

Summer scheduling frees up students' Fridays

Two-hour classes, four days a week are a first this summer

Elizabeth A. Terry

Posted: 6/6/06

As summer is getting hotter and the sunscreen, sunglasses, and textbooks are slowly following behind, the classes are dragging continuously on and on. Those that aren't working a summer job or an internship are still on campus, either catching up on hours or are trying to make the course load for the following semesters a little lighter.

It is about mid term through the first summer session of two this summer, and in a few days SOAR will begin and the campus will have a continuous flow of students as if no one ever left for summer vacation.

As if summer classes weren't complicated enough, this year UNCG gave into students' complaints about Friday classes. Classes for the first time are two hours long for four days a week (Monday-Thursday). It seems that students can't get enough of soaking up the sun, because although it's an added stress and classes are even more compact, there is always a faithful Friday just around the corner to keep the peace.

"I like the way that it's set up because you can always look forward to Fridays being off," said Carmen Luviano, a senior in social work who is taking Self Defense, English, and Art this summer session.

With the myth of summer classes being as laid back as Jack Johnson's music, most professors are unsure how classes are going to run. On the first day of summer classes most professors admitted that this was a first for UNCG and most importantly themselves. Instead of the regular schedule of classes from Monday through Friday for an hour and thirty minutes, many professors had to modify their curriculum into four days a week for two hours, which is definitely a stretch - especially with the changes that are already underway with the construction of various campus buildings and the moving of offices to the new Humanities buildings. With the glorious three day weekends, professors tend to forget that the last days of classes are on Thursdays or that students are in need of a break in between the two hour session.

Meredith Cox, a rising sophomore who is currently attending two summer session courses, Health and Self Defense, stated that classes were, "more laid back, but definitely, there needs to be a break in class because it's hard to sit still for two hours." Cox spoke [*use past tense for quotes*] of how professors forget that students have sat at a desk for two hours straight, listening to lectures or watching a video without having a break in between the two hour class.

Another annoyance is that registering for classes is even more difficult in the summer, and it is even worse due to the new scheduling. All classes are in two hour blocks and the ideal time slot is from 10 in the morning to noon. "It sucks there's only one time that a class is scheduled for; for example 8 o'clock for this class (health) and self defense was only offered at lunch," said Cox, as she shuffled her backpack to leave the class. It may be vexing that more summer classes aren't offered, but being half way through the first summer session already, it will all be over soon.

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Summer Shorts

What's happening this week

Kitty Campbell

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UNCG Alum could take home a Tony

Beth Leavel, who graduated from UNCG in 1980 with an MFA in acting, has been nominated for a Tony Award, Best Performance by a Featured Actress in a Musical, for her performance in "The Drowsy Chaperone." CBS will televise the June 11 awards ceremony live from New York's Radio City Music Hall at 8 p.m. Leavel's title role in "Chaperone" has already earned her a Drama Desk Award, an Outer Critics Circle Award and an L.A. Drama Critics Circle Award.

UNCG student creates LGBT advocacy PAC

UNCG sophomore Matt Hill Comer, long a vocal gay rights activist and advocate on campus and in Greensboro, has established a political action committee (PAC), of which he is Executive Director. The North Carolina Advocacy Commission is "a state and local PAC with a focus on grassroots advocacy, local awareness, community activism, voter education and the promotion of issues and candidates important to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) and allied North Carolinians," as described on the organization's website. Comer co-founded the organization along with Brandon Greeson, Assistant Executive Director of NCAC. Greeson lives in Hickory, NC and is active in the Catawba Valley community.

So you want to be a dj...

WUAG 103.1, UNCG's campus radio station, is looking for summer DJs for 2006. Those who will be spending the summer in Greensboro and would like to apply should email Jack Bonney at wuag@uncg.edu. For more information, log on to www.wuag.net.

Events this week

Thursday, June 8 and Friday, June 9: Faculty Concert, 8:00p.m.

Recital Hall, Music Building, McIver Street.

Concert featuring George Kiorpes, piano; Joseph Di Piazza, piano; Martin Storey, violoncello; Inara Zandmane, piano.

Call (336) 334-5508 for ticket information or log on to <http://musical.uncg.edu>.

Saturday, June 10: Music: Guest Artist Recital, 8:00p.m.

Huggins Performance Center, Odell Memorial Building, Greensboro College.

Piano concert by Vladimir Viardo featuring works by Rachmaninoff, Medtner, Tchaikovsky, and Prokofiev.

Tickets: \$25

Call (336) 334-5508 or email aswillis@uncg.edu for ticket information.

Tuesday, June 13: Exhibition Tour: "In Edition: Books, Prints & Multiples from the 1960s & 1970s," 2:00p.m.

Weatherspoon Art Museum, Spring Garden and Tate streets.

20 minute docent-led tour of the new exhibition, as part of the museum's "Tuesdays @ Two" series.

Free.

Call (336) 334-5770 for more information or log on to <http://weatherspoon.uncg.edu>.

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The Break-Up: Maybe worth a date, but this is one film you know you wouldn't marry

Summer Movie Review

Roger Priddy

Posted: 6/6/06

**** (Out of 4), 105 Minutes, PG-13**

The main problem with *The Break-Up* is a lack of chemistry. You just can't buy that the characters played by Vince Vaughn and Jennifer Aniston are together in the first place. And if you can't believe that they're a couple, it's hard to swallow any of the movie as you watch the two go through the entire never-ending, incessant relationship exiting circle.

The buzz on this one was really bad, perhaps the worst since *Gigli*. But rest easy, *The Break Up* is no *Gigli*. It's definitely not that bad. While its main concept doesn't work, it does have a number of scenes that do work. The laughs aren't overwhelming, but there are a few, a few good ones. And there's some situations and dialogue that will provide both sexes of viewers some serious head nodding and "preaching to the choir" smiling.

Director Peyton Reed (who also directed the venerable *Bring It On*) is inventive, but can't save the film from its unbreakable flaw - neither can some likeable writing. Aniston (Brooke) and Vaughn (Gary) are the draws, but there's an amazing amount of big-name supporting actors surrounding them, way too many in fact. Everybody from Ann-Margret to Vince's best bud from his career-launching *Swingers*, Jon Favreau. Favreau is memorable as a bartender with Mafioso undertones who is Gary's best friend and an abysmal advice-giver. John Michael Higgins (*A Mighty Wind*) is also hilarious as Brooke's extremely happy (but not gay), constantly singing brother, who's the lead singer for a group called the "Tone Rangers" (hehehe). But many of the other supporting thespians aren't very likeable and take up a lot of time while adding little to the story.

To the main attractions. She may be the pinnacle of every woman's sympathy, and everybody's favorite "friend" but, as I was talking with some ladies where I work, name

one great movie that Jennifer Aniston was great in. You can't, because there aren't any, and there still aren't any after *The Break-Up*. She's not bad, she's pretty, and she has a strong, poignant scene at a concert, but she's just NOT that great.

Vince Vaughn is a funny, witty guy. He's a man's man actor, good in movies like *Dodgeball* and *Old School*. And he's very funny in some scenes here, particularly one where he wins over a date of Brooke's via a Playstation football game. But he's not a romantic, and it's downright painful watching him try to be. And when he argues with Brooke, he's so foulmouthed and senseless he comes across as the possible jerk he may well be.

But all aside, the acting isn't too bad. Some of the scenes work, there's some likeable creativity, and the situation is universally identifiable. The problem is - well, there are two big problems with *The Break-Up*. A). Again, it's just unfathomable that Jennifer Aniston and Vince Vaughn are a couple. They don't flow, they don't connect. If they weren't actually together in real life, you totally couldn't believe it, and that they are together is one of those so-hard-to-believe things that it must be fact. In the movie they just aren't meant for each other. Brooke deserves more of an artsy guy who appreciates her more. Gary deserves more of a party girl who digs him and his passions and will let him be free. And B): Neither Brooke nor Gary are particularly likeable. You can identify with their situation but it's hard to actually identify with them. Neither of them are willing to give in an inch, and they're both as stubborn as blind mules. And since you can't believe they're together in the first place, it's hard to care that they're breaking up. How hard the above two problems hit you will determine how much you like *The Break-Up*. If you can look past them, there's an enjoyable movie here. If you can't, then this might just give *Gigli* a run for its money.

The Break-Up has some good things, but it just doesn't come together. It's the type of movie that if it were a girl I was on a date with, at the end of evening, if she asked me out on another date the next night, I'd thank her, smile, but politely decline and say, "Nah, let's just be friends."

Spring sports review

Catch up on what you've missed

Brad Howell

Posted: 6/6/06

Baseball

Mike Gaski's young squad failed to reach 30 wins for the first time since 1999, finishing the season at 26-33, 13-14 in the SoCon.

UNC Greensboro rode the right arm of senior hurler Patrick Currin all season, and the Chapel Hill native rarely disappointed, finishing the year at 10-3 with a 2.93 ERA.

The rest of the staff was erratic however, as Gaski searched long and hard to find some consistency from his pitchers. Junior right-hander Nick Starnes established his self as the No.1 starter with a solid first half but he struggled down the stretch and finished with a 4-5 record and an ERA north of five.

Southpaw Ryan Falcon looked to be one of the most promising rising stars in the Southern Conference two years ago after leading UNCG in ERA (3.52) and strikeouts (88) in 87 innings of work. A shoulder injury early last spring abruptly ended his season, and Falcon has yet to return to his old dominant self. As a junior in 2006, the Durham native posted a 3-2 record in 58 innings as both a starter and a reliever.

The staff ERA was 5.49 - respectable for most teams, but below Spartan standards. UNCG is consistently among the top teams in team ERA, yet it slipped to fifth in 2006.

The Spartans struggled mightily at the plate this season, as they finished either last or next-to-last in the SoCon in runs scored, homers, on base percentage, hits, average, doubles, RBI, and total bases. With runs coming at such a premium, the pressure remained on the staff.

UNCG did have one bright spot offensively in the form of Juco transfer Jermaine Mitchell. The junior centerfielder led the league in hitting (.397) and he finished the season with 93 hits, ranking him third on the Spartans' all-time single-season list.

UNCG displayed its potential on the diamond in a dramatic 7-6 victory over top-ranked North Carolina on April 16. Sophomore Clay Gibson pitched the self-proclaimed game

of his life after holding the Tar Heels to one run in six innings on the mound. Currin worked out of trouble twice later in the contest to preserve UNC Greensboro's first win over a No.1 ranked opponent in the Division I era.

Currin, shortstop David Adams, and reliever Jonathan Nichols are the only seniors on the team, leaving the Spartans with a potentially strong returning corp.

Softball

The Spartan softball season got off to a rough start when the team dropped the first seven games of 2006. UNCG (20-42, 4-17 SoCon) rebounded by going 8-7 over the next 15 games, but star player Gwen Johnson broke her arm after getting plunked by a pitch, which ultimately ended her season. The Spartans' offense sputtered the rest of the way, finishing near the cellar in virtually every offensive category.

Pitching was solid for the Spartans, as freshman Hannah Angel and junior Vanessa Oakes anchored the rotation.

Angel has the chance to be a star in the future, as the right-hander was posted solid numbers across the board in her first collegiate season. Angel finished 8-17 with a 3.01 ERA in 160.2 innings. She is arguably the best prep softball pitcher in the history of North Carolina after compiling a 40-0 career record, including a 0.00 ERA during her junior season. UNCG will need for her to continue to progress this off-season in preparation for the 2007 campaign.

Oakes pitched extremely well despite her deceiving record. The Wilmington native was only 9-17, but her miniscule ERA of 2.83 indicated how effective she really was.

After playing on the road all of last year, the ladies got to play their home games at the brand new three million dollar Spartan Softball Complex under first-year head coach Jennifer Herzig. Things did not go as smoothly as anticipated, as Johnson went down for the season, reigning first-team all-conference first baseman Jennifer Bonilla was slumping, and the Spartans mysteriously couldn't field the ball. UNCG had the worst defensive team in the conference with a lowly .948 fielding percentage, committing 93 errors.

The Spartans showed their potential during the conference tourney by knocking off top-seeded Western Carolina in the opening game. With Oakes and Angel returning to anchor the pitching staff, and with a full off-season to adapt to its new coach, UNCG has no where to go but up in 2007.

Golf

Men's head coach Terrance Stewart must be scratching his head after his talented team could finish no better than fourth place during the spring season. Jake Lowder and Nathan Stamey each enjoyed solid individual finishes over the course of the spring, but the team never managed to get in synch at the same time.

With highly touted local Drew Younts arriving next fall, Stewart's squad will immediately improve talent-wise. If the team will be able to jell well enough to win a tournament remains to be seen.

Over on the women's side, Ashley Mylton finished second individually in the SoCon tourney to carry UNCG to a third-place finish.

The Spartans battled inconsistent play all spring, finishing 17th as a team in the Bryan National, their last tournament before the Southern Conference Championships. The ladies also finished third in the Fighting Camel Classic in March.

Mylton, a rising junior, will anchor next year's team.

Track and Field

UNCG's Track and Field team enjoyed a stellar season, as several members broke school and individual marks.

Senior Charles Jones battled injuries late in the year, possibly keeping him from returning to the national meet in Sacramento. But before the injury bug bit, Jones set school records in the long jump and triple jumps.

Runner Jeff Williams also broke the schools (and his own) record several times during the course of the spring in the 400 and 800 meters. He also walked away from the Southern Conference Outdoor Championships as the 800 meter champion.

Xavier Rutz (3000 & 5000 meters), Heidi Pinkerton (3000 meters steeplechase), and Jess Weber (800 meters) also set school records during the course of the year.