



Family MATTERS

Fall 2007

A MESSAGE FROM ORIENTATION & FAMILY PROGRAMS

The Office of Orientation & Family Programs is happy to provide you with this newsletter as a way of keeping you informed about what is happening at UNCG. This edition spotlights the numerous resources available to help your student succeed at the University. Our office is here to assist you as you support your UNCG student. If you ever have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our

office either by emailing us at families@uncg.edu or calling (336) 334-5231. We wish you and your student all the best as the semester comes to a close and we enter the holiday season!

~ Ms. Megan Moore, Assistant Director,
Orientation & Family Programs

UNCG'S COMMITMENT TO STUDENT SUCCESS

For a number of years, UNCG has experienced record enrollments. Increasingly, UNCG is seen as an exciting place to be because of our quality educational programs, the rich student life, and diversity of the campus population. Attracting bright and energetic students to UNCG is only one aspect of meeting enrollment goals. Admitting students also means committing to help them succeed and eventually graduate, having met their academic and personal goals.

To underscore UNCG's commitment to student success, the Department of Academic Systems and Student Achievement was created in January 2006 to focus on the retention and persistence of undergraduate students and to evaluate ways to best provide services that enhance their success. Immediately after the department was established, a Student Success Team of faculty and administrative staff was organized. The team created a variety of subcommittees that explored topics including the impact of advising on student success, the first year experience, transfer students and their needs, creating a campus culture of success, faculty involvement in support of student success, and how to enable the success of at-risk students. The subcommittees made a number of recommendations that are being considered for implementation as UNCG continues to enable student success.

University Studies

Based on data about current programs that positively impact student success at UNCG, efforts were undertaken to increase interest in University Studies (UNS) courses that facilitate students' transition to college. UNS 101 is offered to freshmen and UNS 102 is offered to first-semester transfer students and adult students. All students in living/learning communities take UNS 105. Efforts to share the news about UNS

with parents and prospective students resulted in enrollments almost doubling over the previous year. This fall, approximately seventy-eight percent of freshmen are participating in some form of a first-year experience.

Living/Learning Communities

In addition to expanding UNS, there were similar initiatives to increase interest in the living/learning communities and participation in the Lloyd International Honors College. All of these programs have been shown to support students' academic growth and their connection to UNCG. Students engaged in one or more of these programs retain and persist, two important measures of success, at higher rates than non-participants.

While enhancing existing programs, a number of new initiatives designed to support student success have recently been implemented. They represent collaborative efforts by a number of divisions across the university. All of these programs are helping to create what is best referred to as a "culture of success" at UNCG.

UNCG Cares

UNCG Cares, a joint initiative between Student Affairs and Enrollment Services, is a University-wide program. Staff from the Dean of Students Office provide two-hour professional development opportunities for UNCG faculty and staff to help them detect and respond to student concerns quickly and effectively. During the training, participants learn about active listening, recognizing signs of distress, the various types of distress for students, effective referral, and the resources available on-campus to assist students. Once participants have completed the training, they are given a sticker with the "UNCG Cares" logo to display in their office – identifying them as a source of special support for students with the

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hope that a connection can be made before a student problem or concern reaches a crisis level. Interest in UNCG Cares training has been extremely positive with over 420 faculty and staff trained and the program continues to grow.

ESSI

Student Academic Services (SAS) introduced the Early Spartan Success Initiative (ESSI) to the campus this fall. ESSI allows faculty and staff to submit an online form to the Office of Student Academic Services if they are concerned about a student who appears to be struggling academically, socially, or emotionally. A confidential contact with the student is made almost immediately by personnel in SAS or the Dean of Students Office to ensure that the student gets any needed assistance. If appropriate, a referral can be made to another office such as the Counseling & Testing Center, Financial Aid Office, or the Student Success Center. Like UNCG Cares, the response to ESSI has been very positive; it has allowed intervention on behalf of students early and swiftly whether the concern is large or small and has provided much needed structure for interdepartmental communication.

Summer Launch

In June, Summer Launch, a new program for first-time freshmen, was introduced. This special initiative provided opportunities for students to develop and practice successful academic, social, and personal skills in order to facilitate a successful transition from high school to the UNCG community. During the program, students developed strategies to help meet the challenge of living and studying in a large, culturally diverse, academic environment as well as experienced an exciting array of activities. The program allowed students to foster new relationships with peers, faculty, and staff in the UNCG community both in the classroom and in social settings.

During Summer Launch, which took place during the second session of summer school, students enrolled in two classes and were exposed to an exciting array of campus resources to help them develop academic skills and get a head start on finding their way around campus as a Spartan. They participated in team building exercises, community service activities, and events in the Greensboro community. Summer Launch counselors and tutors, who guided the students, possessed familiarity with campus resources and services, strong interpersonal skills, and a willingness to work with and act as positive role models for students. Staff and faculty worked closely with the students to offer academic support and development. Thirty-two students participated in the first year of this program. All have enrolled for the fall semester and are continuing to meet with their University Studies instructors for additional support and community building.

Whether through enhancing programs that have been the hallmark of UNCG success efforts or the development of new initiatives, faculty and staff are committed to providing avenues that foster the academic, personal, and social growth of each of our students. Through admissions, we create the invitation and opportunity for students to become part of the UNCG community. By creating a "culture of success," we commit to helping them thrive and persist in the pursuit of their goals.

~ Dr. M. Cynthia Farris, Associate Provost for Enrollment Services
Ms. Ellen Robbins, Director, Academic Systems & Student Achievement
Dr. Jen Day Shaw, Dean of Students

STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER: THREE ROADS TO SUCCESS

The Student Success Center is a unit composed of three academic support service programs: the Learning Assistance Center (LAC), Special Support Services (SSS), and Supplemental Instruction Program (SIP). The purpose of each program is to help all undergraduate students find academic success during their university career.

The Learning Assistance Center (LAC) serves the entire university student body. Support services include walk-in, group, and individual tutoring for 100 and 200 level classes; academic skills assessment; study skills instruction; computer-assisted academic skills enhancement; and academic skills workshops. The LAC staff provides programming and services to help undergraduate students improve their academic performance and achieve their educational goals.

Special Support Services (SSS) is jointly funded by The U.S. Department of Education and UNCG. SSS is a federal TRIO program available to assist first-generation college students and students with documented disabilities. SSS promotes support services that help students overcome academic, social, and cultural barriers to higher education. Program students receive an array of services that include: counseling; academic skills assessment and instruction; individualized peer and professional tutoring (100 - 400 levels); graduate and professional school guidance and graduate/professional school visits; fully functional learning lab stocked with self-help software programs; and

opportunities to attend educational and cultural events. Students can utilize the SSS academic services from the time of enrollment through graduation. Due to the nature of this program, an application process is required.

Supplemental Instruction Program (SIP) is a series of weekly discussion and review sessions designed to assist students achieve success in courses designated as historically difficult. SIP is available for all students enrolled in specific course sections who want to improve their grades. SIP sessions consist of a discussion facilitated by a SIP leader - a fellow UNCG undergraduate or graduate student. Students who attend develop a better understanding of course content and begin to use reliable study skill aids.

All of the services described above are available at no cost to all UNCG undergraduate students throughout both the academic year and summer sessions.

To learn more about Student Success Center programs, please take some time to review the SSC website at <http://success.uncg.edu>. To request a tutor through the Learning Assistance Center or submit an application for Special Support Services, please visit the website and click "Apply for Services" on the toolbar at the top of the page.

~ Mr. John Foreman, Director, Student Success Center

THE LINK BETWEEN INVOLVEMENT AND STUDENT SUCCESS

"Mom, I'm bored. There's nothing to do here."

"Dad, I haven't made any friends since I got to campus."

While these kinds of conversations are rare, they can leave any parent feeling concerned, unsure as to how to offer suggestions, and worried about his or her student's experience. Whether your student has found his or her place on campus or is still looking for his or her passion, rest assured there are many opportunities for your student to get connected to UNCG and find an outlet for involvement.

Involvement helps students feel connected to campus, make friends, and develop a social network. Researchers who study college student success have

also determined that students who are involved tend to do better academically. Outside of the classroom experiences provide additional opportunities for learning and compliment what occurs in class. Developing interpersonal skills, working with people who are different from themselves, and honing public speaking skills are just a few of the things students learn through involvement activities while having fun in the process. Students who get involved also are more likely to enjoy their college experience and persist to graduation.

Most new college students left a very comfortable and familiar environment. They may initially feel a bit overwhelmed by campus life at UNCG. Students need to establish themselves on UNCG's campus and create a

sense of community and belonging. There is no better way to do this than by getting involved. Involvement can take many forms. Students may join a student organization, work at an on-campus job, volunteer on- or off-campus, join an intramural or club sport team, become a disc jockey for the campus radio station, or write for the campus newspaper.

Most students find that their social life dramatically improves when they become involved in campus organizations and programs. Student groups sponsor movies, dances, fashion shows, and talent shows, just to name a few. And, with over 160 student organizations, there's something for everyone!

The Campus Activities Board (CAB) is a student-run organization that brings comedians, concerts, and lectures to campus as well as sponsors off-campus trips. Most CAB programs occur during the week, while student organizations tend to hold their programs on the weekends. For sports fans, nothing beats an evening cheering their favorite Spartan team on to victory. The best way for students to find out about campus programs is through membership in a student organization or by checking out information tables in the EUC or the Atrium. Greensboro also offers many exciting social and cultural activities for students. With its many restaurants, movie theatres, museums, dance clubs, shopping areas, and coliseum events, Greensboro provides a lively backdrop to campus life. Plus, riding the free HEAT bus helps students get downtown and back to campus without a car.

Whether your student joins an organization, holds a campus job, volunteers, or plays on a sports team, his or her involvement on-campus can be an important step on his or her path to success. Because we know getting involved is positively linked to students staying in school, getting better grades, and persisting to graduation, it is important to help each student find his or her special niche that will allow him or her to feel connected and be successful at UNCG.

Hopefully, you'll never pick up the phone and hear your student say he or she isn't connecting to campus, but if you do, there are a few things you can suggest. Tell him or her to check out our website, <http://web.uncg.edu/stn/student.groups/active.php>, that lists all of our student organizations. Also, encourage him or her to attend a campus or residence hall program. Finally, let your student know there are caring staff who can help your student get connected through an academic or special interest organization. Encourage your student to visit the Office of Campus Activities and Programs. Our office is located in the Elliott University Center room 221. We're here to help students find their niche on-campus and connect students with involvement opportunities.

~ Dr. Checka Leinwall, Director, Campus Activities & Programs

MEETING THE UNIQUE NEEDS OF ADULT STUDENTS

Almost a quarter of the undergraduate population of UNCG is at least 24 years of age or older. The Office for Adult Students (OAS) seeks to enhance the campus experience of adult students and their families, and it advocates for the needs of this population as these students juggle the demands of school, home, work, and community. Services are provided to UNCG's adult students to help them prepare for academic success. Some of the services provided by our office are listed below:

- *Get Set Saturday* is held before each semester begins, offering free workshops on study skills, test-taking strategies, time management, and reading a college textbook.
- BRAIN WORKS! is a series of seminars available to adult students to explore important components of cognitive development.
- Charlie's Coffee House gatherings are held three times each month for adult students to meet and enjoy informal conversation.
- A Phonathon to all new adult students is conducted to see how their transition to UNCG is going and explain registration procedures for the spring semester.
- *CampusConnect* provides an online discussion board for adult students.

- *Web Weekly* is an online site with current updates of interest to adult students as well as a special section for "Adult Students with Children."

In addition to these services provided by the Office for Adult Students, a University Studies 102 class is offered each semester specifically for transfer and adult students. This one credit hour course familiarizes adult students with University resources for academic support while also addressing ways that adult students can transition effectively at the University.

Finally, when adult students graduate, they are invited to sign one of the canvases on the second floor of the EUC, both to leave their mark at their University and to encourage other adult students as they strive to earn a degree.

Because family support is crucial for adult students' success, whether it involves changes such as reallocating household duties or reconfiguring the family budget, OAS seeks to identify and communicate ways that families can participate in UNCG activities together. Education is, indeed, a "family matter." For more information about our office and the services we offer, please visit our website at <http://oas.dept.uncg.edu/>.

~ Ms. Brooks Graham, Director, Office for Adult Students

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE: FINDING SUCCESS AT UNCG

With Fall Break behind me, I look toward final exams and reflect back on my past years at UNCG, focusing on what I did to make myself most successful throughout my classes. One important thing that helped me keep a positive attitude was staying balanced. Classes are a very important part of college, but are not the only reason most students are here. Students come to college to develop into well-rounded individuals, becoming prepared for successful future careers or to leave equipped to continue with their education. In order to accomplish this, students can join various organizations and other opportunities for on-campus involvement. In my opinion, it is important for students to find their passions while attending college. I performed best and was most successful at UNCG when I was involved with activities outside of class that I loved and for which I had a passion. Some of these activities included dance, working for the Office of Orientation & Family Programs, going to the Student Recreation Center, Teaching Fellows, running outside, and holding a part-time job off-campus. What it takes for each individual student to be most successful is unique, but engaging in the college experience is essential.

There are many resources here on campus to assist students in finding ways to get involved with their passions. Some of those resources include the Office of Leadership and Service Learning, Orientation & Family Programs, Career Services Center, and Campus Activities and Programs, among many others. It is never too late for students to get involved on-campus. As a freshman, I joined and left many organizations until I found just the right fit for me. It is important for all students to find their passions here at UNCG in order to be most successful in their pursuits at the University. Now, as a senior, I see how actively pursuing my passions has greatly enriched my college experience and I hope that all students can experience the same success with their time at UNCG as I have.

~ Ms. Jessalyn Smith is a senior elementary education major with a dance concentration from Gastonia, NC. She is currently interning and planning to student teach at Kernodle Middle School in Greensboro, NC, leading to graduation in May 2008.



ON THE WEB AT <http://ori.dept.uncg.edu/families/>

To the Family of:

This document was produced at a cost of \$2147.00 for 8,000 copies (\$.21 each).

Looking Ahead

Fall 2007

December 10, Monday	Last day of classes
December 11, Tuesday	Reading Day
December 12-14, Wed.-Fri.	Final Examinations
December 17-19, Mon.-Wed.	Final Examinations
December 15, Saturday	Tentative official final exam makeup day
December 20, Thursday	December Commencement, Greensboro Coliseum
December 21, Friday	Tentative official final exam makeup day

Spring 2008

January 8-12, Tues.-Sat.	Orientation, Advising, and Registration for all students based on student population and classification
January 10, Thursday	Undergraduate academic appeals deadline, 5:00 P.M.
January 14, Monday	Classes begin, 8:00 A.M.
January 14-18, Mon.-Fri.	Late registration and schedule adjustment
January 18, Friday	Deadline for undergraduates to apply to graduate in May 2008 Last day to change courses or course sections without special permission Financial Aid satisfactory academic progress appeals deadline Last day to drop a course for tuition and fees refund

January 21, Monday	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. Classes dismissed; offices closed
February 1-28	Undergraduate students declare or change major in February
February 18, Monday	Deadline for undergraduates to apply to student teach during Spring 2009
February 22, Friday	Six week progress reports due in University Registrar's Office
March 3, Monday	Financial Aid priority filing date for 2008-09 academic year
March 8, Saturday	Instruction ends for Spring Break, 1:00 P.M.
March 17, Monday	Classes resume after Spring Break, 8:00 A.M.
March 19, Wednesday	Last day to drop courses without academic penalty
March 21, Friday	Spring Holiday. Classes dismissed; offices closed
April 2-18	Summer and/or fall 2008 registration for continuing students
May 6, Tuesday	University follows Friday schedule; last day of classes
May 7, Wednesday	Reading Day; Excellence Day
May 8-10, Thurs.-Sat.	Final Examinations
May 12-14, Mon.-Wed.	Final Examinations
May 16, Friday	May Commencement, Greensboro Coliseum

PARENT/FAMILY ASSOCIATION

The Parent/Family Association (PFA) is a free resource for you to connect and keep up with what is happening at UNCG. Parents and family members are encouraged to take an active role in the lives of their UNCG college students by taking advantage of this opportunity. To become a member of the PFA, please visit the website, <http://ori.dept.uncg.edu/families/>, and click on the Parent/Family Association link. Once you are a member, you'll begin receiving our monthly e-newsletter, *Family Connections*, filled with information about various programs and services at UNCG as well as campus events. By joining the PFA, you will also be registered for FAMILYLINK, the University's emergency email notification system for parents and family members.

Have a question, comment, or suggestion? Want to submit an article idea for an upcoming issue of *Family Connections* or *Family Matters*? Send us an email at families@uncg.edu.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT GREENSBORO



A S S O C I A T I O N