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UNCW Earns Top Rankings

For the ninth consecutive year, the University of North Carolina Wilmington is one of the top 10 public master's universities in the South in the annual college rankings by U.S. News & World Report. UNCW ranks seventh in the 2007 edition, as it has for six out of the past nine years. Among the 127 public and private universities in the South that provide a full range of undergraduate and master's level programs, UNCW improved its overall ranking to 20th this year. UNCW's ranking resulted from improvement in many of the following categories:

- Peer assessment;
- Retention, including six-year graduation and freshman retention rates, Faculty resources, including proportion of classes with fewer than

- 20 students, proportion with 50 or more students, faculty salaries, proportion of faculty with highest degrees in their fields, student-faculty ratio and proportion of full-time faculty;
- Student selectivity, including student SAT/ACT scores and proportion of enrolled freshmen in top 25 percent of high school class and ratio of students admitted to applicants;
- Financial resources, average spending per student on instruction, research, student services and related educational expenditures;
- Alumni giving rate.

A complete report of the rankings can be viewed online at <http://www.usnews.com> or in U.S. News & World Report and the newsstand book America's Best Colleges.

UNCW Implementing Innovative Tools for a Safer Campus

The University of North Carolina Wilmington's commitment to safety is demonstrated by ongoing efforts to provide a safe environment where all campus community members can thrive.

"The safety of our students, faculty and staff is always our highest priority. Together, we can continue to enhance the safety of our campus," Chancellor Rosemary DePaolo said during the aftermath of the tragedy at Virginia Tech.

Since the August 2006 formation of the Chancellor's Safety and Security Council, more than 3,600 individuals have participated in various emergency education training workshops and programs, security cameras have been added to

residence halls, multiple improvements to campus lighting have been implemented, and the Collaboration for Assault Response & Education (CARE) and CROSSROADS substance abuse prevention programs have been augmented. In addition to traditional communication methods, UNCW has expanded or initiated the use of innovative emergency communication tools in recent months.



This July, UNCW Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) installed the Seahawk Warning Siren System, which includes two sirens intended to sound in emergencies in which individuals should seek shelter indoors (shelter in place). The siren

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UNCW Implementing Innovative Tools for a Safer Campus cont.

may sound for a New Hanover County tornado warning, a major hazardous materials release, criminal activity on campus that requires sheltering in place or similar incidents. Over the past few months, the university has embarked on a community-wide effort to instruct individuals to “take shelter, seek information and wait for the ‘all clear’ sound or information from official sources stating that the situation has passed,” during a siren sounding. The first of many regular full volume siren tests, scheduled for noon on the second Monday of January, July and September, was performed on September 10. UNCW will continue to work closely with New Hanover County Emergency Management for the implementation and operation of the siren system.

On August 31, an innovative campus emergency information Web site (www.uncw-campus.info) was publicly launched. The site will complement existing efforts to communicate with the campus and community, such as the UNCW Emergency Information Hotline and campus-wide e-mails, by providing a centralized source for emergency status updates, campus policies, educational materials and other emergency-related information. It may be utilized in certain emergencies to communicate directly with UNCW constituents and allows two-way communication via a public inquiry submission function. In order to maintain



communication in the most catastrophic situations, the site is housed on a separate server designed to function even when critical infrastructure on campus is destroyed.

Additionally, the university recently installed an Enhanced-911 (E-911) system that identifies the spe-

cific building and room on campus from which an emergency call is made. E-911 makes it unnecessary for community members to learn alternate emergency numbers for incidents on university property and enables the New Hanover County 911 Center to locate UNCW cell phone callers via GIS coordinates. As part of E-911 preparation, 18 campus streets were named or re-named and 65 buildings were addressed. Prior to E-911, the university had one address, 601 South College Road, which made it necessary for a UNCW police officer to escort EMS and the Fire Department to campus buildings.

In conjunction with E-911, UNCW Police telecommunicators have been assigned to the New Hanover County 911 Center, sending all incoming UNCW 911 calls initially to county dispatchers. According to UNCW Police Chief David Donaldson, “this new distribution plan provides extraordinary system redundancies in the event of system failures on campus and also physically positions UNCW at the table with county-wide emergency resources, resulting in improved communication between the university police, city and county emergency responders.”

The university has also expanded its Emergency Callbox Network to almost 100 locations, including the new CIS Building and the Seahawk Landing apartment complex and areas identified by students during safety walks coordinated by the Chancellor's Council on Safety and Security. UNCW has utilized emergency callboxes since the early 1990s to provide a convenient way for members of the university and local community to contact the police. Additional boxes will be installed. Their accessibility enables individuals to communicate directly with police officers about a wide range of security needs, ranging from assistance in an emergency situation, to a late night security escort or a vehicle jumpstart.

UNCW leadership is dedicated to constantly evaluating campus needs and making appropriate changes, but Chief Donaldson notes, “It is important to remember all members of the UNCW community – students, faculty, staff, and parents – share the responsibility of providing a safe environment.”

Contributed by UNCW Marketing and Communications



**UNCW'S
Family Weekend 2007
October 12-14**



The Counseling Center: A Resource For Student Success

“I can’t find friends”; “I feel left out”; “I can’t seem to find anything that I like here”; “I can’t concentrate on my classes”; “I’m feeling really lonely and down”.

Perhaps your child has made similar statements to you since arriving at UNCW. College is a time of major transition.

Some adjustments and “growing pains” are normal. Sometimes, the changes can feel overwhelming to the point that a parent might feel a need to encourage their child to seek some assistance. The Counseling Center is one resource available to assist.

The staff of the Counseling Center believes that a student’s successful progress towards graduation is impacted by a number of personal, social, and academic factors. To assist this progress, UNCW offers a variety of services including individual personal counseling, group counseling, outreach programs, and personal development workshops. Services are provided by counselors and psychologists who, while qualified to work with general populations, have specific interests and skills in working within a university setting.

The services of the UNCW Counseling Center are designed to enhance the strengths of students. Our primary goal is to assist students in completing their degree while developing a greater understanding of themselves in relation to others and their environment.

Services are confidential and accessible. Common concerns addressed include loneliness, depression, anxiety, sexuality, homesickness, relationships, family issues, body image and grief. In addition, assessment services are available for

students with substance abuse concerns. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday and for urgent/crisis concerns, walk-in hours are available each weekday. To access crisis consultation after business hours, call the University Police at 910-962-2222 or in Wilmington, 911.

If you feel your student would benefit from contact with a counselor, encourage a visit or call to the Center located on the 2nd floor of Westside Hall - (910) 962-3746. After completing an information packet, students can be seen as soon as a counselor is available (for urgent concerns) or will receive an appointment for an initial contact with a counselor. Students are informed of ways to contact the Center, including the after-hours on call process, before leaving their initial meeting. When other counseling resources would better serve the needs of a student, referrals to off-campus professionals and agencies are provided.

If a parent is interested in consulting with the Counseling Center staff, call us at 910-962-3746. However, please be reminded that due to confidentiality requirements, we cannot provide specific information about your student.

Students are encouraged to become aware of the variety of campus services and activities available to them. In so doing, they can more fully enjoy their college experience and graduate from UNCW more prepared to manage the challenges that life will bring.

*Contributed by B. Lynne Reeder, Ph.D., LP-HSPP,
Director, Counseling Center*

What’s New at the University Learning Center?

The University Learning Center happily announces that we have incorporated the Math Lab into our office at Westside Hall. Now, students can take advantage of a drop-in Learning Lab where graduate math tutors are available to answer any questions about Basic Studies math and statistics courses. In addition, this year we have expanded our Supplemental Instruction (SI) program to cover more courses and more class sections than ever. Courses supported by SI have trained student leaders, who have already successfully completed the course, meet regularly with the instructor and lead 2-3 study hours per week with students. Our studies show that students who participate in SI sessions receive, on average, a higher course grade.

As always, the University Learning Center offers one-to-one and small group tutoring for all basic studies classes, individual study skills consultations, and both face-to-face and online writing consultations. All tutors at the University Learning Center are faculty recommended and engage in a nationally certified tutor-training program. We provide an effective learning environment that focuses on collaboration



and allows students to learn at their own pace.

Encourage your UNCW student to take advantage of the services provided by the University Learning Center! The University Learning Center is located on the first floor of Westside Hall (WE 1056). Call 910-962-7857 or e-mail ulc@uncw.edu with questions.

*Contributed by Will Wilkinson, Associate Director,
University Learning Center*

Parents: STILL Partners in Prevention

While we know that most UNCW students either abstain or make low-risk choices in regards to alcohol, some students will make risky choices that affect themselves and our community.

Now that your student is at UNCW, the university needs your partnership as we address the concern of alcohol & drug abuse on campus. Here are some ways to stay involved in preventing drug and alcohol abuse and associated problems:

- Call your son or daughter frequently during the first term.
- Inquire about their roommate, their new friends, and the social scene that they are experiencing.
- Encourage your son or daughter to get involved on campus in student organizations, community service, or student governance. Involvement can help your student build a strong connection to the campus community, make healthy friendships, and even learn to manage their time.
- Remind your son or daughter about the penalties for breaking campus policies and for being arrested in Wilmington for underage consumption, carrying a fake I.D., and D.W.I.

What can you say to your student? Here are some tips:

- Ask often: “What’s the party scene like?” or “What are you doing for fun?”
- If your student is a non-drinker, ask, “How are you

handling the pressure to drink?” and “How do your friends support your choice to abstain?”

- If your student drinks, ask, “How do you keep it safe?” and “What negative consequences are you experiencing from drinking?”
- Do more listening than talking. Demonstrate that you trust them to make safe and healthy decisions.
- If they make poor choices (like getting a drinking ticket), allow them to experience the negative consequences. Discuss the outcome of their choices with them and how they will be changing their behavior in the future.

You may be wondering, “If my son or daughter is in trouble with drugs or alcohol, how can I tell from home?” Some signs to watch for include a sudden drop in grades, never being available or reluctance to talk to you, unwillingness to talk about their activities or friends, judicial troubles on or off-campus, and serious mood or personality changes.

If you are concerned, you can call CROSSROADS at 962-4136 to get more information on warning signs and how to intervene or you can notify the Dean of Students office at 962-3119 or your son or daughter’s Resident Coordinator about your concerns about your student. You can also go to the CROSSROADS website: www.uncw.edu/stuaff/crossroads/parents.htm for more tips and information.

Contributed by Rebecca Caldwell, Director, CROSSROADS

UNCW’s Outdoor Adventure Headquarters

The Discover Outdoor Program is UNCW’s outdoor adventure specialists. Catering to the UNCW community, the Discover Outdoor Program sponsors a variety of opportunities to get outdoors, learn new skills, seek new adventures, relieve stress, bond with others, and enjoy the natural wonders this area has to offer.

For those who want to explore the rivers and estuaries of the Cape Fear River Basin, we offer half day and overnight kayaking trips to many of New Hanover, Brunswick and Pender counties’ most scenic rivers. If estuaries are more your suit, try a unique twist and paddle the Intercoastal Waterway and Banks Channel at night. We even visit Florida’s Everglades to go kayaking during the winter break! All of our trips include transportation, equipment and instruction.

If you’re just starting out and looking to build outdoor skills, the Discover Program offers orienteering and backpacking workshops, knot and kayak clinics, outdoor cooking demonstrations, climbing and belaying classes, and a variety more. Most recently, we started teaching surfing clinics! You pay a one-time fee of \$20.00 and can attend as many clinics as you like as long as there is space. This semester, they are offered every Thursday during September and October.

If the weather isn’t cooperating, you can come in and visit the climbing wall in the Student Recreation Center. No skills are necessary to start out and it’s free for students. If you are a guest visiting the University, you will pay a \$5.00 fee to get into the Recreation Center with your sponsor and climbing is part of the package!

Tents, sleeping bags, backpacks and stoves are just some of the equipment we offer for you to strike out on your own adventure. If you want to camp locally at Carolina Beach State Park or on the beach at the north end of Pleasure Island in Freeman Park we will supply what you need. If you want to venture even farther from Wilmington, we can supply you with information about regional and State natural resources.

The peak of adventure lies on our challenge course. Each month, we host an open house where faculty, staff, students and their guests can test their courage 35 feet off the ground! The cost is only \$5.00 and the program lasts about four hours. Bring friend and family for support and to share the thrill!

For more information, call 910-962-4052, email discover@uncw.edu or visit <http://uncw.edu/stuaff/camprec/>.

Contributed by Audra Trnovec-Keller, Assistant Director, Campus

University of North Carolina Wilmington

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The Office of Transition Programs is responsible for providing a comprehensive program that will assist all students and their families in their transitions to and from the University. This program exposes new students to the educational opportunities within UNCW, orients them to the academic and co-curricular life of the institution, and assists them in their on-going transition to the university beyond orientation. The Office of Transition Programs also assists parents in their transition and understanding of the UNCW environment, services and changes within the university. The office is also responsible for a comprehensive senior transition program designed to help seniors make meaning of their college experience, celebrate their achievements and prepare them for life after college. In addition, the Office of Transition Programs is responsible for the coordination of Commencement.

October

- 6-10 Fall Vacation
Last Day to withdraw with W
- 12-14 Family Weekend

November

- 15 Graduation application deadline
Spring 2008
- 21 No Classes
- 22-23 Thanksgiving Holiday

December

- 5 Last day of Classes
- 7-14 Final Examinations
- 15 Commencement
- 15 On-Campus Housing closes 10a.m.

January

- 6 On-Campus housing opens 10 a.m.
- 9 Classes Begin
- 16 Last day to add/drop courses
- 21 No Classes



February

- 26 Last day to withdraw with W

March

- 1-9 Spring Vacation - No Classes
- 20-21 No Classes

April

- 15 Graduation application deadline
Summer 2008 and Fall 2008
- 28 Last day of Classes
- 30 Final Examinations

May

- 1-7 Final Examinations
- 10 Commencement

Don't Miss the Tradition! Family Weekend 2007

With the fall semester under way, students have been participating in many UNCW traditions such as Move-in, Beach Blast, the Involvement Carnival and more. As a family member of a UNCW student, you are a part of the UNCW community. We would like to invite you to Family Weekend 2007. Family Weekend is special because it is a tradition designed specifically with you in mind. Parents, siblings, guardians, grandparents, friends, families of students, and the university community are all invited to UNCW's campus for this tradition. Family Weekend, October 12th-14th, offers a variety of opportunities, ranging from outdoor adventures to cultural performances, allowing you to experience UNCW and Wilmington. At UNCW, participation in Family Weekend is a la carte. You have the chance to choose events that will make your experience the most meaningful to you.

With a packed schedule, this year's Family Weekend promises to provide something for everyone. The Family Weekend website

provides you with the most up to date information. We encourage you to visit the Family Weekend web site frequently and to utilize the information provided to plan your Family Weekend experience.

Registration for Family Weekend is easy. All you need to do is visit our website, <http://www.uncw.edu/stuaff/transitions/parentprograms.htm>, print the registration form and return it to the Office of Transition Programs. You may return forms via fax or by mail. You'll notice that some events may require additional registration. We encourage you to review the detailed information for each event so that you don't miss out on the fun.

With Family Weekend approaching quickly, we hope that you will join us and find out what it means to feel part of the UNCW community. Please feel free to the Office of Transition Programs at 910.962.3089 or via email transition@uncw.edu. We hope to see you at Family Weekend 2007!

Visit our website
at
[www.uncw.edu/
transitions](http://www.uncw.edu/transitions)

