Family Weekend was the perfect opportunity to bring the entire UNC Charlotte extended family together to enjoy a fun-filled night featuring a Vegas-themed Union Takeover, the Chancellor’s Football Breakfast, Alumni Tailgate, and of course, the much anticipated football game against Charleston Southern University.

The weekend began Friday night at the Student Union with “Vegas Night”. The event, made possible by a partnership with the Campus Activities Board, featured games such as Black Jack, Craps, and Texas Hold’em poker with various casino prize giveaways. The multipurpose room was filled to capacity as parents and students enjoyed the entertainment provided by comedian Jeff Dye and magician and illusionist Jason Bishop.

The family fun continued Saturday morning with Chancellor Philip Dubois and his wife, Lisa Lewis Dubois, greeting parents, family members and guests for the Chancellor’s Football Breakfast. Entertainment was provided by the UNC Charlotte drum line and prizes were given away, some of which included a $1,000 tuition stipend, a free semester of parking and a Barnes & Noble gift card.

The weekend did not stop there; the fun continued at the Niner Nation Family and Alumni Tailgate Celebration under the big tent. More food and drink, a band and DJ, games, bounce houses, and raffles were on hand, making the weekend memorable.

Of course, but what’s a tailgate without a football game? The weather made for the perfect atmosphere for families to head down to Jerry Richardson Stadium to cheer on our 49er Football team.

While our Niners put up a tough fight, they were not able to defeat the Buccaneers, resulting in a 47-41 loss.

For many families, this was their first Family Weekend and they were nothing short of impressed. Laura Salfia brought five high school students, including her own high school senior, to sell the school to them in hopes they would apply. Because last year’s Family Weekend tickets sold out so quickly, she was excited to join her son, sophomore Alek Salfia, for the weekend this year. Laura said the Alumni Tailgate Celebration was her favorite event because of the school spirit.

Sarah Warren and daughter Ashley Warren were also new to Niner Nation Family’s Family Weekend. The Charlotte locals said they were beyond excited to be in attendance and the tailgate was their favorite event of the weekend also.

“UNC Charlotte never ceases to impress us and we cannot wait to see what else the university has in store as it continues to grow,” stated the Warrens.

– Ghada Ternanni

See photos from Family Weekend on the Niner Nation Family Facebook page and UNC Charlotte Flickr site.
The idea that students need to abuse alcohol to enjoy their college experience has filtered into our popular culture. Not only is this wrong, it can cause serious problems for students who are in recovery from addiction.

Adolescent addiction has become a pervasive problem. An 8-year Perspective on the Relationship between the duration of abstinence and other aspects of recovery in 2007 found that 71 percent of people seeking treatment for addiction were males younger than 17 years old. Of those, 53 percent were struggling with alcohol or marijuana. Addiction treatment for adolescents 12 to 17 went up 38 percent from 1992-2000. About half — 48 percent — of people who sought treatment were 18 to 25 years old.

Students in recovery shouldn’t feel that college isn’t an option for them. To that end, there is the Collegiate Recovery Program. Collegiate Recovery Programs have been around for almost 30 years. Texas Tech and Rutgers universities had some of the first CRPs and the concept is becoming popular on campuses across the country.

The CRP offers students in recovery a safe place on campus to hang out and build a network of sober friendships. Although there are other recovery services in the community, students often say that those programs are not tailored to the particular needs and challenges of a college student.

College is an anxious time for most students. And those feelings increase the potential for a relapse. But having a CRP on campus can reduce the risk, even within the first year. Research shows when there is a Collegiate Recovery Community on campus, 66 percent of students involved remained sober after one to three years in college. At four to seven years in college, the sobriety rate was 86 percent.

Remaining sober isn’t easy. On average, about 2 percent of a college population is in recovery. At UNC Charlotte, that’s about 400 students.

UNC Charlotte created the first CRC in North Carolina a year and a half ago. It began with one student and an AA meeting. Now, about 15 students are involved and the program offers so much more, including peer support, educational classes on recovery, advisement, and a $1,000 scholarship for those students with at least six months of continuous sobriety and a 3.0 or higher GPA.

The support of an understanding community can make a critical difference in avoiding relapse. Coping with recovery can be very isolating. When students come out of treatment, they may be very anxious about going back to school because they are around the very triggers that got them into trouble in the first place.

The CRC at UNC Charlotte offers several layers of support to help keep recovery first. If sobriety is No. 1, students will see a marked improvement in their school, work, family and relationships.

North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory recently mandated $125,000 for addiction prevention and recovery support at six UNC schools: UNC Charlotte, UNC Wilmington, UNC-Chapel Hill, UNC Greensboro, East Carolina University and NC A&T State University.

To learn more about UNC Charlotte’s Collegiate Recovery Program, visit our website, wellness.uncc.edu.

– Carol Rose
Marketing Coordinator for the CRC at UNC Charlotte
crose3@uncc.edu

Niner Nation Family
You should like this.
STUDENT FEATURE

Steven Serio

STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBER

Student body president Steven Serio has big plans for the University before he graduates in the spring.

The senior finance major said he chose UNC Charlotte because of the amazing business program the Belk College houses and the beauty of the campus. Due to Charlotte being the second largest banking capital behind New York City, he thinks this is the perfect place to call home.

He recently began a position with the Bank of America Applied Technology Program and he’s quickly becoming a role model for students who hope to follow him into the profession.

As student body president, Serio says he’s broken his vision into four points. First, he wants to get approval of a health and wellness center for students larger than the Belk Gym. Second, Serio wants to create a clear transition for students who wish to switch majors. He noticed that many students who switch to unrelated majors have a difficult time adjusting and can lose credit hours in the confusion. Third, he wants to make SafeRide Evening Safety Transport more convenient. Lastly, Serio wants to help students create traditions that can be passed down.

"Once students start getting involved, they will find their friends in those groups and create a better campus overall."

― Steven Serio

schools. We need to create the atmosphere that makes students proud to wear our own colors and apparel.”

He said the Student Government Association needs to be proactive in reaching out to groups on campus and show them how they can get involved and engage students.

“Once students start getting involved, they will find their friends in those groups and create a better campus overall,” Serio said.

When asked how he wants to get students involved, the Student Body President stated he wants the Student Government Association to reach out to those individual groups on campus and show them the greatness of being involved with people who have like interests. Serio states the most challenging part of being Student Body President is realizing the influence and magnitude of the position, rightfully so, as Serio is the only student who sits on the Board of Trustees.

Ultimately, Serio wants to educate students on what the Student Government Association does and why it’s important.

“We are not a group of students who just meet and talk,” he said. “We actually do concrete things that, at the end of the day, have a positive influence to campus life.”

― Ghada Ternanni

FALL FAMILY FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, NOV. 15

NINER NATION FAMILY & ALUMNI TAILGATE

CHARLOTTE 49ERS VS. WESLEY COLLEGE WOLVERINES

REGISTER TODAY AT PARENTS.UNCC.EDU

SPACE IS LIMITED!
The semester is in full swing and campus is buzzing with activity: student groups plan engaging events for the campus community, spectators enthusiastically cheer fellow 49er athletes at sporting events, and academic units invite renowned scholars to give stimulating lectures on campus. Inside the classroom, students are engaged in a flurry of reading assignments, research papers, group projects, quizzes, and study sessions. The middle of the semester is an exciting, and often stressful time for students. One way to support your student through the middle of the semester is to emphasize the importance of taking time out to visit his or her academic adviser in order to reflect on current academic progress and to prepare for the next semester. A student’s academic advisor is a faculty or staff member assigned to help him or her to understand the University’s academic policies, and to develop a working plan for achieving academic goals on time. Students can schedule appointments with their advisor through Niner Advisor, a University-wide online appointment scheduling system and advising database for faculty and students. To find his or her academic advisor, your student should do the following:

- Log into 49er Express
- Click on “Niner Advisor”
- Advisors are listed under “My Advisors”

During the advising session, your student should also ask specific questions that will help clarify major and minor requirements, suggestions for exploring possible fields of study, resources for improving academic performance in difficult classes, and ways to get the most out of the university experience such as participating in research projects, internships, and experiential learning opportunities.

Understanding midterm reporting

In mid-October, many course instructors will submit unsatisfactory midterm grade reports for their students. While midterm grades are not recorded on student transcripts, they are an important indication of how your student is performing in an academic course. Please remind your student to check their email for a link to these grade reports. Because mid-term grades are not yet written in stone, if he or she is not satisfied with mid-term grades, encourage your student to ask for help. The University wants students to develop a sense of ownership in their education, and provides resources to guide them along the pathway to academic success. It’s not too late to take action to improve unsatisfactory midterm grades! In addition to seeking assistance at the University Center for Academic Excellence, encourage your student to speak with his or her advisor. If your student receives unsatisfactory mid-term grades, a visit with an academic advisor is one of the most important steps to take on the pathway to achievement.

Navigating the W policy

Because the University’s withdrawal (W) policy now limits the number of course withdrawals to 16 credit hours, a student’s decision to withdraw from one or more courses should not be taken lightly. Before withdrawing, students should consult their advisor for guidance. Students should make an appointment to discuss the short and long term academic implications of withdrawing from a course and should carefully consider how this decision might affect his or her GPA, requirements for the major and progress toward graduation.

Thinking ahead to Spring registration

Although it seems like we are just getting into the swing of this Fall semester, it is not too early to begin planning a Spring semester course schedule. Spring registration begins on November 3rd, 2014. The Spring 2015 Undergraduate Catalog provides an overview of courses offered next semester, degree requirements, the University’s academic programs and policies, facilities, and educational resources. This catalog is available online; please encourage your student to explore the catalog and to discuss a schedule for next semester with his or her advisor.

Located beside Adkins library, the UNC Charlotte Counseling Center is open and welcoming to every enrolled student. Students are encouraged to utilize the center’s services for any variety of issues they may face during the school year.

David Spano, the Counseling Center’s Director, explains, “We see all types of concerns that students come to us with. We are really flexible in regard to what students need.”

College can be a difficult time for many students, and the Counseling Center is there to help. The most common issues they see are: problems with a partner, roommate or family member; struggling academically; trouble sleeping; substance abuse; eating disorders; depression, anxiety and homesickness.

The counseling center isn’t for a certain type of person, but for everyone. “I think there has always been a stigma associated with getting help for mental health concerns or getting help, period,” Spano said. “However, I believe everyone could benefit from talking to someone at some point,” said Spano.

Almost 2,000 students a year visit the Counseling Center, and over the course of
“Advocate” is the word that was magnified as Nathan Roy read UNC Charlotte’s job description for a position in the Office of Student Conduct. It was what he was hoping to see.

“When it comes to conduct, I really try and advocate for our students. I want to be part of the process and experience with them as opposed to being an adversary,” Roy states.

Before his start at UNC Charlotte as the Assistant Director for Student Conduct and Outreach, Roy worked at Florida State University. Before that, he began at Marietta College in Marietta, Ohio, while he was still a student there. He worked as a residence hall director and also with young women at a battered women’s shelter.

He credits his experience at the women’s shelter for developing his passion for helping college students in crises. As a student, Roy endured adversity but persevered with the guidance of certain college administrators. “I had a very challenging college experience,” he states, “I had some moments where I had some turning points and because of some staff members, I was able to become very successful.” The positive impact that college administrators had on his life motivated him to want to someday pay it forward and help college students.

The Office of Student Conduct handles rule violations and disciplinary actions. They conduct one hour hearings for each student’s case. During this hour, the staff gathers as much information as possible about the policy violation and allows the student to explain the events. Roy and other employees of the office try to involve the student as much as possible during the conduct process. When necessary, the office imposes disciplinary measures however, the staff’s main goal is to educate students and prevent further mistakes. The main lesson Roy stresses for students is to think about the costs versus the reward of their choices. College students will often act on impulse and may not think about future consequences.

Students often expect a harsh punishment at the Office of Student Conduct, but Roy suggests there is more to the Office of Student Conduct than punishment. Some of his best experiences occur when students leave feeling better about their situation. He enjoys keeping in touch with students after they leave his office and he takes pride in those times when students email him later to tell him that things are going well and to assure him they are being cautious about certain activities.

The Office of Student Conduct works closely with the Housing and Residence Life, Police and Public Safety and Center for Wellness Promotion. He stresses that his office could not perform its duties without the great support and assistance from these campus partners. He states, oddly enough, that his ultimate goal is to work himself out of a job.

Roy said he hopes he hopes one day that his job won’t be needed. “Our hope is that students will be able to create a community and hold each other accountable for actions beyond us stepping in,” Roy states.

Until that time comes, UNC Charlotte is very fortunate to have Roy and his counterparts running the Office of Student Conduct.

– David Wolf

Support Relationship Violence Awareness Month: Walk a Mile in Our Shoes

O ctober is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and the Student Health Center is taking action to continue the conversation about sexual and relationship violence on campus.

The Center for Wellness Promotion is supporting Relationship Violence Awareness Month with a variety of programs throughout October. Some of their initiatives have included the Red Flag campaign, “Every Kiss Begins with Consent” and “The Invisible War” movie screening. The center hopes to bring awareness to students by teaching the effects of being a bystander, identifying characteristics of healthy and unhealthy relationships, and defining interpersonal violence and rape culture.

Walk a Mile in Our Shoes is an exciting event open to students are invited to attend to show support for a campus free of sexual and relationship violence. Students march together around the Student Union with colorful picket signs, recognizing the cause. The Center for Wellness Promotion will provide a crate full of shoes for students to march in.

continued on page 5
Q: What has been your experience with UNC Charlotte and its resources?
A: My experience has been great so far. There are plenty of resources; you just have to find them.

Q: Is this your first child in college?
A: Yes.

Q: What are some of the biggest takeaways during this transition?
A: Patience with family time had to be balanced with school working. In Hispanic culture, family time is very important to us and we want to keep that tradition with our student. We were under the wrong impression of college being easy for Jovanie, but over the years we learned that it was much more than school work.

Q: Do you have open communication with your student? How do you maintain that openness?
A: 2-3 phone calls a week is enough to catch up.

Q: What advice would you offer to other parents?
A: Be patient and go with the flow. Beware that your student could be under stress from school and support them.

P: ¿Cuál ha sido tu experiencia con UNC Charlotte y sus recursos?
R: Mi experiencia ha sido fantástica. Hay un montón de recursos, solo tienes que encontrar ellos

P: ¿Es este su primer hijo en la facultad?
R: Sí.

P: ¿Cuáles son algunas de las más grandes ventajas durante esta transición?
R: paciencia con tiempo para la familia tuvo que ser equilibrada con la escuela. En la cultura hispana, tiempo de la familia es muy importante para nosotros y queremos mantener esa tradición con nuestros alumnos. Por lo que sabemos, la impresión equivocada de que es fácil para colegio Jovanie pero con el paso de los años hemos aprendido que es mucho más que trabajo de la escuela.

P: ¿tiene abierta la comunicación con el alumno y ¿cómo es posible mantener que la apertura?
R: 2-3 llamadas de teléfono a la semana son suficientes para ponerse al día.

P: ¿Qué consejos le ofrecería a los otros padres?
R: Ser paciente y seguir la corriente. Tenga en cuenta que el estudiante pueda estar sometido a estrés s de la escuela y de prestarles apoyo.

P: ¿Qué es lo que usted quiere que su estudiante de esta experiencia universitaria?
R: Para convertirse en un modelo de ciudadano y miembro activo en su comunidad, ya sea el Charlotte comunidad latina o la Comunidad de Charlotte.

---

Walk a Mile in Our Shoes - continued from page 5

Also known as Walk a Mile in Her Shoes, The Center for Wellness Promotion believes that because anyone can be impacted by sexual assault and abuse, the event was renamed to include everyone. Nicole Madonna-Rosario, Health Educator and Interpersonal Violence Prevention for the Center for Wellness Promotion, explains, “I think the idea of Walk a Mile in Our Shoes is a fantastic idea. Our intent is to be all-inclusive this year and bring everyone together, so the healing can happen together.”

This is the first year that UNC Charlotte has renamed the event to include all types of diverse students.

The name change has already brought positive feedback by LGBTQ students. Spectrum, Trans’Port and the Feminist Union have all rallied to join the march. “We want to make sure everyone has a voice at the table and a place to speak. I hope people will look to our wellness services and feel comfortable and safe,” said Madonna-Rosario said.

Walk a Mile in Our Shoes will be held at the Student Union Rotunda on Wednesday, November 5 from 1-3 p.m.

If you are interested in joining the event, want more information or have questions or concerns about interpersonal or sexual violence, contact Nicole Madonna-Rosario at by calling (704) 687-7348 or emailing nmadonna@uncc.edu.

– Sarah Cain
New office to oversee University’s Title IX coordination

Colleges and universities that receive federal funding must comply with regulations outlined in Title IX of the U.S. Education Amendments of 1972, which have been revised a number of times since their passage.

Most recently, new and pending legislation is focused on eliminating sexual harassment and assaults on college campuses because sexual harassment and sexual assault “interferes with students’ rights to receive an education free from discrimination and, in the case of sexual violence, is a crime,” according to the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights.

Art Jackson, vice chancellor for student affairs, said the University’s goal in establishing a Title IX Office is to achieve better coordination in efforts to comply with federal regulations and to respond to reports of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking.

“Colleges and universities historically have focused concern on legal responsibility and education,” Jackson said. “Now more than ever, we are focusing on the education and safety of our students as well as the process of reporting and investigating these incidents. This new office will provide the leadership and resources needed to fulfill these requirements.”

Dawn Floyd

Dawn Floyd will coordinate our efforts, and she will work closely with the Dean of Students Office, the Police and Public Safety Department and other units.

Previously, the University’s Title IX coordinator had other job duties in addition to Title IX responsibilities. Floyd, who has been on campus since the summer, said the creation of a full-time Title IX coordinator position is a statement about the University’s commitment to raise awareness of and prevent sexual misconduct, relationship violence and stalking.

“Coordination of efforts will ultimately create a more educated and even safer campus,” stated Floyd, a native of Wilkesboro. Prior to UNC Charlotte, she was a senior litigation associate at Shumaker, Loop and Kendrick in Charlotte. Floyd earned a law degree at City University of New York School of Law. Her bachelor's degree in political science and master's degree in higher education administration are from Appalachian State University.

According to Floyd, UNC Charlotte has been ahead of the curve in responding to incidents of sexual misconduct and relationship violence and in the training and education of these issues on campus. She added her position is an acknowledgment by the University for the need to have an individual who could devote 100 percent to these important issues.

“Colleges and universities historically have focused concern about public perception of campus safety when incidents of sexual misconduct occur,” Floyd said. “Legislative activity and media scrutiny have been beneficial in that everyone can acknowledge that these incidents occur on virtually every college campus. So the conversation has shifted to how to prevent sexual misconduct, relationship violence and stalking, and this is a huge step forward.”

To coordinate campus efforts, Floyd will work closely with four Title IX deputy coordinators; they are Christine Reed Davis, associate vice chancellor for student affairs and dean of students; Katherine Hall-Hertel, assistant dean of the Graduate School; Jeanne Madorin, executive director of human resources for EPA non-faculty administration, employee relations and compliance; and Kim Whitestone, senior associate athletic director for internal affairs.

The University is creating a Title IX Committee that will include students, staff and faculty, too. The purpose of this committee is to serve as an advisory board for the Title IX Office and help coordinate its activities across campus. The committee will review how the University responds to incidents; will help with the development of protocols and processes that assist both victims and the accused and create a fair process for all involved; and will help set goals for the Title IX program and assist with messaging related to its efforts around issues of sexual misconduct, relationship violence and stalking.

Floyd said another important goal was to train and educate campus members about their rights and responsibilities under Title IX, the Violence Against Women Act and other related campus rules and regulations. Work on a centralized Title IX website is under way, which will provide information and resources to the campus community.

“In particular, I would like to educate students so they know their various options for reporting an incident of sexual misconduct, relationship violence or stalking, and they are aware of resources around campus to help them deal with the incident. The same is true for the accused. My goal is to create a fair and impartial process where everyone is informed of applicable policies, processes, resources and rights, and their rights are respected,” stated Floyd.

Many sexual assaults could be prevented if a bystander stepped in to stop the situation, Floyd continued. “So we need to help our students understand how to recognize a potentially dangerous situation and intervene safely.”

To aid in this type of education/training the University has hired a full-time interpersonal violence prevention specialist Nicole Madonna-Rosario, who works in the Center for Wellness Promotion. She is an expert in trauma response and training/education on the prevention of sexual violence, including bystander training. She earned a master’s in social work from Fordham University. Previously, she worked at Lehman College in Bronx, N.Y., and before that, she was clinical director for the Sexual Assault Crisis and Education Center in Stamford, Conn.

— Phillip Brown

Nicole Madonna-Rosario
four years, at least a quarter of students will know someone who has sought help at the center. To get help, students just need to set up an appointment.

“We meet with the student one time and at that first session we determine what might be the best course of action … for the student,” Spano explains. There is a variety of options students have after the first session. If a student wants to continue individual counseling, the center offers up to 12 sessions a year after the first meeting. “For a lot of students, they just need the one session to figure out what they need to do next, says Spano.”

The center offers services within three types of counseling: individual, group and consultation. They won’t be charged for those sessions. Those services are paid for through student health fees and tuition, but there could be fees for tests or special procedures.

Students can feel comfortable discussing problems with the center’s licensed professionals. “Everything we talk about in counseling is confidential. We can’t share it with anyone without written consent, which reassures students.”

For that reason, parents cannot make appointments for a student or get personal information without the student first giving permission.

However, parents are highly encouraged to call the center with any questions or concerns about their student.

“We talk to parents often,” Spano said. “If a parent has a question about what they are seeing in their son or daughter, if they are unsure of what to do or if there is a problem, they can call our counselors. We can help the parent understand what they might be seeing and give advice with how to respond,” says Spano.

The center takes student safety seriously. In more severe cases, the center or another campus resource may reach out to the student to see what kind of help can be provided.

Here are some tips Spano offers to parents on how to communicate with students about counseling:

- Be encouraging to your student to get help.
- Share your concerns very openly and directly with your student.
- Let student know the Counseling Center is available to them.
- Let your student know counseling is completely confidential.
- Understand there may be situations that your student would feel more comfortable talking to a counselor about.
- Do some research on your own.

— Sarah Cain
SUCCESS STARTS AT HOME.

All residents are eligible to process room changes into available highrise rooms, suites and apartments. Detailed instructions and information will be emailed to residents as well as posted at housing.uncc.edu.

ROOM CHANGES

[NOVEMBER 24 / 25]