

The Prerequisite

University College's E-Newsletter



FROM THE DEAN'S DESK

by Dr. Kemille Moore

*"No man ever steps in the same river twice."
-Heraclitus (c. 535 - c. 475 BCE)*

This quote from Heraclitus is one of the very few bits of information I remember from my undergraduate Phi-

losophy courses. It struck me then, as it does now, as simple but very profound. It is a variation on the notion "change is the only constant," but the metaphor of the flowing river has always resonated with me. As one semester ends and one begins, we are all aware of how much change is going on around us.

- Advisors are working with students on contract, who say things like, "I should have gone to class more." Well - you can't step in that spot in the river again. But, by taking advantage of this second chance and the resources available, you can still learn to swim.
- Nearly 140 new first-year students start their journey at UNCW this week. For them, the river is swift and may be a bit dizzying, but we know they are ready to jump in the water - and hopefully swim with grace - or at least not go under.
- I am particularly aware of change in University College and advising at UNCW these days. November brought two new babies to the UC family; Nancy McLemore and Cathy Olson retired from advising in December; and Melanie Canfield is leaving UC to become the professional advisor for Biology. All of us wish our friends and colleagues the best as they step into new waters.

University College wishes all of you a successful and wondrous 2012!

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We have revamped our University College and Pre-Professional Programs websites.

Please be sure to visit <http://www.uncw.edu/uc> to view information about our programs and find advising resources. The quick links section on the front page includes links to our Program Sheets, FERPA form, and University Studies requirements.

At <http://www.uncw.edu/prehealth>, share the Prerequisites section with interested students. See what typical courses are required for entrance to professional schools.

FEATURED RESOURCE

The screenshot shows the University of North Carolina Wilmington website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Email', 'Directory', 'myPeapod', and 'Quicklinks'. Below this is a search bar with the text 'Search UNCW' and a 'Go' button. The main content area features a large group photo of students sitting on a lawn. To the right of the photo is a 'UNIVERSITY COLLEGE' section with a 'Welcome' message and a brief description of the college's focus. Below the photo are several menu items: 'About Us', 'Advising', 'Common Reading', and 'Cornerstone'. On the far right, there are sections for 'HOURS' (8 am - 5 pm, Monday - Friday), 'RECENT NEWS' (The October Issue of The Prerequisite is now available online!), and 'CONTACT US' (University College is located in Peapack Hall, room 1099, call us at...).

THE SEARCH FOR RELEVANCE

by Mike Phillips, Career Counselor



This article is a response to "The 10 Worst Mistakes of First-Time Job Hunters", by Kelly Eggers.
http://www.fins.com/Finance/Articles/SBB0001424052970204226204576601420036627098/The-10-Worst-Mistakes-of-First-Time-Job-Hunters

According to Kelly Eggers, there are 10 mistakes that first-time job hunters consistently make. Articles such as this are a dime a dozen on the Internet, but this particular article captured my attention because it addresses a theme that has become increasingly important in my work as a career counselor: relevance. Let me explain why this theme is meaningful to me, and why I believe this article is worth reading.

In a recent meeting between the Career Center and some local employers, the employers were encouraged to talk about what they liked and disliked about resumes and new applicants. A word that kept coming up in this conversation was relevance. Employers want students to have skills and work experience in areas that are relevant to the jobs that need to be filled. Skills such as oral and written communication, a focus on customer service, time management, setting priorities, following through on tasks, meeting deadlines, and working well as part of a team are important in almost all job settings. Some skills are more specific to particular jobs, such as being able to use certain computer programs to track sales or deliveries. Employers need to be able to glean such information from the applications and resumes that are submitted to them. Students need to find ways to present their specific abilities and experiences so that employers can be assured they are the best person to help them accomplish their goals.

The article goes on to bring out several more important points related to landing a job: networking, extra-curricular activities, and related experience. First, students must understand that networking is something they are doing at all times. A network can include the person sitting next to them on their flight home, the parents of a friend, or another student in a professional or civic organization to which they belong. The Career Center sponsors several events that promote networking, but students must be encouraged to begin building a network and on the Internet through sites such as LinkedIn.com. Extracurricular activities should include professional organizations that will help students build a network as well as those relevant skills that will make them attractive to any employer. Third, students must understand the importance of getting an experiential education through a relevant internship, job shadowing, or volunteer experience. Employers will take experience over a perfect 4.0 grade point average every time.

With the SACS reaffirmation of accreditation coming up, the concept of Applied Learning is now a central theme of a well-rounded education at UNCW, and for good reasons. We are helping to prepare our students to be successful job-seekers in challenging economic times. Career counselors, advisors, instructors, and mentors can help students to build relevant knowledge and experience to get them connected with their first jobs after college graduation long before they walk across the stage to get their diplomas. Students need to know that the Career Center can help ensure their resumes and job applications are relevant now and in the future.

Students can visit the Career Center website, http://uncw.edu/career/index.html, to find jobs, internships, and other career resources, or call (910) 962-3174 to schedule an appointment with a career counselor.



UC CURRICULAR CORNER

In 2011, the Cornerstone Learning Communities program completed nine years of providing amazing living and learning opportunities for first semester freshmen. This year, University College was able to offer nine learning communities, with support from fifteen academic departments: Anthropology, Biology, Chemistry, Communication Studies, English, Environmental Studies, Foreign Languages and Literatures, History, Music, Philosophy and Religion, Physical Education, Political Science, Psychology, and Theatre. Here are some highlights from activities that helped bring CLC themes to life for students and faculty:

The Green Wave (EVS 195, ENG 100, and UNI 105)

Focusing on helping students become knowledgeable and active environmental stewards, the highlight of the semester for these students was their service learning trip to help build an oyster reef with the NC Coastal Federation. From their smiles, it does not appear that they were deterred by the mud!



Scientist & Healer and Vital Signs (BIO 201, CHM 101, and UNI 105)

Both of these CLC's focused on preparing students for health professions. Students participated in a speaker series, co-sponsored by the Southeast Area Health Education Center (SEAHEC), which offered valuable information and insights from area health practitioners. They also took a field trip to East Carolina University to visit the Brody School of Medicine, the College of Allied Health Sciences, and the School of Dental Medicine. While there, students toured the various facilities and met and asked questions of current students in the various health-related programs. As Sarah Clark said, "Many of them came back a little overwhelmed, but more determined to achieve their goals."

Soundtrack of History (GER 209, MUS 115, and UNI 105)

Students in this CLC viewed a film of the Wagnerian Opera, Siegfried, in UNCW's Lumina Theatre. They also traveled to Chapel Hill to attend a play, Nathan the Wise, after reading that work in their German literature course. Inspired by one of their readings, creative expression came alive; two students wrote their own poems and another student composed a song and recorded herself singing and playing the song on the piano.

(continued on page 5)

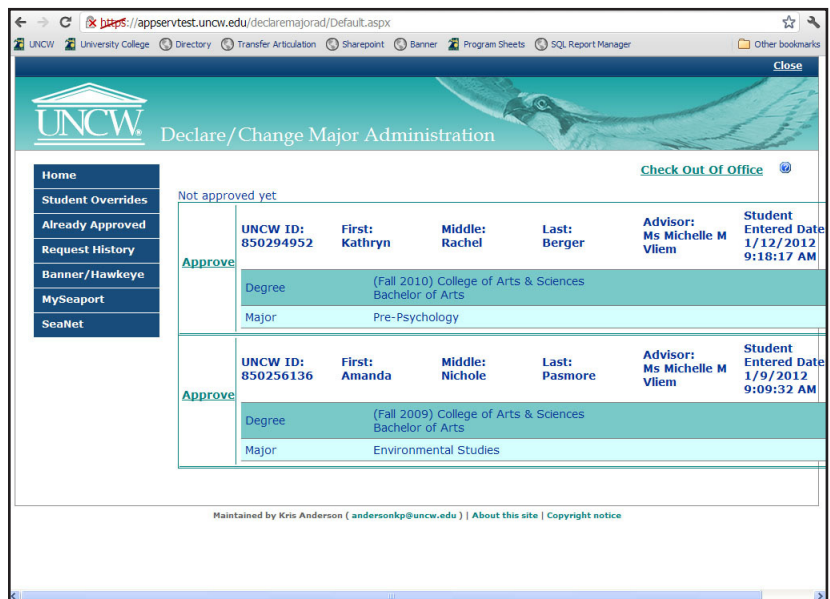
ADVISING UPDATES

Online Major Declaration/Major Change Process

After more than a year and the combined efforts of University College, the Registrar’s Office, ITSD and several department advisors, students will be able to declare or change their major through a new, on-line process. Phase I will begin on January 23. It will allow students to declare a major, change a major or minor and add a major or minor.

While this new automated process will definitely benefit advisors and students, it may take some time and practice for everyone to become accustomed to it. Several features will help everyone work well with the new system. The online declaration process has built-in stop points to keep students from declaring if they have not met the 2.0 GPA or earned 24-credit-hours. In addition, advisors must approve the declaration before it is complete. When declarations are completed, departments will receive an email notification to let them know a student is joining their department.

Effective immediately, major changes/declarations can only be completed during certain times. In the Spring 2012 semester, students will be able to declare/change majors before March 1 and after April 23. An informational brochure about using the system, how to select a major, and what to do after declaring, is being created to help UC advisors educate students about the new process. Reed Curtis is heading up this part of the project.



Questions about the major declaration process should be directed to Shelly Myers (myersm@uncw.edu). Questions about changing majors/minors should be directed to Jonathan Reece (reecej@uncw.edu).

Incompletes and Transcripts

As you know “I” stands for “incomplete” on a student’s transcript. This means the incomplete is in progress.

GLY	125	UG	Natural Disasters	C	3.000	6.000
PSY	105	UG	General Psychology	I	3.000	0.000
Term Totals (Undergraduate)						

Once the instructor has submitted the final grade it will be posted as “I/final grade” (for example, I/A, I/B). If a student does not complete the requirements for the course within the time limit prescribed by the instructor, they receive a grade of “I/F”.

CELEBRATIONS!



Shelly Myers and Julie Beck were the recipients of the 2011 NCCPA Outstanding Professional Contribution Award. Way to go, Shelly!



Welcome Kai August, born 11/15/11! Congratulations to Zack Underwood and his wife, Ryan. (And to Mo, too!)



Kristen Nice had 15 pieces selected for the Davidson County Community College Spring Show. Selected won the Postcard Award. Congrats!



Congratulations to Jamie Brenner & her husband, Dan. Welcome Mason James, born on 11/3/11! Photo courtesy of Andrea Cole Photography.

IMPORTANT DATES

- January 16: MLK State Holiday; No Classes
- January 18: Last Day for Drop/Add
- February 28: Last day to Withdraw with a W
- March 10 - 18: No Classes
- April 5 - 6: No Classes
- April 16: Graduation Application Deadline
- April 30: Last Day of Classes
- May 2 - 8: Final Exams
- May 11 - 12: Commencement

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