Family Weekend Recap
Students and their families enjoyed an event-packed weekend together

Family Weekend 2012 took place September 28th through the 30th, and entertained parents, family members and students from all over! With weeks of preparation, the Office of Parent and Family Services was able to provide a wide variety of events that family members of all ages could enjoy. As tradition would have it, weather conditions were slightly cloudy, with periodic rain, but nevertheless everyone kept their heads up high and maintained a great attitude!

Family Weekend began on Friday at 4:00 pm when students and parents got a glimpse of some of the safety precautions that our campus utilizes with a walk through the new Mobile Incident Command Center. Participants then ‘mixed and mingled’ with Chancellor Phil Dubois, his wife Lisa Lewis Dubois, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Dr. Arthur Jackson, and our student body president Conor Dugan. Niner Nation Family members enjoyed delicious refreshments and light music, while mingling with other families. Despite the rain that closed the patio, there was nothing but laughter and good conversation among those present. Chancellor Dubois closed the event by encouraging parents to get involved and discussed the future development for the campus.

Following the parent reception, the Department of Music hosted their second annual Spotlight Recital which featured talented students and alumni. The Spotlight Recital went off without a hitch an entertained everyone that came through the door. Parents also had the option to showcase their Niner spirit and cheer on the Charlotte 49er women’s soccer team playing Virginia Commonwealth University. The women’s soccer team defeated VCU with a score of 2-1! Friday night ended with Niners on the Weekends (NOW) hosting a family themed Union Take Over, complete with hypnotist Mikey Angel, live music, and family green screen photos.

Saturday morning started off with an event hosted by Venture titled “What a High.” This event gave students, parents, and family members the opportunity to experience two HIGH Challenge Courses, respectively named Odyssey and the Iliad. Both courses lead to the final ultimate thrill of a zipline ride. The morning continued with two helpful presentations, the first from the Office of Education Abroad entitled “Where
A Journey Through Music

Perhaps one of the hardest decisions for students in college is choosing a major. Especially when it’s a choice between practicality or passion. There are those who are lucky enough to realize early on what they want to do in life that will make them happy. In the case of Dareion Malone, he made the hard decision at first by putting aside his happiness for a more secure position in life. Dareion grew up in the small town of Byhalia, Mississippi before heading out to UNC Charlotte to pursue his passion in music.

Dareion first attained his bachelor’s degree in Business Administration with a minor in Accounting at the historical Rust College in Holly Springs, Mississippi. Music was still incorporated in his life nonetheless and he served as a student accompanist, conductor, orchestra member and soloist. Unfortunately he was only a couple of courses away from realizing his M.B.A. when the company he worked for downsized without warning. It was then that Dareion realized this was his chance to go back to school and attain the “fulfillment” he didn’t have in his life.

Coming back to college wasn’t the easiest for Dareion, but it was something he definitely does not regret. One of the difficulties Dareion had at first was trying to relate with the students at UNC Charlotte. “I’m 30 years old, so being able to relate to those students who are 19 or 20 years old was tough, especially since we were all in different areas in life.” Now though, Dareion gets support from the students, music department and his family in the sacrifice he made. Also, being a student required a switch to being a daytime person and having to make an income, Dareion has to work nights and weekends which is something he was not use to, especially with his previous job. “Though it was demanding physically, psychologically and emotionally, I get support all around me.”

With all his accomplishments, Dareion is pretty well known within the department and has an impressive background when it comes to music. He has been singing since early childhood, playing piano since age 9 and grew up a church musician. During the 12th grade he had the opportunity to go to Times Square in New York City and to perform at Carnegie Hall for the Annual Choral Festival. About a week later, he had another opportunity to perform with Celine Dion for a two night concert through his Godparents choir. With all the experiences, this led him to numerous leadership and professional opportunities while still a student.

Though it is one of the music requirements to help inside and outside of class, Dareion seems to stick out. During Family Weekend, the Spotlight Recital was held at Robinson Hall and Dareion was asked by one of the professors to be the student speaker, which caught him off guard. What they wanted in the speech was his life journey through music, especially before and during his time at UNC Charlotte. The speech was praised by many. Here is an excerpt:

“You see, my peers and I understand each other’s level of sacrifice to get here and to stay here, and we remain supportive of each other. Each of us has a gift, and we simply desire to share it with the world so that through our music, your individual lives are enhanced. Through each note that is played and every lyric that is sung, there’s a message; and the message is that music can add joy to an angry society. Music can give hope to situations that appear hopeless. Our music can empower young girls and boys, and women and men to love one another regardless of race, religion or creed. You see, that’s power of music! That’s what our sacrifice is about.”

After he graduates, Dareion hopes to teach music to elementary or middle school students so he can give them the opportunities to experience what he went through regarding music. “I feel my mission in life at this point is to pay it forward and do the same thing for another child that may not have access or proper exposure. I was able to dream and fulfill my dream. So my passion for education is to help students fulfill their dreams; and if they don’t know how to dream, then teach them how to dream.”

During his free time, Dareion likes to watch psychological thriller movies and just enjoys being at home in front of the TV and relaxing from his hectic schedule.

— Sazia Bashar

Niner Nation
Family

You should like this.
DEAN OF STUDENTS REPRESENTATION

— Alison Jenner —
Assistant Director for the Veterans Student Services

There are many new faces at the Dean of Students Office and one of them is Alison Jenner, the new Assistant Director for the Veterans Student Services. Alison has been at UNC Charlotte for two years and previously worked at the Office of the Registrar as the Veterans Administration certifying official.

Alison grew up in the third snowiest city in the U.S., Marquette, Michigan. There, she attended Northern Michigan University (NMU) and received her B.S. in Entertainment and Sport Promotions. While at NMU she started and played on the women’s hockey team. She then went on to attain her Masters in Educational Leadership at the University of Wisconsin at Oshkosh. Afterward, she moved to Charlotte, NC with her husband and was hired to work in the Registrar’s Office.

Though Alison is the new Assistant Director, she seems to have two titles for now. Since the Veterans Student Services Office (VSSO) is still new, they are in the process of building a foundation for the office. Currently she is serving both as an Assistant Director, her new job, and in her previous job as Certifying Official until her old position can be filled. Alison has so much to do and think about when it comes to the growth of this office. Some of her responsibilities include building relationships with campus partners, processing GI Bills, and helping students to understand the Veterans program.

It’s hard work, but Alison enjoys getting to know the students. “I enjoy this population. They [students] are some of the most amazing, polite and appreciative people I’ve ever met. They appreciate simple things we do for them—getting back to them with e-mails within minutes, taking phone calls and even talking in person.” Though there are difficulties too, especially when it involves enrollment management and benefits within the program. There are around 800 students using different GI Bills at UNC Charlotte and Alison says it is hard to keep up with the population which is growing, especially with more veterans coming back to school. “It’s a big thing right now to assist veterans.”

For new students, Alison recommends reading as much information as possible about what their benefits provide, how the process works at the university and being prepared and organized especially with the rules and responsibilities for using benefits. “When you are using benefits, everything needs to be done in a timely fashion. Something simple as not getting into required courses and only taking electives while being undeclared can harm the chances of getting any benefits.” But Alison, along with the rest of the Veterans Office, is working on putting out as much information as possible, with the plan of sending out newsletters and creating surveys and focus groups to better understand what the students’ needs are and what needs are not being met.

During her free time, Alison enjoys reading, spending time with her dog, plays on a woman’s hockey team and volunteers with a girls’ hockey called Team Carolina.

Family Weekend Recap (continued from page 1)

Are We in the World?” where students and parents gained a better understanding about the process of studying abroad. The second presentation, by Career Services, offered an entertaining and educational skit exploring myths and realities of career exploration, internships, the job market, and other resources their office offers.

Next, Dr. Oscar Lansen, Director of Undergraduate History program and the recipient of the UNC Charlotte 2012 Outstanding Faculty of the Year Award, provided an insightful lecture “Children in War and Conflict” for Family Weekend participants. Dr. Lansen was specifically nominated and selected by the student body to speak during Family Weekend. Following Dr. Lansen’s lecture, parents and family members were able to volunteer for a great cause, ‘Operation Sandwich’. This event helped provide over 800 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to Urban Ministry Center in Uptown Charlotte!

Family green screen photos

HIGH Challenge course zip line

Also on Saturday, Niner Nation Family members were able to travel the world in a day with the longest-running event on UNC Charlotte’s campus, the International Festival (I-FEST). I-FEST showcased culture, dance, dress, and flavors, from dozens of countries. Inside the Student Activity Center vendors sold native goods from various countries. The International Festival was a huge success and once again brought thousands from the community to UNC Charlotte’s campus.

Then, after a taking a break for dinner, parents returned to the third floor of the Student Union to enjoy a sketch comedy act by The Second City. Second City, a Chicago based sketch comedy group, has been delighting audiences for over 50 years and performed for about 700 Niner Nation parents and family members. The Second City delivered a wonderful show concluding with an encore of improvisation.

After a rainy day, parents and family members then had the opportunity to enjoy a movie in McKnight Hall. The Amazing Spiderman, originally planned to be an outdoor movie, was moved because of the rain. The weekend was topped off with a win by the women’s soccer team on Sunday afternoon against the University of Richmond. Once again at Transamerica Field the nationally ranked Charlotte 49ers won with an encore of improvisation.

Continued on page 4
Family Weekend Recap (continued from page 2)
a score of 2-0.

The Office of Parent and Family Services would like to sincerely thank all of the Family Weekend participants and volunteers for making the entire weekend a great success! Be sure to mark your calendars for Family Day on February 2, 2013. The event will be packed with great activities for all to enjoy, including the Chancellor’s Breakfast, a men’s basketball game against the University of Massachusetts, and so much more!

More information will be coming soon so continue to check parents.uncc.edu for your latest updates. Hope to see you all there!

— Linzey Thompson
Charlotte Teachers Institute receives gift from Wells Fargo Foundation

The Charlotte Teachers Institute has received a $50,000 gift from The Wells Fargo Foundation to support the institute’s work in strengthening teaching in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools.

“We are thrilled to receive this confident and sustained support from such a well-respected member of our community as the Wells Fargo Foundation,” said Scott Gartlan, CTI executive director. “Our work is focused on making connections between public school teachers and university professors to meet the needs of students in the classroom. This gift will allow us to continue this work.”

An innovative partnership between the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Davidson College and CMS, Charlotte Teachers Institute brings together faculty, staff and other resources to engage teachers in academic seminars. The Wells Fargo Foundation presented its gift to the UNC Charlotte Foundation on behalf of CTI.

“The Wells Fargo Foundation continues to be impressed with the professional development Charlotte Teachers Institute offers our local teachers,” said Jay Everette, community affairs manager at Wells Fargo. “Many participants say that this program helps them teach with more impact and passion. We also like the fact that curriculum created by these educators through their experience with Charlotte Teachers Institute is shared nationally with other educators via Yale University.”

The Wells Fargo Foundation has supported the institute since CTI’s inception in 2009. This most recent gift will support CTI’s general programming, including the 2012 round of seminars which began in late April. Through seminars led by UNC Charlotte and Davidson College faculty, CMS teachers learn new content, work collaboratively with other teachers, and develop new curricula for their students. Teachers serve as leaders in the institute and choose seminar topics they deem most important and engaging for current CMS teachers and their students. To date, more than 200 CMS teachers have participated in the Charlotte Teachers Institute seminars, teaching more than 40,000 students.

An affiliate of the Yale National Initiative at Yale University, CTI cultivates content-knowledge, creativity, leadership skills and collaboration. Programs include long-term seminars and special events for teachers, as well as community presentations such as the popular Exploding Canons cultural collaboration series.

Currently, 102 CMS teachers in grades K-12 are enrolled in eight, multidisciplinary seminars that continue until December. The seminars’ weekly meetings recess during the summer while teachers immerse themselves in reading and research related to the curriculum units they are developing for their students. These curriculum units generate learning beyond each teacher’s classroom, as the final units are shared with teachers’ school colleagues and are also published on the CTI and Yale National Initiative websites, making them accessible to teachers worldwide.

CTI programs are made possible by a joint commitment of resources from all three Institute partners and through the generosity of private funding institutions such as The Wells Fargo Foundation. The institute is housed at UNC Charlotte within the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

October is a busy month for the UNC Charlotte Police Department

We are nearly halfway through the fall semester, but the UNC Charlotte Police Department is showing no signs of slowing down. From Halloween programming, to self-defense courses, October will full of activity!

Domestic Violence Awareness month is recognized in October, so members of the campus police department will have tables set up around campus to create awareness about domestic violence. There will also be a special Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) course held specifically for Domestic Violence Awareness month on October 13, 2012 at 9am.

October is also Operation ID Month when students can have personal items permanently engraved with unique identification numbers for free! This helps prevent larcenies and assists law enforcement officials with stolen property identification. Students that get products engraved during October will be entered into a drawing to win a free prize! Prizes include a laptop, cell phone, bike and computer locks donated by NinerTech.

The Police Department will begin gearing up for Halloween Safety programming during the week of October 22nd through October 27th. They will also be passing out pamphlets with safety tips on alcohol and trusting your instincts.

Later this month, the UNCC Police Department will partner with the Governors Highway Safety Program for their Halloween Booze it & Lose it campaign. The program will take place on campus from October 26th through October 31st.

For more information on the UNC Charlotte Police Department visit http://police.uncc.edu.

“Our work is focused on making connections between public school teachers and university professors to meet the needs of students in the classroom. This gift will allow us to continue this work.”

— Laura Rowland

Declining Balance funds running low? Now’s the time to supplement your meal plan by making a deposit to ODA (Optional Dining Account). Dining Services is giving FREE ComBOs to those who add $100 or more by Nov. 14. mealplans.uncc.edu

FREE COMBo! When you add ODA!
The Office of Disability Services offers a variety of accommodations for UNC Charlotte students. Their mission is to ensure access to academic programs and to campus facilities at UNC Charlotte allowing all individuals to feel this campus is an inclusive environment. Kristin Kolin, the Associate Director for Disability Services and a counselor for the office, gave insight to how the office defines a disability. She says, “The legal definition, which guides our work, states that a disability is a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. Our office views “disability” as a component of diversity. Students are not defined by their disabilities or diagnoses. They’re students first and foremost with diverse abilities.” Disability Services has offered accommodations since 1984, and have sought to remove any possible barriers a disability may present, depending on the nature of the disability and the impact it can have on academics. Disability Services is able to accomplish this through providing accessible classrooms and furniture, assistive technology, class notes, foreign language substitution, interpreting services, testing accommodations, and textbooks in alternate forms.

The office has Disability Services office has counselors who review disability documentation for eligibility and work with qualified students to determine appropriate accommodations. When a student is attempting to register with Disability Services a documentation verification form must be submitted to the office. The forms offered vary from ADD/ADHD and learning disabilities to medical and physical disabilities.

These accommodations serve to remove any possible barriers a disability may present. Services are initiated by students and the process is kept strictly confidential. Disability information is never indicated on transcripts and the specific diagnoses aren’t disclosed. When asked about the additional services offered by the Office of Disability Services Kristin Kolin answers, “Many students don’t realize that our office also assists students with temporary medical conditions.”

A temporary condition is one that may have recently arisen and the duration of the condition is temporary. In this case, Tabitha Van Arkel, a UNC Charlotte senior was able to maximize their services. “In my case, I happened to fall and break my wrist the Thursday before classes started this semester. After gathering the proper documentation from my doctor, I had a meeting with one of the advisors in the Disability Services office. Since I was unable to use my right hand, I was assigned note takers for my classes, received a voice recorder to tape my lectures, and received testing accommodations. My condition lasted for approximately eight weeks, which is just one example of a temporary condition. Everyone in the Office of Disability Services was extremely friendly and they helped make my experience with having a broken wrist so much less stressful.”

There are other facets to the office as well. There is a Student Advisory Board comprised of registered students. They provide valuable feedback and insight along with being an integral part of their outreach activities. The Office of Disability Services also offers a yearly scholarship program.

The Office of Disability Services not only works with students but provides support to university staff, faculty, and administrators. Kristin Kolin imparts, “Many of our full-time employees serve on campus-wide committees to ensure accessibility is addressed and incorporated throughout the university, as well as being involved with many outreach efforts to increase awareness of disability related matters.”

If students have questions, clarifications, or concerns the UNC Charlotte Office of Disability Services can be contacted in Fretwell 230 or at 704-687-4355. Their website is http://ds.uncc.edu, and there is also a campus accessibility website http://accessability.uncc.edu.

PARENT LETTER

My place of employment and a home away from home for my daughter

Dawn Corbin
Assistant Director of Facilities

I am currently employed at UNC Charlotte and have a daughter in her junior year here as well. I must say, upon her decision to attend the university where I am employed bought about mixed feelings. One thought was that the benefits would be great having my daughter “close” to be monitored. Having gone through the process of sending children “off” to college, the pre-college search for your identity was tweaked because I was on campus.

My daughter, on the other hand, has proven to be far more independent and has developed far beyond my expectations. While I deal with the day-to-day operations from a university facility standpoint, she has emerged as an ideal student. She has involved herself in studying, many student organizations, and employment and volunteer opportunities.

I am comfortable with being supportive and being there emotionally for her, and the journey from being a total parent to a parent friend to her has been interesting. As I continue to be here on campus with her, I have begun to trust “her” process in her development and give her the space to live her college experience, manage her relationships, and give her the space to do it.

The experience of having my daughter attend UNC Charlotte, my place of employment, is great!
The semester is in full swing and campus is buzzing with activity: student groups planning events for the campus community, spectators enthusiastically cheering fellow 49er student-athletes at sporting events, and academic units inviting 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. In the midst of this excitement and hard work, the mid-term grading period is already upon us.

The middle of the semester is an exciting, and often stressful time for students. While supporting your student through mid-term exams, it is important to remember the Secrets to Doing Awesome at UNC Charlotte introduced at SOAR. This month, I would like to draw your attention to mid-term grade reports and what they can mean for your student. Secrets #2, #3, #4, and #7 discussed in last month’s Academic Affairs Corner will help students finish strong this semester. Secrets #1 and #8 will prepare students to register for the Spring semester.

**Mid-term Grade Reports**

By mid-October, most instructors will submit mid-term unsatisfactory grade reports for students for whom they have concern. While mid-term 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 online or his or her university email account for notification of unsatisfactory grades. Mid-term unsatisfactory grades are not written in stone, so your student can turn things around and should be encouraged 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. If your student wants to improve his or her grade(s), remind him or her to seek assistance at the University Center for Academic Excellence (http://ucae.uncc.edu). It’s not too late to take action to improve unsatisfactory grades!

**Secret #1: Embrace the Freshman 15**

While some students try to avoid gaining the infamous Freshman 15 pounds, we suggest picking up the other Freshman 15: register for 15 academic credit hours each semester. 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 5th, 2012. The Spring 2013 Course Schedule and the Undergraduate Catalog provide 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 begin to plan a tentative schedule for next semester. While taking 12 credit hours fulfills the minimum requirements for remaining a full-time student, your student should register for 15 credit hours to ensure that he or she is on track to graduate on time.

**Secret #8: Visit the Academic Advisor**

One resource for successfully navigating the path to graduation is your student’s academic advisor. A student’s academic advisor is a faculty or staff member assigned to work with him or her to understand the University’s academic policies, and to develop a working plan for achieving academic goals on time. As Spring registration approaches, it is always vital that all students meet with an advisor to develop an appropriate course schedule. 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”

Students having difficulty contacting an advisor should contact the department of their major Undeclared students or those transitioning between majors should see an advisor in the University Advising Center (http://advisingcenter.uncc.edu).

**Scheduling an appointment**

Students can now schedule appointments with their advisor through Niner Advisor, a University-wide online appointment scheduling system and advising database for faculty and students. Niner Advisor allows faculty and staff advisors to keep their advising records online, giving advisors access to all information previously provided to their students. If a student changes majors, useful advising information will follow that student to the new academic advisor.

**Before the meeting with advisor**

To get the most out of an advising session, students should arrive at the meeting on time and prepared. To prepare for the advising session, encourage your student to:

- Consult the Undergraduate Catalog, worksheets for General Education credit requirements (Gen-Ed-Advising-Worksheet.pdf), and departmental websites for academic plans of study or other advising worksheets specific to the major or minor.
- Be familiar with previous courses completed and progress toward completing the degree. Students can access this information by checking CAPP degree evaluation.
- Be familiar with his or her current grade point average (GPA).
- Create a course schedule.
- Prepare specific questions for the advisor.
- Complete required paperwork before the meeting.

During the advising session, your student should 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, honors education, internships, and experiential learning opportunities.

Remember, 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. Please stay tuned for more secrets to academic success for your student!
Relatively Speaking

The newsletter from the Office of Parent and Family Services
UPCOMING EVENTS

— October —

Charlotte 49ers Women’s Volleyball vs. George Washington
Saturday, October 20, 2012 – 7:00pm, Halton Arena
UNCC Students: Free, Adults: $5, Youth: $2

Charlotte 49ers Men’s Soccer vs. Rhode Island
Sunday, October 21, 2012 – 1:00pm, Transamerica Field
UNCC Students: Free, Adults: $5, Youth: $2

Charlotte 49ers Women’s Soccer vs. Saint Louis
Friday, October 26, 2012 – 7:00pm, Transamerica Field
UNCC Students: Free, Adults: $5, Youth: $2

Charlotte 49ers Women’s Soccer vs. Butler
Sunday, October 28, 2012 – 1:00pm, Transamerica Field
UNCC Students: Free, Adults: $5, Youth: $2

The Seagull by Anton Chekhov
Wednesday, October 31 – November 4, 2012 – Black Box Theatre, Robinson Hall
UNCC Students: $6, Faculty/Staff: $9, Seniors: $9, General Public: $14

— November —

Charlotte 49ers Women’s Volleyball vs. Dayton
Friday, November 2, 2012 – 7:00pm, Halton Arena
UNCC Students: Free, Adults: $5, Youth: $2

Fall Stroll for Epilepsy
Saturday, November 3, 2012 – 10:00am, Irwin Belk Track & Field Complex
Free: Accepting Donations

Charlotte 49ers Men’s Soccer vs. George Washington
Saturday, November 3, 2012 – 7:00pm, Transamerica Field
UNCC Students: Free, Adults: $5, Youth: $2

Charlotte 49ers Women’s Volleyball vs. Xavier
Sunday, November 4, 2012 – 1:00pm, Halton Arena
UNCC Students: Free, Adults: $5, Youth: $2

Fall Dance Concert
Thursday, November 15, 2012 – 7:30pm, Robinson Hall
UNCC Students: $6, Faculty/Staff: $9, Seniors: $9, General Public: $14

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To unsubscribe, email parents@uncc.edu.
For questions, comments or suggestions, contact parents@uncc.edu.

UNC CHARLOTTE

Campus Mail Box Rental

For students who want the convenience of a private mailbox and consistent campus address no matter if they change residence halls or live off-campus.
Available for lease in the Student Union, through Union Station and in the Prospector Building, through Mail & Package Services.
Rates: $25/6 months; $46/12 months
Click for a $10 coupon off first rental • aux.uncc.edu/mail

Your student can use a car without the expense of owning one.
UNC Charlotte has Hertz-On-Demand car sharing
$8/hour rate includes:
• Gas on Insurance and liability protection for the car
• GPS Navigation and 24-hour Roadside Assistance
FREE Membership
Find out more:
Hertz-on-Demand

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Relatively Speaking is a publication of the UNC Charlotte Dean of Students Office, under the direction of Kesha Williams, Assistant Director for Parent and Family Services. Edited by Laura Rowland.