South Village Crossing Opens

Dining With Deliberate Difference

South Village Crossing’s SoVi dining hall — which served its first meal on Jan. 6 — is an exciting, new evolution in University’s food service.

Long ago, Residence Dining Hall was the quintessential college cafeteria, where, except for the grill station, food was cooked in the back and self-served from a long line of steam tables out front.

As campus grew, so did our dining program with the addition of the food court. National brands started popping up at colleges and universities, and UNC Charlotte welcomed several. Today with Bojangles, Chick-fil-A, Einstein Bros. Bagels, Salsarita’s, Subway, Starbucks and Wendy’s, UNC Charlotte has more popular fast-dining choices than most small towns.

In 2009, Crown Commons in the Student Union opened and meal plan/dining hall service changed in a big way. The cafeteria model became toast, in other words.

Crown Commons has a lot less kitchen equipment placed “back-of-the-house.” Much of the food is cooked in full view at “action” stations. This allows for lots of customization and a more personal dining experience. You see what you’re getting to eat, and you watch someone make it for you.

Now South Village Crossing’s dining experience, SoVi, embraces culinary trends that have emerged since Crown Commons came along. SoVi is:

- An adaptation to the cultural shift of more frequent, smaller meals throughout the day
- Sustainable and conserves ecological balance in food production, preparation and reduction of waste
- Value conscious for “unlimited” meal plans by allowing more frequent dining and snacking throughout the day and evening
- Reflective of restaurant trends of “plating” food for enhanced visual appeal.

SoVi Dining incorporates all this and more in its model. There’s little back-of-the-house food preparation. All that’s behind walls is refrigeration, prep tables and sinks — no cooking equipment.

Cooking is done in gas-fired ovens and at modern action stations like Evo cooktops and the Teppanyaki griddle. Equipment is designed for small-batch and healthy cooking methods and offers chefs the flexibility to interact with patrons and customize dishes according to diner preferences.

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What’s dramatically different is that meals are made in smaller batches and served tapas-style on small plates. Benefits are:

• Conscious eating: Large servings on nine-inch dinner plates often lead to overeating because people tend to eat the food that’s in front of them, even after they feel full.
• Portion awareness: Realistic single portions provide a consistent reference point. It’s easier to shape a balanced meal with individually portioned plates as units, opposed to a plate piled with randomly measured food.
• Bright flavor: Small-batch cooking makes this possible. Taking a cue from the artisanal foods movement, chefs craft dishes with care. Freshness and quality are watchwords, not bulk or quantity.
• Appealing presentation: The plates look appetizing and composed, elevating the dining experience to something nicer and more personal.
• Waste reduction: Smaller portions lead diners to throw away less.

It’s odd at first to see little plates in a dining hall, but then you realize how easy it is to gather a variety of flavors. The result is a meal that looks and tastes like it was prepared just for you. And small plate presentation is not at all restrictive. You can go back for more of anything you want, as many times as you’d like.

In addition to the SoVi dining hall, three other new food choices at South Village Crossing are SoVi2Go, SoVi Market + Bakery and The Den by Denny’s.

On weekdays, SoVi dining closes from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. to reset and get ready for dinner. Meanwhile SoVi2Go, located upstairs, offers meals to go and meal swipes are accepted, as are Declining Balance (DB) and Optional Dining Plan (ODA). Here’s how SoVi2Go works:

• Fill a reusable container with featured entrees currently being served at SoVi (including beverage and dessert).
• Select hot soups of the day, fresh salads and fruit.
• SoVi2Go provides a meal plan dining option during the weekday reset/down periods at SoVi and extends dinner serving time until 9 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays.

SoVi Market + Bakery offers a large daily assortment of pastries, tarts, cupcakes, macaroons, cakes (whole or sliced), individual trifles, muffins and cookies, along with convenience items, beverages, snacks, candies, grab-and-go sandwiches and salads, and specialty meals and snacks.

The Den brings Denny’s favorite tastes to UNC Charlotte — from breakfast-all-day favorites like the Original Grand Slam and Slamwich to hand-smashed burgers (including the “MecklenBurger,” created just for UNC Charlotte) and a selection of sandwiches, signature salads, burritos and munchies. The Den is a late-night dining option with hours until 2 a.m.

If you haven’t yet experienced South Village Crossing, be sure to do so on your next visit to campus.

– Lou Ann Lamb

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Additional information about South Village Crossing and campus dining:

SoVi Transportation Access:
- Both the Green Line (Route 49) and Yellow Line (Route 47) serve the South Village area.
- SafeRide evening transportation serves all of campus, including stops at South Village, from 6 p.m. until 2 a.m., seven days a week.

For questions, comments and suggestions regarding South Village Crossing and campus dining:
- Jody Thompson, food service program manager, jthom373@uncc.edu
- Ana Alvarez, director of auxiliary services, ana.alvarez@uncc.edu
- Nutritional information: Beth Mack, Chartwells dining services dietitian, bmack10@uncc.edu
- Meal Plans: aux.uncc.edu/mealplans, 49ercard@uncc.edu, 704-687-7337

And...
- 10 Tips for healthy eating in a dining hall [PDF] (USDA publication)
- SoVi Grand Opening [video]
SAFETY AND SECURITY

Campus police on call

When touring colleges, many parents take special note of the emergency call button towers, security officers and night ride programs. UNC Charlotte employs a network of officials to safeguard students, and at the core is the campus police department.

Campus police are a full-service police agency specifically serving the community. They can respond to needs on and off campus and extend themselves beyond a typical police department.

Campus police play a key role in preventing incidents, with intensive education at the beginning of the school year. Campus patrol officers are assigned to dorms and work with Resident Advisors and housing staff to provide safety education such as reminding students to lock dorm rooms even when leaving for just a few minutes.

Sometimes, helping out means dealing with students who are breaking the law and/or in violation of University's codes of conduct. Campus police respond to reported incidents that endanger the safety of the students, and they are able to make arrests and file charges.

One of the biggest threats to student safety on campus is alcohol abuse. For students under the age of 21, drinking is prohibited on campus as it is in the community. Alcohol is not allowed in residence halls unless the student is older than 21. Those students may have alcohol in their rooms and host parties in common areas if they apply for the proper permit. (According to a student handbook from 2013, UNC Charlotte students over 21 can have alcohol in their rooms, so we may want to tailor this section to UNC Charlotte specifically. We can revert back to original if you would prefer) Information about alcohol and party policies are available in the Student Handbook and on UNC Charlotte's website, www.uncc.edu.

Underage students caught drinking by campus police will be charged with minor in possession and may be required to go to court. A student does not have to be in physical possession of alcohol or drugs to be charged. Evidence of intoxication alone suffices.

For first-time offenders, judges often send the student back to the University where the administration initiates a review and prescribes punishments in line with the school's code of conduct.

After multiple charges of alcohol possession and repeated intervention by the courts, college enrollment can be suspended or even revoked.

Contrary to what some students think, campus police are motivated to minimize and prevent crime rather than simply make arrests. Officers desire to keep students safe and act as a point of contact when students sense a threat to that safety.

– Lucy Ewing
The Charlotte Research Scholars Program

Inquisitive, ambitious undergraduate students are encouraged to apply for the Charlotte Research Scholars Program. Few experiences in an undergraduate program compare with the rewards offered by the opportunity to conduct original research. Whatever a student’s field of study, conducting research with a faculty member gives students an opportunity to push the boundaries of knowledge, learn about themselves, and contribute to society. An undergraduate education provides students with the intellectual and professional skills necessary to become accomplished, capable, and engaged citizens. Through undergraduate coursework, interaction with professors and peers, and engagement in intellectual programs and activities on campus, students learn not only how to ask the right questions about the world around them, but also how to find the answers to those questions.

UNC Charlotte launched the first annual Charlotte Research Scholars (CRS) program in the summer of 2012 to promote and strengthen a culture of undergraduate research. The CRS program funds UNC Charlotte undergraduates to work with faculty on projects in a wide range of disciplines.

Research

This summer, 60 students will be accepted into this competitive ten-week summer program, and will receive a $4,000 stipend to support their research experiences. The CRS program gives students an intense immersion experience in research working with faculty, graduate students and other professionals on topics that they might otherwise only read about. Working one-on-one with a professor to conduct original research as an undergraduate student is a unique experience and a valuable opportunity that engages students in the process of discovery early in their careers, and allows them to make a contribution to a field of study. This process builds confidence and character; students who participate in research projects tend to do better in their majors and are well prepared to advance in their careers.

Professional Development

The CRS program not only allows undergraduates to gain valuable research experience; a vital part of the program was professional development training to prepare students for future research careers. The training included sessions on the ethical conduct of research, writing research reports, preparing and presenting research posters, creating an academic résumé, preparing for and applying to graduate school, and applying for research funding and fellowships. The CRS program also sponsored several social events designed to build an intellectual community among the participants. Interacting and sharing ideas with students from other majors can allow them to begin making intellectual connections across a broad range of topics. This kind of cooperation drives innovation.

Summer Research Symposium

At the end of the ten-week program, CRS participants present their work at a research symposium held in the Student Union. Interested students should fill out an application by the February __ deadline. Applicants should know that conducting research is hard work. It requires a lot of effort, ability to handle stress, and is a rigorous intellectual exercise. However, a summer dedicated to research can quite possibly be the most rewarding summer of their undergraduate careers.

PARENT LETTER

Join the Niner Nation Family as a Volunteer

The first time that we volunteered at UNC Charlotte, we were overwhelmed at the amount of parent participation. Growing up, your parents always told you, “No matter how old you get, you’re still my baby.” With that being said, we still want to invest our time into our child’s future. Volunteering on campus allows you and other parents to become a community.

As a community, we feel a sense of fellowship for the common attitudes and goals we share. We want to see that every student, staff member, faculty member, parent and visitor is equipped with the knowledge they need to have at that moment and the information they’ll need to enrich their future.

We must admit, we love getting the volunteer emails. The various sporting events, tailgating and other activities are so exciting. If you haven’t attended or volunteered at one of these great events, you are missing out.

You will get just as much out of it as you put into it; when you give of your time to this University, you are contributing to the future of not just your kids but to so many others as well.

Sincerely,

David and Shannon Haynes
Mr. Airy, NC
STUDENT FEATURE

Aspen Robinson
Judicial Graduate Assistant, Dean of Students Office

Much has changed for Aspen Robinson since she left her home in Atlanta for UNC Charlotte and a new life in the Queen City. A psychology major at the University of Georgia, Robinson is in her first year of graduate school, studying industrial and organization psychology.

Robinson works in the Dean of Students Office as a graduate assistant for student conduct. She sets up hearings for the judicial board and stays in contact with students, witnesses and the student panel. She enjoys the family environment at the Dean of Students Office. “There is a cohesiveness about the office that I really like,” she said.

Balancing her work on campus and her course load isn’t easy. “It has been an adjustment having night classes after working all day,” Robinson said. She has a tight schedule of working and attending classes at the Center City campus in uptown Charlotte. So the friends she’s made at the Dean of Students Office have been a blessing in adjusting to it all. “Getting used to work hasn’t been too challenging, everyone in the office is friendly and available to help,” she said.

Robinson likes the size of UNC Charlotte. “UGA is a rather large institution. I was used to walking around and seeing thousands of students at a time. I’m used to busy streets in a big city. I enjoy the comfortably of UNC Charlotte the most,” she said.

Robinson also likes Charlotte. “The city is very beautiful and seems very new and modern. I enjoy being here and the diversity that I see as well,” she said.

Now that she’s here, Robinson isn’t content with just finishing her master’s degree work. “Now that I’ve started this program, I am sure that I am interested in research. I do want to go back and get a Ph.D.,” she said.

She hopes to work at an external consulting firm after graduation. “I want to make sure that organizations are in tip-top shape by placing executives in fitting positions,” she said.

Her skills in time management and organization have allowed her to excel in her first year at UNC Charlotte. Robinson enjoys her classes, and she said she is learning real-world, practical information about the field of psychology. In her introduction to industrial psychology class, local professionals spoke to students about their work. She found it very helpful.

“They give you a taste of what you should expect when you graduate, depending on what avenue you want to take,” she said.

– Sarah Cain

DEAN OF STUDENTS ADMINISTRATIVE HIGHLIGHT

Alex Swanston

Alex Swanston is known for his stylish sweaters, desert boots and a classic haircut. A certifying official in the Veteran Student Services Office, Swanston has an energetic personality that resonates with his coworkers and students.

The retired Army National Guard specialist decided it was time for a change of scenery when he left the military in July 2011. He always had a desire to return to the East Coast, but he wasn’t sure where. Swanston picked UNC Charlotte. It was a new setting for the Alaska-raised veteran who spent his youth fishing and snowboarding in Juneau.

Swanston started as a student worker in the Veteran Affairs Office, which was a branch of the Dean of Students Office that provided programs for veteran students. Across the way was Ali Jenner, a Veterans Affairs certifying official who worked in the Office of the Registrar. She made sure veteran students’ classes met VA requirements and that those students received their stipends for books and housing. These two functions are critical for veteran students as they transition from the military into college.

With the creation of Veteran Student Services in 2012, Swanston was hired to a full-time position the next year. Swanston and Jenner noticed gaps in the system and decided to update and upgrade the department. Workshops on resume building, counseling sessions and ROTC versus veterans field day were some of the improvements the office made to help veterans successfully transition into college, personally and academically.

“We are a need base office, some students need us more than others,” Swanston said.

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The newsletter from the Office of Parent and Family Services

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The office serves about 800 students a year. That number varies from year to year as students graduate or run out of benefits. Veteran students are allotted 36 months of education benefits to cover the cost of tuition, books and housing. But despite the large number of students they help, the VSSO staff is well equipped to handle the workload.

“It’s about having good people in the office versus quantity,” Swanson said.

Recently, Veteran Student Services moved into Barnard 103, a larger office complete with a student lounge, study space and free coffee. Coming from a military background, Swanson understands the struggle veteran students face and the importance of having an office with this capacity on campus. “We serve a wide range of people: veterans, spouses and dependents, and we want what’s best for them,” he said.

Swanson believes his background allows him to connect with veteran students on a personal level. A student veteran once told him that he felt comfortable discussing his problems while at the VSSO.

“I think it’s them knowing that I’m a veteran that makes them more comfortable,” he said.

Veteran Student Services along with the other departments that help make up the Dean of Students Office — such as Parent and Family Services, Latino Student Services and the Office of Student Conduct, among others — share a common goal of providing students with the tools they need to be successful.

— Jadora Ross

Swantson continued from page 6

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### Niner Choice

**Guide to Finding Off Campus Housing**

Last fall, UNC Charlotte implemented a new security initiative called Niner Choice. The program is a taskforce between UNC Charlotte, the Office of Off-Campus Student Outreach and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department. The goals of Niner Choice are to promote increased security measures at University Area apartment complexes; increase communication between off-campus properties and the University; help students and their families make informed decisions about off-campus housing; and educate property owners and managers on how to make their facilities safer for students.

To be a part of the Niner Choice Program, properties must meet security requirements set by the taskforce. Apartments that meet the requirements will receive the Green Standard designation. That means the properties have student-only units, a peephole on every front door, deadbolt locks with three-inch screws, windows in working order, and a working smoke detector. In addition, each building number must be visible from the street and there must be sufficient and reasonable lighting in all areas of the property.

Apartments that receive the Gold Standard designation exceed the level of safety and security set by the taskforce. Along with the Green Standard requirements, these properties also have solid-core doors (if leased by the bedroom), a vehicle gate, blue-light emergency phones and surveillance cameras.

This program will allow students and their parents to know an apartment’s level of security and safety before signing a lease. Apartments that receive the Niner Choice Gold Standard will have yard signs and certificates acknowledging this.

— Sean Langley

### How do I find out about inclement weather closings?

- Look for ALERTS on the UNC Charlotte main web-page which will appear in a yellow box above the banner.
- Call the UNC Charlotte Inclement Weather Hotline a 704-687-1900 for closures and delays.
- Resident students receive first consideration with dining halls opening first in this order: SoVi and Crown Commons.
- Other dining locations will operate based upon available personnel in this order: Student Union Outtakes and Wendy’s, Chick-Fil-A (Prospector) and Library Cafe.
- Dining halls and service area openings are posted on aux.uncc.edu and via Twitter (@unccaux).
Students Receive Support in Deciding their Major

University College (UCOL) and its University Advising Center began in June 2007 as a place for students who are seeking a major, as well as for students who are changing majors (voluntarily or involuntarily) to receive advising assistance.

Students are encouraged to view their time as a UCOL student as a planning and preparation time for entry into a major that will provide the best opportunity for them to use their talents and resources in achieving their academic goal of degree completion.

Why was there a need for UCOL?

Prior to its establishment, undeclared and transitioning students often sought advising at the department in which they hoped to major. But frequently they could not gain access to departmental advisors who had overwhelming advising loads from their own majors. There was a need to have advising assistance for undeclared and transitioning students, with advisors trained to provide information on requirements, admission, matriculation through majors across the University, as well as University policies.

What are the qualifications to get into the college?

Any student admissible to the University is admissible to UCOL. Students may choose to come into the University as undeclared, or they may be assigned the designation if they apply to a major for which they are not yet qualified. Students who are already in the University, but are struggling in their chosen major, may be referred to UCOL as they work toward a major that is a better fit. These students are temporarily admitted to UCOL as long as they have fewer than 60 earned hours.

How does UCOL support students?

Primarily through the University Advising Center (UAC), which generally serves three populations of students: undeclared students truly undecided about which major to pursue, undeclared students seeking admission to competitive majors and students transitioning from one major into another.

The advising process involves a frank discussion of majors as they pertain to potential career choices. If students have no idea of a career path or major, they are referred to the University Career Center for career exploration. This usually begins with an assessment such as the Strong Interest Inventory or the Focus II. Once they have assessment results, the UAC advisor discusses the student’s strengths, skills and aptitude for potential areas of study and subsequent major.

The advisor then reviews the curriculum for each potential major with the student. If it is a competitive major, the focus is on the requirements for admission to that major, and the circumstances under which a student might become ineligible for the major. When a student gains eligibility to declare, the advisor assists them with completing the change-of-major process.

For students not eligible to declare, the UAC advisor continues to work with them until pre-requisites are met or options are chosen. When it appears that the chosen major will require an extended period to complete, time-to-degree and tuition-surcharge issues are weighed.

For students in academic jeopardy, the UAC advisor uses a variety of interventions designed to identify areas of weakness or deficiency and give students the tools to get back into good academic standing. The formal interven-
tion, 49er Rebound, stresses the use of campus resources such as advisors, instructors, the University Center for Academic Excellence, University Career Center and the Counseling Center, which are all invaluable tools to help students recover academically.

**How big is the staff?**

UCOL is headed by John Smail, the dean and associate provost for undergraduate studies. Associate Dean Bruce Taylor leads Prospect for Success initiatives. There are three directors, Jean Coco (Communication Across the Curriculum), Elizabeth Fitzgerald (First-Year Programs and Student Success) and Henrietta Thomas (University Advising Center). The advising center staff consists of an associate director (Howard Simms) and eight academic advisors. There are three on the administrative staff.

**How does UCOL partner with other colleges to transition students into majors?**

The University Advising Center staff works closely with academic and professional departments on campus through liaison partnerships. The advisors, through regular contact with assigned departments, maintain accurate records of changes in curriculum requirements. The advisors also host group advising meetings that include change-of-major sessions for students ready to declare their majors in business, psychology, engineering and communications. The meetings are held in conjunction with the respective departments.

**What is on the horizon that UCOL students should be excited about?**

An exciting change — anticipated in early 2015 — is a renovated space in Colvard, including the addition of the University Center for Academic Excellence and Multicultural Academic Services, all in the same area. This will enhance the student experience by centralizing the academic support services most recommended by advisors.

Other changes involve enhanced advising for transfer students, which will begin with a dedicated transfer advising website. Also, a new category of major for the undeclared student who has expressed interest in allied health professions will allow more directed advising to students who plan to seek admission to medical, dental, pharmacy, etc., programs.

- Henrietta Thomas

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**Quick Facts: University College**

- This is not a degree program.
- The goal is not to retain students in UCOL but to help them choose a major and matriculate to graduation.
- Many in UCOL applied for majors for which they were not eligible (about 30 percent).
- A major component of UCOL is the University Advising Center.
- The UCOL dean is John Smail, associate provost of undergraduate studies.
- As of Spring 2014, 2,200 students were classified as UCOL.

**Student Speaks**

“...I chose to become a part of University College because I knew they were going to be the best resource in getting me on to the right track when I become ready to transfer into my major (engineering). What I really like about UCOL is being able to get information about majors, programs and opportunities that are only for UCOL students and not available to the entire campus.”

Garett Spencer, University College, Sophomore
Career Center

Students hear it time and time again: “The best way to increase your chances of finding a job after graduation is to intern.” And most at some point will say: “I need to know if the company I want to work for after graduation really is the best fit for me.” The University Career Center is full of career-related resources to give students the experience and information they need to be successful after graduation.

For example, the launch of the Hire-A-Niner website (http://career.uncc.edu/hire-a-niner) gives UNC Charlotte students easy and user-friendly access to available jobs, internships, and co-ops. The site also has a resume creator tool and an employer directory filled with companies specifically looking to hire UNC Charlotte students.

They have even created a program for internships right here on campus. The Career Center created the University Professional Internship Program, also known as UPIP, as a new program made for full-time sophomores, juniors and seniors seeking internships to provide professional knowledge and skill development consistent with their career goals. Nearly every office and department on campus offers UPIP internships to students. All positions are part-time (10-15 hours a week) during the academic year and up to full-time (40 a week) during the summer. All positions pay at $10 an hour.

Students can always come by the Career Center to have their resume critiqued, which will give them a better chance of being hired. Along with resume review, the Career Center also offers mock interviews.

Taking part in a mock interview is a great way to prepare for a real one. They put applicants in the same situation they would face when being interviewed by a hiring manager and encourages deeper thinking about the questions asked in real-life interviews.

Wherever a student is in his or her career search, the Career Center has excellent and abundant resources to help. Do not miss out on the opportunities and resources the Career Center has to offer. Come by or visit career.uncc.edu.

— Career Center Upcoming Events —

**Education Career Fair**
Friday, February 27, 2015
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

**Spring Career Expo**
Friday, April 10, 2015
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

University Career Center
Atkins 150 (next to Atkins Library)
9201 University City Boulevard
Charlotte, North Carolina 28223
704-687-0795
career.uncc.edu

Office Hours:
Monday – Friday
8 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Drop-in Hours:
Monday – Thursday
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Also, Tuesdays
5 – 6 p.m.

You should like this.