February 7, 2013

From Firsts to Firsts…

This edition is designed to help you make the most of the spring 2013 semester. We hope this information inspires you to get involved around campus, utilize resources to achieve academically, and look ahead to summer opportunities. Best wishes on your academic success!

Sincerely,

Leslie, Jennifer and Carmen

Contact us at carolinafirstsnews@unc.edu

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SAVE THE DATE!
Carolina Firsts Graduation Recognition & Pinning Ceremony
May 11, 2013 – The Carolina Inn

Are you graduating this May? As part of a new University tradition, every graduating Carolina First is invited to wear a special pin on their graduation garb. Carolina Firsts graduates are also invited to take part in a graduation and pinning ceremony in their honor. Invitations will be sent in March.
Celebrating Carolina Firsts

Visit firstgeneration.unc.edu to learn more about the Carolina Firsts student organization and to view new video sharing the stories of first-generation college students at Carolina.

Professional Opportunities

Internships

Internships are a wonderful opportunity to get work-experience and boost your resume. Carolina has a specific database full of internship opportunities called Careerolina. Students can simply login with their ONYEN and access hundreds of prospective internships. To start exploring opportunities, please visit Careerolina.

Teach for America

Teach for America is a non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring that students growing up in poverty get an exceptional education. Their mission is to eliminate education inequality. They seek students dedicated to these values to become teachers for the program. For more information, please visit teachforamerica.org. Applications are due on February 15th.

Academic Opportunities

Research

Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) gives students the opportunity to conduct a research project in their particular area of interest. Students selected for the fellowship are given $3,000 to fund their project. Students must submit a proposal and a four-part application. It is important to note that all parts of the application must be received by Thursday, February 28th by 4 PM.

Summer School

Summer School is a great opportunity to take advantage of smaller class sizes, get ahead in your studies, and experience UNC in a way you have never seen before. Student loans and on-campus housing are available. Check the University Registrar website for registration details. Make sure you talk with an academic advisor before registering for summer school. For more information, please visit summer.unc.edu. The dates are as follows:

- Maymester: May 14-May 31
- 1st Session: May 14-June 18
- 2nd Session: June 20-July 26
Summer/Fall 2013 Study Abroad

Studying Abroad is a unique opportunity for college students. It allows students to travel, learn about new cultures and have an awesome time overall. Plus, it looks awesome on your resume! UNC has a great study-abroad program. The program offers over 300 programs in 70 different countries, and provides merit and financial scholarships in addition to your current financial aid package. Counseling is available for students who have questions/concerns about the affordability of studying abroad. For more information, check out studyabroad.unc.edu. Applications for summer and fall are due in mid-February.

Professional School

There are several professional schools at UNC and several offer undergraduate degrees. These schools usually require a second admissions application, usually during your sophomore year at UNC. Each school has a set of pre-requisites that must be met before enrolling in the professional school. A list of professional schools at our University is provided below. Schools that offer undergraduate degrees are highlighted in blue:

- Eshelman School of Pharmacy
- Gillings School of Public Heath
- Kenan-Flagler Business School
- School of Dentistry
- School of Education
- School of Government
- School of Information and Library Science
- School of Journalism and Mass Communication
- School of Law
- School of Medicine
- School of Nursing
- School of Social Work

Make an appointment with your academic advisor and with an academic advisor in the professional school you are interested in to discuss opportunities for undergraduate and graduate degrees. Consider also visiting one of the advisors located in the Office of Graduate and Pre-Professional Advising located in Hanes Hall.

Get Connected - Academic Support Resources

Meals with Heels
Building strong relationships with your instructors are critical to your success. Your instructors can provide you with the best insight on how to succeed in their class, at the University and beyond. They are also the people you will need to call on when its time for letters of recommendation. Make sure your instructors know you well, and get to know them! The Meals with Heels Program allows students to get to know their faculty on an individual level over coffee of lunch. Take advantage of this great opportunity and sign up here.

Academic Advising

Academic Advisors can help you develop knowledge of degree requirement, clarify General Education and major/minor requirements, provide clear explanation of university policies, and help you succeed academically. Students should prepare three or four key points they would like to discuss before coming to meet with an advisor. Students can see an advisor in the Steele Building by appointment or during walk-in hours. For more information, visit advising.unc.edu.

Learning Center

The Learning Center offers many resources to help you succeed at UNC. The staff can help you develop more effective study strategies as well as time management skills. The Center offers the following services:

- free tutoring by appointment
- drop-in peer tutoring in Dey Hall for over 35 subjects (We highly recommend!)
- GRE, MCAT, GMAT, and LSAT test-prep classes
- study groups/review sessions for Biology on Wednesdays and Thursdays at 1 pm
- Midterm Madness on February 27th, 28th and March 4th, 5th, and 6th to offer a productive place for students to prepare for midterms
- Thriving in College with ADHD and LD, which is a weekly, drop-in educational support group on Tuesday from 3 to 4 pm.
- Speed reading and study skills available for sign ups starting in March to dramatically improve speed and comprehension when reading
- A quiet and productive place to study.

Check the Learning Center website for detailed information on all classes and events.

Writing Center

The Writing Center is dedicated to helping students improve their writing abilities, including grammar, citations, outlining your thoughts and ways to enhance your paper. If you need help on a paper you can schedule a face-to-face or an online consultation at writingcenter.unc.edu.
Undergraduate Retention in the Office of Undergraduate Education offers a free individual academic learning assessment and consultation service to help undergraduate students develop an action plan for success at Carolina. To make an appointment, contact Candice Powell, Retention Specialist. Please expect your appointment to run for one hour (15 minutes to take your assessment and 45 minutes for consultation).

About the Editors…

Leslie Castrejon (class of 2015/ Pre-nursing major) and Jennifer Owenby (class of 2015/ Psychology major and Economics major) are first-generation undergraduate college students who work in Undergraduate Retention. Carmen Huerta-Bapat is a first generation college student earning her Ph.D. in Sociology and a Graduate Assistant in Undergraduate Retention.