Why businesses keep closing on Franklin

Eleven downtown Chapel Hill businesses have closed since July of last year.

By Marin Wolf
Senior Writer

The Daily Tar Heel

The lawsuit over the release of sexual assault perpetrator names was filed in 2016.

By Maeve Sheehey
University Editor

The Supreme Court heard oral arguments for the appeal on Tuesday.

The University filed petitions with the North Carolina Supreme Court in October 2018, pointing to a worry that the release of information would discourage victims of sexual assault from coming forward.

The Court agreed to hear the case as arguments zeroed in on the conflicts between FERPA and public records law.

The Supreme Court heard DTH public records lawsuit against UNC

TIMELINE OF THE DTH MEDIA CORP. V. FOLT CASE AND APPEALS

On Sept. 30, 2016, The Daily Tar Heel submitted a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking for "copies of all public records made or received by UNC Chapel Hill in connection with a person having been found responsible for rape, sexual assault or any related acts included sexual misconduct by the Honor Court, the Committee on Student Conduct, or the Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office," setting Oct. 28 as the deadline to receive the records.

The Daily Tar Heel filed a lawsuit against the University under the Public Records Act in November 2016 following the denial.

The lawsuit was heard in Wake County Superior Court in April 2017. The DTH filed on behalf of itself, the Charlotte Observer Publishing Company and the Durham Herald Company.

In May, the trial court denied The Daily Tar Heel's request, with the judge concluding that the Public Records Act does not compel UNC to release the records, and that FERPA grants the University discretion to determine whether to release the names of sexual assault.

The DTH's representation filed for an appeal to the May 2017 ruling, with oral arguments being heard by the North Carolina Court of Appeals in March 2018.

In April, the court unanimously ruled in favor of The Daily Tar Heel, ordering that UNC must release the records because "FERPA does not prohibit the disclosure of the limited information requested by Plaintiffs, except for the dates of offenses."

The DTH's representation filed an appeal to the May 2017 ruling, with oral arguments being heard by the North Carolina Court of Appeals in November 2016, along with WBRL, the Charlotte Observer and the Durham Herald- Sun, after the University failed to meet a one-month deadline for the public records request.

The North Carolina Superior Court ruled in May 2017 that the disclosure of the request was at UNC's discretion.

The DTH appealed the decision in September 2017, and the North Carolina Court of Appeals unanimously ruled in April 2018 that the University must release the names of people found responsible for rape, sexual assault or any related acts of sexual misconduct through the University's Honor Court, Committee on Student Conduct or Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office.

Jane Wester was the editor-in-chief of the DTH when the request was filed. Wester has since graduated from the University, but came to Tuesday's arguments to follow the course of the conflict.

Wester and her coworkers at the DTH initially requested to see how the new UNC sexual assault policy, which was instituted a few years after a Title IX complaint, was working. She said the request is still as relevant now as it was three years ago.

"They've been using the argument of, 'It reveals details of the victims,' all along, and I think it's just important to know that the request is only about perpetrators and how they're being punished," Wester said. "We're not requesting the details of what led to the punishment or anything like that."
Law school unveils Julius Chambers portrait

By Mary Mac Porter
Staff Writer

Julius Chambers was known during his life as a distinguished litigator and tireless champion of civil rights at state and local levels. Now, his portrait hangs prominently in the school where he earned his law degree.

A portrait of Julius Chambers was unveiled in the Rotunda of the UNC School of Law on Tuesday. Chambers was a notable alumnus of the school and served as the first director of the law school’s Center for Civil Rights.

The portrait was commissioned by the law school’s committee of diversity and inclusion to honor Chambers’ legacy and his profound impact on North Carolina and the nation.

Andrew Chin, a law professor, said, “The ceremony had a variety of speakers including multiple law professors, the artist and Chambers’ brother, Kenneth Chambers.

The speakers took turns praising Chambers’ legacy and emphasizing the impact he made on the law school. "Julius Chambers’ spirit dwells in every hall, a shining source of pride in the difference one person’s dedication to the law can make in the lives of countless others,” Martin Brinkley, dean of the UNC School of Law said.

John Charles Boger, a professor of law emeritus, told the story of Chambers inviting a woman to a professional lunch because she had been standing in his office, seeking his assistance on behalf of her son. "Chambers’ legal work, Chambers,” said Richard Theodore Shaw, the current director of the Center of Civil Rights, emphasized how Chambers continued to give back to UNC despite the discrimination and mistreatment he faced while attending law school there. Shaw reminded the audience that despite Chambers’ success — among other accomplishments, becoming the first editor of a law review at a predominantly white university in the South — he still faced inequality.

Despite being the editor-in-chief of the school’s law review, Chambers could not attend the law review’s annual soirée, Shaw said. The event was held at a country club that did not admit or allow Black people to attend.

William Paul Thomas, the portrait’s artist, discussed the parallels he found between himself and Chambers throughout his creation of the project. "Chambers’ work includes intimate portraits of Black subjects. He said that his art, like Chambers’ legal work, seeks to represent the marginalized and advocate for the underrepresented."

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On the heels of Carolina's trouncing of Duke on Sunday, it's vital to wonder about the legacy of the World Cup this summer. For one, five players of the championship team are Tar Heels, and recently-retired Heather O'Reilly was one of those stars. Our women's soccer superstar on the U.S. side and another two for other teams. While working with Reuters this summer, I covered the entirety of the World Cup, following the U.S. squad across France interviewing the players, the coach and FIFA officials. Here are five things I learned from the USWNT:

1. Turns out women's soccer is — take out the "women's" — big business. Talking to people about my assignment amounted to my conversations on the bus between assignments. I asked them if women's soccer was real, or entertaining or worth watching. What it felt like: "Did you watch the game last night?" Other than --- "No", but women really supposed to kick balls around? Me: "Uh... well the game was awesome..."

2. Turns out it is possible: Women don't flop! Imagine a utopia where the beautiful game flows by, uninterrupted by players sprawling across the pitch in complex, rolls, stretching bodies parts at random. Hard to imagine? We have seen plenty of bloodshed by little justice to speak of for the deaths of those who were simply in the wrong place, at the wrong time, on the wrong end of a barrel. Every time this happens, and there is nothing done, we become more complicit and more afraid.

3. The U.S. team is what role models are made of, but that's not necessarily a good thing. Turn out when you force athletes to be advocates for very reasonable things in order to play, get paid, etc., they do it? Tolon Heath just wants to play, she didn't want to talk all the other stuff — that's not why she's a footballer. But she didn't really have that luxury, because being a female footballer is tantamount to being an advocate or activist. Let's just say that's not something we expect from any other athlete, or really anyone in a position of high social status. Title IX changed the game. In soccer, quantity begets quality. When I was growing up, there were few things like margaritas for the sport and scratching my head over why the short and small ones just SO dominant, Title IX all. Its alliance became clear. It's normally means no more time off for our favorite shows, saying goodbye to Brooklyn 99 and The Good Place. It is a real bummer and Title IX helped us get there, reframing existing structures for what girls can and cannot do.

4. Crystal Dunn is the most incredible soccer player of all time and deserves a street named after her and she's kind and incredible and so great and if you're reading this Crystal Ily and I miss you!!

5. Rachel Joyner is a sport, War and Defense and History double-major from Tallahasee, Florida.

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We’re afraid!

Claude Wilson is a third-year student on the opinion desk.

QuickHits

Climate Change

No Time For Netflix

Gettting Skipped in BOL

Lab Day Weekend

Womens Soccer

SPEAK OUT

WRITING GUIDELINES

- Please type. Handwritten letters will not be accepted.

- Sign and date. No more than two people should sign a letter.

- Students: Include your year, major and hometown.

- Faculty/staff: Include your department.

- Due: The DTH editors for space, clarity, and to avoid unnecessary redundancy. Letters limited to 250 words.

SUBMISSIONS

Email: opinion@dailytarheel.com

ABHISHEK SHANKAR

E. Franklin St. Chapel Hill, NC 27514

I'm tired.

QuickKicks

No Time For Netflix

Syllabus week is officially over. Like, for real. This means no more time off for our favorite shows. Saying goodbye to Brooklyn 99 and The Good Place. It is a real bummer and Title IX helped us get there, reframing existing structures for what girls can and cannot do.

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COLUMN

Cash (bail) rules everything around me

There are about 2.3 million people incarcerated in the United States, which is only about 6% of the country in total, or per capita. There are multiple factors that lead to this mass incarceration but a significant one is the way our criminal justice system works. There is a striking problem: the legal institution is ideal for those who can pay. A cash bail bond requires defendants to provide an amount of money as assurance that they will return to be tried when the court's requirements are met. Though it is possible to meet this requirement, they must either pay a fee to a commercial bondsman to post bail for them, or they are imprisoned without trial. Judges usually have discretion to modify the bonds based on the financial circumstances of the defendant, but often these circumstances are ignored or not even brought up.

What's especially frustrating about this system of mass incarceration is that a number of reforms and policies can be readily, almost immediately, implemented to reduce unnecessary and excessive incarceration. We could reduce the number of pre-trial incarcerations by ensuring that judges are aware of the defendant's financial situation at their first appearance, and they take these circumstances into consideration when setting bonds, or using "unsecured" bonds, which require the defendant to pay only a percentage of the amount due if they fail to appear in court.

At times, it is appropriate to stop imprisoning people for felonies, but this should be the exception rather than the rule. A defendant fails to appear in court. We could even end cash bail altogether, by using supervised release programs similar to parole, bonded to their word in court, and by providing programs to treat substance use disorders and mental illnesses as medical rather than punitive cases. Given how appropriate it is to hold someone in detention prior to trial, such as with defendants charged with serious, violent felonies, but this should be the exception rather than the rule. If we want our criminal justice system to live up to the ideal of justice, then we must stop imprisoning people for their poverty and abolish the cash bail system.

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We're Hiring!

If you're interested in writing for the Daily Tar Heel opinion desk, we're hiring! Maybe you have a kvetch, want to write about a column or have some hot takes you'd like to publish. Email opinion@dailytarheel.com with subject *Application* to learn more!
By Aaron Sugarman
Art & Culture Assistant Editor

Competitive Pokémon Trading Card Game player and first-year Business School student Blaine Hill got third in the Pokémon World Championship last weekend.

Hill was the American who made it into the championship, and it was him; it was the culmination of over a decade of playing Pokémon.

Hill's older siblings introduced him to the game and inspired him to play. Hill said he got into it, I wanted to be like them, I wanted to do better than them. I got into it, I wanted to be like them, I wanted to do better than them,” Hill said. “It was the competitive spirit.”

Hill said he began playing competitive Pokémon when he was 5 years old, learning the basics of the game around the kitchen table as a family.

“I have friends myself that I met when I was five or six that I still play with, and I get to see them around the area, at Pokémon events still,” Hill said.

To qualify for the Pokémon World Championship, Hill had to win a certain amount of points from local, regional, or international events. Players compete for thousands of dollars in prize money and a chance to win the Pokémon World Championship.

In May, Hill competed in the Pokémon Trading Card Game, or Pokémon TCG, is a combination of poker and chess. The Championship also has categories for competitive and online play.

“Pokémon is one of my favorite video games,” Hill said. “I love it.”

The pokémon element is where you don’t know what your opponent could play, there’s a lot of Pokémon cards, and the chess part is that you have to be able to predict, you have to be able to figure out how to get your cards to win the game.”

Barone said unlike some other top Pokémon players, Hill has never cheated and that Pokémon is a game that’s hard to cheat. Hill said, “You never want to get caught cheating. It’s a business, it’s how you make your living.”

“Tilting” is a term in certain Pokémon games like Pokémon TCG where an unlucky loss results in a frustration and emotional breakdown. Barone said that Hill has never seen Hill “tilt.”

“For me, Pokémon has always been about having fun, seeing my friends, hanging out and having a good time,” Hill said. “The community is the best part.”

But even a kissing contest couldn’t change the reputation of downtown parking.

We knew we were going to be fighting an uphill battle with this whole parking thing.”

Paula Gilland
Manager of Purple Bowl

The Town revamped its parking program, Park on the Hill, in the summer of 2018 with the introduction of new pay stations, as well as an app that allows customers to pay for parking online. It also replaced parking lot attendants with pay stations.

The Town updated what McGurk called a "very outdated" parking system while enhancing efficiency and reducing costs of its parking program. It also updated its website with more information about the program, such as the duties and priorities of its Parking Services Division.

Eights to reduce awareness of the system overhaul included the completion of a Love campaign, with a monthly photo contest encouraging downtown employees to post a picture on social media, somehow incorporating both parking and kissing. Participants had the chance to win $50 gift cards.

But not all business owners think parking is to blame for the difficulties of operating downtown.

“Parking is an issue,” said Don Pinney, owner of Sutton’s Drug Store. “But decline of your business is not the parking situation. It does cause inconvenience.”

Pinney said parking hasn’t changed during his 41 years of owning the drug store.

“I lost a lot of customers to parking that are older and don’t want to park three blocks away,” he said. “If somebody’s coming in on your particular day, they’re gonna park in the deck and come on in.”

But business owners are expressing their concerns with the Downtown Partnership and the Downtown Partnership.

“We knew we were going to be fighting an uphill battle with this whole parking thing,” Gilland said. “But you have to deal with the game."
**Readmission process simplified to survey**

By Maydha Drezrajn
Senior Writer

Beginning this semester, students re-enrolling at UNC will have to navigate a new, more user-friendly, and hopefully, easier set of readmission policies.

The new system, Return to Carolina, is set to launch on Sept. 9. Prior to the policy update, students hoping to be readmitted had to submit an application. Now, students only need to fill out a brief survey.

Depending on the student’s response, administrators from various departments, including the Office of the University Registrar and the Office of Scholarships and Student Aid, will provide guidance on next steps for the student’s individual case.

Vice Provost for Enrollment and Undergraduate Admissions Steve Farmer said while Return to Carolina is still under final graduate admissions plans on examining how to provide support for undergraduates navigating issues such as holds on student finances or records.

“We want to help people understand the steps they can take,” Farmer said. “We don’t want there to be any surprises.”

Farmer highlighted a report produced by the Mental Health Task Force last semester that outlined issues identified by UNC students about the re-enrollment process.

Senior Emma Caponigro, who served on the Policies and Procedures Subcommittee of the Mental Health Task Force, said the group collaborated with several mental health organizations on campus.

Some of the greatest student concerns included a lack of clarity on timelines for loan availability, academic holds and visa considerations for international students.

Caponigro also said the committee looked into best practices at other universities and discovered that things like detailed readmission checklists are especially helpful.

“Hanna Chang, who returned to UNC as a full-time student last semester, said while the University’s checklist is useful in outlining what is needed to re-enroll, it doesn’t help students ready to readjust to campus life. She said there needs to be more emphasis on communication between offices so resources are already in place when a student returns to campus.

Chang, who took a medical withdrawal her junior year, said she had to fight to be cleared for re-enrollment.

Farmer said that readmissions practices haven’t typically had a University-wide coordinated effort, but Return to Carolina will need student feedback to evolve and fit student needs.

On average, 400 to 500 students re-enroll at UNC per year, Farmer said. He said the University is dedicated to ensuring those students complete their degrees.

“When students apply to UNC as first-year, transfer students, when they earn admission and enroll, they can come here confident that they earned their places here,” Farmer said. “... We don’t want to make it really hard for people who’ve already earned their place at UNC to come back and finish what they started.”

**Deals and discounts bring traffic to small businesses**

By Crystal Yu
Staff Writer

Local Chapel Hill and Carrboro businesses are finding a new way to greet new students during the first week of classes this year.

The Chamber For A Greater Chapel Hill-Carrboro, the Carrboro Business Alliance and Chapel Hill Downtown Partnership coordinated a deals and discounts campaign from Aug. 17 to 25.

The back-to-school local deals and discounts program was launched by The Carolina Book Company to attract shoppers and diners, and to help local businesses coordinate promotions.

Katie Loovis, vice president for external affairs at The Chamber, said the idea of promoting first-time traffic in downtown Chapel Hill and Carrboro showed up in the Business Alliance’s monthly meetings.

During the discussions, the council decided to narrow its focus to students.

“What when we were brainstorming all kinds of things might be some ways to attract shoppers and diners, we thought, ‘Oh, yeah, UNC students,’ ” Loovis said.

She said the campaign would help to “entice them to come off campus,” and enjoy Franklin Street, Main Street and Carrboro.

Loovis said shopping locally gives people purchasing power and stimulates the local economy.

A person walks into the front of Jackson Hall, the home to the University’s Undergraduate Admissions office in January of 2019.

The chamber referenced a study commissioned by American Express that said 67 cents of every dollar spent at a small business remains in the community.

In the past few months, most students were away from campus during summer break, so the amount of available customers for businesses fell. But Loovis recognized the energy the back-to-school crowd has brought to them.

“Obviously, our population in the town of Chapel Hill skyrockets students make up a big part of that population,” she said. “So when you’ve gone for the summer, our local businesses feel it, but when they return, it’s a wonderful time.”

Far Michely Temple, retail manager of Café Diálogo and Open Eye Cafe, the deals and discounts campaign has brought some happy air into their space.

“It’s an extra little perk to go somewhere for your first time,” Temple said. “Even regulars, people who have been here before, are coming back after their summer break. And they’re happy to be back here and get a little welcome back to Chapel Hill.”

Temple also said there is a sustainable relationship between customers, workers, staff and their products’ sources, like farmers.

These things add to the community-based experiences residents can have, she said.

The Pizza Press Chapel Hill, another business that participated in the campaign, had a “Buy 1 Pizza, Get 1 Pizza Free with purchase of 2 Beverages” deal.

Andrew Handrinos, general manager for The Pizza Press and K-Panns, Inc., said the business saw increased business.

He said the University's Undergraduate Admissions office in January of 2019.

For Michael Temple, local economy manager of Café Diálogo and Open Eye Cafe, the deals and discounts campaign has brought some happy air into their space.

The back-to-school local deals and discounts campaign is the first of several campaigns to encourage people to shop and dine locally, according to the Chamber’s news release.

The next campaign will be the Carrboro Music Festival on Sept. 28 and 29.

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UNC employees discuss expiring state health plan

**About 50 percent of UNC employees go somewhere else for their health care, N.C. State Treasurer Dale Folwell said during a panel on Monday.**

The UNC Campus Community Forum held the panel to discuss the issues surrounding the North Carolina State Health Plan.

Shayna Hill, chairperson of the UNC Employee Forum, spoke to how the poor coverage is impacting UNC faculty and staff.

"One employee shared with me that for the past several years, she has had to make the decision between health care for her children or health care for herself — often choosing not to visit her health care provider for yearly checkups, and putting off procedures for herself," Hill said.

Another employee is filing bankruptcy due to staggering medical bills, while multiple employees are leaving UNC because the cost of family coverage is prohibitive, Hill said.

**Problems facing the plan**

Folwell said the health care plan serves 720,000 individuals, which is almost as many people as the workforces of Amazon, P. Morgan and Berkshire Hathaway combined.

"You should be outraged at the fact that you're involved with a plan which is the largest purchaser of something in this state, not just health care but pharmaceuticals, and we're not getting the best possible prices," Folwell said.

Folwell said the state health plan is going to run out of money in 2 1/2 years. He said health care and pharmaceutical costs are increasing by more than 4 percent, while the funding in the budget remains at a 4 percent rate.

He said it is unclear to consumers what the money from the budget is actually being spent on.

"No one wants you to know what the price of health care is," Folwell said.

The problems at hand are not new problems. Matthew Brody, senior vice president of UNC-system Human Resources, said. He said the issues of increasing out-of-pocket costs, extremely high dependent premiums and artificially low individual coverage have been ongoing for several years.

Brody wants to ensure that employees do not get caught in the middle of the state's attempt to solve these problems. "I've heard from many employees over the last few months, as this effort around the clear pricing and the state health plan network have come to the floor, that employees are very concerned," Brody said.

"We've had folks being very scared about losing access to long-trusted providers, and then all of a sudden being out of network."

**Potential solutions**

Throughout the panel, possible solutions arose.

"In general, partnering with big systems and hospitals in competitive markets around the idea that they want to be committed to total cost and care redemptions, or at least a budget, where they can save money if they come under the budget, where they can gain if they do better or sharing the losses if they don't," Aaron McKeohan, a senior policy fellow at Duke-Margolis Center for Health Policy, said. "That's been going on and happening nationally with some really good results to show!"

Dr. Matt Ewiden, president of UNC Physicians and the chief quality and value officer for the University of North Carolina Health Care System, said the only way to bend the cost curve of health care is to make everyone healthier, while putting more effort into prevention instead of trying to fix things once they have gone wrong.

"I think the key to this is partnership between all the parties," Brody said. "Between the employers who have employees covered by these plans, between plan administrators and between our health care providers: our local physicians, our hospitals and health care systems. We're all going to need to work together to figure this out, and we need to get this figured out in a way that doesn't end up affecting our employees in a very negative way."

In the meantime, open enrollment is going to start on Nov. 2 and will exist for 17 to 18 days, Folwell said. It will be simpler than it used to be, while not compromising the amount of choices that employees have in the process, Brody said.

There are no guarantees, but I do not see that we are going to reach the end of next year and somehow three quarters of the major health systems in the state of North Carolina are not going to be in network for 720,000 people," Brody said. "So I am optimistic. I've told folks not to panic."

About 6,000 UNC employees will be impacted by the state health plan expiring.

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UNC to honor USWNT with student section

By Chapel Fowler

Grant Porter arrived on UNC’s campus late in the summer, a month or so before North Carolina men’s soccer began its 2019 season.

The newly hired assistant coach was no stranger to Porter’s new team. As a graduate assistant, Porter helped call the plays during games and was present in the stands of soccer at UNC and graduated in 2004 — but he entered his second stint adamantly out of habit.

Outside of head coach Carlos Somoano, the rest of the staff, Porter said he didn’t know anybody. That included the roster he’d soon coach. He made immediate plans to introduce himself. Within his first few meetings, though, senior midfielder Kirk Urso began to stand out.

“He stopped in my office and wanted to get to know me,” Porter said.

“Usually, it’s kind of the reverse, where the coaches reach out to the players. The players reach out to the coaches,” Urso had time for everyone. It’s only fair, his friends said, that they asked the same.

Since February, the men’s soccer program, the Rams Club and the team’s alumni have worked on and off, since completing, a $85,000 fundraising effort in Urso’s name. Its purpose: to offer additional scholarships to UNC Soccer & Lacrosse Stadium season ticket holders and give a spot in the new home.

Before North Carolina opens its season Saturday against Howard, the team will unveil a plaque and offer special Sections 3 and 4 of the stadium a new name: the Kirk Urso Student Section. His parents, Mike and Sandy Urso, his sister, Kali, all of whom approved the idea, will also attend the game.

To Urso teammates and coaches at UNC, it’s just one small way to honor a player who lived his life on their programs and the life is still tangibly years down the line in his deaths.

“He made people around him comfortable, they didn’t have to be not good, not great,” Somoano said. “I was very happy that it came together.”

Michael Callahan has seen firsthand that new players need an adjustment period. Especially so at a college level.

He kept that in mind ahead of UNC’s 2006 season. North Carolina announced its newest recruiting class, and Callahan, a rising senior and team captain, was ready to help out his younger teammates. He soon learned Urso needed little instruction.

“There was no nonsense in the way he went about his soccer,” Callahan said. “He was there to compete, to get better. That couldn’t have been more clear from day one.”

Urso made an immediate impact as a Freshman All-America selection. He was named the MAC player of the week, and soon his selflessness and talent emerged as a teammate, a mentor and a leader.

“Urso was the fierce competitor: a player who relished every training session, developed a knack for taking and making long-distance shots and hated losing, even in the most informal setting,” Somoano said. “What other people consider the most high-pressure environment is just normal for him.”

Porter was on a recruiting trip to Chapel Hill that concluded with Urso saying, “If you’re not on a roster?” Your love for the game will be tested, and you can go to a dark place. So, just for him to stay positive and keep working hard, I went out to meet him and have dinner with him.”

“Usually, I don’t have anybody ever like him,” said Rob Lovejoy, a former teammate. “He was just a down-to-earth, super-friendly guy.”

Almost no one in the world could have predicted Urso’s death in Richmond, Va. The news they got was one of the best goals they’d heard about Urso come from his wife, Nina. “My wife, and this is no lie, said, ‘If our daughter would marry a guy like Kirk Urso, we would be the happiest family in the land,’” Somoano said. “That meant a lot.”

Urso’s UNC career coincided with perhaps the best period for the program in its history. From 2008 to 2011, North Carolina advanced to four College Cups, with Urso scoring two game-winning goals, crucial assists, converted penalty kicks.

“He just had it, when it came down to finding a way to succeed,” Somoano said. “What other people consider the most high-pressure environments for them, that was the opportunity to shine.”

As a senior team captain, Urso was a senior midfielder and starter for a team that won the ACC regular-season title and national championship.

Porter, the assistant coach, said Urso’s equalizer in the season’s first round tournament win — a 30-yard screamer of a shot to the top left corner — was “one of the best goals I’ve seen since I’ve been at Carolina.”

Urso’s college career culminated in Hoover, Alabama, where UNC Chapel Hill beat UNC-Charlotte, 4-0, to win its second national title.

“You couldn’t have written that,” said Lovejoy, a sophomore on the 2011 roster. “It knew year that was super special to him.”

“Our best to honor him

They all remember where they were Sunday, August 5, 2012.

Somoano had flown from Winstown, D.C., returning to a family vacation to Europe.

Porter was on a recruiting trip to Seattle with Jeff Negalla, another UNC assistant. Lovejoy was at his home in Greensboro. Callahan was in Richmond, Va. The news they got sent them into a state of shock.

Early on in August of 2012, Urso, a rookie midfielder and starter for the Portland Timbers of the MLS, collapsed in a bar in the Park Street neighborhood of Boston. The news hit the program hard.

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Johnson said he hit his lowest point when he was on the roster he’d soon coach. “I went from being on a team that I’ve been on a dark place. So, just for him to stay positive and keep working hard, I went out to meet him and have dinner with him.”

Even with plenty of support, Johnson said he hit his lowest point last Christmas.

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Johnson’s 416 rebounds his senior year broke UNC legend Tyler Hansbrough’s single-season rebounds record. He also set the program record for the most double-doubles in a season with 23 in the same year.

But success didn’t come immediately. In his first two seasons at North Carolina, he only started four games.

“I pushed [him] harder than any player I’ve ever pushed over a four-year period,” head coach Roy Williams said.

Johnson now has to push his young teammates into his old learning curve, as he did in college, in the professional ranks.

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