

Transcript of the December 14, 2011 Kenan-Flagler Women at UNC Chat

Kristen Hart_CWIB Pres: Welcome to the Kenan-Flagler Women at UNC Chat. My name is Kristen Hart and I am president of Carolina Women in Business (CWIB). For the next 45 minutes, we will talk about and answer your questions about being a woman at Kenan-Flagler. Today, I'm joined by Alison Jesse, Senior Associate Director of Admissions, Danielle Casson, Forte Fellow and CWIB VP of Women's Initiatives, and Nora Petito, Forte Fellow and CWIB VP of Career Development.

Danielle Casson - 2nd Yr Student: Welcome everyone! My name is Danielle, and I'm a 2nd year student at UNC Kenan-Flagler. Last summer I interned at Barclays Capital in the Investment Banking Division and will be returning full-time after graduation. I look forward to answering any questions you all have today!

Nora Petito_2nd Year Student: Hi All- My name is Nora Petito, 2nd year MBA student and I am pursuing a General Management concentration. I am from NJ, and heading to Johnson & Johnson next year for Full Time in their HR leadership development program.

KFBSAdmissions-Alison Hope Jesse 2: So we are happy to answer any questions that you all might have-who would like to start?

Kristen Hart_CWIB Pres: I'm also a 2nd year student from Los Angeles. Upon graduation, I will be joining Ecolab's Kay Chemical Division in marketing.

Xin Peng: Hi Kristen, I would like to know B2B marketing opportunity for international students. Thanks!

Kristen Hart_CWIB Pres: I know that Ecolab, who recruits on campus, recruits both domestic and international students. The CMC has a designated person to work with international students.

Xin Peng: Great! Thanks, Kristen.

Lindsey Rivers: Hello! Would you say that there are a small number of women in general in the MBA program?

Lindsey Rivers: sorry... there IS a small number.. :)

Nora Petito_2nd Year Student: @Allison, like many other MBA programs, we wish we had more MBA women in the program, but the women that we do have are absolutely amazing. We don't consider applicants based on gender, but on merit and the women that are great leaders and tend to hold more leadership positions and are active in the community and in class

Nora Petito_2nd Year Student: @Allison, I would also say that as a woman, I have never felt outnumbered or intimidated by my male colleagues, instead I find they look to my leadership and perspective on many things

Nora Petito_2nd Year Student: @Lindsey- sorry all my @Allisons are meant for you!

Lindsey Rivers: :) no problem

Lindsey Rivers: thanks for answering!

Allison: can you tell me about your involvement with Carolina Women in Business? What positions in the group have you held? How have you made a difference for the group?

Kristen Hart_CWIB Pres: @Allison: My first year I served as Communications liaison. Second year I ran and was elected president. I went to a women's college (Smith) so being involved with the women's group was very important to me. There are 8 VP positions and 12 liaison positions for first year women.

Mirembe Francis: Second years can you explain the benefits of CWIB? How has it impacted your time at Kenan-Flagler?

Danielle Casson - 2nd Yr Student: @Mirembe: CWIB has been an integral part of my experience at Kenan-Flagler. From networking with recruiters to organizing women-only events to help integrate the first and second year classes, CWIB plays an active role in the lives of UNC Kenan-Flagler women.

Mirembe Francis: Thank you Danielle. There are so many options of programs to get involved with at UNC. I'm very interested in the Social Entrepreneurial focus and would like to participate in the Launch program. Does CWIB also provide access to women entrepreneurs (especially women in social entrepreneurship)?

AB: Hello, I am interested in learning more about your social enterprise concentration and the Net Impact Club- are there any Microfinance clubs on campus?

KFBSAdmissions-Alison Hope Jesse 2: Hi AB. Our Sustainable Enterprise concentration is very popular and strong. I don't know the answer to your question about Microfinance, but please refer to the Sustainable Enterprise tab on our website and send an email to any of the staff/students who have offered to answer questions.

Charlenne Gonzalez: When deciding which MBA program to attend, what set Kenan-Flagler apart from the other programs?

KFBSAdmissions-Alison Hope Jesse 2: I would say that differentiators for students choosing UNC Kenan-Flagler are strong community, location, general management strength and a strong emphasis on teamwork and a very unique leadership program.

Danielle Casson - 2nd Yr Student: @Charlenne: For me, Kenan-Flagler was the perfect combination between being able to switch careers (from industry finance to investment banking) and a strong sense of community among the students, faculty, and staff. You can really sense the collaboration and engagement among all of the students as soon as you step on campus.

Nora Petito_2nd Year Student: I would also say that KFBS looks for people both strong in academics and intelligence, but who are also very passionate and involved in their communities.

Genhua Jin: Hi, I am from China. I have one question about CWIB: what kind of activities are there held in CWIB?

Kristen Hart_CWIB Pres: @Genuhua Jim: CWIB has social events, career events, and community events. To see what we have been up to this year, check out our website and the events calendar. There is a link to the website on the left side of the chat window. (Here is the link: <http://specials.kenan-flagler.unc.edu/MBAClubs/cwb/Pages/default.aspx>).

Genhua Jin: Thank you, Kristen.

Norma: Danielle/ Nora Petito, from your work or internships experiences have you seen strong differences in salaries between women and men.

Nora Petito_2nd Year Student: @Norma- nope, there is no difference in starting salaries for the position I am going into, and I believe this to be the case across all positions. The school also provides us with multiple resources and workshops to ensure that we are prepared to handle any similar gender challenges that may arise during our careers.

Norma: Thank you Nora!!

Kulkiran Preet: Hi Nora, What are the full time job opportunities for international students pursuing General Management Concentration - In consulting and other areas?

KFBSAdmissions-Alison Hope Jesse 2: @Kulkiran. Job opportunities for international students depend greatly on a company's willingness to Issue visas and their receptiveness to hiring international students. An international student's focus and English ability is critical to success with the career search. When we make admissions decisions, we consult with our strong Career Management Directors to make sure that accepted international students have realistic possibilities to reach their career goals post MBA

Danielle Casson - 2nd Yr Student: @Kulkiran: I can speak to the on-campus internship search specifically. The Associate Directors in the Career Management Center work with each student to ensure a successful career search. Resume drops begin in November and selected students interview on campus beginning in January. Most recruiters take a holistic approach to interviews and the final selections are based on a number of different criteria: performance in the interview, relationships built during company visits to campus, cultural fit, etc.

Kulkiran Preet: Thanks Danielle

Wonlapa: Hi. I wonder what makes UNC's leadership program unique from other business schools?

Kristen Hart_CWIB Pres: @Wonlapa: The breadth of UNC's leadership program sets it apart. In your first year, you must complete 12 leadership credits. This can be through workshops, leadership roles, simulations, etc. In your second year, you can continue your leadership development by working with an executive coach and participating in the leadership immersion which takes the place of your classes in the final quarter.

Wonlapa: Thank you Kristen! Has any of you joined the entrepreneurship and vc club? I'd like to know what do you think about the club and the experience you've gained so far, for example have you got to work with a real local entrepreneur?

Kristen Hart_CWIB Pres: @Wonlapa: I'm actually an entrepreneurship concentrator even though I'm going into marketing. I've been taking a class at the medical school that is run like a medical device start-up. Some of my colleagues have internships with VC firms. The entrepreneurship club is very active on campus.

Catie: Not to overwhelm the forum with more questions, but how does CWIB decide what speakers to bring in? Is it based off the groups interests or driven by faculty recommendations?

Danielle Casson - 2nd Yr Student: @Catie: speakers are determined both by student interest and faculty recommendations. For example, last year the students requested a negotiations workshop for women specifically. One of our Organizational Behavior professors, Alison Fragale, worked with the CWIB leaders to bring in an impactful speaker on campus.

Charlene Gonzalez: In terms of Consulting placement, would you say placement is stronger in management or technology consulting?

Nora Petito_2nd Year Student: @Charlene- I would say placement is much stronger in Management Consulting, but we do have some people go into Tech consulting. We have a great alumni base that are active in helping us find jobs in the areas we desire

Charlene Gonzalez: Thanks. Another question, in what ways does Kenan-Flagler make the program attractive to women?

KFBSAdmissions-Alison Hope Jesse 2: @Charlene Charlenne, the culture at Kenan-Flagler is esp. attractive to women--team based, collegial and not a cut throat environment .

Danielle Casson - 2nd Yr Student: @Charlene: Currently, one of the Dean's priorities is to increase the number of women at Kenan-Flagler. Students are actively working on the Women's Initiative with other members of the staff and administration. As a part of this initiative, we are introducing a series of healthcare courses with a full concentration planned within the next couple of years. Also, the Women's Initiative team is actively pursuing other ways in which to increase women's satisfaction during their two years at UNC.

Charlene Gonzalez: thanks

Kathleen Callaghan: @Danielle: That is great news about the Women's Initiative. Is there a place where I can learn more about what it entails?

Danielle Casson - 2nd Yr Student: @Kathleen: We are very excited about the women's initiative. For more information, feel free to contact Senior Associate Director Meghan Gosk: meghan_gosk@unc.edu

Kathleen Callaghan: Thanks Danielle!

Catie: Are the speaker presentations open to all students, or only attended by CWIB members?

Kristen Hart_CWIB Pres: @Catie: Most CWIB events are specifically targeted towards women. Most speaker presentations, for example at our conference, are open to the entire community.

Wendy Toribio-Torres 2: What health care companies recruit at UNC? Noting that UNC currently doesn't have a health care concentration, how does the program prepare someone for a career in the health care industry?

Nora Petito_2nd Year Student: @Wendy- we are actually in the process of setting up a healthcare concentration, and are offering increased courses in this area. We also have great dual degree programs with the school of public health, school of medicine and school of pharmacy. Companies that recruit include everyone from GE to J&J to Bayer, GSK, Pfizer etc. to name a few of many.

Wendy Toribio-Torres 2: That's great! Thank you Nora!

Wonlapa: @Kristen: from your answer, I just know that you can take classes at other schools as well?

Kristen Hart_CWIB Pres: @Wonlapa: Not only can you take classes at other UNC schools but at Duke as well.

Wonlapa: @Kristen: Do those VC firms normally come to recruit at the campus?

Danielle Casson - 2nd Yr Student: @Wonlapa: most VC firms typically do not recruit on campus. However, the Carolina Ventures Fellows helps place students in internships at local VCs

Wonlapa: Thanks a lot Danielle! :)

Catie: Thank you. Working off of Wendy's question - are there many students who do dual degree programs? Personally, I am interested in the MBA and MHA dual program.

KFBSAdmissions-Alison Hope Jesse 2: @Catie Catie, each year differs, but I estimate we have between 10-12 dual degree programs each year.

Kathleen Callaghan: Hello, can you give a little background into how the CWIB's sponsors impact the club? For example, does Johnson & Johnson hold specific recruiting events? Thank you!

Kristen Hart_CWIB Pres: @Kathleen Callaghan: Our sponsors do have specific recruiting events on campus. This year we hosted Dr. Pepper, Deloitte, JP Morgan, General Mills, and others. Our sponsors also subsidize the cost of our annual conference.

Stacey: Hi everyone, could you speak to the impact CWIB has post-graduation, if any?

Kristen Hart_CWIB Pres: @Stacey: There aren't any formal CWIB clubs post graduation. However, the strength of the relationships I've formed just being a woman at Kenan-Flagler will follow me throughout my career. As a club, we invite alumnae to our conference and we participate in reunion each year.

Stacey: Great, thanks! What about other alumni connections?

Nora Petito_2nd Year Student: @Stacey, we have a very active alumni community all over the country. We also have very close ties with the undergraduate business school and that Alumni base is even larger. It is definitely a very pay-it-forward culture

Kulkiran Preet: @Danielle - Could you please give me some information regarding the selection criterion for summer internships? How are the students chosen - academics, interview? How does the school prepares the students for these kind of experiences and later on with the job search ?

KFBSAdmissions-Alison Hope Jesse 2: If any of you on the chat live in NYC, LA or San Francisco, we will be doing events there in January. Also don't forget the MBA Cafes in cities around US and abroad. Check our website for more information. They will be over the holidays

KFBSAdmissions-Alison Hope Jesse 2: I also want to mention that UNC Kenan-Flagler is a member of Forte. To learn more about Forte, please visit www.fortefoundation.org

Charlenne Gonzalez: I have the greatest percentage of student placement occurs in the South. What are the top cities for full-time placement?

Charlenne Gonzalez: *noticed

Nora Petito_2nd Year Student: @Charlenne- Atlanta and New York are our biggest placement cities, but we do place people all over (Minneapolis, NJ, DC, Dallas). I personally am going to LA next year

Charlenne Gonzalez: Thanks Nora

KFBSAdmissions-Alison Hope Jesse 2: We offer Forte fellowships to the strongest admitted women each year.

Allison: I know that KFBS values quant skills in applicants. I'm planning on taking 2 business quant classes at a local university this spring/summer, but don't have a particularly strong quant background. Could this be a major problem for my application?

KFBSAdmissions-Alison Hope Jesse 2: @Allison. I think for anyone who has a liberal arts degree and not much quantitative exposure or coursework, it is a great idea to take a few courses before applying to business school. Statistics and microeconomics would be two we would recommend.

Kristen Hart_CWIB Pres: @Allison: I was a German and History major. I took a stats class through UC Berkeley to ramp up my quant skills. I also participated in the Analytical Skills Workshop offered the summer before you start.

AB: AB: I believe someone asked a similar question earlier but I just wanted some specifics: can you give me some examples of a keynote speakers, real-world experience or any opportunities with local entrepreneurs the Entrepreneurship and VC club has had this fall or this year or plan next semester

AB: thanks!

Wonlapa: Want to know the answers to AB's questions too.

Kristen Hart_CWIB Pres: @AB: to learn more about the eship club, you can find their website here: <http://specials.kenan-flagler.unc.edu/MBAclubs/ent/Pages/default.aspx>

AB: AB: TX

Xin Peng: Hi, everyone. Could you please share some advice about how to prepare for achieving the post-MBA consulting goal?

Nora Petito_2nd Year Student: @Xin- My advice would be to start casing. The book "Case in Point" has practice case interview questions which are in the exact format that consulting firms use. Once here, there is a lot of support for preparing for these interviews, as well as networking with the firms

Xin Peng: Nora, thanks a lot!

Mudra Ladani: Hello. I am an IT Engineer and I am interested in pursuing IT consulting. Does UNC MBA program provide requisite electives to pursue this career path?

Nora Petito_2nd Year Student: @Mudra-I would say that you would be a consulting concentrator, and the courses that you pursue in that concentration would be applicable to IT consulting.

Mudra Ladani: Thanks, Nora!

Genhua Jin: Is there any network in UNC for high-tech marketing?

Kristen Hart_CWIB Pres: @Genhua Jin: Within the marketing concentration we have courses for high-tech marketing, whether that be marketing analytics or social media.

KFBSAdmissions-Alison Hope Jesse 2: One of the advantages of UNC Kenan-Flagler that would impact many of these questions is the nimbleness of a small MBA Program. If there is an interest in an area like high tech marketing, the faculty would be there to work with you.

KFBSAdmissions-Alison Hope Jesse 2: And of course health care in the Park...companies like Glaxo for example

KFBSAdmissions-Alison Hope Jesse 2: Thanks to Glaxo's location in RTP, we have a non-stop flight to London from Raleigh every day!

Genhua Jin: Thanks for your answers.

Ky2012: @Alison, if I have a recommendation from a Spanish speaker, is it better to let her write in Spanish and translate, or she can write in good but not always perfect English

KFBSAdmissions-Alison Hope Jesse 2: @Ky2012 She should write her recommendation in Spanish and then get a certified translator to translate it. You should not be the translator. We understand when we get a recommendation from a non-native speaker that there may be mistakes and that will not be counted against the applicant.

Ky2012: Thank you Alison, I appreciate the advice

Wendy Toribio-Torres: What kind of relationship does KFBS have with the Research Triangle Park?

KFBSAdmissions-Alison Hope Jesse 2: @Toribio-Torres . We have a very robust relationship with RTP, especially in the areas of IT, venture capital and entrepreneurship.

Wendy Toribio-Torres: Thank you Alison!

Genhua Jin: I heard that the coursework in the first year in UNC was quite heavy. :) Do you have any suggestions about how to get accustomed to life in UNC as a first-year student?

Erin Janklow: The entrepreneurship group is active on campus. How successful are they post graduation, in general? What kind of specific preparations are available for those hoping to create their own business?

Kristen Hart_CWIB Pres: @Erin: There is a set of classes called launching the venture that help students with the process.

Ky2012: Are any of you involved in the STAR projects? It sounds like a great experience!

Xin Peng: Same question with Ky2012. I also would like to know more about STAR projects

Nora Petito_2nd Year Student: @KY2012- I was a leader in a STAR project last year and it was probably the best learning experience I have had here. You really are a consultant for a business, working on their business plans. I worked with a non-profit examining how they can grow their revenue streams to reduce reliance on grant funding, and they used our analysis to secure a capacity building grant to implement our recommendations. It is really a unique and challenging experience

Ky2012: It sounds challenging and fun, thanks Nora

Xin Peng: Nora, is STAR project available for all students? Or only after competition can selected students participate in STAR project? Thanks

Nora Petito_2nd Year Student: @Xin- you do have to apply, but almost every does get placed. We do projects for companies that range from non-profits to Hanesbrand and GE.

Xin Peng: Thanks, Nora!

Danielle Casson - 2nd Yr Student: @Genhua: prior to classes starting in August, UNC Kenan-Flagler offers two Analytical Skills Workshop sessions. While neither are required, a lot of students come to the July ASW to get acclimated to Chapel Hill as well as being back on campus and in a school environment.

Genhua Jin: Thanks, Danielle!

Mudra Ladani: Can Analytical Skills workshops be attended online ?

Danielle Casson - 2nd Yr Student: @Mudra: No, the Analytical Skills Workshops are on campus only, but that is part of the draw. It is a great way to meet and interact with your classmates before actual coursework begins.

Mudra Ladani: ok .Thanks, Danielle!

Wendy Toribio-Torres: How is the job market like in Chapel Hill? Do spouses/partners get assistance with relocation and job search?

Kristen Hart_CWIB Pres: @Wendy: There is a UNC families club that provides a support system for spouses and significant others. There is no formal assistance provided for job searching.

Wendy Toribio-Torres: Thank you Kristen

KFBSAdmissions-Alison Hope Jesse 2: We are approaching the end of our chat.. Please send us your final questions now

Genhua Jin: Are there any difficulties for women to take a job after MBA graduation, compared with men?

Nora Petito_2nd Year Student: @Genhua- Gender is not really a factor in company hiring decisions. If anything some companies do increased recruiting opportunities for women.

Genhua Jin: Thanks, Nora!

Norma: Hi Allison, do I need to be part of Forte Foundation to apply to the scholarships? I wanted to join FF but there are no events outside the USA...

KFBSAdmissions-Alison Hope Jesse 2: @Norma. No you do not need to be a member of Forte to be considered for our Forte Fellowships. Just be sure and apply by the January deadline to be considered for all of our fellowships.

Norma: Thank you Alisson

Pantea Mohajer: @ Alison - when you say apply by the jan deadline - you mean the Kenan-Flagler application, right? There are no separate fellowship apps?

KFBSAdmissions-Alison Hope Jesse 2: @Pantea There is no separate application for fellowships. I mean the KFBS on-line applications

Pantea Mohajer: Thank you! Just wanted to clarify.

Kristen Hart_CWIB Pres: Thank you for joining our chat today. We hope that we answered all of your questions, if not please feel free to contact alison at ajesse@unc.edu

Genhua Jin: Thank you for kindly holding this online chat opportunity and answering questions.

Pantea Mohajer: Thank you - this has been really helpful!

Xin Peng: Thanks for all of you!

Kulkiran Preet: Thanks alot!

Stacey: Thanks!

Parisa: Thank you

Ky2012: Thank you! Its been helpful, have a nice night

Mudra Ladani: Thanks to CWIB team

Wonlapa: thank you :)