Week of Welcome

Keep Calm and get AXEcited

Week of Welcome (WOW) is an 11-day back-to-school celebration organized by UNC Charlotte’s Dean of Students Office. WOW is for all students, an opportunity for freshmen, returning Niners transfer students and non-traditional students to get together to have fun. During this event, departments host programs in three categories to showcase the many facets of UNC Charlotte: engagement, informational, and social activities. These events are designed to get students involved and get to know their fellow Niners.

Engagement activities such as Rec Fest, 49er New Year and Going Green With the Dean are meant to get students active. Rec Fest is an outdoor event sponsored by the Recreational Services department that gives students the chance to experience what the department has to offer such as sports clubs, group fitness classes and more. The 49er New Year event is the official kick-off celebration for new and returning students. The event typically features live music, 49er spirit and traditions, and carnival games. Going Green With the Dean, sponsored by the Dean of Students Office, consists of games, free food and, most importantly, the opportunity to meet the staff. These events remind students that they’re never too old to have fun, no matter how silly it may seem.

Informational events give students tips and advice for the school year and provide them with the knowledge, tools and skills needed to make informed decisions. Sessions are free to students and topics presented this year included, “Staying Organized,” “How to Succeed Using Technology,” and “Alcohol and Tobacco Awareness.”

Social events are — you guessed it — social. These events give students an opportunity to meet one another and staff members in an informal environment. Socials allow for less structured conversations and are almost always the beginning of strong friendships. The Campus Activities Board Block Party, the outdoor movie, and 49er New Year are social events that help students overcome anxiety about meeting new people. Returning students say they look forward to WOW each year because it gives them a chance to see old friends and make new ones too.

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Between classes, two jobs, an internship, scholarships, a pageant and maintaining a spot on the Chancellor’s List, UNC Charlotte junior Ghada Ternanni, is one busy student. Ternanni is one of the newest additions to the Office of Parent and Family Services, working as a Marketing Assistant.

Ternanni is double majoring in finance and organizational management, and she loves that her world revolves around business, her passion. Her dream job is to become a CEO for a company such as Bank of America or Duke Energy in uptown Charlotte. In the near future, her career goal is to work in finance. “I would love to be a director of finance for a large corporation. It’s a great mesh of management and finance,” said Ternanni.

As a marketing assistant, Ternanni has enjoyed working with the parents of UNC Charlotte students at the Student Orientation, Advising and Registration program this summer. Her strong public speaking skills and her ability to connect with people were an advantage when leading the family forum and bus tours around campus. Her favorite task was answering parents’ questions. “I love when parents come to me with a genuine concern. My favorite questions were ones that parents couldn’t find the answer to on any website … ones specifically about student culture,” said Ternanni.

Lebanese culture remains important to Ternanni. Both of her parents emigrated from the country in the 1990’s, making her a first generation Lebanese American. “My mom still speaks to me in Arabic, but I respond to her in English,” explains Ternanni. With a family full of lawyers, doctors and engineers, she’s taken a different path in her pursuit of business. Although her family expected her to follow in their footsteps, Ternanni chose to pursue business because it easily translates into all types of occupations.

Ternanni has been awarded many scholarships for her work in business and within the community. These scholarships require her to maintain a high GPA and stay in contact with the providers to give updates on her progress. In total, Ternanni has been awarded seven scholarships.

This summer, Ternanni traveled to Lebanon to visit her grandmother and participate in Miss Lebanon Emigrant. After a series of interviews, Ternanni was selected to participate in the pageant for young Lebanese women who live outside of the country. The pageant will take place next summer in Lebanon.

With juggling so many responsibilities, including helping her mother with her three younger sisters since her father passed away, it is a testament to Ternanni’s drive that she is on track to graduate on time.

“I’m hungry for success,” she said. “I want people to recognize my name and remember that I am a hard worker.”

— Sarah Cain

**Week of Welcome, continued from page 1**

To find out more about the WOW events that took place August 15-24, visit:  
[http://unccdso.orgsync.com/org/weekofwelcome](http://unccdso.orgsync.com/org/weekofwelcome)

— JaDora Ross
SAFETY AND SECURITY

Who’s Keeping You Safe?

As UNC Charlotte’s fall semester begins and students prepare for classes, UNC Charlotte’s Police & Public Safety department is preparing to keep campus as safe as possible. September is National Campus Safety Awareness Month and many universities use this as an opportunity to interact with their campus communities. UNC Charlotte police will work with students, faculty, and staff by explaining campus policies such as crime prevention, thefts, vehicle safety, and drug and alcohol use.

Unfortunately, reports of thefts are common on most college campuses. The police department urges students to take preventative measures to ensure their belongings are safe. They ask that students use bike locks, keep their backpack with them at all times and never leave valuables in their vehicles.

As UNC Charlotte is not a dry campus, alcohol is allowed — but only for students 21 and older. Campus police enforces all state laws regarding alcohol consumption by minors. To promote alcohol awareness, police conduct a simulation for students to wear “drunk goggles” in order to see what driving while intoxicated is like. They also educate students on how much they are really drinking depending on the type of alcohol and information on blood alcohol content.

Throughout the year police display patrol vehicles and set up interactive information tables to educate the campus community about crimes such as theft and sexual assault. They also provide on-campus resources in the event that a student becomes a victim of a crime.

UNC Charlotte police officer and Community Policing Coordinator, Jerry Lecomte, stresses that police want the students to see them as a resource. Police officers are on patrol 24 hours a day, seven days a week and are here to help students. UNC Charlotte has 50 full-time sworn officers eager to work with students and keep them safe. “We are not here trying to make your lives difficult, we want you to succeed” Lecomte said. “However, if you do make a bad choice, there are consequences for that. But we will try to steer you away from making those bad choices.”

— David Wolf

DEAN OF STUDENTS REPRESENTATION

Chelsea Ball  Assistant Director of New Student Services

Chelsea Ball, Assistant Director of New Student Services, hopes to lead by example. “I want to embody what it stands for to be a 49er. I try to show my Niner pride as much as possible so the students can follow my example.” After receiving her Master of Education in higher education and student affairs from the University of South Carolina in Columbia, S.C., Ball knew Charlotte was the place for her. Ball began her career here at UNC Charlotte only two days after receiving her degree. As Assistant Director for Parent and Family Services, she organizes Week of Welcome activities; supports Student Orientation, Advising and Registration (SOAR), and supervises student leaders who work in Dean of Students Office.

Ball says she has always had a passion for working with college students. Her journey began as an Interpersonal/Organization-
Fall semester is well underway at UNC Charlotte as students settle into their routines of classes and campus life. We know that as supportive families, you are invested in the success of your students; therefore, I want to remind you about some very important changes to UNC Charlotte’s course withdrawal policy that can affect your student. Starting this semester, undergraduate students will not be allowed to withdraw from more than 16 credit hours over their academic careers at UNC Charlotte. A withdrawal refers to a course a student drops after the specified add/drop period. When a student withdraws from a course, a grade of “W” appears on his or her transcript, but the student’s GPA is unaffected by it. A student must make the decision to withdraw before the ninth week of classes.

Limiting withdrawals is a major change in UNC Charlotte policy; until this semester, students were able to withdraw from an unlimited number of courses. The new withdrawal policy will now require students to think carefully about the academic and financial consequences of withdrawing from a course or from the semester. After a student has reached the 16 credit hour limit, he or she will be unable to withdraw from another course and must accept the grade earned at the end of the semester. Students who are unable to withdraw from a course but stop attending anyway must accept whatever grade the instructor assigns for partial work.

Deciding to Withdraw

Please discuss this new policy with your student. This semester, more than ever, a student’s decision to withdraw from one or more courses should not be taken lightly. Before withdrawing, students should consult the following people on campus for guidance:

The course instructor: Students should speak to the faculty member teaching the course. The instructor can have an honest conversation about a student’s progress and potential to recover from a bumpy beginning based on course requirements and opportunities.

The advisor: Undergraduate advisors are well-trained on the University’s new policy to help your student make an informed decision about whether to withdraw from a course. 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.

A financial aid officer: There are possible financial repercussions for course withdrawal. Students who withdraw from a course will be responsible for 100 percent of the assessed tuition and fee charges. Students who withdraw from classes before completing more than 60 percent of a semester may be required to repay all or a portion of the federal financial aid received for that term. If your student receives financial aid, he or she should meet with a financial aid assistant director to understand how his or her financial aid package will be affected. The Office of Student Financial Aid is located on the first floor of the Reese Building.

Dean of Students Office: We recognize that in life, unfortunate and unpredictable situations may arise. Only in these situations may students apply to withdraw from one or more courses with extenuating circumstances. A student who believes his or her condition falls into this category should contact the Dean of Students Office.

Staying Enrolled

Get Help: If a student with an unsatisfactory midterm grade decides to remain enrolled in the course, he or she should seek support on campus. The University wants students to develop a sense of ownership in their education, and it provides resources to guide them along the way. There are a variety of offices and services provided on campus for students who hope to turn unsatisfactory grades around. Please remind your student to seek free assistance at the University Center for Academic Excellence. The Writing Resources Center can help students develop valuable writing skills with one-to-one tutoring. Likewise, various departments offer peer tutoring programs for students who want to improve their classroom performance.

Work hard: In previous Academic Corner articles, I shared with you the secrets to doing awesome at UNC Charlotte. If your student wants to dramatically improve his or her classroom performance, share Secrets No. 2, 3 and 4 with him or her. Encourage your student to go to class prepared and ready to participate in the discussions and activities of the session. Secret No. 9 reminds us that being a student is a full-time job; for every hour spent in the classroom, students should be willing to dedicate two to three hours of study time outside of class.

I encourage you to talk with your student about this new policy and what it means for his or her career at UNC Charlotte. For more information on the withdrawal policy, visit the Office of Academic Affairs web page.
UNC Charlotte Mom

Our experience with having two daughters at UNC Charlotte has been more than we could have expected.

UNC Charlotte is such a special community, offering the variety of opportunities found on large campuses but being able to retain that personal, connected feeling. The connection began early for Emily, our oldest, when she joined the student media group, Niner Online, during her SOAR session and continued to be actively involved during the past three years. The inclusive feeling across the campus was an important factor in leading Megan, our youngest, to select UNC Charlotte as her university as well. Megan’s participation in the SAFE program and Learning Community helped provide a fabulous freshman year experience. As a family, over the years, we have enjoyed attending Family Weekends, The Chancellor’s Breakfast, homecomings and International Festivals. We always feel welcomed and part of the UNC Charlotte family.

Like many siblings, Emily and Megan are close but want their own space and UNC Charlotte provides plenty of that. Emily’s interests are in public relations and political science, which have provided her the opportunity to attend and report on the 2012 Democratic National Convention, participate in National College Media Conventions and attend an International Public Relations course in England. Megan’s energies are focused on elementary teaching and she had several in-classroom experiences during her first year.

One might think that the two never cross paths during the school year, but they make time to catch up for a bite to eat at Crown Commons or in Prospector. They also enjoyed singing together in Dr. Warwick’s Chorus class. It was a delight when they were both on stage performing with the Charlotteans last year.

Unlike a lot of families who have children at different universities, both of our daughters have found their future here at UNC Charlotte. The Kupsky family is a house united behind the Green and White. Go Niners!

— Sandra Kupsky

South Village Crossing Update

South Village Crossing, UNC Charlotte’s new 56,146-square-foot dining and gathering facility, did not open in time for August move-in as originally planned.

“Unfortunately, we’re behind schedule,” said Keith Wassum, Associate Vice Chancellor for Business Services, “and it’s important that South Village Crossing not open until everything is completely ready.”

That means more than having finished walls and floors. “South Village Crossing is different that anything we’ve ever had at UNC Charlotte,” said Wassum. “The combination of state-of-the-art kitchen equipment and building systems, green building features, and site considerations, has added a significant level of complexity to the project.”

Features of the facility include:

• An expansive dining hall where all food production is visible and meals are customizable;
• Action cooking stations featuring Evo and Teppanyaki griddles and gas-fired hearth ovens;
• Observable campus bakery operations;
• Take-out counter and market;
• Late night diner (“The Den” by Denny’s);
• Seasonal dining porch and outdoor terraces;
• Inviting lounge areas with fireplaces;
• Multi-purpose room with instructional AV technology.

“South Village Crossing will deliver a new concept in campus dining with all food production occurring in front of customers,” said Wassum, “and we don’t want to open until the facility is fully operational and staff are trained on the new equipment and systems.”

That date has yet to be determined but is expected to be later this fall. Until then, the former RDH cafeteria has been put back into use, adding a few more weeks to its four decades of service to campus.

“A certain amount of delay is to be expected in a building this complex,” said Drew Averitt, Business Services Facility Planner. “But believe me,” he added, “it will be worth the wait.”

— LouAnn Lamb
DEPARTMENT FEATURE

Studying Abroad offers personal, professional growth

Australia, Brazil, China, France, Germany, Greece, Spain and the United Kingdom are only the handful of countries that have study abroad programs in which students can partake. The benefits that a college student will gain by taking part in a study abroad program will be carried for the rest of his or her life. For many, college may be the only time they will be able to explore the world. After graduation, most students are focused on securing jobs, getting settled and the next chapter of their lives, whether it be career or family focused. The university encourages students to take advantage of these opportunities that could benefit them in the future. Students can receive funding to see the world from different perspectives.

Some students have doubts about spending an entire semester outside of the country. Many worry they will miss their friends, family and a portion of the college experience. They are not alone. The University has opportunities to study abroad for shorter amounts of time. Studying abroad can be done during either summer session, or spring break. While it may be for a shorter duration, students are still provided with the same benefits, opportunities and growth as a student who spends an entire semester abroad. For those who do not want to spend their time abroad hitting the books, there are opportunities to work, intern or volunteer.

To get more information about these programs or to begin planning, the first step is to visit the study abroad website and make an appointment with a study abroad advisor. From there, the student will start the process to complete all the clerical aspects for the trip with the help of the faculty and staff that is running that program.

A main concern for most students and parents is how they will pay for weeks abroad in another country. The Office of Education Abroad helps students find funding so they can take part in an experience that will make a lasting impression and promote their personal and professional growth. Money to study abroad is constantly becoming available for people in all areas of study. The next round of applications for these scholarships will be available in the department’s office on the second floor of College of Health and Human Services building after November 1. Also, any student who receives financial aid through FAFSA can use it for studying abroad.

There are scheduled advising sessions scheduled in the International Resource Center in the Education Abroad Office. Visit their website for updated dates and times and how to schedule a session.

— Ghada Ternanni

Study Abroad Fair
Wednesday, September 17
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
CHHS Plaza

Contact
Office of Education Abroad
College of Health and Human Services (CHHS) 256
9201 University City Boulevard
Charlotte, North Carolina 28223-0001
704-687-7747

edabroad@uncc.edu

Niner Nation Family
You should like this.
As UNC Charlotte students return to campus, they are faced with many challenges. Being one student at a school with about 27,000 students can be overwhelming. Some students have a difficult time adjusting to college life; it can be difficult to establish relationships and share ideas and perspectives with students who look, act and think differently. For some students, the adjustments is even more daunting. They face financial challenges that cause them to struggle with finding their next meal.

To combat this reality, the University has established a food pantry on campus. The Food Pantry is a grass roots effort to address hunger within the student body and bring awareness to this growing issue. A new study shows that an unexpectedly large number of college students nationally are unable to find or afford nutritious food. This is a paramount concern to colleges and universities in the UNC system. In fact, 13 of the 17 schools in the system, including UNC Charlotte, have established food pantries. Sean Langley, Assistant director of Off Campus and Volunteer Outreach and cofounder of this program said, “The profiles of recipients will vary from undergraduate students dealing with unexpected economic hardships to graduate students whose stipends are too small to support them over the course of a month. As a University we are deeply committed to fostering the best education possible and that starts with making sure our students are eating nutritious meals consistently.”

Support from the university community will sustain this program. Food Lion has donated three pallets full of non-perishable items including: boxed cereal, oatmeal, macaroni and cheese, boxed rice, tuna, mixed vegetables, applesauce, chicken noodle soup and more. UNC Charlotte faculty and staff members will apply for multiple grants from Food Lion and other agencies that address hunger related issues. Additionally, faculty, staff and students plan on donating to help those in need and to serve in various volunteer roles to keep this food pantry operational. If you are interested in supporting this initiative, contact Langley at slangley@uncc.edu.

“As a University we are deeply committed to fostering the best education possible and that starts with making sure our students are eating nutritious meals consistently.” – Sean Langley
UPCOMING EVENTS

FRIDAY-SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26-28

Family Weekend

Packages 1,2,3 are SOLD OUT.
Parents and Family members can still register for "Vegas Nights", 49ers Men's Soccer Game, Jeff Dye - Comedian, John Bishop - Magician, and the Alumni Football Tailgate. Purchase tickets to the Alumni Football Tailgate here. For more information on single-game football tickets, please contact the Athletic ticket office at 704-687-4949.
http://unccdso.orgsync.com/org/parentandfamilyservices

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Charlotte 49ers football vs. Charleston Southern
12 p.m.
charlotte49ers.com

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Jazz ensemble
7:30 p.m.
Robinson Hall, Belk Theater
Box Office: 704-687-1849
Box office ticket site

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