NEW STUDENT & SPARTAN FAMILY PROGRAMS

How We Help Students Do Something Bigger Altogether

We help students and their families make a smooth transition to college life, setting the stage for success at UNCG. By helping students understand all of the programs and opportunities available to them, we help them make their college experience extraordinary.

Mission Statement

The Office of New Student & Spartan Family Programs provides comprehensive and meaningful programs, services, and resources to facilitate a successful transition to UNCG and support students through their first year. We promote and encourage opportunities for students to connect with the University community and engage fully in our rich learning environment and diverse culture, while instilling our unique traditions and creating affinity for UNCG. We appreciate that families and peer leaders play a vital role in the academic success and overall well-being of students and intentionally partner with them to enhance students’ development throughout their time at UNCG.

Points of Pride

• This summer, incoming freshmen will attend one of eight SOAR sessions (Spartan Orientation, Advising, and Registration). These sessions prepare students and their parents for the transition to college, and about the many services and opportunities available at UNCG. Over 85% of new students bring at least one parent or family member to SOAR. SOAR sessions for transfer and adult students are also held in June, August, and January.

• The SPEARS (Student Peers Encouraging Achievement for Retention Success) program involved placing upper class student leaders in very visible shirts across campus during the first few days of class to answer questions and direct new students to their class buildings. The program increased from 65 SPEARS in Fall 2010 to 132 SPEARS in Fall 2011. An estimated 1,980 students sought help from these volunteers during the first two days of classes.

• The “Your First Year” program helps first-year students take advantage of all that the campus community has to offer.

• The new “Your First Year Texting Service” provides students with an easy way to get answers to their questions. During its first year, 1,322 text messages were received.

• The 76 members of the Parent Family Advisory Council provide input on the UNCG experience and assists with annual giving for the Spartan Families Fund. This special fund supports current student activities such as LeaderShape, the PFAC scholarship, and much more.

By the Numbers (2011-2012 Academic Year)

• During “Rawkin’ Welcome Week,” 17,430 students engaged with various programs, activities, and traditions around campus to ease the transition to UNCG and celebrate the start of a new academic year.

• Parent Family Association members increased 27% to 4,478 members through a streamlined registration system via SOAR reservations.

• 450 students participated in the The First Year Summer Read and faculty discussions, with over 900 attending the Wine to Water author visit in the Aycock Auditorium.

• In the spring of 2012, 89 students were inducted into Alpha Lambda Delta, a national honor society for full-time, degree-seeking, first-year students who have achieved at least a 3.5 GPA in the first semester of study. Currently there are 309 total members.

What Students Say about SOAR:

“I felt as though the SOAR informational sessions were very helpful and informative. I now feel more comfortable and prepared for college.”

“I really enjoyed the energy that the SOS leaders displayed.”

“Felt very welcomed. Was super stoked about being here. Had a great time and am looking forward to my years at UNCG!”