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# the Seahawk



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## SGA and GSA go head to head over student fees

**KRISTINE KLAMMER**  
STAFF WRITER

Currently, the Student Government Association and the Graduate Student Association are in a debate over which organization should receive the activity fees paid by graduate students.

Patricia Moyer, president of the GSA, said, "The Graduate Student Association wants to retain 80 percent of the activity fees paid by graduate students to the SGA."

Currently, each UNCW student, graduate or undergraduate, pays activity fees to different organizations depending on the amount of hours they are registered for. The fees are then distributed to

the different organizations by the university. To receive a budget from this money, an organization must register and re-register with the Campus Activities office each year. If an organization does not register, they are not given a budget.

Zachary Wynne, president of the SGA, said, "In the past few years, the GSA has been off and on about registering. They have had budgets over the years since 1999."

The SGA uses their budget to fund things such as Safe Ride, free lawyer services and

discount movie tickets for all students, graduate and undergraduate. However, the GSA feels that if they received the portion

of graduate student activity fees for their uses, graduate students would benefit more from the activities the organization would be able to fund, such as finding better health insurance.

"Few of us attend most activities funded through SGA. Those funds could then be used for graduate students to travel to conferences and for professional development activities," Moyer said.

"The SGA considers all students on our projects," Wynne said. The goal of the

SGA is to fund activities that will appeal to the entire student body.

Moyer sticks to the fact that graduate students' "needs and priorities are different than undergraduates."

Wynne also says there are two seats available on the Student Government board for graduate students that have not been filled since 1999. He reports that if these seats were filled, it could help the SGA to better meet the needs of graduate students.

The two organizations have been discussing this problem through numerous letters and have a meeting planned for the week of Dec. 1 to resolve this issue.



Andy Bader/the Seahawk

## Student to study Great Whites in Africa

### Marine Biology major receives prestigious award to research sharks

**ASHLEY PARKER**  
STAFF WRITER

Ben Westrope, a senior in the Marine Biology department, has recently been accepted into a research program in South Africa. The focus of the research is the great white shark, the species fictionalized in Jaws.

The White Shark Trust, founded by Michael Scholl, manages the funding for the ongoing research he has been conduct-

ing since 1997 off Dyer Island, South Africa. The assistantship was begun in 2002. Two to four applicants are selected at a time to assist in observing, recording and even handling sharks. The program is open to biologists, students and shark enthusiasts, and assistants can stay as long as they like.

Westrope will be working on recapture rates of tagged individuals to see if the same sharks keep returning to that particular region,

and if mating grounds exist there. He will also be comparing growth rates of the sharks.

"I hope to have a good understanding on how to conduct research and get a good idea of what shark biologists do in the field. I want to make my dream come true, working with white sharks, and this is my first step toward doing so," Westrope said.

He says he wants to study shark reproduction in the future, and hopes to get the opportunity to dive with the great white.

Westrope plans to stay from February through December of 2004. The program is free, but transportation and room and board are not provided. Westrope will be applying for grants to cover his expenses.

"There is a passion there that is rare in students, said Marine Biology professor Ileana Clavijo, "with Ben, it was there."

For more information on the visit WhiteSharkTrust.com.



Courtesy of Adam Parker

Ben Westrope holds a baby shark in Friday Hall. He will study great white sharks in South Africa.

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