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Student organizations big on campus

BARBARA J. TWIGG
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Student organizations are on the upswing at UNCW. There are about 160 on-campus organizations, which students often refer to as clubs, the Campus Activities Coordinator Larissa LaCour said.

"Fifteen new such groups began last year and there are 11 more in provisional status waiting for approval," LaCour said.

The student organizations run the gamut from political activists, to performing arts to surfing. "I've seen organizations for just about everything," said LaCour, who before coming here in June, worked in student affairs at the University of Buffalo in New York.

Some newly registered organizations are the Martial Arts Club, the Swim Club, Women's Fast Pitch Softball Club, Non-traditional Student Organization and the Cape Fear Surfrider Club, an environmental activist group.

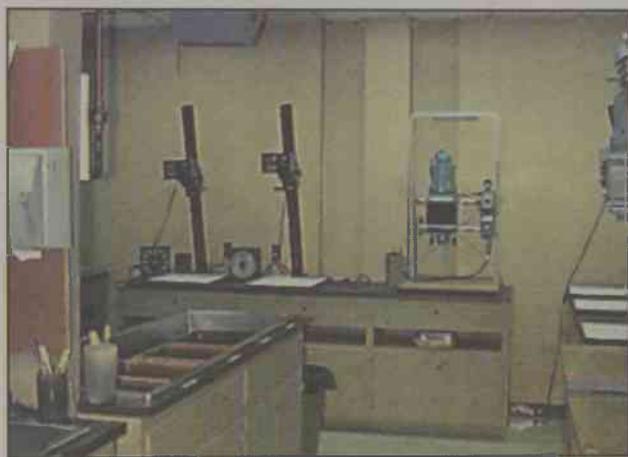
Among the new organizations awaiting full approval are the UNCW Sports Car Club, the Future Entrepreneurs of America Organization and the Equestrian Club.

LaCour explained the process to get an organization officially registered. "There can be quite a bit of paperwork involved in the application," she said. "Once that is complete, it is submitted to the Student Organization Committee for final approval."

The SOC is made-up of five students, five faculty members, LaCour and her supervisor Angie

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Shutterbugs beware: class proposal rejected



Courtesy of murraystate.edu

University officials recently turned down a proposal, which included the free use of a darkroom such as this, to begin photography courses. UNCW is the only school in the North Carolina system that is still without a course in photography.

ASHLEY MURPHY
STAFF WRITER

A recent proposal to bring photography classes back to UNCW has been turned down by school

officials.

This has left UNCW students interested in photography classes out of luck.

Senior Jacki Booth, along with many other UNCW students, has

been interested in taking photography classes at UNCW.

"I know a lot of people who have wanted to take photography at UNCW and have been very disappointed that they couldn't," Booth said.

UNCW is currently the only school in the North Carolina system that does not offer a photography class to its students.

In past years, UNCW has offered one photography class, ART-495 Senior Seminar in Photography. The class was cut from the school's curriculum this year due to lack of funding for the art department.

The proposal to bring photography classes back to the university was submitted by Matthew Dols, the executive director of Tabula Rasa, a non-profit community dark room located in downtown Wilmington.

Dols not only wants to bring back the ART-495 class, but also wants to introduce an introductory level class to the university's curriculum.

Because of the university's lack of funding, Dols is offering the use of Tabula Rasa at no cost to the university. The only cost that the university would incur would be the cost of a teaching salary for the class.

He feels that photography classes are useful to students in all areas, not just the arts.

"If you learn how to look at images better, which would be through learning how to take pictures yourself, you become a more educated part of society because you will learn how to view things. Everyone can benefit from that," Dols said.

The university though does not have enough money in its art budget to fund even a low expense class.

A new Cultural Arts building, which will house a 400 square-foot darkroom, is expected to open in September 2005. Until then, unless funding is generated for these classes, students will have to wait to enjoy photography classes at UNCW.

Voter registration a success on campus

BARBARA J. TWIGG
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

A robust voter registration campaign this past month by UNCW student organizations resulted in about 1,000 students signing up to vote.

"We feel it's been a success," said Evan Ouellette, SGA vice-president of state and national affairs. "We registered about 700 students. Other student groups held events and registered a few hundred more."

The SGA held voter sign-ups beginning on Sept. 27 all over campus. "We wanted to be very visible to remind people to vote," Ouellette said. "We were at the academic

buildings, the residence halls and the dining places at all hours."

SGA President Zachary Wynne agreed. "We tried to be in as many places as possible," he said.

Wynne said local radio station Coast 97.3 also joined the effort. "They were broadcasting live outside the Cameron School of Business," he said. "They had a van where students could register."

Randall Library also had a voting display near the entrance where students could pick up a registration card to mail to the Board of Elections.

Elizabeth Peterson, public services librarian, said she didn't have exact figures on the number who

registered there. "I know there were about 300 cards taken from the table, but I have no way of knowing how many were actually mailed in," she said.

Ouellette said the SGA will be handing out pledge cards on campus this week, which could help the SGA win up to \$2,000 in grants. Common Cause, a national nonpartisan political action group, sponsors the pledge card campaign.

"The 16 major universities in the North Carolina system compete for the highest number of pledge cards signed by people, who then actually vote, as verified by Common Cause," Ouellette explained.

"Winning the Student Government grant is a nice part of it," said Ouellette, a biology major with no political aspirations. "But the main purpose in going around with the pledge cards is to remind people to vote."

Early voting for anyone who wants to beat the crowd is taking place through Oct. 30. The three places in New Hanover County to vote early are the County Library at 201 Chestnut St.; the Senior Citizen Center at 2222 S. College Rd.; and the Board of Election Office at 230 Market Place Dr.

On Election Day, Nov. 2, the UNCW polling place is Trask Coliseum.



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