

Greetings,

ABC News Primetime is expected to air a segment about the tragic 2004 murders of UNCW students Jessica Faulkner and Christen Naujoks. Air date is tentatively set for Thursday, Nov. 10, subject to change pending the decision of ABC News. We have cooperated with the producer in providing information, but, of course, we have no control over how the information will be presented. I am writing to make you aware of how UNCW has responded to these untimely deaths and to help you respond should the program raise questions for your friends or family.

UNCW students have consistently said they believe UNCW to be a safe campus. On student surveys both before and after the murders, from 90-95 percent of UNCW students indicated they felt safe at UNCW. Data in our campus crime reports consistently back up the reality of this perception. Although one of the murders occurred on campus, UNCW is a safe campus, and, sadly, what happened to Jessie and Christen could happen anywhere.

After their deaths, the university community was determined to review and reevaluate all aspects of life on this campus to do all that could be done to make UNCW even safer. The UNC Office of the President supported these efforts, particularly in developing guidelines to prevent potentially dangerous individuals from being admitted to any of the 16 UNC system campuses. Our strategic plan identified "providing an attractive, functional and above all safe campus environment" as one of our seven strategic goals. Subsequent campus safety initiatives include changes in the admissions process, a new focus on safety education and awareness, enhanced community policing, and continuous safety upgrades to the physical environment.

With this letter, I write to reaffirm to our students, their parents, faculty, staff, alumni, donors and friends that UNCW is committed to providing a safe learning and work environment where all students can thrive. Please call me at 910/962-3030 or e-mail me at chancellor@uncw.edu if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rosemary DePaolo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rosemary DePaolo