

**From:** [Dean, James W Jr](#)  
**To:** [Willingham, Mary C.](#)  
**Subject:** Re: welcome  
**Date:** Thursday, July 18, 2013 1:35:50 PM

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Thanks Mary. My wife Jan mentioned that she knew you from LHF. Athletics is very much on my mind, and I will be in touch as my plans evolve.

Thanks,  
Jim Dean

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 18, 2013, at 1:03 PM, "Willingham, Mary C." <[mwillingham@unc.edu](mailto:mwillingham@unc.edu)> wrote:

> Provost Dean,

> Jan Boxill mentioned that she spoke with you. I have reviewed academic data for 183 athletes admitted to UNC between 2004 and 2012 (about 160 athletes are admitted each year). Although several teams are represented in this group, the great majority of the students (85%) come from the revenue sports - mens football and basketball. These numbers speak to the presence at UNC of a significant population of athletes unprepared for the rigors of University classrooms. 60% (110) of these students have reading scores below the 50% range --constitutes 4th-8th grade reading levels - 8-10% are non-readers (39% incidence of LD and or ADHD). If they had applied to any NC Community College, they would have had to, prior to their full acceptance and starting a course of study, complete one to three semesters of developmental reading coursework. 20-25% of these students would have to complete a general competency course prior to the three semesters of reading. Of the 183 students, 45 (about 24%) had UNC GPA's under 2.0, thus putting them at risk of academic disqualification. Ninety-four of the 183 students, over half, had GPA's under 2.3. Keep in mind that the bogus system of eligibility - UNC's paper class system - was assisting these players to stay on the court/field. That system no longer exists.

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> We still, however, have a problem that needs to be addressed. Unless we offer intensive reading instruction and a course of curriculum for our profit sport athletes, academic fraud will continue. Chancellor Thorp said that my experience in athletics and data about literacy was important to share with our leaders. I would welcome the opportunity to have a conversation with you. My career also started in HR --training and organizational development. I worked at Amgen during the late 80's and 90's. My husband (who also worked at Amgen) and I moved to Lake Hogan Farms in 1999 to start new careers. You and I know some of the same people in this amazing community. Thank you for your leadership.

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> Respectfully,

> Mary

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> Mary Willingham

> CSSAC - UNC-CH

> [www.unc.edu/~willingh](http://www.unc.edu/~willingh)