

Transcript from the January 8, 2009 UNC's Kenan-Flagler Family Life at Kenan-Flagler Chat

KFBS_SHAWN_2010: Good afternoon everyone, and welcome to today's chat on the subject of Family Life at UNC's Kenan-Flagler Business School. We're excited to take all of your questions, but please remember that today's chat will be primarily focused on the subject of partners and family life, so we may defer some questions to a different chat session or other resources. My name is Shawn Brandt. I am a married first year student as well as a member of the Admissions Advisory Board which conducts these chats. Before we get started with your questions, I'd like to ask all of the other Kenan-Flagler representatives to introduce themselves.

KFBS_Mandy_2010: Mandy White - President of Kenan Connection, the partner association. Our association is to help all partners, spouse, fiance, etc. become more familiar and comfortable with all aspects of Chapel Hill and UNC.

KFBS_Ray_2010: My name is Ray DeLaughter and I am a first year MBA student. My wife and I are from Houston, TX and we have three young children. My background is in Real Estate and private investments. At Kenan-Flagler I am involved in the consulting club and I am a fund manager for the Private Equity Fund.

KFBS_Kelly_2009partner: I am Kelly Stowe Boggs, a Durham resident and University employee. My husband Eric is a second year student. I am also the current Business Manager for the Kenan Connection partners association.

KFBS_ASHLEY_2010PARTNER : hello all. I am first year partner and Kenan Connection member. I also work at the MBA Helpdesk.

Admissions L. : Hello - I'm Lisa Beisser from MBA Admissions. I have two young daughters. One in preschool and one in kindergarten. Welcome to our chat!

KFBS_SHAWN_2010: Okay everyone, we're ready for your questions.

Adity B. : First of all welcome to today's chat session. I am Adity Bhushan student at KFBS_2010. I am staying here with my family (my husband & 4 yr old son) so hopefully will be able to answer most of your questions..

Martha D.: Could someone discuss the resources and support available to partners searching for jobs in the Chapel Hill area?

KFBS_ASHLEY_2010PARTNER: Martha, The Kenan Connection (partners association at Kenan-Flagler) has support for job seeking partners. Lots of partners work at the school or look for employment in Raleigh or Durham.

Ran S.: is there any activity for the spouses in UNC?

KFBS_Mandy_2010: Ran - What kind of activities? We have the Kenan Connection which all partners are allowed to join. We hold many activities.

KFBS_Kelly_2009partner: Ran - yes there opportunities for spouses. The Kenan Connection is the partners association here at KFBS. Within the club she will find others in her situation. Wine club, dinner club and book club are just a few of the offerings.

Ran S.: Thanks Kelly!

Barry N.: My future spouse works in government -- the NYC Department of Education, specifically. Does the Kenan Connection offer any kind of placement services in local government?

KFBS_Mandy_2010: Barry - we have some general career tips in looking for jobs, but we don't actually have placements held for partners.

Sushant: It's good knowing Chapel Hill sees four seasons! How severe are the winters?

KFBS_Ray_2010: Sushant, I have really enjoyed the seasons here so far. I am from Texas and I am not accustomed to the cold and I can honestly say that the winter here is not much more extreme than in Texas.

Sushant: Thanks, Ray.

Adity B.: Its not very cold here compare to other parts of states also it does not snow so winter is good here

Sushant: Thanks, Adity.

Meleata: Hello everyone & thank you for hosting this chat. I am curious as to what a spouse should expect a typical business school day to look like. Is it a 10 hour day? Regular business hours, etc?

Adria G.: I am also curious about the question posed by Meleata.

KFBS_SHAWN_2010: Hi Meleata. It's going to depend quite a bit on the student. Many students, particularly those with families, are able to confine their day to a typical 8 hour work day schedule. There will occasionally be evening engagements and even weekend requirements, but on an average day students could probably be home by 5 or 6 with little difficulty.

Meleata: Thanks, Shawn. That's helpful. I have school aged children and am concerned about balancing school and family obligations.

Nick R.: Hey Guys,

Nick R.: thanks for taking the time to answer our questions. Are partners allowed to utilize the career services office at all?

Admissions L.: Nick R - Partners can't use the official Career Services Office. However, there is a decent amount of career networking/placement that happens through the Kenan Connection. So they have a list-serve that routinely sends out career opportunities, etc.

Liana H.: I am already living in the Triangle area so my family and I won't have to relocate. But we have a young child and I'm interested in people's perspectives on balancing an MBA and family life.

JP_Houston: I'm with Liana. My son will be two and a half when I begin MBA study.

KFBS_Kelly_2009partner: Liana - I also live in the triangle; however I do not have children. Finding a balance between family and school life is prudent. I suggest setting a time each week that you, your partner and family have as "standing family time." Do you have any specific concerns?

Adity B.: Liana, when I started study I was in same condition as yours. Do not worry, it's manageable.

KFBS_Kelly_2009partner: Liana and JP - there is also a very active Families club within the partners association.

James: Hi, I am married and have 2 kids, so a lot of my costs during schooling will come from living expenses... is there subsidized housing on campus for married-with-kids students???

KFBS_SHAWN_2010: James - There's no subsidized housing, but there is very affordable on campus housing for married students and those with children. Baity Hill and Odum Village are two on campus options which are priced much better than local apartment complexes. There are a few limitations - one car per apartment and no pets.

James: Shawn, do you have a ball park number on about how much that housing is?

KFBS_SHAWN_2010: James - Baity Hill runs about \$850 for a 2 bedroom apartment, with all utilities included. These numbers are for the current school year, so it might be marginally higher next year.

KFBS_SHAWN_2010: Also note that it books up early, so if you're interested you'll want to secure an apartment as soon as you decide to attend.

James: Thanks Shawn, I appreciate it!

Jim B.: Hi, prospective student with a 6 y/o child here. What is the school district where majority of married students live?

Ozgur Y.: Hi, my wife is dentist in Turkey. Do you know whether she can work as an observer dentist in hospital of UNC?

KFBS_Ray_2010: Ozgur, I don't know if your wife can work as an observer dentist. I would recommend you contact the UNC Hospital to explore that.

lesha : I am hoping to sway my boyfriend into coming with me to Chapel Hill if I get accepted but we are both concerned that it will be a huge adjustment for him. If business school is anything like architecture school, it will be 18 hour days and he is concerned about not being able to find a balance.

KFBS_ASHLEY_2010PARTNER: Iesha, the students are very busy in their first year and the balance can be hard, but there are many events that the MBA Program and Partner's Association have that make meeting people very easy and fun.

Ran S.: can my wife also apply some programmes at UNC since me and my wife are from Chinese and she cant get a job there and she wants to study french

Jim B.: What is approximate number of Kenan Connection members?

KFBS_Mandy_2010: Jim B. - Local Schools/Teaching Opportunities

Chapel Hill-Carrboro Schools: <http://www.chccs.k12.nc.us>

NC School Report Cards and School Ratings: <http://www.ncreportcards.org>

and there are approximately 120.

Meleata: Other than setting aside "family time", what other strategies would you employ to make the transition go smoothly?

KFBS_SHAWN_2010: Meleata - when you get here, you'll have the opportunity to work with your study group to set everyone's expectations of the group. If you are honest with them about your needs, you'll find that they'll be more than supportive of your family obligations. Other than that, you'll just have to be selective about what you want to get involved in outside of the classroom. Try to get the most bang for your buck in terms of time committed, and not throw yourself into everything that interests you.

Ran S.: is there course for my wife without any academic requirement like toefl?

Meleata: How often are spouses included in events?

Adity B.: Meleata, its up to your spouse. In most of the events you can include your spouse.

KFBS_Mandy_2010: Meleata - spouses are allowed to attend majority of Kenan-Flagler events. Also, if they join Kenan Connection we have many more activities throughout the year.

Meleata : Thank you Adity & Mandy.

KFBS_Kelly_2009partner: Meleata - I believe finding others in your situation either student or partner will help make the transition easier. The partners association is very helpful in meeting people right off the bat.

Meleata: Thanks, Kelly. Do you know approximately how many male spouses / significant others participate in Kenan Connection?

KFBS_Kelly_2009partner: Meleata there are about 10 male partners in the partners association.

Meleata: Thanks again, Kelly.

Robin W.: My daughter is currently attending a chinese immersion preschool. I was hoping to keep up her exposure to the language and culture. Are there any options you are aware of?

Admissions L.: Robin W - I know there is a Chinese immersion program in the Chapel Hill/Carrboro Public school system. It may include pre-k as well. Here is a link for more info <http://www2.chccs.k12.nc.us/education/dept....>

Robin W.: thank you. She will be kindergarten next year so that is perfect

Ranjit G.: Hi Everyone..Thanks for conducting this chat. My wife Devaki (currently in this chat) is a IT programmer. Do you know if there are any job opportunities in UNC itself for a programmer ?

KFBS_Ray_2010: Ranjit, I think that is something that you should explore with the university. I am sure someone in our program or admissions office can point you in the right direction so you can start there.

Ranjit G.: Ray..Thanks. I will do that..

KFBS_Mandy_2010: Trent - I believe it is easier to find jobs outside of UNC; however, both are possible. I will paste a list of starting places to look.

KFBS_Mandy_2010: View paste (86 more lines)

Career tips:

RESOURCES

Section I: Recommended Triangle Area Job Links

Newspapers

Durham Herald Sun: See employment section at <http://www.heraldsun.com/>

Raleigh News & Observer Newspaper Job Listings: <http://www.trianglejobs.com/>

University Employment (UNC Chapel Hill & Duke)

UNC Chapel Hill University Employment Opportunities: <http://hr.unc.edu/jobseekers/>

Duke University Employment Opportunities: <http://www.hr.duke.edu/jobs/main.html>

Trent: My fiance would have to quit her job to move with me to Chapel Hill. I fear that if she moves, she will be unable to find employment. How easy would it be to find a job in corporate sales or finance in Chapel Hill/Durham? Is a job within the university the most likely option?

Martha D.: Are the vacancies available at UNC for partners generally professional experiences or do most partners end up with a slight downgrade in their career situation

Adity B.: Martha, UNC offers some positions for partners.

KFBS_ASHLEY_2010PARTNER: Martha, there are vacancies at UNC, I work in the MBA Program office at job that is normally given to a partner.

Brandy: Being a spouse, I am concerned about the job market because I will be leaving my current job here in CA. What is the likelihood of employment with the school?

KFBS_Kelly_2009partner: Brandy - there are opportunities at UNC. You can find job listings at hr.unc.edu or through Tar Heel temps. If you do pursue a job through the hr website, keep in mind you have to look at the job description, not just the title to get a sense of what the position entails.

Brandy: Thanks Kelly!

Martha D.: Additionally, if the partner is a non-US citizen, have people had success in getting jobs with visa sponsorship? Does UNC offer Visa sponsorship?

Amrinder_KFBS2009: Martha: From my previous knowledge, spouses who are not US citizens are not allowed for jobs in the US. The student is usually required to prove the ability to cover the costs of his/her dependents.

Ranjit G.: Ray - Do you know if there is public transportation from UNC to RTP ? If yes, how is the quality and frequency

KFBS_Ray_2010: Yes, there is public transportation to RTP but it is limited. Many students who do not have a vehicle carpool.

Ranjit G.: Ray - Thanks again

Adria G.: Are there scholarships available for students who get accepted?

Adity B.: Adria, Yes fellowships are offered to the students, but they are based on merit.

Adria G.: Thank you Adity.

Admissions L.: Adria G - Yes, there are fellowships/scholarships. Approximately 20% of the class is offered a scholarship. Award recipients are notified 2-3 weeks after they receive their admission letter.

Liana H.: The comments about typical schedule and study groups are very helpful. Thanks! What kinds of activities/events do you have for kids?

KFBS_Mandy_2010: Liana H. - Kenan Connection has a Family Club within it. We hold weekly playgroups and post many activities we hear about. I will paste some common activities.

KFBS_Mandy_2010: Kid Activities: Fun things to do in CH with kiddies

Mondays

Note- Kidzu is closed!!

Tuesdays

Kidzu storytime; on Franklin Street; 10:30 a.m.; \$4. entry fee per person, children under 2 free

<http://www.kidzuchildrensmuseum.org/>

Carrboro Cybary playtime; 10-11:30 a.m.; \$3. per child

<http://www.co.orange.nc.us/library/libcal/>

Wednesdays

CH/Carrboro Mothers Group Open playdate at Community Park off of South Estes Road 10-12 noon

Ran S.: are there any baby care service provided by UNC with charges?

Admissions L.: Ran S- Yes, there are lots of daycare opportunities in the area. The university center is called Victory Village and their site is [http://victoryvillage.home.mindspring.com/....](http://victoryvillage.home.mindspring.com/) It's not on UNC's campus, but it is for UNC staff and students. But there are quite a few other options as well.

Tiffany: What are the current openings with UNC? Is there an updated site that spouses/significant others can peruse before making a decision to relocate? Or is there someone spouses/significant others can chat with about the possibility of obtaining a position within the university?

KFBS_Kelly_2009partner: Tiffany - hr.unc.edu is the UNC hr website where you will find listings. You can also find a job through Tar Heel Temps, the university temp agency.

KFBS_Kelly_2009partner: Tiffany - the listings you will find at the hr.unc.edu may have odd titles that provide little information on the position. You must look at the position description to gain this information.

Tiffany: Thanks, Kelly.

James: Besides academic scholarships, are there many Univ. grants or Federal grants available to students with kids?

KFBS_SHAWN_2010: James - there are no other grants available specific to students with children, just the merit-based fellowships.

James: Thanks Shawn

Ran S.: can my wife study at UNC if she is not a us citizen?

Adity B. Ran : She also has to go through the entire admission process.

KFBS_Ray_2010: Ran - I think she can study at UNC so long as she gets accepted to the program she applies to.

Ran S.: thanx Andit Ray and L

Ranjit G.: How cold is the coldest day of the year typically at Chapel Hill ?

KFBS_Kelly_2009partner: Ranjit - it normally doesn't get below freezing more than a few times a season. Today it is in the 50s.

Ranjit G.: Kelly - Good to know that. I am based on NY upstate and for the last 5 days it has been sub zero for the most part.

Ran S.: will it snow ?

KFBS_Mandy_2010: Ran - rarely

Ran S.: Tahnks Mandy

KFBS_Kelly_2009partner: Ran - it snows maybe once a year. Usually no more than 3 inches at a time.

Ran S.: thankx Kelly

Ranjit G. : Thanks Kelly

KFBS_Kelly_2009partner: Ran - the summers here are quite warm and humid.

Ran S.: cool Kelly, i love it !

Josh B.: Is the admitted students weekend open to spouses, and what is entailed during that weekend.

KFBS_Ray_2010: Josh, yes the admitted students is open to spouses and they are encouraged to attend. It sold my wife on UNC. The spouses have their own schedule during the event.

Josh B.: Very cool. Thanks Ray

Meleata: Ray, what about the admitted weekend sold your wife on UNC?

KFBS_Ray_2010: She was extremely impressed with the school and the lifestyle that Chapel Hill offers. Most importantly--the people here are extremely welcoming.

Meleata: Thanks, Ray. That is helpful.

KFBS_ASHLEY_2010PARTNER: Meleata, I am a wife of a student as well and I was also sold on UNC after the accepted students weekend. I loved the community of the school and the partner's association. I also loved the town, it is small but you can get to Raleigh in twenty minutes or Durham in tem.

Meleata: Thanks, Ashley.

Meleata: Approximately how many KFBS have children? Is this expected to remain the same in the next class?

Meleata: Correction - how many KFBS students have children?

KFBS_Mandy_2010: Married with children is close to 15%

Meleata: Thanks, Mandy.

James: What percentage are married as well???

KFBS_Mandy_2010: Marriage percent is around 25 - 30.

Robin W.: I come from a small school which is pretty tight knit. The student/faculty/profs were all very engaged with one another (this included my family). Is this true of KF as well?

Admissions L.: Robin W - This program is extremely tight-knit and close. Lots of interaction among student and faculty and staff. Very strong community culture here.

Ran S.: can my wife apply to live in the UNC hospital if she gives birth a baby?

Mukundan: hello. does anybody have any idea about the day care costs in the Chapel Hill area?

Admissions L.: Mukundan - Full-time day care at a center runs about \$1000 per month for young babies. It's a little less for toddlers. In home child-care is roughly \$10-12/hour.

Mukundan: thanks

Adria G. : Are students ever pulled away from family on the weekends?

Adity B.: Adria - I have not seen it so far. It's up to you.

KFBS_Mandy_2010: Adria - only if they choose to participate in activities that take them away. Case competitions will keep partners at the school overnight.

Jwhitfield: Hello. My name is Joy. just joining.

KFBS_SHAWN_2010: Welcome Joy.

Avishek S.: What are the opportunities in IT-Software in and around UNC? My spouse to be is in IT Software and she does not want a break in her career.

KFBS_SHAWN_2010: Avishek - SAP is headquartered in Cary, and there are lots of smaller firms in and around Research Triangle Park. That's probably one of the best fields to be in (outside of pharmaceuticals) if you want to work in the triangle.

Avishek S.: Thanks Shawn...that is helpful...I will do some research on this.

Meleata: For those of you who are married, what kind of financial adjustments did you make prior to attending business school? What other things would you suggest?

KFBS_ASHLEY_2010PARTNER: Meleata, my husband and I definitely tried to save some money for initial moving costs and our summer expenses. If you are getting a student loan you will not receive the money until the beginning of school.

KFBS_SHAWN_2010: Meleata - We certainly cut our expenses prior to coming to school. We knew that we'd need to have some cash put away in case my wife struggled to find work in the area. There are also a lot of upfront expenses associated with any move, so you definitely want to live as frugally as possible leading up to school.

Meleata: Thanks again, Ashley & Shawn.

Sushant: What mode of transport do most students use on campus?

KFBS_Ray_2010: Sushant, students tend to carpool but some students use public transportation. Also, if you have a good reason, the school might give you a parking permit of your own.

Sushant: Thanks, Ray....aren't bicycles used commonly?

KFBS_Ray_2010: Yes, they are.

Ran S.: is there any program to help my wife familiar with the new environment like where to shop?

KFBS_Mandy_2010: Ran S. - If your spouse joins Kenan Connection we have a webgroup to join where she can post such questions and everyone in the assoc. receives the question and post the answers. We also have folders we hand out with many tips such as living, shopping, daycares, etc.

Ran S. : thank you Mandy, what is the average rent for a two bed rooms apartment?

KFBS_Mandy_2010: Ran S. - for apt I would say around \$1000 to \$1200. Baity Hill is much cheaper, but have more limitations.

Ran S.: thank you Mandy

Liana H.: Do any students live in Raleigh or Durham and commute?

KFBS_Kelly_2009partner: Liana - we live in Durham and we do commute.

KFBS_Ray_2010: Liana, Raleigh is probably a little far but doable.

Ranjit G.: In which apartments do the married students mostly stay ?

KFBS_Kelly_2009partner: Ranjit - most student stay Alta Spring in Chapel Hill, or in married student housing called Baity Hill.

KFBS_Kelly_2009partner: Ranjit - although there are many other options.

Admissions L.: Ranjit - A lot of married students live in Southern Village too

Ranjit G.: Kelly - How early should married students start hunting for apartments in Baity Hill, Southern Village and Alta Spring..

Ran S.: yeah i also want to ask Ranjit's question

KFBS_Kelly_2009partner: Ranjit - there are many options available, so you will have options. However, I would suggest that you have your housing settled during the summer.

KFBS_Kelly_2009partner: Ranjit - Baity Hill fills up the quickest, so I would try there soon.

KFBS_ASHLEY_2010PARTNER: Ranjit - A lot of people look for housing during accepted students weekend.

Ranjit G.: Kelly - And I understand that Baity is closest to the school. So will early July be good enough time frame ?

KFBS_SHAWN_2010: Ranjit - you can and should apply to Baity Hill as soon as you have placed an admissions deposit, experience weekend at the latest. Otherwise you'll likely spend some time on a waitlist during the summer.

Ranjit G.: Shawn..thanks for that tip..I will remember that

Adria G.: Can you explain more what accepted students weekend is?

Ranjit G.: Ashley...When is the accepted students weekend ?

KFBS_ASHLEY_2010PARTNER: Andria and Ranjit- The accepted students weekend is in mid-April.

Admissions L.: Adria and Ranjit - This year's Experience Weekend is April 17-18th. It's a terrific opportunity to get a great feel for the campus and the culture of the school. Approximately 200 admitted students and partners attend. You meet the faculty, the dean, sit in on a class simulation, meet alumni, socialize, etc.

Ranjit G.: Admissions L - Thank you

Jwhitfield: You've mentioned that there is a lot of community support and a tight nit community. However much talk is about couples.. Husbands, wives partners. I'm a single parent of twins. Are there any other single parents in the MBA program at Kenan-Flagler.

Jwhitfield: Are there any resources specifically for single parents.

KFBS_Mandy_2010: Jwhitfield - We have at least four or so single parents in the program. We can put you in touch with one of them if you have more detailed questions. Just email shawn.brandt@unc.edu and he will get you connected.

Robin W.: Do you recommend looking into purchasing a home? The man who did my interview said that often students decided to remain in the area

KFBS_Ray_2010: Robin, I think that is completely up to you. I debated the same question and ultimately decided it is better to rent a house. The MBA program will open lots of doors so you never know where you will end up

KFBS_SHAWN_2010: Robin - this is personal preference, but I would not recommend buying a home unless you absolutely know that you want to stay here. Rarely is two years enough to make a home purchase a better value than renting, and many of the jobs available to Kenan-Flagler students are out of the area.

Liana H.: For commuting students, how easy is it to get parking close to the business school?

KFBS_Kelly_2009partner: Liana - during your first year you will have an opportunity to join a car pool. If you live far outside Chapel Hill or Carrboro you may apply for a hardship parking pass in the business school deck.

Jwhitfield: is there student family housing on campus

KFBS_ASHLEY_2010PARTNER: jwhitfield - Baity Hill is located right behind the business school and is for families.

Ran S.: is the Baity Hill a part of the campus

KFBS_Ray_2010 Ran, yes

KFBS_Ray_2010 Baity Hill is 100 yards from the business school.

Jwhitfield: Is Baity Hill the only housing complex for Student Family Housing?

KFBS_ASHLEY_2010PARTNER: jwhitfield - There is also Odom Village, but it further from the business school and has more undergrads.

KFBS_SHAWN_2010: Just a reminder - Baity Hill is primarily limited to married students and students with children. Pets are not allowed and you can only have one car per apartment.

jwhitfield : thank you.

Ran S.: Thanks Ray, where can we stay if me and my wife arrive before finding an a good apartment?

Sushant: When do accepted international students begin moving into Chapel Hill?

KFBS_ASHLEY_2010PARTNER : Sushant- international students get here around July typically.

Sushant: Thanks, Ashley...does that mean some international students skip the accepted students' weekend - considering the gap?

Admissions L.: Sushant - Some international students are able to make to trip to Chapel Hill for the admitted students weekend, but many cannot.

Sushant: Thanks, L

Ranjit G.: This is a Admissions question - How are the application volumes this year, particularly for Indian applicants ?

Admissions L.: Application volume so far is slightly down (including from India). But we've only had 2 of our 4 deadlines so far, so this may change over the course of the season.

Ranjit G.: Admissions L - Thank you

Ran S.: I also want to ask Ranji's question, but about the application volume from China

Admissions L.: Ran S - I'm not 100% sure about the volume from China so far. I suspect it's down a bit too, since overall international is down.

Ran S.: thanks Admission L. does it mean t could be less competitive for international student this year?

Admissions L.: Ran S - Hard to say, since the season is only part-way through. And since we're only "slightly down" in terms of international volume, it's probably not going to make a huge difference in terms of competitiveness of admission.

Ran S.: Thanks Admission L

Meleata: When did you all stop working before business school?

KFBS_Ray_2010: Meleata, I think that varies. It depends on how much time you want prior to starting classes. I worked up to the day prior to moving to NC.

Meleata: Thanks, Ray.

KFBS_SHAWN_2010: I stopped working about a week before coming to ASW.

KFBS_Kelly_2009partner: My husband stopped about 3 months before starting class.

KFBS_Mandy_2010 : I stopped a day before moving, but my husband (student) stopped a month before.

Meleata: Did you also attend ASW & was it difficult to manage the adjustment with classes in session?

KFBS_Ray_2010: Meleata, I did attend ASW. I had no problems with the transition.

Devaki: Hi all, I am Ranjit's wife. I'm not a US citizen and currently work as a software programmer in the US on a work permit. I'm concerned about the impact of the current economic situation on the job scene in the RTP area. Does anyone here have a firsthand idea? Layoffs, hiring freezes etc.?

KFBS_SHAWN_2010: Devaki - Honestly, it's a tough environment right now. Some companies have hiring freezes, and some are announcing layoffs.

KFBS_SHAWN_2010: I'd recommend browsing the career websites of some local companies to see what kind of listings they have posted.

Devaki: That was my fear! Thanks Shawn.

James: How does admissions feel about international experience and foreign language fluency?

Admissions L.: James - We are a very global program and definitely value international experience (including language fluency).

Meleata: Did any of you attend both sessions of ASW?

Amrinder_KFBS2009: Meleata: I attended only ASW II

Meleata: Thanks again - as you can see, I am trying to map out the cost of quitting work early, attending ASW, etc...as well as ensuring my family adjusts to my new time constraints.

Meleata: Should I be admitted, I must add.

Jwhitfield: How far is the business school from Cary,NC?

Jwhitfield: you mentioned it's just 20 minutes from Durham/Raleigh, so I imagine fairly close.

KFBS_Ray_2010: Cary is 20 to 30 minutes from Chapel Hill depending where you live.

KFBS_ASHLEY_2010PARTNER: jwhitfield - Raleigh could take longer with traffic, probably more like 30-45 min

Jim B.: For a married bicycle commuter, if not housed at Baity Hill, which direction from campus could one reside to locate on the most viable bicycle routes?

KFBS_Kelly_2009partner: Jim - Carrboro is where you should look.

KFBS_Kelly_2009partner: Jim - the best bicycle routes exist between Chapel Hill and Carrboro.

Jim B.: Thanks Kelly!

Amrinder_KFBS2009: Jim - One my classmates sometimes travels with her bicycle from Carrboro to Kenan-Flagler.

Avishek S.: I do not know whether this is a relevant question for this chat session, but I was interested in knowing how many entrepreneurs are there in the class of 2010?

KFBS_Ray_2010: Avishek, I was self-employeeed prior to attending school. I know of a few others who were as well. However, there are many more students with plans of starting a business after school, either right after or a few years after graduating.

Ran S.: hey Ray, glad to hear that you are an entrepreneur

KFBS_Ray_2010 : There is an entrepreneurship club and an entrepreneurship concentration.

Avishek S.: Thanks Ray

Brian: When did each of the current students move to the UNC area prior to beginning school? May, June, July?

KFBS_SHAWN_2010: brian - it depends on whether you attend ASW1, ASW2 or neither. I'd estimate that most people moved to town a week or two prior to the start date that was relevant to them.

James: I've lived 5 years outside of the US and speak Spanish & Portuguese fluently. Even if I am not planning on getting into International stuff, would it still be worth-while to focus on those qualities?

Admissions L.: James - Absolutely. One of our essays asks about "what makes you unique". I think that would be a great place to talk about your international exposure.

James: cool, thanks

Liz B.: HELLO TO EVERY ONE i AM IIZ BROWN jIM BROWN'S WIFE, MY QUESTIONS ARE:

Ranjit G.: Does anyone know Top 3 (in terms of size) IT companies in and around Chapel Hill ?

KFBS_SHAWN_2010: SAP, Lenovo, IBM

KFBS_SHAWN_2010: Ranjit - see my reply above regarding IT companies

Mukundan: i believe its SAS in Cary

Mukundan: Fidelity has IT operations in Durham...

KFBS_SHAWN_2010: Fidelity is a big one as well, good point Mukundan.

Ranjit G.: Thanks Shawn and Mukundan

Liz B.: does the bussiness school work with specific real state agencies to help the future MBS student find housing or is up to the student?

KFBS_Kelly_2009partner: Liz - it is up to the student.

Liz B.: ok thanks

Meleata: For the spouses of current MBA students, what have you enjoyed most about Kenan Connection? What has been the most useful aspect of the program for you?

KFBS_Kelly_2009partner: Meleata - for me it has been meeting partners in the same situation. I have made friendships through the partners association that will last longer than the time my husband is in school.

KFBS_ASHLEY_2010PARTNER: Meleata - The Kenan Connection puts on events throughout the year and offers a chance for partner's new to the area to meet others in their situation. We do a lot of events while the students are busy with studying, finals, etc.

KFBS_Mandy_2010: Meleata - I enjoyed the opportunities given to meet more people in my situation. Currently I have a two year old so at the time I could not make many student events without hiring a babysitter. Kenan Connection allowed me to join clubs such as dinner club, book club, and social club where I met the majority of my friends. And it allowed me to get out of the house and socialize with someone other than just my husband.

Meleata: Thanks, everyone!

Ran S.: Hi Ray, I have also established an investment entity while working as a financial reporter, can you say more about the entrepreneurship concentration, what is your experience about it ?

James: Yeah, I would love to hear about the entrepreneurial stuff too...

Ran S.: thanks James!

KFBS_Ray_2010: Being a first year student, my classes today have all been core classes so I can't speak to the coursework yet. However, I have been impressed with the club.

Jwhitfield: Admissions or Students: What would you say makes Kenan-Flagler unique? What is it known for among other top MBA programs?

Amrinder_KFBS2009: Jwhitfield: Small, close knit community, friendly students in a collaborative environment plus the strengths of the professors. This program has exceeded my expectations.

Admissions L.: jwhitfield - I personally think UNC is unique in that it offers a combination of two very difficult qualities to balance: a top-notch academic environment with an incredibly positive culture and community. A lot of schools seem to be able to sell one or the other, but not both.

KFBS_SHAWN_2010: jwhitfield - The reason I chose to attend Kenan-Flagler over some of my other options was the community feel here on campus. I really liked everyone I met during my visits, and just felt that this was the place I wanted to be and the group of people I wanted to study with. You can't really replace the campus visit experience.

Jwhitfield: Thank you very much for your response.

Robin W.: What other schools did you look at when comparing these two qualities?

KFBS_SHAWN_2010: Robin - I also looked at Duke, Harvard and BC.

KFBS_Mandy_2010: Robin - we looked at Wharton and Emory as well and found UNC more fulfilling for our needs.

KFBS_Kelly_2009partner: Robin - we looked at UNC and University of Virginia

KFBS_ASHLEY_2010PARTNER: Robin - My husband looked at Texas, Dartmouth, and Emory. We ultimately decided on UNC and love it here

KFBS_Ray_2010: Robin: - We looked at Texas, Georgetown, and Rice

Liz B.: Could you be specific about benefits that the Kenan Connection offers to students?... and the spouses?

KFBS_Kelly_2009partner: Liz - When your partner joins the Kenan Connection they will join our online community. From there there will be informed of all of our activities. Monthly meetings and socials with our family club, dinner club, wine club and other various activities.

KFBS_ASHLEY_2010PARTNER: Liz - The Kenan Connection has multiple clubs to get involved with such as book club, dinner club, families club, wellness club. They also put on social events for every partner to attend.

Ranjit G.: Are there opportunities in India as a part of Global Immersion Electives ?

Jim B.: Are there any schools in vicinity of Chapel Hill that concentrate on Special Needs children?

Admissions L.: Jim B - I don't know what kind of special needs you are asking about, but this area is known for its autism resources.

KFBS_Ray_2010: We think there are but we don't know of any specifically. I think it depends on the need.

Avishek S.: How many international students are a part of the program who are budding entrepreneurs from countries such as India?

Ran S.: and i also have a question about if there is a specific area for the family housing?

Ranjit G.: How important is Interview in the Admissions process ?

Admissions L.: Ranjit G - The interview is very important to us (probably more so than at other schools). Since the school culture is so strong, we really look for people to demonstrate in their interview their fit with the school.

Ranjit G.: Admissions L - Thanks for the input. One more admissions based question. How are results announced on Feb 9 - Decision Date ? Are we called by telephone or we have to check online ? Also, are they announced a couple of days in advance ?

Admissions L.: Ranjit G - The admissions decisions are all released at the same time on the day of Feb 9th (for that round). No decisions are released before that time. On that day, you'll receive an email letting you know that your decision is available online.

Ranjit G.: L - Thank you

Ran S.: thanks all your answers

Ran S.: looking forward too see you guys this august

Ran S.: to see you guys

Ranjit G.: All the best Ran S.

Ran S.: HA HA you too Ranjit

Jwhitfield: Are there still opportunities to experience UNC before admissions decisions and awards are given.

Jwhitfield: Please excuse my typos...typing too fast.

KFBS_SHAWN_2010: jwhitfield - The campus visit program is ongoing. Have you already done your formal visit/interview?

Jwhitfield: I've already applied through the Consortium program, but missed diversity weekend.

Jwhitfield: I did a Consortium interview in Rochester, NY at the University of Rochester.

Mukundan: i have question regarding health insurance, if i have my own health insurance, do i still need to pay to the university health care.

Amrinder_KFBS2009: Mukundan: Most students have health insurance and international students must have health insurance but we're not required to get the one offered by the university.

Mukundan: Thanks.

Jim B.: How critical would it be, in terms of after-hours networking among students, to live in Baity Hill? Is there frequent impromptu contact among residents or does everyone take off-time as a break from school matters? Would one be at a disadvantage living away from the mass of students and families?

KFBS_Kelly_2009partner: Jim - living in Baity Hill is not necessary. We live in Durham and my husband has no problem networking, socializing.

KFBS_ASHLEY_2010PARTNER: Jim - My husband and I don't live in one of the main student housing areas and there is plenty of opportunity to get together with other students and partners. The MBA Program puts on a lot of events.

KFBS_SHAWN_2010: Jim - Frankly, more after hours socializing happens off campus or at some of the apartment complexes which have a higher concentration of MBA students, such as Alta Springs or Southern Village.

Jim B.: Thanks Kelly and Ashley!

Jwhitfield: Can someone offer a brief description of the Kenan Connection? How is that different from other clubs.

KFBS_Mandy_2010: jwhitfield - our association is not a student/university club. We are solely run by partners and our money comes from our dues - currently \$75 for two years. We mainly only have events for the partners, but try to include student partners a couple of times a year. It is a networking association among partners to help them adapt to the transition and be with others in the same situation. It aids in helping people make friends and come familiar with the area and various cultures. Does this answer your question?

Jwhitfield: Yes, Mandy. Thanks for your reply.

KFBS_SHAWN_2010: Keep the questions coming. We have 15 minutes remaining in the chat.

James : Ray and Ashley--For those of you that just said you applied to UT also... what did you see as different between UT and UNC. I am applying to both and see both very similarly. Would love to hear what you think is different???

Sushant: Is there a lawn tennis club at UNC/Kenan-Flagler?

Liz B.: Are there any representatives or links within the Kenan Connection Family Life ETC...that can help find specif local information.

KFBS_Kelly_2009partner: Liz - Yes, I can help you with any local information. You can email me at kstowe@email.unc.edu. At experience weekend you will be given information as well. If you choose to join the club you will also have an online resource for local information.

Liz B.: Ok thanks K

James: How about the shunned question? Why UNC over Duke...?

Robin W.: lol...I was wanting to ask that question too :)

Ranjit G.: me too :)

Ran S.: I love James question, so straihgtforward

James: haah

Ran S.: James , Robin and Ranjit we are on the same boat right now haha

KFBS_SHAWN_2010: James - I was a Duke undergrad, and decided that I wanted a different experience and access to the phenomenal alumni network from UNC. Also, I felt that the fit was better personally. There was nothing wrong with Duke, it just wasn't the best fit for me. I know that sounds fluffy, but it's the truth.

KFBS_SHAWN_2010: I had my visits to Duke and UNC on back to back days, and left with UNC as my first choice.

KFBS_Ray_2010: James, I would agree that both are very similar. Honestly, I choose UNC because I wanted to spend some time outside of Texas, having grown up there. However, being here I think the culture sets UNC apart from Texas. That is hard to sell because I haven't truly experienced the culture at Texas. That said, experience weekend pushed UNC over Texas.

KFBS_ASHLEY_2010PARTNER : James - I am a partner and I loved the smaller city, it was a lot like our undergrad experience at UGA. My husband loved the school, the facilities, and is a huge basketball fan :) It really just came down to where we felt most comfortable and welcome! You will know.

Ran S.: yeah Ashley I love Jordan too and I am not sure if the interviewer Davis would be upset when I tell him the first time I know UNC is because of Jordan....

Admissions L.: For those trying to get a feel for the difference between UNC and other schools, I highly recommend you visit UNC (if you haven't already done so). For a school with such a strong culture/environment, it really helps to experience it first hand.

Avishek S.: My previous question maybe too specific (regarding entrepreneurs from India). I was interested in knowing how are international students (who are aspiring entrepreneurs) facilitated during and post the program.

KFBS_Ray_2010: Avishek, I don't think your experience at UNC's entrepreneurship program will be any different as an international student from domestic students
Ran S.: from your aspect, what kind of personality would fit UNC ?

Amrinder_KFBS2009: Avishek: There's a Entrepreneur Fellowship that can be participated by international students as part of their internship.

Avishek S.: Thanks Ray and Amrinder

KFBS_Ray_2010 : Ran, we are extremely diverse. The two things that seem to be common among all is that everyone is extremely nice and collaborative.

Tiffany: Any advice from current students as to how spouses/significant others can be supportive while enrolled at UNC?

KFBS_Kelly_2009partner : Tiffany - as a partner, I think having an understanding (espically during the first year) that classwork is very demanding will go a long way.

KFBS_ASHLEY_2010PARTNER: Tiffany - partners have to be understanding of the time commitment.

KFBS_Mandy_2010: Tiffany - Mainly understand the need for the student to have to study. There are times they will be up all night or away until wee hours in the morning; however, there are also times you can't get them out of the house.

Tiffany: Thanks.

Liz B.: Tiffany my advice will be be resourceful, proactive about friendships and have a positive attitude. DO not stress much TO BE FLEXIBLE IS THE KEY

Devaki: I am interested in a follow-up to Tiffany's question. Can you give us a general idea of the schedule? How much leisure time would a student typically have to spend with his family on a weekday and a weekend?

KFBS_SHAWN_2010: Devaki - It depends on the student, what courses they are taking, what type of career they're pursuing.

KFBS_Kelly_2009partner: Devaki - it all depends on the student. My husband has occupied most of his time with extracurricular activities. Also, keep in mind that the first year has a much more demanding academic schedule than the second year.

Devaki: Okay. I guess that was a pretty open-ended question. I'll just have to be patient and flexible I guess? Thanks all!

KFBS_Mandy_2010: Devaki - my experience was my husband generally went to school around 8am and stayed until 5 or 6. His idea was to treat it as a job which allowed him to study during his down time at the school. During finals or other high-stressed times he had to study more at home or meet groups in the evening. The second year is a lot less time consuming.

Devaki: Thanks Mandy. That sounds good to me!

Robin W.: Thanks for helping me to get a better idea of what UNC is about. I hope to see some of you guys next Fall.

KFBS_SHAWN_2010: Ran - are you international? If so, don't worry. I bet 95% of our international applicants first heard of UNC through Michael Jordan. .

Ran S.: yeah, I am working in HK right now

Ran S.: I am Chinese

Ranjit G.: Thanks for all the valuable information about UNC. I hope to be here and see you all next August.

KFBS_SHAWN_2010: 5 minutes remaining.

Ran S.: Thank you everyone on this chat and the valuable information, see you this coming fall

Sushant: Is there a lawn tennis club at UNC/Kenan-Flagler?

KFBS_Ray_2010: Sushant, don't think so.

KFBS_SHAWN_2010: Sushant - I'm not familiar with lawn tennis?

Sushant: I mean tennis

KFBS_Ray_2010: There is a tennis club.

Sushant: Thanks, Ray

Avishek S.: On a lighter note, do students get the time to visit the gym. Is there a gym within the campus? Does one need to pay extra to access the gym?

Meleata: Where is the nearest gym to the business school?

KFBS_ASHLEY_2010PARTNER: Avishek - Making time to keep yourself healthy, but it is up to you. The nearest gym in Ram's Head and there is the Student Rec. Center. The gym membership for students is included in the student fee and a partner can go to the gym for \$60 a semester.

Avishek S.: Thanks Ashley-My spouse to be will be happy to know that.

Meleata: Thanks, Ashley

Ran S.: and the basketball court

KFBS_SHAWN_2010: Ran - if you're referring to the basketball stadium where the Tar Heels play, it's immediately next to KFBS.

KFBS_Kelly_2009partner: Ran - there are multiple bball courts. Rams head has one, on main campus there are several others - Fetzer and Woolen. The Dean Smith Center is also very close to KFBS - this is where the mens basketball games are played.

Ran S.: Great!!!!

Ran S.: how can i get a ticket

Ran S.: especially the game VS Duke

KFBS_SHAWN_2010: Ran, for the high demand games, there is a lottery for student tickets. The Duke game gives preference to graduating students.

KFBS_SHAWN_2010: Second years in the case of MBA students.

Ran S.: thanks Shawn, my wife will be upset when she is waiting for me from basketball court

KFBS_SHAWN_2010: Two minutes remaining for any final questions.

Jim B.: Do partners typically accompany on internships or is the norm to stay in the Ch Hill area?

KFBS_ASHLEY_2010PARTNER: Jim - the norm for partners is to stay if they have a job here. But, there a few international students' partners or partner's with families that will relocate for the summer with their spouse

KFBS_Kelly_2009partner: Jim - again, it all depends on you. I am sure some have, but I know that many partners choose to stay in the area while their students are away.

Jim B.: Thanks Ashley and Kelly.

Sushant: Thanks everyone...

James : Thanks for all of your guys. It was great! Thanks Shawn

Meleata: Thanks everyone for answering all of my questions. Best wishes in 2009.

Devaki: Thanks everyone. This has been very informative.

Jwhitfield: Thanks for your time.

Jim B.: Thank you KF Team, good information. Regards, Jim Brown

Josh B.: Thanks Kelly, hope to see you guys soon

KFBS_Kelly_2009partner: See you Josh!

KFBS_SHAWN_2010: Thanks for all of your questions. We have a few answers still coming, but won't be able to take any more questions today.

James: 1 more question! Do you feel less or more excited to be at school or graduating during these tough economic times??? WHY?

KFBS_SHAWN_2010: james, email me offline - shawn.brandt@unc.edu

James: Thanks dude,

KFBS_SHAWN_2010: Best of luck to those of you going through the admissions process, and for the admitted students, we look forward to seeing you in April and the fall.

Avishek S.: Thanks all, Best Wishes-Avishek

James: Thanks

Liz B.: Thank and good luck!

Jim B.: Chau Liz!

Liz B.: JIm me comunico en un minuto por chat o e-mail