

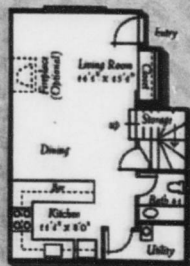


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Enjoy life in Chapel Hill this summer

Summer in Chapel Hill. Chapel Hill is beautiful during all the seasons, so I'd imagine summer is much the same — except summery.

See, I've never lived in Chapel Hill during the summer. I've always wanted to. My mom (class of '79) has told me stories about the summer she lived in Chapel Hill after graduating.

She made it sound so idyllic, and told stories of lazy Friday afternoons drinking beers at He's Not Here and how quiet the town is without all the students.

As I head off to an internship in Arkansas before my senior year, it's not looking very likely that I'll be able to spend a summer lazing around Chapel Hill during my college years. But I've skipped enough classes on sunny days to have a pretty good idea of what I would do if I could.

Go for bike rides. With no harried students ready to run you over on their way to class, summer is the perfect time for exploring the town's many trails on two wheels. Or, bike out to Maple View Farm for the best ice cream in town.

Go swimming at Jordan Lake. Check the N.C. State Parks calendar to see when you can go back at night for an astronomy viewing session with Morehead Planetarium astronomers.

Sleep late. Stay out later. It's summer.

Grab someone you can beat at tennis and head out N.C. Hwy. 54 to the Henry Anderson Community Park. While you're there, take a stroll on the trails and feed the ducks.

Always ask to be seated outside at any of the many restaurants, both on Franklin Street and beyond, that offer tables outdoors. Linger over lunch.

Scour the Web for the best deals on your fall semester textbooks. Just kidding, don't do that. Seriously — it's summer.

Go pick strawberries at one of several Orange County farms.

Get out of town and go cheer on the Durham Bulls. I hear the hot dogs are fantastic, but



ALLISON NICHOLS

DAILY TAR HEEL EDITOR, 2008-09

for all you fellow vegetarians, enjoy the game and then go out to one of the many restaurants in Brightleaf Square or the American Tobacco Historic District.

Catch fireflies.

With no classes, there's no excuse not to take advantage of the many art museums in town and in the Triangle.

Eat local food. Despite disputes among vendors of area farmers' markets, local growers come regularly to Carrboro and Hillsborough, and some are even exploring the idea of a Chapel Hill venue. While you're there, buy some freshly cut flowers.

If you need a little break, take a road trip to the beach. Or the mountains. Or just get in the car and go.

Take on some projects, all those things you don't have time for during the year. Even yard work doesn't seem like a chore when it's this nice out. But don't forget to conserve water!

There are too many concerts to name.

Rent some kayaks — or bring your own — and set out down the Neuse River for the afternoon.

And, of course, my all-time favorite: Grab a book or the New Yorker and some sunglasses and prop yourself against a tree in McCorkle Place.

But if, like me, you aren't lucky enough to spend your summer under the Tar Heel blue sky of Chapel Hill, enjoy the spirit of summer, and come back in August from wherever your adventures took you a little more appreciative of this place we call home.

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