

A guide to life at Duke

brought to you by the

2009 LLM class



Short Tips for the Duke LLM Class of 2010

Welcome future fellow Dukies! To help make your stay more pleasurable/convenient/easy, the class of 2009 has prepared the following tips to help you with your transition to living at Duke.

1.

The text "DON'T PANIC" is written in large, bold, red capital letters with a yellow-to-orange gradient shadow effect, set against a white background.

Everything will probably be new to most of you, but take it all in big strides. If you are here it is because you are capable of doing what you are about to venture into. Pace yourself, have fun, explore and study. You will have plenty of opportunities to do all you need to do in the time you will be at Duke.

2. *Get on Facebook*

(www.facebook.com)

Communicating with your fellow LLMs will be vital for your enjoyment of your experience here. Facebook is a neat little webpage that helps with communication, party organizing and sharing pictures. A Facebook group has already been created for your class. It is called "Duke LLM 09-10" and is found under type: Student Groups. The link to the group is

<http://www.new.facebook.com/reqs.php#/group.php?gid=142576700005>

Register as soon as possible. This is a great way of getting to know each other,..but remember to check your Facebook!

3. *Get a Cell Phone*

(<http://www.oit.duke.edu/phones-pagers/student/wireless/>)

A cell phone is an essential part of living in Durham. Though you have a range of options, pay as you go is probably the best choice for most people. You can get a phone through the OIT office at Duke - this is simply a tailored plan through the Alltel phone company. Another option is simply going to an AT&T store and asking for a "GoPhone" sim card which could be placed in any GSM phone (any European phone for example). Contracts through Verizon, AT&T etc. can also be obtained, however, the problem here is expense and commitment. If you do decide to go this way you can often get student discount as you're at Duke. We recommend you stay away from Virgin Mobile!! AT&T and T-Mobile are the only US companies that use the GSM Sim card system, however T Mobile does not operate in North Carolina. There is an Alltel store beside the Kroger store on Hillsborough Road near the Law School, or at Southpoint Mall. AT&T can be found near Northgate Mall or SuperTarget.

4. Do Not Worry (too much) About Where You Will Live, Unless You Will Not Have a Car

There is a good selection of places to choose from around Duke. Within walking distance, the Belmont apartments usually get a lot of LLMS, has a nice feeling of community and is a mid-priced place to live close to the Law School. The Lofts at Lakeview are equally close but a lot more expensive. Station Nine is also relatively close but expensive. Cheaper accommodation can be found slightly further afield in nice places such as Alexan Farms (which may soon be renamed to Addington Farms). Other places include Pinnacle Ridge, Poplar West, Campus Walk, Springfield and North Pointe Commons.

We are told that on-campus housing will not be available for graduate and professional students this year. This means that acceptable apartment complexes within walking distance will fill up quickly. We recommend you contact these as soon as possible. If you find an apartment complex near campus that is not mentioned above, please check with the International Studies office before you sign a lease

We recommend getting to Durham the week before classes commence so that you can take time to get things together - the car and furniture situations take a lot of time initially!

Some helpful housing data:

Duke Community Housing Office: 919-684-6711

<http://communityhousing.duke.edu>

This is a great website listing rentals and sublets in the Durham area from Duke students and faculty members. They work great for finding off-campus, off-complex housing. Make full use of them!

You can also check out the Duke Trading Post, which is updated weekly and has a small number of housing listings in each issue. There are also listings for furniture, cars and people looking for roommates. Trading Post can be found online at:

<http://tradingpost.dukenews.duke.edu/>

Triangle Apartment Finder 24-hour hotline: 1-888-360-APTS

Apartment Reviews: www.apartmentratings.com

Apartment Guide: www.apartmentguide.com

RentNet: www.rentnet.com

<http://www.loftsatlakeview.com/>

<http://www.thebelmontapartments.com/>

<http://www.stationnine.com/>

<http://www.alexanfarms.com/s/homepage>

<http://pinnaclecleridgeapthomes.com/>

<http://www.trinitypropertiesapartments.com/>

<http://www.rent.com/>

5. Get a U.S. ID, Drivers License or State ID

Immediately after arriving in the U.S. obtain either a North Carolina drivers license or a simple North Carolina ID. Both can be obtained at the DMV and will save you a lot of headaches down the road. In the U.S., drivers licenses serve as identification (they will ask for your ID every time you go to a bar), so you will not need to take your passport with you everywhere, and it may allow you to get less expensive car insurance (depending on the company). Although you are allowed to drive with your National License in North Carolina, we **strongly recommended** that you obtain your North Carolina license as soon as possible.

It can be difficult to enter bars even in Durham without a North Carolina ID. Drivers licenses from home are often just not recognized. If you want a drivers license you must go to the DMV on Miami Boulevard; the exam has a multiple choice test and then a driving test. Take your I-20, passport and proof of residence!

6. Transportation

Durham is a small city, but you WILL need a car to get around (either that or a group of friends with a car that can move you around). Bikes are OK for people living close by (helmets are required here). A car would be advisable, a thorough search through www.cars.com, www.carfax.com, and www.craigslist.org, as well as the Duke's own International House webpage will assist in locating a decent car. Buses do not tend to go TO the Law School, most go to the nearby Chapel from which you will have to walk. Some drive past and are free but most law students do not rely on these, even though they are free on campus!

Buying a Car

When buying a car – NEVER buy a car before checking its VIN number on the Carfax website. Don't be shy to ask the seller for the number; he will expect it and it is your only way to be certain of the car's history. Take your time in buying a car. Some current students contacted students from the previous year and bought their cars. This is also an interesting idea because it saves you a lot of time and money (as you will not have to rent a car for the days you don't have one). Consider paying more than you initially thought; it will cost you much more to fix an unreliable car!!

Consider obtaining a AAA card (www.AAA.com); it will be very useful if you lock your keys in the car, get a flat tire, or simply need a tow because your car decided it just didn't feel like moving you from point A to point B. It can also provide discounts at hotels when traveling during breaks.

If buying a car from a dealer MAKE SURE you take it to an independent mechanic to have it checked out. You can find a decent mechanic in many places - LLMs have used Exxon-University Service Centre with success and Tire King on LaSalle Road is also good. Many current students contacted a mechanic called Frank McMillan at 919 360 4493; he is a great mechanic and gives you lots of help trying to find the best car.

Car Insurance

Another important issue is **car insurance**. Some companies will not insure students without social security numbers. Nationwide or State Farm Insurance are some of the companies that do. Household/renters insurance may also be needed for your apartment. It is normally a good idea to use the same company to do both.

While some of the current LLMs found inexpensive insurance from Allstate*, many LLMs from 2008-2009 worked with The Sorgi Insurance agency (919 682 4814), which charges approximately \$700 for the entire year. This was true even using a drivers license from our countries, however, it is not recommended you do use this license to drive. If the police stop you, you may be in trouble. **Get a North Carolina drivers license if you plan to drive!** Many found that prior driving experience was not recognized, which was frustrating, but you may wish to bring proof of this experience if you find another company that will recognize it.

*Allstate rep Leo Feliz helped many on 800-787-0600 Extension: (21708)

Car Registration

If you purchase your car from a car dealer, they will usually go through the registration on your behalf. This is somewhat recommended from this point of view.

Car registration can seem a confusing process in North Carolina. When you buy your car you must have the previous owner sign the cars registration card, after which you will need to sign and have it notarized. This can be done at the Law School, at a bank, at the FedEx store near Chipotle and TGI Fridays on Erwin Road...many places! To register the car you ALSO need proof of insurance. (See above)

You must go to the DMV (there is one in Northgate Mall, and another near Martin Luther King Parkway. The DMV on Miami Blvd is for drivers licenses ONLY - not registrations). You must pay a one-time title and highway users fee of \$35, plus a user's tax of 3% wholesale value, up to \$150.

Local North Carolina License Plate Agencies:

- Chapel Hill: University Mall
201 S. Estes Drive, Suite 137
(919) 929-0204
- Northgate Mall
1058 W. Club Blvd,
(919) 286-4908
- Durham: Executive Park
1920 Highway 54, Suite 430
(919) 544-6607

7. If Stopped by Police

Do not get out of the car!!! Get the car's paperwork ready and your ID, don't be intoxicated and treat the police officer with respect. Try to be a safe driver and respect the speed limits. It's amazing how quick you can get into trouble if you don't follow these simple guidelines.

8. Take Care of Your Health

If you are sick, call or visit the student health center; the Duke insurance you are required to buy will most likely cover all your sicknesses. Once there, follow their directions and don't ignore their advice. Duke hospital is one of the best hospitals in the country.

The number for the Student Health Center is 919-681-9355 and website:
<http://healthydevil.studentaffairs.duke.edu/index.html>

9. Explore!

There are many very interesting places in Durham and the surrounding area. Remember that your experience in the USA will be unique! Don't waste free time outside of schoolwork. Do road trips, eat at new restaurants, visit the vineyards, go to Jordan Lake, go see a Bulls baseball game, go to Chapel Hill, go to the Outer Banks, etc.

Places to go outside Durham: Athens, Georgia is a lot of fun. A real southern town with great buildings, bars and unusually attractive girls! Boone in North Carolina has a great reputation for another great party town

10. Google Maps is Your Friend

When looking for apartments, stores and driving directions you should try to use Google Maps as much as possible. (<http://maps.google.com/>). It's a simple way to get around the city without any issues. Durham is a safe city; as with every city, however, it has its bad neighborhoods. Try not to get lost and don't panic if you do. As an alternative try MapQuest: www.mapquest.com.

11. Furniture

Keep in mind that whatever you buy when you arrive you will end up selling when you leave, so take that into consideration when deciding how much furniture you are willing to purchase. You can also rent furniture, but be prepared to spend upwards of \$1000 yearly to furnish a one-bedroom apartment. Some people had good luck ordering furniture from www.ikea.com. There is no local store so you need to order it online at least one month in advance. North Carolina is the furniture state so local stores also have a good selection of cheap, student grade furniture that could be useful for the time spent at Duke. Futons, tables, chairs and other furniture also can be purchased at Target and WalMart. You can also get your furniture from International House, Craigslist, E-Bay, and a store in downtown Durham called Trosa (if you don't mind getting it used), and it will probably be much cheaper. Again, as with cars, some current students

contacted the LLMs that were leaving Durham and bought their stuff. This saves you a lot of money and time!

Renting is often a good idea for many as the nine-month period goes by quickly and there is no hassle getting rid of things once the year is over. Aarons Furniture store is the best known in the area.

12. Studying

Pace yourself, take good notes (you will most likely be able to use them on most exams) and choose subjects you really like. If you are planning to look for a job in the U.S. after graduation, take into account your area of interest when choosing courses.

Choosing classes

While there are a range of great classes to choose from at Duke, this can be important. If you are determined to get a job in America after graduation, you should seek careful advice about which classes to take. Employers in America often care about your choices. You will be assigned an advisor who can help you with this. Many LLMs, but certainly not all, focus on corporate law. If you are going down this route “Business Associations”, “Corporate Finance” and “Mergers and Acquisitions” are highly recommended! For those who have experience in corporate work or wish to do this in addition to these courses, Securities Regulation is a rewarding class. Another good class is Structured Finance - more interesting than the name suggests! The professors who teach the class are among the best in the nation and it lays a great groundwork for all other corporate classes. There is a lot of reading, but you will learn a lot. IP is another great class to take, but IP can often be a smaller market in which to seek a job - in New York at least. Finally, Duke has incredible faculty in Environmental Law; take Prof. Wiener’s seminar on Climate Change! Most importantly, take classes that interest you! There is something for everyone at Duke Law, and the always stressful choice of picking is a luxurious problem.

13. Duke Organized Activities

Do the Campout (even if you don’t understand basketball – it is the most memorable event of them all), be prepared for International Week, go to parties, the Bar Review, galas, and cookouts. The staff at Duke really put an honest effort in making you feel at home as fast as possible, so take advantage of all the activities organized, even though you might not consider yourself one of those people that relies on the school to plan your fun activities for you.

The Law School Halloween party is an essential event in the year - you must dress up! The P.I.L.F. Auction is also fun.

14. Don’t Be Shy

Stop by the offices of any of the Duke Staff, be it a professor or the Dean; they will make time for you. Take advantage of the classes, participate, talk, say stupid things; you will get used to the rhythm in no time and will be able to get the most out of the amazing academic experience in which you are about to participate.

15. Be Friendly

You are starting new friendships; try not to form groups, get to meet as many people from as many countries as possible. Go out with your friends, plan road trips, etc. You will soon be surprised at the amazing job the admissions people did at choosing your fellow classmates.

16. Shopping

Supermarkets abound! You will probably be able to find some of your local food at one of the many different supermarkets here. You should start at the cheapest (Target, Food Lion, Kroger) and work on up to the slightly more expensive (Harris Teeter and Whole Foods) until you find what you are looking for. Get the discount card for the supermarket that you think you might end up frequenting the most; they are free and can save you some money.

It is very convenient to buy Asian groceries in Durham. Some regular supermarkets such as Food Lion, Kroger, Harris Teeter and Whole Foods sell plenty of ingredients to cook Asian food (tofu, rice, spring onions, ginger, garlic, meats, seafood, soy sauce, etc.). There are also several oriental supermarkets in Durham. **Asia Market** in Durham (Chapel Hill Blvd.) and Cary (101 Nottingham Drive) sells many kinds of oriental groceries from China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan and Thailand. **Smile (Tao Tao) Oriental Market** (4201 University Drive) specializes in Southeast Asian cooking ingredients. **Oriental Supermarket** is a Korean grocery store selling traditional Korean food. You also can drive 30 minutes to Raleigh to **Grand Asia Market** (1253 Buck Jones Road). This supermarket is much bigger than those in Durham.

Guglhupf Bakery and Patisserie (2706 Chapel Hill Boulevard, near Foster's Market) offers a great choice of healthy breads and not-so-healthy, delicious pastries. **Foster's Market** also has a small, but quality-oriented selection of bread and wine.

If its clothes or just a regular shopping mall you are seeking, you should find what you are looking for at The Streets at Southpoint.

17. Job Search

Some of you might be planning on finding a new job through Duke in the U.S. or abroad. Duke will provide you with some opportunities through a Job Fair in New York during the spring semester, but it's best to start long before the job fair and it's up to you to actively look for alternatives from wherever you can find them and **THE SOONER THE BETTER**. Don't be shy to approach alumni, old or new. You can email the Alumni Office for details on alumni: ALUMNI_OFFICE@law.duke.edu

18. Places to Eat & Drink

While Durham may seem somewhat quiet upon your arrival, it has a surprising variety of great restaurants serving American and international cuisine, as well as a diverse nightlife.

Near Durham is **Chapel Hill** (about 20 minutes from Durham), is a typical student town (the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is there) with a multitude of bars, cafes and restaurants. Below are the places we (and the classes preceding us) visited. Extra hint: Especially during the first month in Law School, try to attend Bar Reviews. These every-Thursdays-in-a-different-bar Law School celebrations are a great way to socialize with LL.M.s and J.D.s. Bar Reviews are advertised via e-mail. Another Extra hint: Don't go to Chapel Hill after their team has won a basketball game (which we hope never happens).

Main Street: **Alivia's** is on Main Street, Durham. It is a little bistro with great burgers, crab cakes and free Wi-Fi! **Satisfactions**, or "Satties" as it is somewhat affectionately known, is a mainstay bar for Dukies (on Main Street, opposite Alivia's). When the Duke-UNC basketball game is on you should go, there will be bar reviews there too. It's known for its pizzas and "granny fries" too but it is not exactly haute cuisine!

Brightleaf Square: Satisfactions is also part of Brightleaf Square, a renovated tobacco warehouse on Main Street in Durham, which is home to many nice restaurants. **Satisfactions** is a good place to have typical American food and offers an impressive variety of beers. **Pop's** (near Morgan Imports) has a ménage of international food items and wines, and **Taverna Nikos** is a really excellent and affordable Greek restaurant. **Tosca** in the West Village (near Brightleaf Square) serves Italian food and has an impressive choice of Italian wines at reasonable prices (especially, of course, during their every-bottle-50%-off-evenings). **Mount Fuji** is a great choice for Sushi. **Another Thyme** on N. Gregson Street (opposite Brightleaf Square) features interesting multicultural cuisine and an amazing wine list. There are also many new restaurants in the newly renovated American Tobacco Historic District across the street from the Durham Bulls Athletic Park, including Tyler's Taproom - lots of Belgian beers!

Ninth Street: Another good area to eat and drink is **the 9th Street** district. **George's Garage** offers Mediterranean fusion cuisine, excellent sushi and great music during the evenings. Across the street at **Charlie's**, it's beer, burgers and basketball. They show every Duke game on two big screens (and innumerable small ones). **Vin Rouge** (Hillsborough Road, near George's Garage) is a little more upscale, a good place to have a nice dinner and some excellent wine. **Siren's Lounge** on W Markham Ave. (near 9th Street) has comfortable couches to hang out and enjoy great drinks (Martinis are their specialty), and a dance floor in use on Fridays and Saturdays. **Danes** bar is also another place to grab a great burger - best in Durham? It's beside George's Garage. **International Delights** is a great place for Middle Eastern cuisine.

Foster's Market is located on 15-501 Business, approximately 15 minutes from the University. They sell a variety of sandwiches, wraps and salads for moderate prices, have a nice atmosphere and is one of the best places to eat outside in Durham. <http://www.fostersmarket.com>.

Guglhupf Bakery and Patisserie (2706 Chapel Hill Boulevard, near Foster's Market) offers a great choice of healthy breads and not-so-healthy delicious pastries. Great lunch and brunch.

Cosmic Cantina on Perry Street is a little hard to find, but worth the search (just go somewhere near and then ask your way, you'd be hard pressed to find someone who doesn't know it). It's

open late and offers good and affordable Mexican food and great rooftop seating. Try the quesadillas, they are pretty decent.

Kanki is a fun Japanese steak house, with great food and a wonderful atmosphere. It is located on Mt. Moriah Road, and is perfect for groups looking for something a little different.

North Carolina BBQ: For authentic North Carolinian fare, you should try to go to **Bullocks** (in front of the Kroger’s at the Festival Mall off Hillsborough Street) or **Allen & Sons** (Hwy 86, between Chapel Hill and Hillsborough) at least once during your stay to get real NC BBQ. It’s not the barbecue you are accustomed to, but a concoction of shredded pork in North Carolinian BBQ sauce (not unlike vinegar). It’s inexpensive, tasty, and there are always some specialties for non-pork eaters. Bullocks tends to get crowded, so get ready to line up or go early.

Just off Campus: 2008 saw the arrival of **TGI Fridays**, **Chipotle**, **Dunkin’ Donuts** and a **Noodle Bar**. Across the street there is the excellent **Nosh**, a quirky casual restaurant that is great for those at the Belmont. There is also **Chai’s** for some tasty general Asian food nearby. Outside the Nasher Art gallery there is a nice restaurant also. **The Shade Tree Café** is one of relatively few places to grab coffee near campus too - all part of the Erwin Place buildings with Chai’s and Nosh.

Chapel Hill: It is impossible to list all the places worth visiting in Chapel Hill, just go there and explore for yourself (twice the fun anyway). Chapel Hill is a very charming town, and the majority of restaurants, bars, cafes etc. are on or around its main road, Franklin Street. Some classics you can’t go wrong with include **Four Eleven West**, one of the best Italian restaurants in the Triangle, and **Crook’s Corner**, serving Southern cuisine. **Martini Bar** is a good place to hang out, listen to live music and enjoy the \$1-beer of the day or the €25 Bud Light in the downstairs area. **Top of the Hill** is a classic; its fabulous terrace is a good place to enjoy a meal or drinks and watch the nightlife on Franklin Street. It is also a main hangout for UNC students. Finally, the **West End Wine Bar** not only has affordable wine and nice couches, but also a basement to shoot pool and one of the best rooftop terraces in town. **Talluha’s** has great Turkish food and Latin dancing. All these places are, of course, on Franklin Street. We are sure you will get to know La Residence during a Bar Review; during dinner they offer wonderful French fare.

19. Banking

Most of the LLMs ’09 banked with one of the following:

Bank of America	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bryan Center on West Campus • Law School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3200 Shannon Rd Durham, NC 27707 • 3100 Tower Blvd Durham, NC 27705 • 4811 Hope Valley Rd Durham, NC 27707 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free for students • No minimum balance • Free Check Card • No commission for using Law School’s ATM.
Wachovia Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bryan Center on West Campus • The East Campus Student Union 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapel Hill Blvd Durham, NC 27707 • 3917 University Dr Durham, NC 27707 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No monthly service fee • No minimum balance requirement • Free Check Card

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duke Hospital North • Fuqua School of Business 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2000 West Main St Durham, NC 27705 	
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If you want a credit card you will need a social security number, which can be obtained from the Social Security Administration in Durham (919-541-5443).

20. *Regarding Children*

For those of you who have children and need special pediatric care, some students took their children to **Durham Pediatrics** (an affiliate of the Duke Health System). The class of 2004 recommended Doctors Gagliano, Yancey or Greene (Central Medical Park, 2609 N. Duke Street, near Northgate Mall). The **Pickens Center** for family medicine at Duke accommodates children of international students for various medical needs.

Children of almost any age would love the North Carolina Museum of Life and Science (www.ncmls.org), as well as the petting farm and the Magic Wings Butterfly House. For older children, the Morehead Planetarium in Chapel Hill (on Franklin Street) provides great mental stimulation. Check their website (<http://www.moreheadplanetarium.org/>) for more information. Likewise, the Children's Museum at Lakewood Mall (off Morehead Street coming from Anderson) has role playing games that will keep your kids occupied. The North Carolina Zoo at Asheboro (www.nczoo.org) with all its enchanting animals can be reached from Durham in about 90 minutes. The North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences (www.naturalsciences.org) and Exploris (www.exploris.org), both in downtown Raleigh, are worth visiting as well. Finally, the Sarah P. Duke Gardens on campus are a nice place to visit for kids and adults. They have a stunning array of different plants and birds, and the changing seasons provide an ever-changing array of colors.

Regarding preschools and day-care centers, it is advisable to take care of this issue very early, as the centers fill quickly and there may be long waiting lists before you can enroll your children. International House can be very helpful. Pablo Sanhueza'06, who has eight-year old triplets, provides the following tips:

“For those of you who have children and are looking for a nice place to live with the best education (elementary, middle and high school) the place is Chapel Hill. Chapel Hill (13 miles from Duke) belongs to Orange County and it is one of the best counties in the US for public education. One of the best places to live is Southern Village (www.southernvillageapts.com), which is a small neighborhood with landscaped sidewalks (it is very weird to find sidewalks in the Triangle!!!); it is ideal for walking, running, and bicycling. The neighborhood is very safe; also there is a police station. In the mall (little central square) there are three really good restaurants including one pizza restaurant (really tasty), one cinema (four-screen), one coffee store, one bookstore and one little supermarket (on the expensive side). In Southern Village there is the Mary Scroggs Elementary School (one of the best public school in USA) as you can see in <http://www2.chccs.k12.nc.us/education/staff/default.php?sectiondetailid=108>.

Folks who live in the South are very friendly, they celebrate all the holidays like Halloween (very nice and friendly day), Christmas and Valentine's Day. One of the best things is when the Blue Devils win basketball games, you can wear your "Duke sweatshirt and you will realize that almost all the people that see you ... are Tarheel fans!"

21. Activities & Places

Many students from our class took advantage of the great sporting opportunities at Duke. Your bursar's bill charges you a recreation fee that allows you to use the Wilson Center and the Brody gym. The Wilson Center gym (near the Cameron Indoor Stadium) is probably one of the best sports recreational facilities in the area, and we urge you to make full use of it. Golf fans came to the right place; Duke has a great course, and there are quite a few public courses in the surrounding area. For hikers and runners, the Duke forest along highway 751 (not far from the Law School) has the beautiful Al Buehler trail where you can commune with nature and pump some blood into your circulatory system. If you would like to participate in team sports, enroll in the Club Sports teams; many of us started playing again the sports we loved but had to quit due to time restraints in our home countries.

North Carolina is an incredible place to visit. During fall and spring break, many LLMs traveled around NC and its surrounding states to visit the beautiful places the South has to offer. Wilmington, located at the southeast coast of North Carolina, has beautiful beaches and many hotels and motels along the coast. It also has a cozy downtown with restaurants, bars and a nice waterfront. The mountains on the western side of NC are also worth a visit. You can drive the Blue Ridge Parkway (a scenic roadway), which offers awesome colorful sights especially in fall and spring. Asheville, a nice and vibrant town, is near the Biltmore Estate, a huge French-style castle built by the Vanderbilt family and filled with exquisite art.

You can even go skiing in North Carolina. Admittedly it is not Utah or Colorado, and there's no skiing area with more than a few slopes, but it surely is fun. The class of 2001 recommended a town called Boone in the mountains, with a bunch of surrounding ski resorts where you have the chance to learn how to ski. The class of 2004 went to Beech Mountain (close to Boone), which offers some nice skiing and has lighted slopes open until 10 PM.

Durham is a great place for outdoor activities. Jordan and Falls Lake are both just a short drive from Durham and are great weekend stops without traveling too far. You can barbecue, swim and water ski in the lakes; no alcohol is permitted though. Bass fishing is also possible, though none of the LLMs interested in fishing were ever as successful as the Durham natives fishing around the area (be mindful that a fishing license is needed which can be easily acquired in any hobby shop). Check out these outdoor activity resources for hiking, camping and more:

<http://ncnatural.com/TriangleRec/HikingTri.html>

<http://www.visitnc.com>

Spring Break trips to Miami, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico and Puerto Rico were popular, as were trips across the U.S.

22. *Extra Tips*

Classes: You should think carefully before choosing the classes for the fall term. Keep in mind that certain classes are only offered during one of the two semesters. Those of you interested in taking the New York State Bar Examination (or any other bar exam), should be aware that in order to do so you have to fulfill various course requirements. The bar exam rules are a little complicated, but the Law School's international staff is happy to help you and they are really good at explaining this stuff. For those interested in taking the Bar Exam, the sooner you start preparing the better. Certain review companies provide materials before graduation.

Health Insurance: For LLMs with spouses and family traveling with them, another important consideration is health insurance. F-1 and J-1 visa holders are automatically enrolled in the Duke program. You can purchase the Duke plan for dependents and are encouraged to do so. Home country insurance coverage is permissible for dependents, but you will have to pay for all services "up front" then apply for reimbursement on your own. Doctors and hospitals can only file insurance claims with companies located within the US. As a family member cannot get insurance in North Carolina without a social security number, it is the best to put them on your Duke policy as soon as you arrive.

Your country: Don't forget to bring those small souvenirs from your home country, your country flag and a slideshow can also be nice. When you meet people from all over the world, you want them to understand where you come from and what is interesting about your country and when the international week is on you want to show off your costumes etc.

Communication: If not yet subscribed – do it now! Skype, Messenger, Googletalk, etc. it's cheap (usually free), easy, you can get a web cam and see your family even when far away, and it's an easy way to communicate with everyone. You will soon feel it's like air for you so get on it now and get your family and friends to subscribe also before you leave.

To conclude: Keep an open mind – the people you meet will be very different than your friends at home but that's part of the fun. You didn't come all the way to Duke to do the same things you did at home. And take your time to enjoy your days at Duke with your new and everlasting friends. Study but do not be in the library 24 hours a day! Take your time to play sports, hang out with your friends or visit places!

The LLM program at Duke will be one of the most memorable experiences of your life. We, the class of 2009, welcome you (albeit not physically) to your new family and intellectual home. We are sure you will enjoy the next few months!!