

Experience our 'Southern part of heaven'

For most UNC freshmen, coming to Chapel Hill represents more than a move to a new town.

It is a transition to freedom, a time of growth and a period filled with opportunity.

Finally cutting loose from the reign of mom and dad means living by your own rules and choosing what you want to do and when you want to do it.

But shortly after unpacking the stacks of Rubbermaid bins, plastic bags or suitcases that brought



Sarah Glen
City Editor

you to this university, a frenzy of activity ensues that can seem overwhelming at times.

From getting acquainted with your new environment to meet-

ing roommates and finding your classrooms, there will be many tasks before you when you arrive at UNC this August.

Once school begins, you'll then decide if and how you would like to get involved in University activities like Greek life, service opportunities or career clubs.

While there is no doubt that school-related enterprises are important, remember that there is more to a college experience than the academic and social activities the University offers.

Before getting too caught up in all the wonders this school has to offer, I urge you to explore the parts of Chapel Hill that exist beyond campus.

Known to many as "the southern part of heaven," Chapel Hill provides students with both small town charm and a slew of diverse opportunities.

For those who are politically inclined, I encourage you to sit in on a Chapel Hill Town Council meeting and voice your opinions on local issues.

In a town so closely intertwined with the University, student opinions matter. For example, UNC students foot about 40 percent of the town's transit bill, so what would you say to proposed service reductions?

Beyond the political realm, the Chapel Hill area also offers lively arts, food and music scenes that draw attention from all around the world.

While many students learn to master the sidewalks of Franklin Street, take the time to travel

beyond Chapel Hill's beloved hub and you'll experience some of the best food you've ever eaten while also meeting some pretty amazing people.

Whether you're perusing art exhibits at University Mall, celebrating Earth Day at a town park or enjoying soul food at Mama Dip's, Chapel Hill is sure to offer you a good time.

Whatever your interests, one thing is clear: get involved in our town in as many ways as you can, and you won't regret it.



www.wholefoodsmarket.com/giftcards

Tell your parents you want to

EAT WELL THIS SEMESTER

They can buy you a Whole Foods Market Gift Card online, and have it sent directly to you at school!



No car? Take Chapel Hill buses

By Sarah Glen
City Editor

With a campus that spans more than 700 acres, getting from class to class on time can sometimes be a difficult task.

To aid students who live both on and off campus, both the University and the Town of Chapel Hill offer bus routes that run as frequently as every 10 minutes.

The P2P, a University shuttle that runs from Franklin Street to South campus, operates from 7 p.m. to 3 a.m. seven days a week during the academic year to provide students with a safe way home from late-night studying or hanging out.

For many students, the P2P also symbolizes both the start of a good evening or the end of a fun night out.

UNC junior Denise Dubick said rides on the P2P are one of the memories she cherishes most from her first two years of studying at this university.

"I have seen it all, from vomit to flash dancing, in that narrow aisle," she said. "The P2P is more than a simple ride to Franklin — it's a true Carolina experience."

Offering almost 7 million rides annually, Chapel Hill Transit operates a system of 23 fixed routes to provide both students and town residents with free transportation between Chapel

Hill and Carrboro.

Students commonly use the NS bus, which runs from North Campus to South Campus and connects two of the University's park and ride services, and the NU bus, which runs from the PR lot to Manning Drive, to get around town.

But the blue buses that residents have grown accustomed to seeing on the town's streets will soon receive a makeover in an effort to close the transit system's \$2.3 million fund gap.

The Chapel Hill Town Council approved an exterior advertising program at its June 13 meeting that will allow businesses to pay for ads on the town's buses.

Town Transit Director Steve Spade said the program has the potential to bring in more than \$400,000 once it is fully developed.

"We believe that transit advertising is an excellent way for us to diversify our tax revenues," he said. "Every dollar we collect in transit advertising is a dollar we don't have to collect in property taxes."

As for travel beyond Chapel Hill and its neighboring towns, UNC students also have access to free transportation to Raleigh through UNC's Student Commuter Alternatives Program.

Contact the City Editor at city@dailytarheel.com.

Best Seafood Restaurant in the Triangle
Squid's - *The Independent Readers Poll*
2006, 2007 (Finalist), 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011

Best Restaurant for Casual Dining
Squid's - *The Chapel Hill News* 2008, 2009

Best Italian in Chapel Hill - 411 West
Best Seafood in Chapel Hill - Squid's
Chapel Hill Magazine Best of 2011

Best Seafood Restaurant
Squid's - *Metro Bravo Award*
Metro Magazine 2002, 2003, 2007, 2009



**Green Plus Certified Business,
Sustainable Business of the Year**
— Foundation for a Sustainable Community

Best Italian Restaurant in the Triangle
411 West - *The Independent Readers Poll*
2007, 2008 (tie with 518 West), 2009 Finalist, 2011

Best Italian Restaurant in the Triangle
518 West - *The Independent Readers Poll*
2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010

Best Mexican Cuisine, Best Margarita
Mez - 2009 Finalist - *Metro magazine*

**North Carolina's First
LEED-Designed Restaurant (Mez)**

**Serving
TAR HEELS
over 30 years**

SPANKY'S
RESTAURANT & BAR

E. Franklin St., Chapel Hill
919.967.2678

SpankysRestaurant.com

Squid's
Restaurant & Oyster Bar

15-501 at Elliot Rd., Chapel Hill
919.942.8757

SquidsRestaurant.com

411
ITALIAN CAFE

W. Franklin St., Chapel Hill
919.967.2782

411West.com

518
ITALIAN CAFE

518 W. Jones St., Raleigh
919.829.2518

518West.com

MEZ
CONTEMPORARY
MEXICAN

Exit 282/Page Rd., Durham
919.941.1630

MezDurham.com