

SBP on student life at UNC

New Tar Heels, welcome to Carolina! My name is Will Leimenstoll, and I'm the student body president for the 2012-13 academic year.

First, let me say how excited I am for you to be joining the Carolina family and second, let me tell you how incredibly jealous I am of you because you're just beginning the wonderful four year journey of being a Carolina student, and I only have one year left.

I have had the most incredible college experience I could possibly have asked for here in Chapel Hill. As a wide-eyed first-year student I came to campus with a few friends from home, an open mind and a passion for environmental issues. I sat through orientation anxiously attempting to simultaneously register for classes, scope out the campus, make some new friends and avoid sweating too much in the summer heat. Initially, Chapel Hill wasn't my first choice — I wanted to major in urban planning and UNC only had a minor for it.



Will Leimenstoll
Student Body President

However, I was rejected from my top choice school and decided to give Chapel Hill a shot the first semester, absorb as much as I could and then go home over Christmas to decide whether or not to transfer elsewhere.

After move-in day that fall semester, I immediately knew I had ended up where I needed to be. My wonderful suitemates who I had just met generously helped me move into my dorm room on South Campus, and as I spent time with them and other friends that afternoon I already felt at home.

That semester I dove headfirst into great classes, and became involved with the Environmental

Affairs Committee of Student Government, where I would make some of my closest friends.

By the time I headed home to Greensboro after the semester ended, I had fallen in love with everything at Carolina and had already been accepted to be an orientation leader the following summer. Clearly I wasn't going anywhere.

Whatever path you took to get here today, know that Carolina is excited to welcome you with open arms and offer you so many incredible opportunities — all you have to do is be open to it.

Three years ago I would never have imagined that I would join a fraternity, participate in undergraduate research or study abroad in Cape Town, South Africa. I certainly would not have believed it if someone had told me I would be student body president.

Had I gone anywhere else I know I would not have had such incredible and diverse experiences, because my fellow Tar Heels are the people who inspire

me to be my best. We push each other to succeed and accomplish amazing things not for the good of ourselves, but because we want Carolina to be a place of excellence with a heart.

At Carolina you'll find that your peers not only excel in the classroom, but they also want to make a difference in the world and have a well-rounded college experience. This doesn't happen everywhere!

Ask anyone on campus what they love most about Carolina and they'll undoubtedly choose the people.

Carolina students hold themselves to a higher standard of rigorously pursuing excellence for the betterment of others and the fact that I have only one more year to be surrounded by this amazing sense of community is why I so wish I was in your shoes today.

Take advantage of this experience because these will undoubtedly be some of the best years of your life.

Good luck and go Heels!

'The Shallows' on technology

This year's summer reading explores the effects of the Internet.

By Lucie Ronfaut
Staff Writer

If you think that summer is all about being lazy at the beach, you might have to think again.

Every year since 1999, the Carolina Summer Reading Program recommends one book for incoming students to read over the summer before the start of classes.

The book is picked by a selection committee made of three University staff, three faculty staff and three students. Last year, "Eating Animals" by Jonathan Safran Foer had been chosen for incoming freshmen to read.

"The summer reading program is intended to introduce our incoming students to what's it's going to be like to be in a college classroom and in an academic setting," said April Mann, director of the New Student & Carolina Parent Programs, who has been in charge of the program since 2007.

This year the selection committee chose "The Shallows," which was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in general nonfiction.

The book explores the bad side effects that the Internet and technology have on our daily life.

The author of "The Shallows," Nicholas Carr, said he was thrilled about being picked for the summer reading program.

"Some people have this idea that young people don't struggle with technology because they're

so connected, but I think they are aware of the negative effects of it as well," he said.

Despite the book's controversial topic — which asks whether we are sacrificing our ability to read and think deeply because of the Internet — Mann thinks that it will appeal to the students.

"It's not about changing the students' behavior, it's to get them to think critically," she said.

While nothing is planned yet, Mann said she hopes that Carr will come to campus next year in order to discuss the book with incoming students.

"It would be a great opportunity to see the students' reactions, what they agree on and why," Carr said.

For freshmen, the summer reading program is meant not only to get ready for college classes. It is also a good way to connect with faculty, staff and other students.

"The great thing about all the incoming students reading the same book is that then you can ask your roommate or your friend down the hall what they thought about it," Mann said.

Sophomore Megan Harley, an English and global studies double major, agrees that the program gave her the opportunity to talk with her peers. She participated in the summer reading program two years ago.

"It's a good idea because we all come in having read the same thing, and then you can discuss that," she said. "So we all share a common ground."

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