



# RELATIVELY

## Speaking

Vol. 1 No. 1 • November 2007

### Welcome to the 49er Family!

Thank you for signing up at SOAR to receive *Relatively Speaking* for parents of UNC Charlotte students. We hope you will find this electronic communication useful in helping you support your student.

This program is designed to provide parents with information about campus life and student issues. This is our first year of implementing this email communication, so if you have ideas or suggestions please let us know. In addition, please be patient with us as we fully develop this program!

Again, welcome to the UNC Charlotte family! We look forward to working together to support your student!

*If you have difficulty reading this email, please contact us and we will try to assist you.*

*You are receiving this email because you signed up to receive parent communications from UNC Charlotte at an orientation session or through our Web site. If you would like to unsubscribe from this mailing list, please email us at [parents@uncc.edu](mailto:parents@uncc.edu) indicating that you would like to be removed from this mailing list. Thank you!*

*Relatively Speaking is a publication of the Office of Parent and Family Programs. Edited by Ashley S. Postell, Assistant Dean of Students, Greek Leadership and Parent Programs. For questions, comments or suggestions, contact [parents@uncc.edu](mailto:parents@uncc.edu).*

### Tips for Academic Success

At this time of year, your student may be experiencing transition adjustments to college. Students are making new friends, learning new routines, and experiencing greater autonomy and freedom. They are adjusting to new courses and learning to juggle many demands and priorities. We suggest some of the following to help your student achieve academic success:

#### *Time management*

Many students tell us that time management is one of the most important skills needed to be successful. A few points of interest:

Our research shows that students who work while attending UNC Charlotte do best if they work less than 15 hours per week and work either on campus or in a position related to their career. Students should be in the habit of using a calendar or planner. Some of this can be done through their 49er Express account. The Housing Department also provided a planner to residential students and the Dean of Students Office has them available for off-campus students.

It is critical that students attend all classes regularly, even those that do not have an attendance requirement.

Encourage your student to be actively engaged in each class. He/



she should participate in discussions and ask questions. The more a student is engaged in course material, the more likely he/she is to master that material.

Being a student is a full-time job. While students will spend less time in class than they did in high school, they will need to spend about two (sometimes three or more) hours studying for each hour spent in class. The amount of reading and assignments will be much greater than high school, thus it is important not to fall behind. Remind your son/daughter that professors may not necessarily discuss all reading material in class, but students are still expected to know the material.

Students should start assignments early...the unexpected happens. Students get sick, have computer problems, etc. Students should plan for the unexpected!

#### *Communication with faculty members and academic advisor*

Students are encouraged to communicate regularly with their professors after class and during the faculty members' office hours. In addition, students should meet regularly with an academic advisor to ensure they have a productive academic plan.

*continued on page 3*

# What parents can do to encourage success



## 1. Be supportive

Research shows that parental support matters in a student's ability to attain the goal of a college degree. Show your support and encourage your student in any way you can!

## 2. Ask questions

You might want to ask your son/daughter one or two of these questions periodically that touch on both personal and academic adjustment:

- Have you made new friends?
- Have you joined a club or organization?
- Have you been attending class?
- What kind of homework do you have?
- How are you enjoying each of your classes?
- How do you like your professors/instructors?
- Have you visited during their office hours?
- Are you working/have you found a job?
- How are your finances?
- What is going well?
- What is difficult or challenging for you?
- What are you doing in your free time?
- What is causing you stress?

If you are concerned about anything you hear from your son/daughter, let someone on campus know. Contact the Resident Assistant (if living on campus), an academic advisor, a staff member, or faculty member.

## ***A reminder about Privacy: FERPA***

Please note that we are not able to provide specific information about your student through this program. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) provides specific guidelines about what can be shared from educational records; the law's intent is to protect students' privacy rights and requires that the university keep student records confidential.

### **WHAT STUDENTS SHOULD KNOW:**

#### **FERPA provides students with the right to:**

- inspect and review their educational records;
- seek to amend their educational records;
- limit the disclosure of their educational records;
- limit the disclosure of directory information.

### **WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW:**

Your student's education records are protected by FERPA once he/she is enrolled at UNC Charlotte.

Generally, parents/guardians are not permitted access to student education records without the student's written consent (for each individual record). If you have questions about our policies or this law, see [www.legal.uncc.edu/](http://www.legal.uncc.edu/).

## Office Profile:

### *The University Center for Academic Excellence*

In this and subsequent parent communications, we will feature a campus office or resource that we think you should know more about. Please feel free to suggest to your student that he/she utilize the services and take advantage of the various support systems in place to help him/her be successful.

#### ***Students' Path to Academic Success***

##### **The University Center for Academic Excellence**

[www.ucae.uncc.edu](http://www.ucae.uncc.edu) (sign up for services on-line)

330 Fretwell Building, (704) 687-2162

We help students maintain high standards of excellence in the classroom by providing them with academic support outside the classroom. Best of all—our services are FREE!!

- Discover hidden learning styles
- Develop and refine thinking skills
- Enhance self-management skills
- Learn course material more quickly and thoroughly

#### ***The University Center for Academic Excellence (UCAE) offers:***

##### **Workshops –**

- Procrastination Prevention
- Managing Test Tension
- Improving Note Taking and Text Reading
- Time Management Skills
- Succeeding in Large Lecture Courses ... and more!
- Individual Academic Consultations: Students can confidentially discuss academic concerns with a staff member or graduate student

**Computer lab –** stocked with videos and books in a variety of academic subjects

**Tutorial Services –** (TS) provides FREE peer tutoring primarily in the introductory areas of math, sciences, business, and foreign languages. Studies show that students who regularly work with their tutor make significant progress in their most difficult courses. Tutorial Services is internationally certified.

**Supplemental Instruction –** (SI) is a successful, interactive program that helps students earn better grades in difficult courses. Many introductory science and engineering courses at UNC Charlotte are considered most challenging for freshman and transfer students. Students regularly attending SI sessions earn higher grades!



## A few important dates

An abbreviated version of the fall 2007 academic calendar is as follows:

November 13	Registration for spring 2007 classes begins
November 21	Deadline to withdraw from all courses with "W" grade
November 22-25	Thanksgiving Break—no classes
November 23-24	University closed
December 6	Last day of classes
December 7	Reading day
December 8-15	Final exams

For a greater explanation of registration procedures and a complete listing of the academic calendar, see: [www.registrar.uncc.edu/calendars/calendar.asp#fall06](http://www.registrar.uncc.edu/calendars/calendar.asp#fall06)

Students are responsible for knowing the dates on the official academic calendar on this link.

Please encourage your student to consult the final exam schedule before making travel arrangements at the end of the semester! This can be found at:

[www.registrar.uncc.edu/calendars/exam.htm](http://www.registrar.uncc.edu/calendars/exam.htm)

**Students are encouraged (and sometimes required) to meet with their academic advisors prior to registration for spring classes.** Now is a good time to have these conversations about their academic course of study and future plans.

**Academic Advising Web site:**  
[www.advising.uncc.edu](http://www.advising.uncc.edu)

By clicking on the Dates & Deadlines link, you and students can view the full academic calendar and exam schedule. Please encourage your student to consult the final exam schedule before making travel arrangements at the end of the semester! Students are responsible for knowing these and all dates on the of-

ficial academic calendar located at [www.provost.uncc.edu/AcademicCalendars/2007-2008.pdf](http://www.provost.uncc.edu/AcademicCalendars/2007-2008.pdf).

### Some Upcoming Events

There are a number of events offered on campus at any given time. There are many diverse events offered—we encourage your student to visit these Web sites regularly for updated information:

- Athletic schedules: <http://charlotte49ers.cstv.com/calendar/events/>
- Campus Activities Board: <http://cab.uncc.edu>
- University Events schedule: <http://campusevents.uncc.edu>
- Recreational Services (also intramurals): [www.recservices.uncc.edu/index.htm](http://www.recservices.uncc.edu/index.htm)
- Dance and Theatre: [www.dancetheatre.uncc.edu/](http://www.dancetheatre.uncc.edu/)  
Current events are also listed on the university home page daily.

Please encourage your student to frequent the Web for more information!

We hope your student will find many items of interest!

## Tips for Academic Success *(continued)*

Registration for spring semester will happen in early November, and they should meet with their advisors to discuss course registration prior to their assigned registration time. Advisors are great resources to students about all kinds of academic matters. To find out more about academic advising, visit [www.advising.uncc.edu](http://www.advising.uncc.edu).

Encourage your son/daughter to communicate with his/her faculty members. Faculty members will tell students (usually on the syllabus) about office hours, preferences about email communication, and

other ways of contact. Faculty welcome students' questions—encourage your child to introduce him/herself to instructors right away!

It is the student's responsibility to make sure his/her registration is accurate and to correct any problems. For example, if a student stops attending a class, that does not mean he/she is officially withdrawn. Please encourage your son/daughter to make sure that the registration records accurately reflect the courses your son/daughter thinks he/she is taking. Students can talk with their advisors about any necessary regis-

tration changes and must note the deadlines for adding and dropping courses (listed in a limited way in this issue of *Relatively Speaking*).

A syllabus is like a contract between a faculty member and students. Many syllabi specify assignments, readings, and exam dates. Usually students receive a syllabus early in the semester (if not on the first day) and then can plan for the whole semester. Encourage your son/daughter to read their syllabi carefully!

# Contact Numbers

Office of Parent and Family Programs . . . 704-687-2635  
 Student Health Services . . . . . 704-687-4617  
 Housing and Residence Life . . . . . 704-687-2585  
 Office of Disability Services . . . . . 704-687-4355  
 University Career Center . . . . . 704-687-2231  
 University Counseling Center . . . . . 704-687-2105  
 Dean of Students . . . . . 704-687-2375

University Center for Academic Excellence  
 . . . . . 704-687-2162  
 University Advising Center . . . . . 704-687-7717  
 Writing Resources Center . . . . . 704-687-4357  
 University Police . . . . . 704-687-2200  
 University Library . . . . . 704-687-2030



*The Office of Parent and Family Programs invites you to join the Parent and Family Association, if you have not already done so. Membership provides you with an opportunity to be even more engaged with UNC Charlotte. Consider what is offered and join today!*

The Parent and Family Association is intended to strengthen the relationship we have with our students' families and designed to increase the communication with parents and actively involve them in the life of UNC Charlotte. Membership is open to all parents and family members of current students.

**Benefits of joining the Parent and Family Association:**

- **Niner Nation Family**, an additional newsletter for parents and families of UNC Charlotte students, mailed directly to your home twice a year (fall and

spring);

- **Parents Calendar**, a publication which includes vital facts on academic and administrative departments, services, dates, and phone numbers;
- **Invitations** to special University receptions and events;
- **Campus discounts** during various University events;
- **UNC Charlotte Parent merchandise** to show your special status — as a proud 49er parent;
- **Opportunities** to volunteer and thus participate in University programs and events;
- **Satisfaction** from knowing that you actively support programs and services which directly benefit students!

To join, print this page, detach and complete the Office of Parent and Family Programs Registration Form (located on the reverse side of this brochure) and send it along with the \$49 annual fee made payable to UNC Charlotte Parent and Family Association.

## UNC CHARLOTTE PARENT AND FAMILY ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM

*Please print clearly and provide the names of all sons/daughters currently enrolled at UNC Charlotte.*

Student's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last

Classification:  Freshman  Sophomore  Junior  Senior  Graduate Student

Student's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last

Classification:  Freshman  Sophomore  Junior  Senior  Graduate Student

1<sup>st</sup> Parent/Family Member Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

UNC Charlotte Alumnus?  Yes  No

Company/Place of Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Parent/Family Member Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

UNC Charlotte Alumnus?  Yes  No

Company/Place of Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (incl. area code) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make checks payable to UNC Charlotte Parent and Family Association. Send completed form along with payment (check or money order) to:  
 Office of Parent and Family Programs, UNC Charlotte, 217 King Bldg., 9201 University City Blvd, Charlotte, NC 28223*