

Make the most of your time at UNC

Since the age of eight, I have dreamed of attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. I didn't need a campus tour, or a great basketball season or a famous alumnus to help me make that decision. There was no decision to be made. Carolina was already embedded within me and I worked relentlessly to have the chance to go on this journey; the journey that will define the rest of my life.

However, my dream was deferred before I even graduated high school. I was wait-listed at UNC. Due to my overpowering desires to attend the University, I only applied to one other school after my parents forced me. I ended up spending my first year "studying abroad" in a far-away land known as N.C. State University. The full scholarship that they offered me was not enough to withstand my burning passion to be a part of this great campus community.

I applied as a transfer, was accepted and am yet to return to State's campus. Returning would have been a waste of my time because I had to pack four years of priceless Carolina experiences into three.

I remember my orientation session pretty well. I can recall walking through our gorgeous campus in my Carolina blue polo and being so excited to learn my way around. My orientation leader made sure that my group knew all the ins and outs of student life well before the first day of classes.

The people that were in my orientation session would become some of my best friends. I left orientation inspired to not only have as many positive experiences as I could, but to truly prepare myself for life after UNC.

I'm confident in saying that I've completed my primary objective. In less than three weeks my journey of a lifetime will conclude. My time at UNC has flown by and it was a great ride. I wouldn't change anything. My time at UNC has definitely prepared me to not only succeed in life but to live life by my terms. I learned my freshman year that like college, life is what you make it. That means so



Dale Johnson
Class of 2012

much more while you're on this campus wearing Carolina blue. To the incoming freshman class of 2016, I would advise that you all start your journey at UNC off right and to always remember the commitment. Live by your terms, not by your best friend, or parents, favorite alumnus or anybody else. Also, make sure to remember the commitment that you made to UNC; to further progress its excellence and make the university better for future classes.

UNC can mean so many things to its affiliates. To me, each letter stands for a particular rule that I tried to live by every day, whether I was cheering on our men's basketball team or catching a bite to eat on Franklin Street with friends.

The "U" stands for "Utilize everything around you." There are so many unique opportunities to take advantage of. Thousands of people are on this campus every single day doing extraordinary things. You have the arduous task of figuring out who you want to be and what you want to spend your time doing. Start early and figure out what you are passionate about and then seek out those opportunities that correlate with your passions. Also, define your legacy. What do you want to remember the most about you time at UNC 50 plus years down the road? What do you want to be known for? Whether you want to be the best resident advisor on campus, the best student athlete, or the president of Carolina Fever, define your legacy early so that you won't have any shortcomings come the LDOC of your senior year.

The "N" stands for "Never forget to enjoy every moment that you spend on this campus."

It's that simple. Your time at UNC should be cherished not taken for granted. Don't waste it on the sidelines. Get out there,

meet new people, utilize your interests and talents, and come away with a great win ... hundreds of priceless memories of UNC.

The "C" stands for "Create opportunities for others and cultivate yourself." I am a huge supporter of helping others. I always felt that if I emptied my cup, then I will receive twice as much in the end." Don't be selfish. Make sacrifices for others. From being a Kenan-Flagler business school student ambassador to a resident advisor in Craige Community for two years to serving as president of three organizations my senior year, I feel that I've done more than my fair share for other students on campus. But I wouldn't change that for anything. I think Kendall Marshall said it best ... #PassFir5t.

I love my fellow Tar Heels and will work relentlessly to see my peers happy and successful. Increase what you do for others. It will definitely enhance your college experience and your deeds won't go unnoticed ... I guarantee it.

Enjoy every moment and try not to complain about the simple things like CCI printing malfunctions, the lack of parking on campus, or getting phase three tickets to basketball games. Keep in mind that UNC received nearly 30,000 first-year applications for fall 2012 admissions. Approximately 25 percent were offered admission. Love the journey that you are about to embark on. Thousands of students would love to take your place.

Carolina is a marvelous place. It is where I've defined my passions, developed life-long friendships and prepared myself for this thing called life. Plus, that degree at the end of the journey is the ultimate lottery ticket.

Your time at UNC goes by so fast. Don't have any regrets. From your first FallFest to your last exam senior year, no regrets.

I think that the rest of the class of 2012 would agree with me in saying that we will continue the Carolina tradition of excellence long after graduation and closely watch what those that came after us add to the legacy. It's truly the only way ... the Carolina Way.

Tricks to make dining hall food better

Students weigh in on their favorite ways to modify dining hall food.

By Kelly Williamson
Staff Writer

As wide-eyed freshmen, students Lenoir and Rams Head dining halls are often overwhelming by the wealth of delicious food offered.

Rams Head and Lenoir certainly can't be compared to a high school cafeteria, and the dining halls on campus might seemingly provide an endless supply of a student's dietary desires, but don't be fooled.

No matter how intimidating the food options seem on the first day, there will come a point — most likely in a student's first year — when pepperoni pizza, cheeseburgers, Cinnamon Toast Crunch cereal and salads get old.

Don't fret, there are creative students who have refused to allow the dining hall options to become monotonous.

They've taken matters into their own hands and come up with their own culinary concoctions.

The Daily Tar Heel turned to Twitter to ask UNC's very own amateur chefs about the different creations they've come up with while dining in the dining halls:

@jack_gough: take chicken, cheese, and salsa put it in a tortilla from the vegetarian line, grill in panini press = quesadilla



DTH FILE/ERIN HULL

A group of students crowds around a table at Lenoir Dining Hall for dinner on a Monday night.

@davis_plunkett: cereal + ice cream = win. Reese's Puffs and vanilla is best

@JasonMcCoggins: Probably not very interesting, but I miss having pepperoni pizza, Fruit Loops, tofu and caesar salad together!

@HGargan: I create an ice cream sandwich by putting soft-serve in between two cookies.

@dingking92: sometimes

in Lenoir, I put a cookie at the bottom of my salad. Gives me a reward, a prize inside, when I eat healthy.

@amzbloo: I take advantage of the rare strawberries to make a spinach and strawberry salad with seeds, feta and vinegar

@ZachMayo: Steal tortillas from the vegetarians and stuff them full of REAL food

Contact the University Editor at university@dailytarheel.com.

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