UNC SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP COMPETITION

OVERVIEW
On February 11th, 2015, two teams of UNCW students will join representatives from all 17 UNC system campuses to pitch their social entrepreneurship projects to state business leaders, non-profits, entrepreneurs, sustainability experts, and investors from across North Carolina. Teams will have just four minutes to present their projects to the judges and at the end of the competition, the winners will be receive award money to fund the implementation of their project.

THE ECOFIT GREEN TEAM
The undergraduate team representing UNCW at the SEC consists of founder Parker Grissom, Ben Pierce, Mike Sikora, Chuck Ogbodo, Meg Young, and Austin McGrayne all under the supervisor of Justine Reel, the associate dean for research & innovation at CHHS. The EcoFit Green Team’s plan is simple: to outfit locally owned gyms with electricity-producing equipment that will turn gyms into energy producers rather than energy consumers. Through their business connections the team hopes to install solar panels and next generation wind turbines and most significantly, cardiovascular exercise machines that use human motion to generate electricity rather than using it up. This way, local gyms would have lower monthly operating expenses and daily exercise would become an energy producing activity.

THE COMMUNITY RESOURCES MAPPING (MAPSS) TEAM
The Community Resources Mapping is a graduate team led by graduate students Leigh Rice Brazel and Amelia Sosnowski and supervised by Dr. Jill Waity from the Sociology and Criminology department and Dr. Nacisa Pricope from the Geography and Geology department. Their project utilizes Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) mapping software to identify resources and needs in local communities, from tracking poverty levels and food deserts to identifying the reach of nonprofit agencies and other local resources. By combining this data and providing it to nonprofits, the team hopes to better inform the distribution of nonprofit resources, give populations in need better access to resources, and even potentially help nonprofits to secure additional grant funding for their operations. Other team members include Jessica Favatella, Brittany Gragg, Carrianne Leschak, Priscila Montoya, Sloane Philipp, and Jennifer Stifter.

Social Entrepreneurship is a way of using new projects, products, or business ideas to address social problems, engage your community, and affect positive social change. For more information about Social Entrepreneurship or about the UNC Social Entrepreneurship Competition, visit the 2015 SEC homepage.