

## Transcript of the November 4, 2009 UNC's Kenan-Flagler Business School Chat

**Jenny Parker:** Welcome to the Women at Kenan-Flagler Chat. My name is Jenny Parker, I am a first year student and a member of the Admissions Advisory Board. I am joined today by Senior Associate Director of Admissions Alison Jesse, Assistant Director of Admissions Peggy Tate, 2nd Year Carolina Women in Business officer Kristin Wong, and 1st year students Jessica Wood, Susan Harrison, and Elizabeth Jordan. Please ask us any questions you may have.

**Alison Jesse:** Hi, I'm Alison Hope Jesse, Senior Director of MBA Admissions and liaison to the Forte Foundation for UNC Kenan-Flagler. I have been in our MBA Admissions office for 10 years so I hope I can be helpful in answering any of your questions.

**Kristin2010:** Hello everyone! My name is Kristin Wong and I am a second-year. I am on the CWIB Leadership team and a Forte Fellow. I was an Economics major at Wellesley College and then worked at an economic litigation consulting firm for 4 years in DC. At Kenan-Flagler, I am concentrating in Marketing. This summer, I interned with Johnson and Johnson.

**Jongbae:** Hi,,I'm Jonbae

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**Rupa:** Hi, this is Rupa

**Susan, MBA Student:** My name is Susan Harrison, I am first year student studying finance. I previously worked at JPMorgan, and I plan to go back into the field of finance, specifically investment banking, upon graduation. I am originally from Cleveland, Ohio.

**KFBSJessica:** Hi! My name is Jessica Wood. I'm a first-year student concentrating in marketing. I am a career-switcher. I worked at a law firm in Washington, DC as a paralegal for three years before coming back to get my MBA.

**Admissions Sharon:** Hi, I'm Sharon Moore, MBA records room manager.

**kfbsselizabeth:** Hi, I am Elizabeth Jordan, and I am a first year student and a member of the Career Services Advisory Board. I spent 9 years living in New York working at both Lehman Brothers and Merrill Lynch prior to relocating to Chapel Hill to attend Kenan-Flagler. I was a marketing major at James Madison University and graduated in 2000. I am originally from Richmond, Va.

**Jenny Parker:** Please feel free to ask us any questions!

**Alison Jesse:** I want to alert all the prospective women to our upcoming Women's Workshop on Saturday November 21. To learn more and register to come, please visit:

**Alison Jesse:** <http://www.kenan-flagler.unc.edu/womensworkshop/register.cfm> This is the link for more information about Women's Workshop. We hope all of you can join us.

**kfbsselizabeth:** The women's weekend is a wonderful way to learn more about the Kenan-Flagler community and meet current and prospective female students. The weekend is full of events including panels, speakers and the opportunity to interact with the wonderful women who are part of the Kenan-Flagler community. It's also a great way to learn more about life in Chapel Hill.

**Rupa:** Alison, does Forte foundation hold any workshops at the KFBS campus for women MBA students? what role does it play?

**Kristin2010:** Rupa: I've had the chance to attend the annual Forte Foundation Conference for 2 years in a row

**Kristin2010:** They have great speakers and workshops that focus on women promoting their careers over a 2-3 day event

**Rupa:** Kristin, thats great! thanks for the information

**Kristin2010:** Additionally, there are opportunities to network with recruiters

**Alison Jesse:** Actually, Forte supports our efforts on campus, such as the Women's Workshop and The Carolina Women in Business annual Spring workshop, but Forte does not actually come to campus and hold workshops. I don't know of any Forte schools where this is done.

**Alison Jesse:** So watch for information on the annual Forte conference, which will be held in June, 2010 in Chicago. The Forte website is [www.fortefoundation.org](http://www.fortefoundation.org).

**KFBSAdmissionsJulieW.:** As an admissions staff member, I'd love to hear from the current women students how their Kenan-Flagler experiences have been so far.

**Jenny Parker:** I have an interest in sustainability and entrepreneurship. I have already found an immense amount of support in these areas, and have found students with fellow interests through clubs such as Net Impact and the Entrepreneurship.

**Rupa:** Jenny, I'm looking at a similar concentration to specialize in..can you talk a little bit about your experience with those classes?

**Rupa:** i mean entrepreneurship and sustainable enterprise

**Jenny Parker :** Rupa: Since I am a first year student, we all take the same core classes for the 1st semester. I haven't had much exposure yet to sustainability courses, but the Net Impact club has already hosted many events focused on careers and social interests.

**Anna Diehl:** Do you know how many female students at Kenan-Flagler are married?

**kfbsselizabeth:** The percentage of female students who are married ranges from year to year from 1/3 to 1/2. You can learn more about the partners program by logging onto the website. The partners program is an excellent way for couples to both be active in the Kenan-Flagler community.

**Elizabeth Timko :** What types of activities are you involved in and how have they enhanced your experience?

**kfbsselizabeth :** Elizabeth Timko: I am involved in the Career Services Advisory Board, the Carolina Women in Business club, the community service club and the finance club. You have the opportunity to become involved in as many clubs as you can handle! Being involved is a great way to meet your first year classmates as well as the second year students.

**Kristin2010:** Elizabeth Timko: I hold VP positions with Carolina Women in Business and the General Management Club. I also am active in the Marketing and Health Care clubs. There are also lots of classes that enhance your learning experience: I have gone to India on a Global Immersion Elective and to China on a Global Business Project

**Susan, MBA Student :** Elizabeth Timko: I am the 1st Year Investment Banking Liaison and I am involved in the Private Equity Club, Habitat for Humanity, and Net Impact. Each organization has already added a significant value to my experience here. The career clubs provide great preparation for the internship search and they incorporate the second year students within that field for guidance.

**KFBSJessica:** Elizabeth Timko: I am involved in the Carolina Women in Business club as a first-year project manager of Marketing.

**KFBSJessica:** Elizabeth Timko: I am also involved in the Marketing Communications Advisory board.

**Rupa:** question for the current students, do you feel intimidated by the male dominant classroom discussions?

**KFBSJessica:** I've had a great experience thus far. I was a little concerned coming into an MBA program where only 30% or less of the student body is female, but there hasn't been an issue. Rupa: to your point, I don't feel like the classroom settings are dominated by males, but rather a personality type that feels confident in their abilities to speak in front of class. The classroom settings are very participative, and discussion is encouraged and never looked down upon, even if the answer is not correct.

**Jenny Parker:** Rupa: Great question. I have not felt intimidated as classroom discussion is very well facilitated by Kenan-Flagler faculty members.

**Anwasha Chatterjee:** How has the recruiting trend for women consultants been? Do you find it biased towards men?

**Susan, MBA Student:** Anwasha Chatterjee: We have a lot of female alumni at the respective large consulting firms that are currently recruiting on campus. Additionally, McKinsey and Deloitte recently held workshops specifically for women on campus.

**Elizabeth Timko :** I know Kenan-Flagler has a great reputation related to its leadership building practices. How prepared do you feel for a leadership role after you graduate?

**Anna Diehl :** To piggyback on that question . . . How would you describe the social ethic developed by Kenan-Flagler? What does the school contribute to building female leaders in business and their community?

**Kristin2010:** Elizabeth Timko: I think Kenan-Flagler's Leadership Development Program is unique among business schools. They have a very clear methodology and practice for developing leaders, which includes opportunities to participate in managerial simulations, meet with C-suite executives in small groups to learn about their Lessons of Leadership, and practice leadership through opportunities such as consulting for real companies (through the STAR program).

**kfb selizabeth:** Elizabeth Timko: Leadership is large part of the Kenan-Flagler experience. The focus on leadership is very structured and there is a leadership team who manages the various leadership courses and workshops that are offered. Each first year student is required to obtain 12 leadership credits as part of the first year curriculum. We can obtain credits through events like "Leadership Day." There are also many opportunities to hold leadership positions in the various clubs on campus.

**Jenny Parker:** Anna Diehl: Kenan-Flagler is extremely focused on teamwork and community. We are assigned study groups for the first year, and we work with them the most during the first semester. There are a wide variety of clubs based on interests and leadership roles are available for all.

**kfb selizabeth:** Elizabeth Timko: As a result of the structured leadership program, I feel extremely prepared for a career after Kenan-Flagler!

**Anwasha Chatterjee:** What are the activities in the Carolina Women in Business club?

**Kristin2010:** Anwasha Chatterjee: CWIB has a variety of events around 3 pillars: community, career, and connecting. For community: we support the national organization

Girls on the Run with training and volunteering. Career: we had a week in September where we focused on bringing in women speakers (including a Pulitzer-Prize winner) about finding work-life balance. Connecting: we will have a potluck dinner at a professor's house in 2 weeks where CWIB members and faculty, staff, and alumnae will join.

**Anna Diehl** : Is Kenan-Flagler involved with any non-profits? Do you believe your professors and classes ask tough questions about how business can be balanced with a social conscience?

**Jenny Parker** : Anna Diehl: Kenan-Flagler just launched a non-profit board fellows program. This allows students to serve on the board of a local non-profit for the school year to assist with strategy and business planning.

**Kristin2010** : Anna Diehl: Kenan-Flagler is also known for its sustainability focus. The triple bottom line is a critical part of this and we are encouraged to think about how to balance the financial, social, and environmental impact.

**Susan, MBA Student** : Anna Diehl: Kenan-Flagler is rolling out a new program this year. The program allows a student to take six courses (two of which are taken on the main campus) in order to obtain a Non-Profit Certificate. The curriculum necessary to obtain this involves non-profit management, law, and sustainability (amongst others). The certificate is recognized by non-profit organizations.

**Elizabeth Timko**: I know the Forte Foundation was mentioned earlier as a good way to network. Are there other opportunities as well? I'm interested in eventually working in the Research Triangle area so networking and internship opportunities with such local companies would be important to me.

**KFBSJessica**: Elizabeth Timko: The Career Management Center does a great job of holding events where companies are invited either on-campus or at local off-campus areas to talk with students interested in those companies, also providing opportunities to network. Over Fall Break, many career clubs on campus organize trips to various parts of the country and connect with KFBS alumni at companies, providing further opportunities to network.

**KFBSJessica**: Elizabeth Timko: One of the great things about KFBS is its strong relationships with recruiters, and thus there are a lot of companies that take the time to visit campus to network and recruit with students. Surrounding business in the RTP area do visit campus, and the Career Management Center also has an alumni database which students are encouraged to use to reach out to alumni at companies of interest.

**Alison Jesse**: Elizabeth Timko: Just wanted to add that there will be a marketing trek to Chicago in late November and prospects in the Chicagoland area will be invited to join our

students and alumni for a mixer on Monday, November 30th in downtown Chicago. If you want more info, email me at [ajesse@unc.edu](mailto:ajesse@unc.edu).

**Elizabeth Timko:** @Alison Jesse - Unfortunately, I live in South Carolina, so I would not be able to attend.

**Alison Jesse:** Elizabeth Timko: Forte is a fantastic resource for our students. There are webinars almost bi-weekly, a resume database and career opportunities that come through the Forte organization. Kristen mentioned the Forte conference every June; this is a great experience to network with other women in top MBA programs and meet companies that are Forte sponsors.

**LFitz:** Are women involved in many of the student leadership roles at UNC?

**Susan, MBA Student:** LFitz: Women are definitely involved in leadership roles. This year two of the four finance club liaisons are female. I am the investment banking club liaison.

**LFitz:** Thanks, Susan

**KFBSJessica:** LFitz: Many women are involved in leadership positions in campus. Leadership is such an important part of Kenan-Flagler, and the business world in general, that clubs/activities recognize this and want to provide ample opportunities. They can range from President of the Student Body to a leader of the wine club, so depending on your interests, there are many opportunities to become more involved in the community. I would say there is no discrimination between women and men in these roles.

**Jenny Parker:** LFitz: Women are actively involved in leadership roles. I serve as the liaison for course pack supply for the Entrepreneurship club, and I am helping to develop a more advanced fair trade and microfinance initiative under the Net Impact umbrella.

**Rupa:** how easy is it to maintain the work (study)-life balance, especially in the first year?

**Susan, MBA Student:** Rupa: The university prides itself on its community, while the workload is challenging you have plenty of time and events schedule to allow you to enjoy each other and other areas of interest outside the program.

**kfbsselizabeth:** Rupa: Finding work/study life balance in the first year is challenging - but it is challenging at every school. Succeeding involves being organized and dedicated. If you plan/structure your days, there is always time to spend time with family, friends, go to the gym, etc. The professors are very helpful and the course load is fair. There is an abundance of help/support that also makes finding the balance easier.

**KFBSAdmissionsJulieW.:** As an admissions staff member, I would love to hear from some of the current students and some of the reasons that they chose to attend Kenan-Flagler.

**KFBSJessica:** I actually graduated from Duke University, so I was always very aware of the Chapel Hill area and KFBS' great reputation. I was looking for a business school that really offered a collaborative and community feel, which I have definitely found to be very true. I also wanted a place where I would be able to achieve a work-life balance. While the first year has been challenging so far, students are also very willing to socialize and focus on things outside of the classroom.

**Kristin2010:** KFBSAdmissionsJulieW.: I loved that KFBS had a small class size (just under 300) - I knew that this would give me the opportunity to really get to know my classmates and professors (for example, on the first day of class, the Strategy professor knew everyone's name in the 2011 class). Also, people are so supportive and encouraging - I collaborated a lot with interview prep with people I was competing against for spots, but we helped each other and encouraged each other throughout the process.

**KFBSAdmissionsJulieW.:** Thanks, Jessica and Kristin. For those who joined the chat late, can you highlight some of the upcoming Women's Workshop events?

**LFitz:** JulieW: when is the women's workshop

**Alison Jesse :** KFBSAdmissionsJulieW.: We are very excited about the upcoming Women's Workshop. The event kicks off on Friday night, November 20th with a reception from 6-7:30 at one of our fun restaurants in Chapel Hill. Saturday, Jim Dean, our business school Dean will greet you. Throughout the day you will hear from alumni and current students, attend a lunch with a dynamic speaker, one of our alumna, and get the inside scoop from our Career Management Center Director.

**LFitz:** Do you have to apply to attend the workshop?

**Alison Jesse :** LFitz: Registration for Women's Workshop is open. We are expecting about 100 women to attend. Here's the link where you can register: <http://www.kenan-flagler.unc.edu/womensworkshop/register.cfm>

**Alison Jesse:** Women's Workshop: The day will conclude with a classroom Exercise led by Alison Fragale, one of our favorite professors and a concluding conversation with Julia, Grumbles, Co-chair of the Carolina Women's Leadership Council.

**Elizabeth Timko:** What have your experiences been with professors? Do they make themselves available to you for help or outside discussion?

**Susan, MBA Student:** Elizabeth Timko: Each professor I have had has amazed me with the amount of effort they put into your success. I have already had professors offering to write recommendations later in my career, I have had professors provide me with contacts for job searches, and I have had professors go out of their way to help me with certain areas of

interest and concern. The teachers are incredible truly love what they do and the institution for which they work.

**LFitz** : Are there any examples of women with children in the program? It is impossible to do?

**Jenny Parker**: LFitz: It is definitely not impossible. There are several first and second year students who are mothers. We even have some couples with children completing the program together!

**Kristin2010**: LFitz: We also have some new mothers (women who had children during the program) who are still fully-enrolled.

**sara studebaker**: What is the teaching style at Kenan-Flagler? For example, is it mostly lecture or case-method?

**KFBSJessica**: sara studebaker: The teaching style varies in each class. I would say there is a mix of lecture and case study method. During Mod I, it was heavier towards lecture, but professors did try and bring in cases to provide a real-life insight. When I say lecture, I very rarely mean no classroom participation. This Mod (Mod II) is heavier on case-study method, especially in our business strategy class, but again, the decision is left up to the professor and how he or she feels is the best method

**Susan, MBA Student** : sara studebaker: each professor decides what method is the most appropriate to teach their material. Cases are certainly a component of the education, but they also incorporate text, current events, articles, simulations, etc. For example, I have enjoyed learning microeconomics in an environment where the professor tied the curriculum to current events.

**LFitz**: Does the spouses/partners group also include male partners?

**Jenny Parker**: LFitz: There are male spouses/partners in the group. There is a tremendous support system for all partners/spouses.

**Elizabeth Timko**: I have my campus visit and interview with the business school next week. Any advice?

**KFBSJessica**: Elizabeth Timko: I would come prepared to tell your story and why you want to come to KFBS specifically. Most importantly, be yourself. Kenan-Flagler is looking for people that will enrich the classroom experience for all involved, be able to interact with others in a positive way and take it upon themselves to become involved. It is a stressful time, so come early!

**LFitz:** I've been to a couple Forte events, how does that organization enhance the experience of women in the program?

**Rupa:** Is there the opportunity to work with local small businesses while specializing in entrepreneurship?

**Jenny Parker:** Rupa: There is a summer internship program called CEF or Carolina Entrepreneurial Fellows. Each student works with two local start-ups or entrepreneurial focused companies. Students also spend one day strategizing with fellow students completing the internship.

**Anwisha Chatterjee:** Are students evaluated on their participation in the case based study classes?

**Kristin2010:** Anwisha Chatterjee: Students are evaluated on their participation in all classes, lecture or case-based. One of the best things about an MBA program is that you get to draw on everyone's past work experiences, so contributions are always encouraged

**LFitz:** Who are some of the better-known women professors at UNC?

**KFBSJessica:** LFitz: We have a number that are well-known in their fields. A few examples are Jennifer Conrad, who was our core Finance professor in Mod I. Another is Valarie Zeithaml, a well-respected marketing professor who offers elective courses.

**Anna Diehl:** Can someone from admissions elaborate on when it is important to provide additional information to explain your circumstances? I've heard of some who take community college classes, etc is that only necessary for a low GMAT?

**KFBSAdmissionsJulieW.:** Anna, it is really a case by case situation. For example, an applicant may have a low GMAT but took quant courses in college and uses quant skills in their current job, so this essay is a perfect opportunity for that applicant to more fully explain.

**Alison Jesse:** Anna Diehl: You can use the optional essay to explain issues such as poor semester grades in undergrad or a GMAT that is significantly lower than you anticipated. You can also use the optional essay to explain any illnesses or lapses in your resume. Main thing is not to leave it to our imagination when we review your application

**Anna Diehl :** If you have a high GMAT and high GPA in Business, but didn't take Calc specifically that wouldn't be considered a gap?

**Alison Jesse:** Anna Diehl: No, that wouldn't be considered a gap. Do let us know though if you intend to take any classes before coming to KFBS.

**KFBSAdmissionsJulieW.:** Anna - we also offer an Analytical Skills Workshop of classes during the summer before 1st year. Many applicants indicate in their optional essay that they plan to attend "ASW" if accepted.

**LFitz:** How does the admissions office feel about women who have taken time off to stay home with kids? And now are considering getting an MBA?

**KFBSAdmissionsJulieW. :** LFitz, one of our most successful students last year was a woman who left the workforce to raise her children, then attended the MBA program. As explained, we have students in the program who currently have children, and they are able to balance the program with their family life.

**Peggy--Admissions:** LFitz: We look at the full breadth of your experience, your academic background and your career goals. What's most important is telling your story and why you believe an MBA is important to your future direction.

**LFitz:** Are there any career fairs or opportunities specifically for women?

**Kristin2010:** LFitz: CWIB organized a pre-career fair women's event - a chance to chat with recruiters over drinks and appetizers in a relaxed setting the night before the career fair. Also, there are many companies that hold events that are targeted specifically to women. Both McKinsey and Deloitte hold on-campus events focused on recruiting women. Also, some companies have pre-MBA workshops that target women before they start their first year (e.g., Goldman)

**LFitz:** What is the culture like at Kenan? Does it feel particularly "male" like a lot of business schools?

**Susan, MBA Student:** LFitz: Honestly, I really enjoy my colleagues, both male and female; I have already made numerous life-long friends across both genders. I think more so we are a community comprised of similar personalities and collaborative spirits. I feel that my male peers value me just as much as I do them.

**KFBSJessica:** LFitz: The culture is extremely collaborative, which is one of the driving reasons why I chose KFBS. While it is true that our class size is heavily made up of males (more than 70%), there is a huge emphasis on teamwork, and I have not encountered a negative experience with the males in the class where they looked down on me because of my gender. Everyone has such rich and diverse backgrounds that everyone is able to contribute and learn from each other.

**LFitz:** Good to hear, Susan and Jessica. Thanks.

**Jenny Parker:** LFitz: I have really enjoyed the teamwork associated with my study group and classmates, and Kenan-Flagler also offers many social events which enable students to

get to know each other. Our class size (298) also facilitates students getting to know each other better.

**kfbselizabeth:** Kristin2010: LFitz: The culture at Kenan-Flagler is extremely collegial and teamwork is something that is very much encouraged. As a female, I honestly do not notice the breakdown of males and females in my classes. Given the size of the program and the small class sizes you get to know everyone and see each other for personalities and value added to the classroom.

**Rupa:** Besides the partner's clubs, are there any cultural programs where the family(including kids) can participate?

**Alison Jesse:** Rupa: In the town of Chapel Hill, we have a wonderful Children's museum, a fantastic artistic puppet company called Paperhand Puppets and just lots for kids to do. That is in addition to the offerings of the KFBS community

**Jenny Parker:** Rupa: We have a Culture buddy program that teams up domestic and international students. Families are definitely encouraged to participate.

**Kristin2010:** Rupa: Also, there is a bouncy-house that often makes an appearance at our Thursday-night socials - the kids love these! Also, they are invited to events like Cultural Shows put on by the International Business Association

**LFitz:** Can anyone tell me if they attended the ASW summer program and if they felt it was worthwhile?

**KFBSAdmissionsJulieW.:** LFitz, we have more students attending ASW each year. I have heard from students that those who attend ASW are always glad they do. It also allows students to come to campus early and get settled. This is especially important for our international students

**KFBSJessica:** LFitz: The ASW was vital to me for many reasons. First of all, it was a great opportunity to move and settle in to Chapel Hill before the hectic schedule of Mod I starts. It also is a great opportunity to get to know your classes before that starts, as well. I would say a very large percentage of students, about 85%, do participate in either ASWI or ASW II. Also, not having seen some of the more quantitative courses since undergrad, it was a great way to brush up and develop these skills.

**Jongbae:** KFBSAdmissionsJulieW.: With Industrial Engineering background by education, I didn't take many finance courses. Do you feel that I have to write optional a essay, even though my GMAT quantitative score is high?

**KFBSAdmissionsJulieW.:** Jongbae, we look specifically to see if our applicants have taken calculus, accounting, statistics and microeconomics. If you have not taken any/some of

these courses, you might consider enrolling in one or more before the program starts, and write an essay explaining your plans and/or the knowledge you have from your undergraduate education.

**Jongbae:** KFBSAdmissionsJulieW.: Thank. I already taken calculus, accounting, and statistics.

**Jongbae:** Because my company sponsored MBA, I can't participate officially in internship program. It is officially illegal.

**Jongbae:** Does KFBS prepare any special programs for students who can not take an internship program?

**Alison Jesse:** Jongbae: Actually, that is a question I will need to ask my Career Management Center colleagues. Please email me at [ajesse@unc.edu](mailto:ajesse@unc.edu) and I will check for you.

**LFitz:** How are the schools in the Chapel Hill area?

**Alison Jesse:** LFitz: The schools are really top notch in Chapel Hill. Some of the elementary schools have language immersion programs. Many faculty members and staff at other universities choose to live in Chapel Hill for the schools.

**Kristin2010:** LFitz: I actually went through the Chapel Hill-Carrboro school system (I grew up here!) and it's a great system - consistently ranked in the top 100 public schools

**Anna Diehl:** What 5 words would you use to describe KFBS students? Any key skillset, personalities, experiences you would callout?

**kfbsselizabeth:** Anna Diehl: Dedicated, motivated, team-oriented, well grounded and fun come to mind when I think about the average Kenan-Flagler student.

**Rupa:** How does diversity play a role in the overall campus experience?

**Jenny Parker:** Rupa: There is a tremendous amount of focus on diversity for the entire UNC campus. The Fedex International Center and Sonya Hanes center, for example are located on campus. As Kenan-Flagler students, we are also invited to all on-campus events. We also have a large percentage of international students in each MBA class.

**Anna Diehl:** Has anyone been involved in International programs-- can you describe the global perspective of the school?

**Kristin2010:** Anna Diehl: By the time I graduate, I will have been involved in 3 types of international programs (and there are more). I went on a 2 week Global Immersion Elective to India where I learned about cultural and business practices by talking with a number of companies and visiting different cities. I did a Global STAR Business Project in

China where I advised a client on how their operations would change when they opened a new sourcing arm. And I will be going to Shanghai on exchange this winter

**LFitz:** Is Kenan-Flagler trying to enroll more women in the program?

**Alison Jesse:** LFitz: Absolutely! Every top 20 program is anxious to enroll more women and we are no exception. It would be terrific to have at least 35% women, but we are all competing to bring you to our campuses.

**LFitz:** If I want to reach out to a current female student, is there a way to do this?

**KFBSJessica:** LFitz: A number of current students have offered to have their profiles put up on the website. Here is the link. <http://www.kenan-flagler.unc.edu/programs/MBA/interviewsVisits/Ambassadors/index.cfm>

**Anna Diehl :** Are there language groups on campus to practice Spanish with other students while attending?

**KFBSAdmissionsJulieW.:** Anna, we do have Spanish language immersion courses through the business school.

**Susan, MBA Student:** Anna Diehl: I am a Spanish minor and Kenan-Flagler had a lot of unique opportunities to continue my education in the language. The school offers a working language program (beginner or intermediate) in which you work directly with your classmates from Spanish speaking countries and you travel abroad at the end of the program. Also, there are a lot of students in my class who speak Spanish as their native language, and personally I have spent a lot of time speaking with them one on one to

**Susan, MBA Student:** improve my language skill.

**Anna Diehl:** Thank you that's great to hear!

**Jenny Parker:** We have about five minutes. Please send any last questions and thanks again!

**KFBSAdmissionsJulieW.:** The transcript from today's chat will be posted within two weeks. Here is the link to access the transcript: <http://www.kenan-flagler.unc.edu/Programs/MBA/infoSessions/Chats.cfm>

**Anwasha Chatterjee:** Is it necessary to declare a concentration or can I choose my electives and not declare any concentration at all?

**KFBSJessica:** Anwasha Chatterjee: While many students to choose to declare a concentration, it is not a requirement. If you choose not to take this path, you will instead have concentrated in "General Management."

**Anwasha Chatterjee:** how is the job market for career switchers with this economy?

**KFBSAdmissionsJulieW.:** Anwasha, most of our applicants are career switchers. Even in this economy, last year we placed over 90% of our first years in internships!

**Kristin2010:** Anwasha Chatterjee: It's definitely a tough economy for everyone, but the Career Management Center is a great resource in bringing in a number of recruiters and the alumni are helpful for off-campus networking. As JulieW said, we had great placement for internships, and this always helps to lead to full-time offers. For example, I interned with Johnson and Johnson and will be returning there full time.

**Anna Diehl:** Can anyone speak to the career connections outside of the SE/East coast area? I would like to move back to the Midwest after school.

**KFBSAdmissionsJulieW. :** Anna, we have an active alumni base all around the country.

**Susan, MBA Student:** Anna Diehl: The school has an incredibly loyal alumni base. I certainly do not feel like I am limited to careers in the SE/East Coast. I am also from the midwest and I have received great response from the firms that I have reached out to in Ohio with UNC alum. UNC's reputation is recognized nationally, which helps in reaching out.

**Rupa:** do you have any words of wisdom for the applicants?

**KFBSAdmissionsJulieW.:** Rupa, visit campus if you are able to, to see if the school is a good fit, and be yourself during the interview.

**Alison Jesse:** Rupa: First, if you apply to more than one school, please be careful if you cut and paste. Too many essays end with: And that's why I would like to go to .....(put in any school other than unc!) Also, be sure to stay within the essay word limit. We have them for a reason. Finally, try to choose recommenders that can give us insight into you in the workplace.

**Rupa:** thank you all!

**Jenny Parker :** Thank you all so much for participating. We will now be ending the chat session. Good luck to all!

**Anwasha Chatterjee :** Thanks for all the answers.

**Jongbae:** KFBSAdmissionsJulieW.: Thanks...

**KFBSAdmissionsJulieW. :** Thank you all for joining us today. We wish you the best in your application process!

**Jongbae:** I will do my best.Thanks..

**Anna Diehl:** Thank you for your insight!