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the Seahawk



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Lack of a photography class disturbs students

JOHN BARCLAY

STAFF WRITER

Despite the kaleidoscope of courses available at the university this fall, including a Slavic language and a large spectrum of philosophy and poetry courses, UNCW will not have any photography courses open to general students.

Instead, access to the University's lone introduction to black and white photography class will be restricted to Art Majors again.

Many students such as Kathryn Osbourne, an English Major and aspiring journalist, are not pleased with the school's decision to not expand the class to general students.

"How can you just ignore such a large industry?" Osbourne said. "Photography goes hand in hand with so many of the school's subjects, it would be a very practical idea."

Photography is essential to many of the school's subjects. Modern journalism is naked without it, the sciences constantly rely on photography for documentation and it lays the foundation for advertising.

Although many other regional schools have introduced extensive photography departments, UNCW has yet to progress. UNC-Chapel Hill has a very extensive

documentary photography department, arguably one of the best in the nation.

ECU has its own photography department and even Cape Fear Community College offers both an introductory and intermediate course in the subject, both open to general students.

Matthew Dols, the current photography instructor on campus, sympathizes with the concerns of students like Osbourne. Dols is also the executive director at Tabula

Rasa, a non-profit community darkroom and artist facility where the current UNCW photography course is taught.

"Photography is a part of modern society-it is everywhere you look: billboards, magazines, television, everywhere," Dols said. "You cannot offer a well rounded education in the liberal arts without it."

Donald Furst, professor of Arts & Theater, acknowledges that the lack of courses in photography at a University of this size is odd. "I came here many years ago from a school with less than one thousand students, and we had a cou-



Jeff Wunsch/the Seahawk

There is one photography class at UNCW, only available to Art Majors.

ple of photography classes a semester," Furst said. "Pure and simple, it's funding" Furst said.

Despite the current condition of UNCW's opportunities in the field, there is a slow revitalization of the subject taking place on campus. There is effort to introduce a digital photography course to the catalog in the near future. As for traditional black and white photography, there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

There will be a darkroom in the new Cultural Arts building, which is scheduled for completion sometime in the year 2006.

Media Studio Opens

SARAH BRODERS

NEWS EDITOR

UNCW officially opened its brand new \$400,000 Media Production Studio/Classroom last week.

The Lakeside Hall Media Production studio/classroom was unveiled to the university community last Wednesday after six years of planning.

"Work on planning the production studio/classroom began concurrently with the designing and planning of Lakeside Hall," said Frank Trimble, professor and chair for the Department of Communication Studies.

Financial support for the production studio came from several departments, including Communication Studies, College of Arts and Sciences, Public Service & Continuing Studies, Academic Affairs and the Chancellor's Office and Business Affairs.

The 2,600-square-foot studio is in Lakeside Hall, room 125. The studio doubles as a classroom, and can seat up to 30 in its stadium-seating style audience.

"It features fully integrated digital technology, including three digital studio cameras, a full compliment of studio lighting, and the capacity to broadcast or switch live or live-to-tape," according to a recent press release. The studio will also enable students to edit and dub in several different formats, and integrate sound into the productions.

The studio/classroom will be

home to UNCW-TV, SBTv and TLN.

"In essence, it's a digital production 'laboratory' where students will learn the theory and craft of both electronic and traditional storytelling," Trimble said.

With the Media Production Studio/Classroom up and running, a series of classes will be added to the Communications Studies course offerings. "To our suite of field video production classes, we'll now add those focusing on studio production, studio design, studio directing and camera presentation," Trimble said.

Some of the courses will be open to the general university student population, but some of the courses will be restricted to students in the program because of a limited number of faculty.

Trimble says that the 524 Communication Studies students are not the only ones benefiting from the new studio/classroom. "The studio will serve the university by allowing us to share with viewers in a wide geographic range, the accomplishments of UNCW students."



Dan Hacker/the Seahawk

Lakeside Hall now houses the new studio which will be used by SBTv and others.

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