

Wilmington Benefits When UNCW Hosts Special Olympics

UNCW doesn't have to wait four years between Olympics. Every year since 1973, in the spring and the fall, the Special Olympics for the mentally handicapped are held, sponsored by the Wilmington Parks and Recreation Department. For the past two years, the Special Olympics of Wilmington have been held on the UNCW campus.

Syvaughn White, a recreation specialist with Wilmington Parks and Recreation and the coordinator for New Hanover County Special Olympics, says, "It was the best thing I ever did when I moved the games to UNCW. The students and everyone else on campus have been very supportive of our efforts."

UNCW students help with the games in all sorts of capacities. Many become trainers for those who will later compete in the games. Marty Hernandez, a senior majoring in therapeutic recreation, has been a trainer for the basketball event held in the fall. Her job required her to go to two elementary schools each week for six weeks, where she taught the Olympics hopefuls everything they needed to know about basketball and the event. "It is very rewarding," says Marty. "I feel like I'm on top of the world when I teach these kids."

Some Special Olympians train harder and longer than others. Such as Ashley Smith, age 10, and Elaine Walker, 13, who swam their way to the international Special Olympics, sponsored by the Kennedy Foundation in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, July 11-15, by winning in the Wilmington Olympics and placing in the state competition in Greensboro in May. Elaine came back to Wilmington with two bronze medals for third place, and a green ribbon for fifth. Ashley also garnered two bronze medals, plus a silver medal for second place in one event. "The girls did super," said White. "The level of competition was so keen, but both Ashley and Elaine swam superbly."

"Not everybody can win," says White, "but these kids know that. We don't push them toward competition, but they definitely have a will to win. And they have fun at the same time."

This spring, the track and field events were held near Brooks Field on the UNCW campus. Even the Seahawk mascot was there. UNCW students from several departments—recreation, education, psychology, sociology, and more—helped with the events or acted as clowns to cheer on the athletes.

A Special Olympian does her best in the frisbee toss as her coach watches intently.



UNCW students watch and cheer as Special Olympian twirls her hula hoop.

Hula hooping, frisbee tossing, running, jumping—all this and more, all in an atmosphere of "do your best and have fun doing it."

There are shades of UNCW in all parts of the Special Olympics program in Wilmington. Dr. Charles Lewis, chairman of the department of health, physical education and recreation, is the 1983-84 president of the New Hanover County Special Olympics Advisory Board. Dr. Tom Skalko, assistant professor in the HPER department, is on the program and games committee. And students act as volunteers for the Special Olympics both before and during the games.

Dr. Skalko has been involved with Special Olympics "almost as long as I can remember; really since the early '70s." He has been active with the Wilmington games since he arrived two years ago. "We gear the Olympics towards providing a normalized experience for these kids," says Skalko. "Our primary emphasis is on participation and involvement. But the athletes also learn motor skills as well as social skills such as cooperation, teamwork and controlling their temper. The Special Olympics is not just a sport or a game. It is a total learning experience for everyone involved," continued Skalko. The Special Olympics is "really a community effort, and it's good for UNCW, the community, the participants, and all those students who volunteer to help," Skalko emphasized.

Joe Ferguson, a UNCW commercial recreation major who has been active in Special Olympics for

some time, says, "If I could have every day like the day of the Olympics, it'd be great!" The senior's enthusiasm shows even when he's simply talking about the subject. "I never knew what Special Olympics were until I saw a sign for a meeting and decided to try it. I was hooked! It's more than enjoyable—it's great. I love it!" According to Joe, "Everyone should be involved in Special Olympics at least one time in their lives."

Tom Skalko probably summed it up best for all those involved when he said, "I am a believer in Special Olympics!"

A helping hand at the Special Olympics makes everyone involved feel good!



1983-84 Budget Request Reflects Increase in Services

What does it take to operate the academic programs at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington? Budgetwise, about \$18.5 million for the fiscal year 1983-84. That is the amount administrators at the UNCW campus requested from the UNC board of governors. Of that amount, \$15.3 million will be state-appropriated; the remaining \$3.2 million will come through tuition and other academic fees.

Included in the \$18.5 million is a substantial "change" budget to increase services on the campus. According to Dr. Jairy C. Hunter, Jr., vice chancellor for business affairs and development, the funds from this change budget are targeted for

two major new projects at UNCW. The first is the acquisition of a "super-mini" computer system and software for academic and administrative programs. This new system will include two large mini computers, one for academic programs and one for administrative programs. There also will be terminals set up in many of the academic and administrative offices, so that personnel can access the computer without having to move away from the area. Says Dr. John M. Anderson, director of computer and information systems, "This is a giant step into the modern world of computer technology for UNCW." The main improvement over the current system, which will be phased out, is the elimination of the use of punched cards, which are not nearly as efficient as terminals used with a mini computer. "We will have an interactive capa-

bility," says Anderson, "that will enable users—faculty, staff and students—to have access to the computer. It's a great improvement over punched cards." The two mini computers and several of the terminals and some of the software should be on campus by late spring or early summer of 1984.

The second major project to be funded with the proposed change budget is a new telephone system for the UNCW campus. Installation of this new phone system is set for some time this fiscal year; bids are being sought at this time. The new system will provide data transmission as well as voice transmission. The data transmission can be used with the new computer system currently being

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