

Family Association

“What can the Student Success Center do for your student?”

Lisa Burger, Director, UND Student Success Center

On August 1, 2007, the University of North Dakota moved in a direction to provide even more comprehensive and collaborative service to students! This move marked the integration of three offices into one department. The Adult Re-entry, the University Learning Center, and Student Academic Services came together to form the Student Success Center created to provide programs and services to students to aid in the development and implementation of their educational plans and goals. Through the Center’s programs and services, students are empowered to develop the skills and abilities to make a positive adjustment within the campus community.

To help make this all happen, the Center focuses on three areas – advising, learning services, and programming.

Advising – The Student Success Center provides quality academic advising for all undergraduate students deciding on a major. Professional advisors provide academic and referral services to students until a major is declared.

Learning Services – Services and instruction are provided to assist students in achieving academic success. These services include drop-in tutoring in a wide variety of subject matters, student success classes, and individual assistance and assessment for students with academic concerns.

FREE drop-in tutoring, available to all UND students, is based on student demand and includes many 100 and 200 level courses, such as accounting, economics, foreign languages, mathematics, biology, chemistry, and physics. Visit www.ulc.und.edu for a complete listing of subjects and times for drop-in tutoring.

The Student Success Center offers the following success classes: UNIV 101 – Introduction to University Life (a course designed to aid in a student’s transition to the university environment), UNIV 125 – Introduction to Effective Study Skills, UNIV 126 – College Reading, and UNIV 127 – Critical Thinking Strategies for College Students. (The skills enhancement courses are designed to help students develop the tools necessary to excel in their academic life.) All classes are offered during the Fall and Spring semesters. Individual assistance and assessment for students with academic concerns such as test-taking strategies, learning styles, study skills, and time management issues are offered through the Student Success Center. Workshop presentations are also provided throughout the year.

Programming – The Student Success Center provides a variety of programs designed to enhance student success from entrance to the University and throughout a student’s undergraduate experience. These programs include Freshman and Transfer Getting Started (registration programs), Keep Going (an academic advising informational session to help facilitate the transition for new students from the first to second semester), Learning Fair (series of workshops targeting academic issues), and Adult Re-entry peer mentoring sessions.

Encourage your student to come to the Student Success Center and use our services! We are located on the second floor of the Memorial Union, room 201. We are here and available to serve them! In addition, if you have a question about your student’s academic success, please feel free to call our office at 1-800 CALL UND ext. 2117, or directly at (701) 777-2117.

Student Involvement at UND

Student involvement is a great way to meet people, learn outside of the classroom, and explore interests. Research shows that “involved” students statistically graduate at higher rates, have more confidence interacting with faculty members, and rate their university experiences as more positive. UND currently has over 260 student organizations that cover a wide range of interests.

Based on recent research of UND students, we know:

- 78% are involved in at least one student organization
- 43% have held at least one leadership position in a student organization
- 50% have participated in volunteer/service projects while at UND
- 19% are involved in some form of student governance (Student Gov’t, Hall Gov’t, etc.)

Contact the Center for Student Involvement and Leadership at 777-4200 with any questions.

Log on to the Center for Student Involvement and Leadership website at: <http://www.union.und.edu/involvement/>

to learn about the Student Organizations at UND, as well as Volunteer and Leadership opportunities!

Visit the New Hopper-Danley Spiritual Center!



The Hopper/Danley Memorial Spiritual Center is a gift from the late Roy and Elnora (Hopper) Danley estate provided funding for the construction of this facility. Elnora Danley envisioned a building to be used for meditation, prayer, small worship groups and weddings.

The Center is located on the banks of the English Coulee at the University of North Dakota campus. It is adjacent to the Adelphi Fountain and to a student memorial that includes a fountain, walkway, and remembrance wall. The facility is also available to UND students, faculty, and staff for weddings and special events. The Spiritual Center measures approximately 2400 square feet and seats about 140 people. The facility has a built in alter and is equipped with restrooms.

Top 10 Questions You Should Be Asking Your Students:

1. Are you going to class? (Skipping class is the #1 reason students fail)
2. Are you studying as least 25 hours per week? (College is a full time job. You should be in class, studying, doing homework 40 hours per week)
3. Are you reviewing material in each class weekly? (If you review all material each week then preparing for an exam is easy)
4. Are you scheduling your "goof-off" time? (Everyone needs down time but students need to learn to manage their "goof-off" time)
5. Do you know when the last day to Withdraw is? (After this date you cannot withdraw from a class).
6. Are you starting your assignments early? (The Unexpected happens...you get sick, your computer crashes... Start assignments early with plenty of time for the UNEXPECTED)
7. Have you seen your advisor? (Students need to meet with an advisor (usually in October) to plan for next semester)
8. Have you gone to your professor's office hours? (Professors like to help students. Do not hesitate to visit the professor during office hours)
9. Are you going to tutoring?
10. Have you formed a study group? (Studying complex material is more efficient with a study group)

Career Services

Does your student need help finding a job? UND's Career Services offers free services for students. Encourage your student to stop by Room 280, McCannel Hall and check out all they have to offer. Contact Career Services at (701) 777-3904.

FALL 2007 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Dates are subject to change

Veteran's Day - No Classes.....Nov. 11
Thanksgiving - No Classes.....Nov. 22- 23
Final Exams.....Dec. 10-14
Winter Commencement.....Dec. 14
Classes Resume.....Jan. 7
More information on UND events can be found at
www.und.edu/calendar/

UND Spotlight - Geography Professor Doug Munski



When new freshmen come to campus for the Getting Started orientation program, many bring a list of faculty recommended by parents, siblings, and friends. Geography professor Doug Munski is often on those lists.

That's because it's hard to forget a "Munski" class. Students who take his geography courses tend to remember him – and what they learned – for life. Many former students still keep in touch, and now he's starting to meet their sons and daughters.

Originally from Chicago's North Shore and northern Missouri, Munski is well-known throughout North Dakota for his commitment to students and the state he has called home for 29 years. Each summer, he serves as a volunteer faculty advisor to help new students register and prepare for University life. He has received outstanding service and academic advising awards, as well as teaching awards. This April, he received the National University Continuing Education Association Excellence in Teaching Award.

"I'm excited about geography, and want to help others become better geographers than I am," he says. "I take delight when students exceed me."

In addition to classes on campus, he teaches distance education courses through the North Dakota University System Interactive Video Network (IVN) on human geography and the geography of North America. Besides UND, these courses serve students at Mayville State University, NDSU, Lake Region State College, Dickinson State University, and United Tribes Technical College. But he doesn't just teach from the UND campus: he leaves Grand Forks every couple of weeks to teach at another of the campuses that carry his IVN classes. That way, he can keep the class as interactive as possible.

"Distance teaching is exciting in some respects," he says. "I'm able to connect UND students with those at other campuses."

Whether it's in the classroom or over interactive television, Munski loves teaching. "It really is a privilege to help shape the next generation," he says. "I hope that students, after taking my class, remember that they can make a difference in how the world operates."

Family Association Corner

The goal of the Family Association is to provide you, the family, with information that you want and need to help make your student's time in college positive and successful. If you're interested in serving on the Family Association Advisory Board or just want to share your ideas, please contact:

Kristi Nelson,
Special Projects Coordinator
(701) 777-6468 or
1-800-CALL-UND ext. 7-6468
kristinelson@mail.und.edu



Care Packages

Go to <http://www.und.edu/dept/divsos/familyassociation/carepackage.html> for a complete description of each Care Package and to download the order form. Choose from any of the following options: Good Morning, Thinking of You, Movie Night (either Blockbuster Rental or Carmike Theater), Get Well Soon, Winter Warm-Up, All Nighter or the Valentine's Day Cookie (available around Valentine's Day only). Our new Care Packages are a hit!

Visit the UND Family Association Website: <http://www.go.und.edu/familyassociation/>

A Family Thanksgiving without a Fumble

Families often fumble a little during the Thanksgiving holiday, as many times it is the first or second time your college student has returned home since leaving in August. Put your game strategy in place to help ensure a winning weekend for all.

Make Sure Your Student Has a Space.

It's common for rearranging to take place once a student has departed for college. Has your college student lost his bedroom? If so, make sure you prepare a space for him to sleep and store belongings, prior to coming home. This way, your student won't feel put out by or a burden on you.

Talk With Your Student About Lifestyle Changes.

Rather than waiting until your student comes home, talk beforehand. It's quite likely that your student's sleeping, eating, dressing and thinking patterns have changed during the last couple of months. Try to avoid surprises by discussing these new habits and perspectives ahead of time.

Try Not to Plan Too Much Ahead.

While it's likely that you will have a scheduled family gathering for the holiday, try not to plan beyond that—at least not without your student's consent. You will appreciate the quiet time together as a family and your student may want to organize gatherings with friends on her own, too.

Prepare Siblings for Your Student's Return Home.

If you have other children, they will be anticipating your student's arrival, too. Remind them that your student will be very excited to see them, but also will have a lot to do while he is home. This will help alleviate disappointment if there is not enough time for extensive one-on-one interaction.

Review and Renegotiate Expectations Together.

Even though your student's habits and behaviors may have changed, your expectations of her may still be the same. Keep in mind that your student has operated independently over the last months. Hopefully, she is more adept at making decisions. Make a point to talk with your student about expectations such as curfew, assisting with chores around the house, interacting with family members and more. Being proactive about this will help alleviate tense situations. If you are willing to adapt your expectations, let your student know this, too.

Communicating your "plays" effectively is certain to score you a touchdown this Thanksgiving!

Take a Commercial Break!

Reconnect with your student by...

- planning a family game night—pull out the old board games or play a little Texas Hold'em
- going to a coffee shop
- sharing photos from the last couple of months
- attending a local high school event
- staying up late one night chatting
- cooking a Sunday brunch

New Thanksgiving Traditions

To usher in this new era of your family's life, why not incorporate a new tradition? Some possibilities include:

- Bake cookies together the night before your student goes back to college so he can share them with friends back on campus
- Take a Flannel Family Photo where you all wear flannel shirts or pajamas and strike a wacky pose!
- Instead of shopping on the day after Thanksgiving, work as a family to create a holiday package for a local family in need
- Address all the holiday cards while sitting around, listening to seasonal music and noshing on eggnog
- Encourage siblings to stuff notes in your college student's luggage so she finds them when she returns to campus

It's never too late to start a new tradition!

