Women at UNC Chat  
November 5, 2012  
UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School

Kelly Lynch_Admissions: Hi Everyone! Thanks so much for joining us. We will get started here in about 7 minutes. Looking forward to all of your questions!

Lauren_DiPerna: Great, thanks.

Nupur Mehta: Hello

Tjandra Chew Ching Lu: Hi Kelly, I’m Tj from Singapore, and I will be applying to UNC 2013 in January. Thank you for organising this talk!

Alexandra: hello!

Danielle Rogers: Hi everyone...girl power! :-D

Tjandra Chew Ching Lu: Right back at you, Danielle! :)

Veronica Garza Hottenroth_2nd YR CWIB Pres: Welcome to the Kenan-Flagler Women at UNC Chat. My name is Veronica Garza Hottenroth 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 and Kelly Lynch in UNC Admissions, three other second year women and one first year woman.

Casey Cook_CWIB Communications: Hi everyone! My name is Casey and I am from North Carolina. I worked in the telecommunications industry prior to coming to Kenan-Flagler. I am responsible for the Communications for CWIB and am focusing on consumer packaged goods marketing while in school. I’d love to answer any questions that you may have! 

Ellen Pennow_2nd Year Student: Hi everyone! My name is Ellen Pennow and I'm the VP of Women's Initiative for CWIB. Before business school, I worked in healthcare consulting, and I will be going back to consulting with McKinsey & Company following graduation. I'm happy to field any questions!

Genny King_2nd year_Net Impact President: It's great to meet you all today! I'm originally from Western NC and worked in the non-profit sector for 6 years before business school. This summer I interned with Johnson & Johnson's Human Resources Leadership Development Program. I will be joining J&J's full-time HR Leadership Development Program after I graduate. At Kenan-Flagler, I'm involved with Net Impact, the Kenan Institute, and the Business Communication Center. Feel free to ask me questions you may have about these resources.
Chantel Adams_1st Year Student: Hello Everyone! My name is Chantel Adams, and I am a first year student from Brooklyn, NY. My background is in financial services, and I am here concentrating in marketing and pursuing the Certificate in Non-profit Leadership Management. I hold the following positions CWIB First Year Liaison for the Women's Initiative, Team-Lead for the Women's Initiative Dean's Fellows Project, Non-profit Board Fellow for YesICan, Executive Liaison for the Retail Club, Consortium Liaison 2013-2014, and MBA Ambassador. If you have any questions about my extracurricular activities feel free to ask!

Alison Jesse, Sr. Associate Dean of Admissions: I would also like to welcome everyone. Just a quick note: we will be having two receptions in DC and NYC in December.

Alison Jesse, Sr. Associate Dean of Admissions: December 11 and December 12. Please check our events calendar. There will be a leadership simulation for prospective students and a reception with Dean James Dean. We are excited to offer these events

Alexandra: will you be doing any upcoming events here in chapel hill?

Alison Jesse, Sr. Associate Dean of Admissions: @Alexandra. Just the daily visits and interviews

Alexandra: ais the interview something you should schedule before or after applying?

Alison Jesse, Sr. Associate Dean of Admissions: @Alexandra. Glad you asked about interviews. Our interviews are open so you need to schedule the interview. DO NOT wait for an invite from us. You need to start your application and submit the application fee before scheduling your interview

Lauren_DiPerna: Hi Genny, I hope to hear about Net Impact

Genny King_2nd year_Net Impact President: @Lauren. Nice to meet you! Here's a link to our website (http://specials.kenan-flagler.unc.edu/MBAclubs/netimpact/Pages/default.aspx). It’s great to hear you’re interested in Net Impact! Please let me know if you have any specific questions about Net Impact.

Tracy Pelak: Hi Veronica, as the CWIB President could you talk to the types of activities and networking that the CWIB puts on for Women students?

Veronica Garza Hottenroth_2nd YR CWIB Pres: Hi @Tracy, CWIB puts on a variety of activities for Kenan-Flagler women including informational for career switchers, a welcome BBQ for our first-year women, Habitat for Humanity volunteering events, a golfing event and our annual CWIBtini social.
Grace Schiodtz: Alison, how are interviews held when you live abroad? In Chile for example.

Alison Jesse, Sr. Associate Dean of Admissions: @Grace. You can schedule a phone interview or we can try to place you with one of our alumni interviewers in Chile.

Kenisha Clarke: for someone applying to enter 2014 is it advisable to schedule an interview now or closer to the application date?

Kelly Lynch, Admissions: @Kenisha - If you are planning to apply for the entry year 2014, it is not advisable to interview yet. You need to wait until our Interview schedule opens NEXT Fall (2013) to schedule your interview.

Nupur Mehta: Hello, I have applied to Kenan-Flagler in first round. I wanted to know more about admission process and understand the open interview policy.

Alison Jesse, Sr. Associate Dean of Admissions: @Nupur You need to schedule an interview right now for Deadline #1. Go online after the chat and schedule. Decisions will be released December 10th. I assume you are talking about the October 19th deadline?

Nupur Mehta: Yeah I am done with my interview. I had scheduled an alumni interview. I wanted to know about the policy as the interviews are not by invitation.

Alison Jesse, Sr. Associate Dean of Admissions: @Nupur. I'm not sure I understand your question but perhaps you can email me (ajesse@unc.edu) and we can discuss further.

Nupur Mehta: Ok. Will do that.

Sally Bogus: @ Ellen I am particularly interested in healthcare consulting post-MBA, do you have specific recommendations about classes and community involvement that would best prepare me for this goal? Has your work with CWIB been a major contributor?

Ellen Pennow, 2nd Year Student: @Sally Great question! Kenan-Flagler has a new healthcare concentration and a number of healthcare-specific electives that will help prepare you for a career in healthcare consulting. Taking on leadership positions in clubs like CWIB has also definitely helped prepare me to be a leader in my future career, regardless of industry or function.

Alexandra: @Ellen, how long were you working before applying to the MBA program? did you work right after undergrad for a few years and then apply for a fulltime MBA...? i graduated this past year from UNC and am currently working in a life sciences profession.
Ellen Pennow_2nd Year Student: @Alexandra I worked for two years full-time before coming back to business school. The average work experience for our students is five years, but the quality of the work experience is more important than the quantity.

Tjandra Chew Ching Lu: Hi Veronica, Alison, Kelly, Ellen and Casey, thanks for your time! Alison and Kelly, I was wondering about the GMAT. I’ve already taken it (720) but would like to take it a second time, as I feel the first score is not a good representation. Unfortunately, the earliest date I can re-take it would result in the official scores reaching UNC after the 11 January admissions deadline. Does UNC accept self-reported scores with the initial application or would this push my application into the next round?

Alison Jesse, Sr. Associate Dean of Admissions: @Tjandra Go ahead and apply with your current GMAT and you can schedule another test date. As long as we receive by mid-February, we can consider it.

Tjandra Chew Ching Lu: Thanks Alison! That’s great to know- you can expect to receive my application soon :) I understand Kenan-Flagler requires 2 recommendations from supervisors. As I’m currently running my own business, the professional recommendations that I have lined up date back to 2008 and 2009. Would that be acceptable? Alternatively, would a recommendation from the head of a charity event that I was involved in recently be more relevant? (All the recommenders are equally familiar with my work). Thanks!

Tjandra Chew Ching Lu: Hi Chantel, Wow, that’s an impressive list! Could you tell us more about the Women’s Initiative Dean’s Fellow Project please? Thank you!

Chantel Adams_1st Year Student: @Tjandra This is the 3rd year that of the Women's Initiative Deans Fellows Project. Some of the things that have come out of the project in the past two years are the healthcare concentration and the Forte Liaison for CWIB. This year we are working on improving and expanding our programming and strengthening CWIB alumnae relations.

Lauren_DiPerna: I am interested in social entrepreneurship and sustainability. Can someone talk about what is happening at the school in relation to these topics?

Genny King_2nd year_Net Impact President: @Lauren. Kenan-Flagler has a lot of great opportunities related to social entrepreneurship and sustainability. Net Impact works closely with the Center for Sustainable Enterprise and they have some great resources. For more information you can check out their website (http://www.kenan-flagler.unc.edu/sustainable-enterprise). Some of our big events throughout the year include: the Careers in Sustainability Forum, Green Week, Sustainable Venture Capital Investment Competition, sustainability oriented career treks, and networking events.
Veronica Garza Hottenroth_2nd YR CWIB Pres: Just to give the prospective students a little bit of background on me, I worked for four years prior to coming back to school in Investor Relations in the high-tech industry. This summer I interned with 3M’s internal consulting group this summer and will be returning there after graduation.

Tracy Pelak: @Ellen, are you currently within the healthcare concentration? If so, what types of real world experiences does the concentration offer outside of the classroom to supplement the classroom work?

Ellen Pennow_2nd Year Student: @Tracy I am not focusing on the healthcare concentration, but I have taken a number of healthcare electives. There are a number of opportunities outside of class to work with local groups and businesses in a number of industries, including healthcare, through programs like our STAR program which pairs groups of students with businesses to solve real problems they are facing.

Nupur Mehta: I wanted to know about family entreprise centre

Kelly Lynch_Admissions: @Nupur - So glad you are curious about the Family Business Enterprise. We have a plethora of information about the center here - http://www.kenan-flagler.unc.edu/family-enterprise/education/mba-focus

Nupur Mehta: Is this a concentration or we can take electives

Kelly Lynch_Admissions: @Nupur - Family Business is a Focus Area, so you will take some classes related to Family Business, but can overlay that on top of another concentration if you wish, which most of our students who choose Family Business often do.

Sally Bogus: @ Ellen, do you happen to know the number students currently pursuing the healthcare concentration at Kenan-Flagler. I am also applying to the current MHA program for fall of 2013, do you have any additional information on this program?

Veronica Garza Hottenroth_2nd YR CWIB Pres: Hey @Sally, If you send me an email veronica_garza@unc.edu, I can put you in touch with a few students who are currently pursuing a dual degree MBA/ MHA.

Sally Bogus: @ Veronica - thank you!

Sheenu: I would like to know about the process of getting elected in a leadership position of CWIB club.
Veronica Garza Hottenroth_2nd YR CWIB Pres: @Sheenu, at the beginning of your first-year student, you will have the opportunity to take on a first-year liaison for CWIB as well as all other MBASA clubs. At the end of your first year, you may run for a second-year leadership position and you will be elected by your peers.

Tjandra Chew Ching Lu: Thanks Chantel! Is CWIB Carolina Women in Business? One of the things I’m looking for is a strong network, so this year’s focus is great news. (Congratulations on being a Dean's Fellow btw!)

Chantel Adams_1st Year Student: @Tjandra Thanks! KFBS has a very strong, supportive community. Carolina Women’s in Business (CWIB) is one of the most active in well-run clubs here. There are 12 liaison positions that you can apply for as a first-year students. You can definitely hit the ground running!

Casey Cook_CWIB Communications: For those who are interested in learning more about Carolina Women in Business as a club and the events that we have, please visit our website: http://specials.kenan-flagler.unc.edu/MBAclubs/cwb/Pages/default.aspx

Kerry Rigley: @Chantel - I am currently working in consulting for PwC's Public Sector Practice with a long term goal of working in corporate responsibility. Would you mind sharing more about the Nonprofit Management Certificate and how this folds into the core MBA curriculum?

Chantel Adams_1st Year Student: @Kerry To complete the Non-Profit Leadership Certificate, you have to take 12 credits of electives in that area. A number of the approved courses are offered here at the business school. The great thing about the certificate is that it encourages you to take courses at the School of Social Work and the Law School. I’ll be taking Financial Managements of Non-profits and Social Entrepreneurship in the spring.

Kerry Rigley: @Chantel - Thanks very much for the info! Do you have to be accepted to an independant program or pre-approved to pursue the certificate?

Chantel Adams_1st Year Student: There is an application process. The application is only a page or two. I would also highly encourage you to apply to become a Non-Profit Board Fellow. It allows you to gain some practical experience with non-profit management experience to talk about in your interviews.

Jessica Vance: For those involved in leadership positions, how difficult is it to juggle your classload and your position(s)? Would you say over 50% of the class is involved in on role or another?

Genny King_2nd year_Net Impact President: @Jessica. A lot of students are very engaged in leadership positions at Kenan-Flagler. It can be challenging to balance extra-curricular
activities, academics, and a career search. Fortunately, Kenan-Flagler offers a lot of resources to help.

Tracy Pelak: @Casey does CWIB partner with local women executives within the community for speakers or events?

Casey Cook_CWI B Communications: @Tracy, we do. We have a CWI B conference each Spring where we have executives in the local community and alumnae come speak to current students both about job and industry specific topics as well as being a female in business. For example, we've had representatives from companies such as Burt's Bees, Julia Grumblers, former VP of HR for TBS frequently comes to speak

Acquilla 2: I am interested in knowing how to obtain skills in operating a non-profit while earning my mba; is there a concentration or certification in non-profits?

Genny King_2nd year_Net Impact President: @Acquilla2. Net Impact is a careers club and we have a careers team that works on opportunities for people interested in using business to make a social and/or environmental impact. For instance, we organize an annual Careers in Sustainability Forum, which included a panel on entrepreneurship this year. Additionally, we have networking events and career treks for students interested in careers related to sustainability.

Tjandra Chew Ching Lu: Genny, my goal post mBA is to develop a global business. I read that the Kenan Institute offers different opportunities to students each semester. Could you tell us more about what kind of projects are available at the Institute now please? Thanks!

Genny King_2nd year_Net Impact President: @Tjandra. It's great to hear you're interested in the Kenan Institute! The opportunities available to students usually depend on the needs of the various Centers at specific times. For instance, last year I worked with the Center for Competitive Economies and went to Wilmington, NC to conduct research on the Battleship North Carolina over spring break. Here's a link to our student opportunities blog (http://kistudentopportunities.unc.edu/), which has a post about this opportunity as well as other student opportunities. In the past, some students have completed summer internships with the Kenan Institute in Asia. For additional information about KI Asia work, you can check out their website (http://www.kiasia.org/web/).

Sally Bogus: @ Casey can you provider information about the women in business conference mentioned on your site?

Casey Cook_CWI B Communications: @Sally here is the link to our conference that we hosted last year: http://wibconference.wordpress.com/
Michon Carrasco: Hi, I'm interested in more of the Marketing emphasis and am wondering if there are connections through CWIB for women working in Marketing in the area that I could mentor with?

Casey Cook_CWIB Communications: @Michon, each of the career clubs has a strong network, particularly through our alumni network, of mentors and contacts in specific industries and functions that we try to match people with as they express interest.

Tjandra Chew Ching Lu: @Chantel, I'm sure there's a lot of interest in becoming a CWIB liaison! What is the selection process like? (For example, how are officers selected and by whom?)

Casey Cook_CWIB Communications: @Tjandra, as a first year student, you will have the opportunity to meet with the 2nd year VP's of each function to get an idea and feel for what the position's responsibilities are. Once you select your role of interest, you will submit a 1 page paper or 1 slide powerpoint highlighting why you're interested, why you think you're a good fit for the role, how you'll make an impact, and what your vision is. We try to match people with their interests as best we can. The second year VP selects the liaison that seems to fit best for the position. For 2nd year VP positions, you are nominated by a member of CWIB, you write a position paper, and then the club votes.

Sheenu: @Veronica, Do I need prior leadership experience to be leadership position for any club?

Veronica Garza Hottenroth_2nd YR CWIB Pres: @Sheenu, you don't need prior leadership experience. The various leadership positions are a great way to practice leadership. Most clubs are looking for people who will be committed to the club, organized, and interested in contributing to the Kenan-Flagler community.

Alison Jesse, Sr. Associate Dean of Admissions: Did any of you attend a Forte Fellowship recruiting event this Fall?

Julie Sandler: I attended a Forte Event in DC this Fall.

Idowu: Yes I attended the Atlanta Forte event in August.

Alison Jesse, Sr. Associate Dean of Admissions: UNC Kenan-Flagler is a member school of the Forte Foundation. If you are not familiar with Forte, it provides terrific resources for women. The website is www.fortefoundation.org.
Alison Jesse, Sr. Associate Dean of Admissions: By enrolling at UNC Kenan-Flagler, you are automatically a Forte member and receive many benefits as a member school student. We also offer Forte Fellowships ranging from $10,000 a year to full tuition for exceptionally talented women.

Kelly Lynch_Admissions: @Everyone - We have about 15 minutes left in the chat, so make sure to ask your questions before we run out of time!

Tjandra Chew Ching Lu: It was great to meet everyone on this chat. Unfortunately I’ll have to catch up with the rest of the chat via the transcript as I need to be up in less than 4 hours! Hope to see everyone here at UNC :)

Danielle Rogers: Veronica - Does 3M have leadership development programs that they recruit for? I am in high tech industry, and would like to stay in the industry afterward.

Veronica Garza Hottenroth_2nd YR CWIB Pres: @Danielle, 3M has MBA recruitment programs for Strategic Business Development (where I will be going), Marketing, and Finance. All of these groups are seen as future leaders of the company and are given great exposure to senior mgmt and strategic issues.

Danielle Rogers: Thanks Veronica! The strategic business development option sounds interesting

Veronica Garza Hottenroth_2nd YR CWIB Pres: @Danielle, you are very welcome. Feel free to contact me afterwards if you have any specific questions: veronica_garza@unc.edu

Tracy Pelak: @Ellen, do most consulting firms use an applicants GMAT score in the decision process for MBA consulting positions?

Ellen Pennow_2nd Year Student: @Tracy GMAT score is definitely an element of the decision process, but case interviews are also a very important part of consulting recruiting. Our Consulting Club offers many opportunities to practice case interviews with other students to help prepare everyone for recruiting season.

Kerry Rigley: @Chantel - Is the Non-Profit Board Fellow opportunity considered an extra curricular at KF? How do you go about gaining access to this opportunity?

Chantel Adams_1st Year Student: @Kerry it is considered extracurricular. First-year students are introduced to it during the activities fair at the beginning of the year. A few weeks after that, the applications are due. Typically you just have to state why you are interested, what skills you bring to the table, and which types of organizations you would be interested in working with.
Fatima Wyche: Are there on-campus interview opportunities in January for Round 2 applicants?

Alison Jesse, Sr. Associate Dean of Admissions: @Fatima Yes, January interview slots will be available next Monday.

Kelly Lynch, Admissions: We're going to wrap up in about 5 minutes - if you have a question that hasn't been asked, please don't hesitate to ask!

Tracy Pelak: @Alison, if we applied for the October deadline, can we expect for the admissions decision communication to be sent via email?

Alison Jesse, Sr. Associate Dean of Admissions: @Tracy. Yes we will send decisions by email.

Iarakoch: This question is for the admissions officers.... as a follow-up to Tjandra's earlier question re: GMAT scores & when to submit your application. I don't have quite the same first-time score (nicely done btw!), but I share in Tjandra's feeling that I am capable of doing better. If I have all my application materials ready for the Dec 7 deadline, but I won't be taking the GMAT again until mid-Dec, would you recommend I go ahead and submit by the Dec 7 deadline and just update my scores later, or should I wait until the next round? Thank you!

Alison Jesse, Sr. Associate Dean of Admissions: @Iarakoch Yes go ahead and submit and then let me know when you are retaking the GMAT. I will forward to your regional manager.

Julie Sandler: I was wondering if accepted, does KF allow accepted students to defer for a year?

Alison Jesse, Sr. Associate Dean of Admissions: @Julie. Defers are only granted for medical reasons.

Acquilla 2: Alison, I am coming from an education background and have decided to enter the MBA program to strengthen my skills to more effectively operate the on-profit and for-profit organizations I am starting. Is there a particular group within CWIB you would recommend? Also, I am beginning the application process; is there anything particular that you would recommend I do to be successful?

Alison Jesse, Sr. Associate Dean of Admissions: @Acquilla Many of our applicants come from non-business backgrounds. It's important for you to make the case in your application about "why the MBA and your future plans."

Alison Jesse, Sr. Associate Dean of Admissions: @acquilla For example, we have many Teach...
for America applicants and enrolled students. They do very well in the program and through the recruitment process.

**Acquilla 2: Does CWIB work with CGSM?**

**Alison Jesse, Sr. Associate Dean of Admissions:** @Acquilla 2 Yes CGSM and CWIB work together; a good example is the recent diversity weekend was co-hosted by AMBS (Alliance of Minority Business Students) and CWIB

**Chantel Adams_1st Year Student:** @Aquilla There is a Social Entrepreneurship class and a number of courses at the business school and within the University that study the intersection of business and society.

**Veronica Garza Hottenroth_2nd YR CWIB Pres:** Hi @Acquilla 2, Chantel and I are both CSGM students. Please reach out if you have any questions.

**Chantel Adams_1st Year Student:** If any of you have further questions about The Consortium for Graduate Study in Management please feel free to email me at chantel_adams@unc.edu.

**Lauren_DiPerna:** Since we are close to the end, I want to say thanks for hosting this chat!

**Tracy Pelak:** Thank you! It has been very informative!

**Kelly Lynch_Admisions:** All - thanks so much for joining us today. Just a reminder that a transcript of this chat will be posted here [http://www.kenan-flagler.unc.edu/admissions/mba/admissions-events/online-chats](http://www.kenan-flagler.unc.edu/admissions/mba/admissions-events/online-chats) by the end of the week.

**Danielle Rogers:** Thanks for the chat!

**Sally Bogus:** Thank you all for your time today! This chat was very helpful!