UNC-CH/USA TODAY sabbatical program

Congrats! You'll love being a Tar Heel!

Here are some steps to take to ensure a smooth transition from journalist to scholar.

**Before you go**

Talk to [Adell Crowe](mailto:adell.crowe@unc.edu) if you haven't already. She'll give you an overview.

Check in with [Mollie Jackson](mailto:mollie.jackson@unc.edu) and [Michael Vreeland](mailto:michael.vreeland@unc.edu) in editorial administration. They handle housing and stipend-related issues.

Arrange for the transfer of keys and parking passes and related information with your immediate predecessor in Chapel Hill.

Also, provide details about your car (make, year, color, license plate number and where issued) to owners of the parking space near campus. The contact is Tom Kline, Investors Title, 121 N. Columbia St., Chapel Hill. The phone number is (919) 968-2200.

For directions to Chapel Hill and apartment, check out Pat O'Driscoll's [handy-dandy maps](http://www.unc.edu/depts/jomc/usatoday/ifyougo.htm).

**When you arrive in Chapel Hill:**

The apartment is furnished and has a bedroom (with double bed), large walk-in closet, galley kitchen, dining area, living area, laundry room and den. It also is equipped with most of the essentials, including:

- Computer chair and desk area
- 2 phone lines (one for computer connection)
- Wall and cordless phones
- Small patio/deck
- Fireplace
- Washer/dryer (it's in the unit)
- Dishwasher
- Bedsheets (2 sets)
- Kitchen and bath towels
- Ironing board, iron and clothes basket
- Vacuum cleaner
- Broom, dustpan and wastebaskets
- Table settings for four
- Various kitchen utensils, including wine opener, wooden spoon, spatula
- Modest supply of pots, pans, bowls, etc.
- Toaster
- Electric can opener
- Coffee maker
- Foldout couch for guests
- Radio alarm clock
- VCR

**Tip!** Do not change the address on your payroll checks or stubs. It could affect your tax filing status. Ask your department administrator to mail checks separately.

Directions on how to personalize your outgoing phone messages should be available at the apartment and office. NOTE: You need to change 3 message settings -- one to identify yourself; one to leave messages when you're not home; one for when you're on another line. (The office phone also has 3 settings.)

Gourmet cooks will want to bring their own specialty items, such as blender, coffee grinder, waffle-maker or whatever.

Some of the light switches in the apartment are connected not to lights but to other things. For example, one kitchen switch must be on to operate...
the dishwasher. And the switch by the bedroom door needs to be "on" to operate the cordless phone.

Anonymous J-school insiders recommend WRAL, the CBS affiliate, as your news and weather source.

The UNC office mailing address is:
USA TODAY fellow
School of Journalism and Mass Communication
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Campus Box #3365, Carroll Hall
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3365

The street address (for FedEx and similar deliveries that don't accept P.O. Boxes):
UNC-CH/School of JOMC
Carroll Hall, Room 316
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

(919) 843-8137 (office)
(919) 843-8138 (fax)

Even if you think the term Visiting Scholar sounds lofty, it comes in handy on campus. If you identify yourself first as being from USA Today, a typical assumption is that you're doing a story.

If you need textbooks, check out Ram Book & Supply at 306 W. Franklin. It sells used books.

Caffe Driade (see April Umminger's mention below left) is somewhat hidden, but you'll pass it by every morning on your way to campus. Other good spots for sipping coffee and study are Foster's Market on Airport Road, and the student-run Daily Grind near the campus bookstore.

Basic cable
Ample parking
Car wash area, including hose (and free water) and vacuum (50 cents)
Free access to nearby pool

Grocery stores are within walking distance of the apartment. One is Harris Teeter (like a Giant or Safeway); another is Wellspring (similar to our Fresh Field). A membership card to Harris Teeter is attached to the apartment key ring.

For those who get their prescriptions filled at CVS, the nearest CVS is in Rams Plaza, located just north of 15-501 in Chapel Hill.

Banks are plentiful. Among those near the apartment are First Union, Wachovia, Bank of America.

On campus:

By now you should have the parking passes. A campus map should be available to you at the apartment or from the UNC-CH web site. For directions to the reserved parking space and to the sabbatical office, check out another of Pat's fabulous sketches.

To get into the reserved parking lot, place the magnetic card flat against the little slot, with the blue printed stuff facing out and the arrow pointing up. You should hear a series of beeps and the gate will open. The laminated card goes on the dashboard.

Your office is 316 Carroll Hall. Your first stop should be the Dean's Suite. Meet Dean Richard Cole, a Southern gentleman who is very busy but gives a great tour of the J-school (which is both amazing and a maze).

Another important contact is Miriam Sluder, the business manager for the School. She does the paperwork to register you as a Visiting Scholar. That designation gives you access to various privileges, including a UNC One Card, a campus ID that lets you check books out of campus libraries and use of the gym and other recreational facilities.

Other important contacts in the Dean's Suite are Jo Bass, the dean's secretary and knower of all things Tar Heel, and Jackie Williams, who is the J-school secretary and sits at the front desk.

Fred Thomsen, director of information and technology services, can tell you how to set up an e-mail account.

From the experts:

If you have any questions, feel free to ask any of your predecessors. But half the fun will be making your own discoveries, finding short cuts and happening upon places that become favorites. Here, a few UNC-CH alumni offer suggestions to get you started:

Donna Leinwand, class of '89, recommends "a wonderful northern Italian restaurant called Aurora on Highway 54. ... 411 West is also good Italian. Also, stop by the Carr Mill Mall in Carrboro for an eclectic collection of shops and restaurants. Pyewacket is great for vegetarian. Best pizza is Pepper's. Mama Dip's on Rosemary Street is a must. Don't miss the N.C. Botanical Gardens. Everyone overlooks it. And check out the laser light show at the Moorhead Planetarium. For a very special night, especially when someone else is paying, try the Fearrington House Inn in Pittsboro. At the very least, go for a walk around the grounds."

From Glenn O'Neal, class of '91: Donna "gave you a pretty strong list. Just don't forget the Durham Bulls and the Brightleaf Square mall downtown in Durham; it's only a 30-minute drive or less. Also go to the Cave down on Franklin. It's a weird place that has some decent blues and jazz from time to time. By the way, the burgers at Linda's are great. If you like theater, check out a show at the Paul Green Theater. They do excellent work."
From April Umminger, class of '96: "Have never been to Linda's for burgers, but their cheese fries are fantastic." Also, "Caffe Driade is a MUST. Their house coffee, Driade blend, is so, so, so good. 411 and Aurora are pretty obvious places that lots of students take their parents -- La Rez has more local charm and is more of a local favorite. Don't leave town without having the cheese grits and shrimp at Crook's Corner. Sounds gross but is amazingly good. Henri's Bistro is a good place for a glass of wine around sunset. They have a nice outdoor patio."

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