

Open House Gives UNCW a Chance to Shine

University Day was held on the Campus of UNCW on Saturday, March 26, 1983. The crowds who came to the giant open house were able to see just what the university has been up to lately, as it has grown tremendously since its beginnings in the 1940s.

Faculty demonstrated many of the experiments they perform and showed people some of what they are teaching their students as well. Some of the more popular demonstrations included a check of people's biorhythms by a physics professor, and a hologram in the department of chemical and physical sciences. Several groups in the department of creative arts provided music and entertainment in the courtyard of the new University Union. A helium balloon showed everyone just where to find the Union, since it was floating about 150 feet directly above the building.

The University Union was officially opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Susan Nye, 1983 homecoming queen, and Steve Schmidt, SGA president, cut the ribbon while students and other participants cut smaller pieces of a gigantic green and gold ribbon which encircled the building.

UNCW classes of 1958 and 1963 came back for their reunions on University Day. Other alumni, including sorority alumni, were welcomed back as well.

Tours were run for anyone who wanted to see what the campus looks like now, taking people to all parts of campus, including the newest buildings such as the Union and the Social and Behavioral Sciences Building.

"This has really grown!" said one alumna as she walked through some of the 600 acres of UNCW. "I remember when there were just three buildings, and the library was in Alderman," said another alumnus who graduated when Alderman, Hoggard and James Halls were the only buildings on campus.



The UNCW Gospel Choir sang in the courtyard of the newly-opened University Union.

Steve Schmidt, then SGA president, and Susan Nye, 1983 UNCW homecoming queen, cut the ribbon to officially open the Union.



Abby Hastings, assistant dean of students, helped inflate a yellow helium balloon which floated over the union.



Leila Henderson, a former UNCW employee, receives a hug from Chancellor William H. Wagoner at the opening ceremonies.



People were able to visit a variety of faculty demonstrations on University Day. Above, a girl watches the antics of a blue crab. Below, Dr. Tim Haywood demonstrates how a computer and a laser beam team up to make music.



Dr. William H. Wagoner, UNCW chancellor, and Dr. Hubert Eaton, Sr., chairman of the board of trustees of UNCW, share a moment of laughter at the opening ceremonies on University Day.



Ralph Parker, director of minority affairs, stands a head taller than most people in the crowd that watched the festivities.



William M. Bryan, a 1966 UNCW graduate, talks to the crowd attending the dedication of the Morton Hall auditorium, which was named in his honor. Dr. Wagoner looks on.



(Left to right) Fred Graham, former UNCW trustee; B.D. Schwartz, current UNCW trustee; and Ralph Roper, Wilmington city councilman, attended the festivities during University Day.

The crowds were large at the roulette wheel at the alumni social, held the night after University Day.

