center with the opening of the Jesse Helms Physical Education Center in September, 1980.

Alumni remember the old gym as a worn-out facility that was too small to accommodate the needs of Chowan's athletic teams and student body.

"Unbelievable"

But as they look at the present student center, they have been heard to exclaim, "I can't believe this is the old gym," and "It's unbelievable."

One of the major surprises is the amount of space available for a student center. This was accomplished by stripping the gym of its interior walls, bleachers and fixtures. For all practical purposes, this served to enlarge the facility.

Visitors are also impressed with the many modern features. These include a large television room, conference room, electronic video game room, offices for staff and Student Government Association, post office, and space for ping pong tables.



After The old gymnasium takes on a new look as it becomes Lakeside Student Center. An additional entrance has been provided, along with other exterior improvements.

The basketball floor, which was left intact, provides space for rollerskating, dances, concerts, movies, parties, and receptions.

Special Feature

A special feature is a balcony, with stairwells at either side, which overlooks

the basketball floor on three sides. The use of brick for floors and interior walls adds to the appeal, as does a new coat of paint on the outside.

The student center was remodeled by Jack Hassell, superintendent of buildings and grounds; Steve Davenport, assistant

superintendent; and the maintenance staff at considerable savings to the college.

The acceptance by the students has been tremendous, according to Miss Linda Owens, director of campus programming.

She said students flocked to the student center after its opening on April 23. She said further improvements have been planned by the SGA including purchase of a wide screen television. The SGA has already provided 50 pairs of skates.

"This is an all-purpose building. In addition to all of the recreational activities, many other activities will be offered the students in the student center including special interest groups, discussions, seminars and conferences," Owens remarked.

Meets "Real Need"

She said the building meets a real need among Chowan's students. "Never before have we been able to offer the scope of activities and functions that we are able to offer in this building."

She said summer session and Upward Bound students and summer campers are making good use of the facility this summer.

Owens announced the student center will open during the fall semester at 8 a.m. with recreational activities available from 1-11 p.m. "An adult staff member will be on duty all the time the center is opened," she explained. Colin Steele, counselor for organized groups functions, and Mrs. Garnet Moore, secretary, also will have offices in the center.

Chowan students also have high praise for the new student center. Rising sophomore Kim Little of Norfolk, Va., attending the summer session, said the student center "is a place to meet." Lynda Ryan, rising sophomore from Richmond, Va., agreed. "When it was opened in the spring, I made friends with several students I hadn't met before.

She said you can study at a table on the balcony and then enjoy one of the activities for a break.

Kim said the student center "is very popular with students. They really like it."



THE LAST GAME—The last basketball game has been played on the floor of the old gymnasium. It is now used for

roller skating, dances and other student activities. The interior has been completely remodeled.