

# CAMPUS CONNECTION

A STUDENT AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS

VOLUME 4 ♦ ISSUE 4 ♦ SPRING 2009

## Help Your Student Survive Exam Week

As a parent, it may be difficult to watch from afar as your student faces exam week. However, there are many ways in which you can support your student during this stressful time.

Encourage your student to not wait until the last minute to prepare for exams and projects. Take the time to help your student map out a study schedule and gently remind him/her to avoid procrastination. Encourage your student to schedule appointments with the University's Writing Center to help with the editing of written works. Remind your student that the Center for Academic Excellence is another terrific resource. Finally, early preparation will provide your student with the opportunity to consult professors regarding frustrating material or for clarification on project requirements.

Another way that you can help your student survive the stress of exam week is to provide him/her with a thoughtful care package. Taking just a few minutes to prepare a care package of healthy snacks and thoughtful items can reduce stress, decrease hunger and fatigue during long study sessions, and provide a simple reminder that you believe in your student's abilities.

Finally, remind your student that there is help available should things become overwhelming. Of course, you'll always be a phone call away, but when more immediate face-to-face contact is needed, the Counseling and Testing Center provides a compassionate ear and considerable resources for more extensive needs.

With a little foresight and planning, your student will be well-prepared and confident going into one of the most stressful situations he/she has faced in his/her young life.

## Chris Blackburn leads Greek Life

Chris Blackburn has joined The University of North Carolina at Pembroke as director of the Office of Greek Life.

Blackburn comes to UNCP from West Virginia Wesleyan College where he worked for five years in the admissions office rising to the position of associate director. He coordinated marketing and supervised student recruitment among other duties.

"I really enjoy working in higher education, and I wanted to move into student life," Blackburn said. "The mission and goals of student and Greek life at UNCP are a good match for my background and interests."

Having the opportunity to increase the enrollment of UNCP's Greek organizations is appealing for Blackburn.

"About five percent of our students are involved in Greek life, and I would like to see that number at 15 percent," he said. "My background is in recruitment, so it's a good match."

One national fraternity is establishing a local chapter this year, and Blackburn said there is room for additional national sororities. "UNCP currently recognizes 21 organizations with about 350 members.

"Adding chapters is important to meeting our goal, but it's just as important to fill out the many diverse organizations already established," Blackburn said. "The number of chapters on this campus is appropriate to the size of the school, so there is room to grow within the organizations in place."

Another goal for the new director of Greek Life is to unify the spectrum of campus chapters into a more cohesive whole.

"A lot of good work has already been done to build teamwork and leadership," Blackburn said. "I want to bring everybody together so that all students support Greek life.

"All fraternities and sororities have missions that were put in place by their founders," he said. "There was a high level of honor and humility embedded into these chapters early history."

When history is served and strong leadership is in place good things happen in Greek life, Blackburn believes.

"This is when the community service ideal and activism follows," he said. "That's when Greek life is at its best."

Blackburn completed a Bachelor of Arts degree at West Virginia Wesleyan and earned a Master of Arts degree in corporate and organizational communication from West Virginia University. His undergraduate experience was loaded with diverse community service experiences from working with youth to working at a raptor rehabilitation center in Alaska.

Working in admissions, Blackburn had a high degree of involvement with both committee and professional work. He was advisor to Theta Xi fraternity and a member of councils for Alumni, Greek Alumni and staff and committees for retention, facilities marketing and recruitment. The Office of Greek Life may be contacted at 910.775.4048 or email [greek@uncp.edu](mailto:greek@uncp.edu).

# CAMELUS CONNECTION

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## Upcoming Events

### ◆FAMILY DAY 2009

The University of North Carolina at Pembroke invites you to attend Family Day on Saturday, April 4 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. on the University Center Lawn. Family Day is an opportunity to celebrate the academic year with students, faculty, staff and their families in a fun, social and interactive atmosphere. This vibrant event will feature a DJ, inflatable games, balloon, caricature and temporary tattoo artists, interactive events, door prizes and the wildly popular Herps Alive program, a hands-on live reptile and amphibian experience.

Please bring the whole family to UNCP for a fun-filled day. For more information, contact the Office of Student Life at 910-521-6207 or visit [www.uncp.edu/life](http://www.uncp.edu/life).

### ◆TASTE OF IWorld

Please join us on Wednesday, April 8, at 10 a.m. on the University Center Lawn for the 12th annual "A Taste of iWorld." This annual tradition at the University celebrates a very special and rich diversity at UNC Pembroke. The program will include various exhibits presented by UNCP students, faculty, staff and community members representing their respective cultural backgrounds. Exhibits often include food items to be sampled, and entertainment includes African-American, Latin American, Japanese, and American Indian dancers and much more. We look forward to seeing you there.

## The Center for Leadership and Service

The Center for Leadership and Service (CLS) is designed to support UNCP's mission to provide service and leadership to the community. CLS provides resources and experiences through educational programs, service opportunities, and leadership endeavors for students to become more engaged, responsible and active citizens and leaders. In the Fall of 2008, CLS launched a campaign for social justice called *Justice through Service*. The campaign serves as a tool for raising awareness about issues that our society faces on local and global scales and why it is important to be engaged and socially, politically, and economically aware. Each month a new topic (i.e. poverty, violence, and literacy) is identified and activities, forums, workshops, community partner collaborations, and volunteer opportunities are planned to help increase awareness about the issues important to our area.

Essentially, the campaign teaches students about problems we face as a society and ways to create change through leadership and service. Volunteer opportunities were coordinated at each of these sites following the on-campus events, such as the alternative Spring Break trip to New Orleans. During this trip, ten students joined the Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans and Acadiana and served as research assistants for the Hunger in America 2009 research project.

CLS seeks to engage students in service through education, awareness and volunteer opportunities. If your student is interested in giving back to the community through service, CLS can provide him/her with a number of organizations to suit his/her interests. All students are encouraged to stop by the CLS office located in the Multicultural Center at Old Main where the CLS staff is eager and ready to assist students to help the community.

## Staying Connected

Web Calendar .....	<a href="http://www.uncp.edu/calendar">www.uncp.edu/calendar</a>
Counseling & Testing Center .....	<a href="http://www.uncp.edu/ct">www.uncp.edu/ct</a> (910-521-6202)
Career Services Center .....	<a href="http://www.uncp.edu/cs">www.uncp.edu/cs</a> (910-521-6270)
Division of Student Affairs .....	<a href="http://www.uncp.edu/sa">www.uncp.edu/sa</a> (910-521-6226)
Financial Aid Office .....	<a href="http://www.uncp.edu/fa">www.uncp.edu/fa</a> (910-521-6255)
Student Health Services .....	<a href="http://www.uncp.edu/shs">www.uncp.edu/shs</a> (910-521-6219)
UNCP Police & Public Safety .....	<a href="http://www.uncp.edu/police">www.uncp.edu/police</a> (910-521-6235)

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