

# The Daily Tar Heel

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130 YEARS OF SERVING UNC STUDENTS AND THE UNIVERSITY

VOLUME 131, ISSUE 9

## UNC SYSTEM

# House bill could eliminate academic tenure

Faculty concerned the Republican-led bill is a threat to NC education

By Allie Kelly  
Managing Editor

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UNC history professor Jay Smith rarely sees a petition collect signatures so quickly.

In a letter published Monday, faculty reacted to a bill introduced in the N.C. House last week aiming to end faculty tenure at all UNC System universities and community colleges. The Higher Ed. Modernization & Affordability Act would apply to all faculty members hired after July 1, 2024.

The petition — expressing faculty concerns over damage UNC's reputation and principles of shared governance — garnered over 670 signatures in just a few days.

Co-authors Smith and law professor Maxine Eichner said they are alarmed by the "interference and overreach" of the N.C. legislature, UNC Board of Governors and UNC-Chapel Hill Board of Trustees into academic freedom and shared governance at the University. Supporters of the letter include faculty members in the Kenan-Flagler Business School, School of Medicine, College of Arts & Sciences and more.

Filed by Rep. David Willis



DTH GRAPHIC / CARSON ELM-PICARD

"The legislature wants to remake higher education in North Carolina, and remake it in a way that will effectively destroy it."

Jay Smith  
UNC history professor

System schools would become a "pariah" in the world of higher education.

Tenure is the most vital protection for academic freedom, he said. Without it, Smith said speech in classrooms will most likely be chilled and research agendas will be stalled — degrading the educational experience at the University.

Faculty members granted tenure receive an indefinite appointment at their university and can only be terminated for cause or under extraordinary circumstances. The designation is intended to protect academic freedom since faculty members cannot lose their jobs due to the content of their lesson plans, publications, research findings or speech in the classroom.

It is unconscionable, he said, that the legislature would consider removing tenure protections for "no good reason." He worries sensitive topics like would no longer be part of open class discussions.

"There will be certain topics that teachers who are developing new courses will feel that they can't touch — they can't risk touching — because of the threat to their livelihood, the threat that they might be dismissed from the University for running afoul of someone's political opinions," Smith said.

A University report shows that, as of 2021, 34 percent of all academic

(R-Union), H.B. 715 would require that faculty members within all UNC System universities and N.C. community colleges to be at-will employees or employees working under one-to-four year contracts. All sponsors of the bill are members of the Republican Party.

Similar bills have been filed in Florida and Texas. And national

conversations on academic tenure and school curriculums have been paired with allegations of political intrusion in the classroom.

For UNC faculty, Smith said the issue struck a nerve.

"(The state legislature) challenged the core operations of the University — teaching, research, hiring, tenure —

everything that we take seriously, everything that's vital to the institution, is being challenged in a new way here," Smith said. "And, we just wanted to raise our voices in protest."

'We're losing good people right now'

If H.B. 715 is passed, Smith said

SEE FACULTY PAGE 4

## FACILITIES

# Maintenance backlog hits record \$1.1 billion



DTH/DEREK PENG

Barriers bar the front entrance to Alumni Hall on Sunday, April 23. The building's broken step is one of many maintenance projects UNC has yet to complete.

As deferred projects stack up, facility worker worries about priorities

By Preston Fore

Director of Enterprise  
university@dailytarheel.com

This academic year has continued to place a spotlight on struggles of living, working and studying on UNC's campus.

Frustrations with a lack of accessibility, concerns of lead in the drinking water and a growing deferred maintenance backlog.

There is now a record \$1.1 billion worth of UNC maintenance backlogged — deferred until the University has available funds.

Specifically, \$357 million in HVAC, \$82 million in plumbing, \$70 million in fire protection and \$47 million in elevators and lifts maintenance awaits funding.

"With the looming billion dollar deferred maintenance hanging over us, we all know that we are just riding it out until it all breaks down," one campus facility worker, with 30 years of experience, said in an email. They preferred to remain anonymous for fear of losing their job.

While the backlog doesn't signal a compromise of safety or health in the short term, they said the long term effects of degrading buildings should be considered. Buildings are not going to fall down but working everyday in a "dilapidated"

building should not be something staff and students should have to worry about.

"Addressing the backlog of deferred maintenance continues to be a priority for the University," UNC Media Relations said in a statement, adding that any occupancy concerns should be reported to Environment, Health and Safety.

State capital funding increases have been "significantly above" historical levels, Media Relations said, but the University is optimistic that state funding for repair and restoration will increase.

The current backlog amount does not reflect "substantial funding" the University is being allocated from the state to address deferred maintenance and signature projects.

Media Relations said increases in the backlog are largely a result of construction costs but have also been influenced by inflation and repair costs associated with projects left unaddressed.

The facility worker said attempts to fix things "the right way" are often shot down or delayed by UNC Facilities leadership because of the cost, with bureaucracy causing many delays.

"We are micromanaged on most every purchase right down to light bulbs," they said.

They said that many times, problems could be fixed five days sooner by just running to the hardware store.

"This is not an exaggeration," they said.

SEE CONVERSATIONS PAGE 9



DTH/KENNEDY COX  
**FRANKLIN ST.**  
PG 19



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PG 5



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BARACK OBAMA





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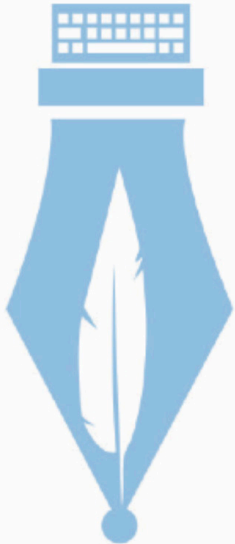
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RECAP

What you missed this academic year



DTH PHOTO/SAMANTHA LEWIS, IRA WILDER, AAYAS JOSHI

DTH GRAPHIC/GABI ALLEN

As the school year comes to an end, catch up on notable University news

By Liv Reilly  
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When I took over the University Desk last August, I wondered what “my thing” was going to be — what big event would hit headlines and define my time in the newsroom.

Nine months later, as I write my last story as University editor, I’ve been reflecting on news cycle, how we covered each story and what “my things” turned out to be.

Here’s a recap of the 2022-2023 UNC news:

The year began with the first full maskless semester on campus since spring 2020, as the University released new COVID-19 policies just weeks before the fall semester began.

UNC leadership shifted through the beginning of the year as administrators filled new roles. In January, after months in the interim position, Maria Estorino became the University librarian and vice provost for University Libraries.

Christopher Everett was elected as the 2023-2024 student body president, taking over after Taliajah “Teddy” Vann’s term. Everett’s platform focuses on a “Carolina for Everyone” and making UNC an inclusive space for all students.

The Daily Tar Heel will now use ‘Latino/a’ to refer to Latin American populations

This semester, The Daily Tar Heel reevaluated its use of the term “Latinx” in its coverage.

After surveying its community, an overwhelming percentage of respondents said the DTH should move away from the use of “Latinx,” which was the official term used in

DTH style to refer to communities of Latin American origin.

The DTH has decided to shift towards the use of “Latino/a,” falling in line with other publications in our field. The term “Latine” will be used to refer to Latin American individuals or groups who identify as non-binary.

This change is effective April 26, 2023.

— Guillermo Molero

In September, it was reported that the University had been using an AI-based service called Social Sentinel since 2016. The service used “geofencing” to filter keywords and phrases on social media in the Chapel Hill area, alerting the administration about protests like the 2018 toppling of the Silent Sam statue. UNC’s contract ended with the company last October.

In October, the Supreme Court of the United States heard the oral arguments for Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. The University of North Carolina, a case that will affect the future of affirmative action at universities across the nation.

While a decision is not expected until June, students and the campus community continue to hold conversations about what the future of collegiate diversity might look like.

The fight to make UNC a more accessible campus continued.

Student activists sat outside of South Building for 32 hours to signify the time that two students who use wheelchairs were stuck in Koury Residence Hall last year due to the lack of working elevators. Community members joined in support of a more accessible campus.

Elevators were just one fixture discussed throughout the school year regarding University maintenance. The maintenance backlog reached over one billion dollars this semester and detectable levels of lead have been found in over 125 buildings since last summer.

Housekeepers and activists also rallied throughout the year for increased wages and free parking. The Workers Union at UNC became involved in the movement and demanded higher wages

for both housekeepers and graduate students. A list of demands have been presented to University and UNC System leadership, including the Board of Trustees and the Board of Governors.

Tension arose between some faculty members and the BOT after the School of Civic Life and Leadership was proposed in January without direct faculty input. In the months since the initial proposal, questions formed regarding the chancellor and provost’s roles, the University’s accreditation and even millions of dollars of funding from the state legislature.

The Faculty Executive Committee and Mimi Chapman, chairperson of the faculty, held multiple community conversations regarding the BOT’s decision, the proposed school and its impact on the University. Chapman’s last day as chairperson will be June 30, and Beth Moracco will take over.

As the school year comes to a close, so does a classic UNC tradition. During the annual Bell Tower climb, seniors were no longer able to sign their name inside the tower due to “structural integrity” concerns, though the informal tradition has existed for years.

Throughout the year, dozens of student groups and organizations shared their talents and passions through showcases, on-campus events, concerts and gatherings.

And while it’s been a busy year for University news, I don’t think I ever found my one “thing” — the news cycle was marked by dozens of key stories.

There’s always more to come.

Twitter: @livvreilly

El Daily Tar Heel usará ‘Latino/a’ para hablar sobre gente latinoamericana

Este semestre, El Daily Tar Heel reevaluó su uso del término “Latinx” en su cobertura.

Después de encuestar a la comunidad, una gran mayoría de los encuestados dijeron que debemos parar de usar “Latinx,” que había sido el término oficial del

periódico para referir a comunidades latinoamericanas.

El DTH ha decidido comenzar a usar el término “Latino/a”, lo mismo que hacen otros periódicos profesionales. El término “Latine” se usará para hablar sobre individuos o grupos Latinoamericanos que se identifican como no binario.

Este cambio será efectivo el 26 de abril del 2023.

— Guillermo Molero

The Daily Tar Heel

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Q & A

# Kevin Guskiewicz reflects on 2022-23 school year

Chancellor talks faculty tenure, accessibility and new school

By **Guillermo Molero**  
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*Editor-in-Chief Guillermo Molero spoke with Chancellor Kevin Guskiewicz on April 24 to discuss the highs and lows of this academic year, tenure and accessibility at UNC.*  
*This interview has been edited for brevity and clarity.*

**The Daily Tar Heel:** It's been an eventful semester and eventful school year. What are some of the highs and lows in your mind of 2022-23?

**Kevin Guskiewicz:** I think we were able to successfully launch our new general education curriculum for our first-year students, something we've been working on for several years. We welcomed in one of the largest classes in the history of the University, the most diverse class that we've ever admitted to the University, this past fall. And I think we've overcome, you know, many of the challenges that the pandemic had brought for the past few years.

We again set another record in research funding, of topping the \$1.2 billion mark for research. Something that has been a goal of mine for several years is to give every student that wants a research experience that opportunity, every student that wants to study abroad an opportunity, and every student that wants to land an internship an

opportunity. So, it's about providing opportunities for students. I think it's been a great year in that regard.

**DTH:** I'll segue on into stuff that's been in the news more recently. Last week, a bill was introduced into the N.C. General Assembly lining up the steps to get rid of faculty tenure. How do you feel about tenure's role on campus? And what do you think the impact of getting rid of it would be for UNC?

**KG:** So, a little over 50 percent of our faculty at Carolina are tenured.

Tenure protects one of the fundamental principles of academia, which is academic freedom. And I feel it's very important. As I said in front of the Faculty Council on Friday afternoon, we have to just continue to educate General Assembly members about what tenure really means and in a way that allows us to recruit and retain the world-class faculty that we have that allows us to be a top-ranked university in the world.

I think it would be disastrous, to be blunt, if tenure were removed, and I think it could be disastrous for the state of North Carolina.

One of the roles that a great university like Carolina plays is helping to drive the economy. And you do that by allowing the research and the scholarly endeavors that our tenured faculty are able to carry out to help attract talent to the state of North Carolina. Tenure is critically important to the mission of our university.

**DTH:** With regard to the development of the School of Civic Life and Leadership, that revolved around a greater discussion about



DTH/KENNEDY COX  
Chancellor Kevin Guskiewicz speaks with Editor-in-Chief Guillermo Molero during an interview in his South Building office on Monday, April 24.

academic freedom and free speech on campus. Would you agree with the sort of outside assessment that those two pillars are under attack at UNC?

**KG:** Well, I am a firm believer in the fact that we have to prepare students to be good listeners, to be able to participate in conversations across difficult topics and issues. Viewpoint diversity is critically important to prepare our students to be able to participate in a thriving democracy, both while they're students at Carolina but perhaps more important, once they've graduated from here.

In order to do that, we have to model public discourse. When we started the Program for Public Discourse about four and a half, five years ago, there was some resistance at the time, and we decided to step out as the nation's first public university and said, we want to do this. You can have constructive dialogue and discourse around these potentially controversial issues. And we've done that.

So, what's the next step? Well, it's to look at how we might build our curriculum around this. And I'm optimistic that we will get there.

**DTH:** There's been a lot of discussions about accessibility on campus. Most notably, there was the protest on the steps of South Building where two students chained themselves up in front of the door for 32 hours to make a statement that they don't feel included on campus. How have you transitioned that into discussions with student and campus leaders to try to make the campus as accessible as it can be?

**KG:** We must do better. And we are working to improve accessibility. We've been working on this for several years.

I sat out there on the front steps with those students that day, and we had a really constructive conversation.

There's probably no topic for which I've spent more time meeting with and listening to students about than accessibility needs. And it pains me that some of them do not feel welcome on

our campus because of the challenges that we've faced with accessibility.

It's almost 230 years old, the campus, and we have old buildings. But we have to continue to keep them updated. And one of the things that I've learned over the past year around accessibility needs is that some of them are, some of the disabilities that students have are invisible. Those with hearing impairments, visual impairments, that we have to do a better job of recognizing those disabilities as well.

We have to be sure we're listening to the needs of our students. And so I'm going to continue to listen. We've already made a number of significant changes in the past year, but there are many more in front of us that we have to attend to.

**DTH:** Well, one last question. Commencement is in two weeks. What is your advice to the class of 2023 as they head out into the world?

**KG:** First of all, I'm very excited about commencement. There's nothing that I love more than that sea of blue out on Kenan Stadium on commencement day.

But to answer your question, I'm a big believer that you should always be curious. That, to me, is the most important advice.



DTH FILE/LILLAH HAYES  
The South Building houses the Office of the Chancellor and other administrative departments.

“We must do better. And we are working to improve accessibility. We’ve been working on this for several years.”

**Chancellor Kevin Guskiewicz**  
discussing state of accessibility on campus

Twitter: @guimolero

THE OC REPORT

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UNC GOVERNANCE

# Chapman leaves role as faculty chairperson

She joined the Council in 2001 and became chairperson in 2020

By Abby Pender

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During World War II, a ship of navigators found themselves lost in the Pacific Ocean and under fire. The crew was in need of someone who could use the stars and horizon to locate safe ground, and 23-year-old James Chapman stepped up.

The faded navigation chart he used to lead his boat to safety — a keepsake of gratitude signed by all of the crew members — currently hangs on his daughter's beige office wall.

Similar to the experience of her father, Mimi Chapman said that when she was thrust into being chairperson of the faculty at the onset of the pandemic, she had to take risks to address transparency, communication and empathy at the University.

Chapman's term as chairperson of the faculty will end in June, and she will be succeeded by Beth Moracco. However, she will continue to be involved in the Coalition for Carolina.

Chapman first became acquainted with UNC at 17 years old when she came to campus to visit a friend who was enrolled.

"I loved it from the second I arrived," she said.

Although financial dissuasions kept Chapman from attending UNC for her master's degree, she said she finally made her way back to campus in 1993 to pursue her doctorate in social work.

After joining the faculty in 2001, she became involved in University governance by joining the Faculty Council.

Chapman said faculty governance is a significant part of her life and running for chairperson in 2020 felt like a "natural progression" to her steady hand in University affairs.

Entering the role during the pandemic and mitigation of the Silent Sam settlement, Chapman said her initial priorities as chairperson revolved around "survival." Rather than commit to concrete goals, she recognized the landscape of the University was shifting and wanted to focus on being an intuitive voice of the faculty.

Sue Estroff, former chairperson of the faculty and current member of the Faculty Executive Committee, said Chapman's courage, clarity and commitment to speaking truth to power are some of her legacies.

"I admire the composure she has been able to display throughout a fair amount of incivility on the part of trustees and other people who don't necessarily agree with the faculty," Estroff said.

Estroff said she was proud of Chapman's handling of the provost search and her outspokenness in support of granting tenure to Nikole Hannah-Jones.

"I'm not one of these people who kind of has heroines and heroes. But there have been so many times when I've just kind of shaken my head and said, 'You go girl,'" Estroff said.

In order to unite the leadership bodies impacting University decisions, Chapman said there must be a set of common values and outcomes that each entity is working toward.

Chapman also said that there is a commonality between almost all UNC alumni: wanting to pass down the greatness behind their degree to future generations.

A former trustee once told Chapman that universities are about 10 years ahead of dealing with issues wider culture has yet to confront, and she agrees.

She said that the University's top priority should be addressing how to be committed to its values in the face of national and community issues such as diversity, equity and inclusion and affirmative action.

Estroff noted that University governance has changed significantly over the years. She said it used to be that the chairperson of the faculty was not seen as a "threat" to the Board of Trustees.

"Since that time, it's hard to describe



DTH FILE/KETAKI "SONALI" UPASANI

Mimi Chapman, chairperson of the faculty at UNC, poses for a portrait at the Carolina Inn on Wednesday, March 22, 2023.

how extraordinarily politicized the University system has gotten over the last 10 or 15 years with the legislative intrusion into the Board of Governors and to virtually every aspect of what we do," she said. "It's unprecedented."

Moracco said that she hopes to expand on Chapman's traditions of communication and faculty input and said that Chapman leaves a rich legacy of leadership at the University.

"When you know the depth of that work, and the quality of people that are here, it's just an honor to be

entrusted with standing up for all of those people in the best way that you can," Chapman said.

As she leaves her leadership position, Chapman said she hopes the faculty will remember the sincerity, accuracy and truthfulness she strived for.

"I hope they felt like they had a champion," she said. "Someone that stood up for them — that cared about their life on this campus and their life beyond this campus."

Twitter: @dailytarheel

A LOOK BACK

## Word on the street: Seniors' favorite memories



Christina Persona, management and society and psychology major

Madeline Leung, public policy and medical anthropology major

Ruth Jeffers, English and comparative literature major

AJ Cook, business administration major

DTH/JAKE HOGAN

Students reflect on the moments that made them smile

By Emily Chambliss

Staff Writer  
university@dailytarheel.com

Christina Persona, management and society and psychology major

"The Final Four UNC vs Duke game — amazing. When we were rushing on Franklin Street, it was my first time rushing. It was a great time. I watched the game at a house party and it was just my first time being around so many UNC students because the last year was COVID. It felt good. I felt united."

Madeline Leung, public policy and medical anthropology major

"My favorite memories were going to the dining hall with my friends freshman year. It's really social — you can meet anyone at the dining hall. It was so casual and easy freshman year because everyone was at the same place."

Will Adair, neuroscience major

"After we got to the championship (basketball) game, I climbed a tree on Franklin Street and it was a great time. The environment and everything about it was just fantastic. All the people there. It was so cool to see almost 10,000 people in one place."

Ruth Jeffers, English and comparative literature major

"In spring 2021 we had been in online classes for the whole semester and I had a class with three people in a giant auditorium, all wearing masks. It was a funny experience to be in a giant auditorium with only three people, and it felt really symbolic of the experience of COVID."

AJ Cook, business administration major

"Freshman year UNC-Miami football game in Kenan. Mack Brown's first year back. We won on the game winning catch with Dazz Newsome and Sam Howell. It was awesome."

Twitter: @dailytarheel

## Faculty says eliminating tenure violates academic freedom

Continued from Page 1

and health staff were tenured and 10 percent were tenure track, with all remaining faculty hired on a fixed-term basis.

Tenure at UNC made national news two years ago when the UNC BOT initially failed to grant Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Nikole Hannah-Jones tenure. She was set to become the Knight chairperson in investigative journalism at the Hussman School of Journalism and Media — and every faculty member who had previously occupied the position held tenure.

"Because of the various controversies we've had to go through over the past five to 10 years, we're losing good people right now," Smith said. "And more will be leaving."

'It would be disastrous'

Michael Palm is an associate professor in the UNC Department of Communication and a signatory on the faculty letter.

He said there has already been a tremendous and ongoing loss of faculty at the University — especially faculty of color — in direct response to attacks on tenure. With new legislation, he said these losses will only increase.

In April 2022, the national American

Association of University Professors on governance, academic freedom and institutional racism within the UNC System. Palm and Smith are president and vice president, respectively, of AAUP's UNC chapter.

The report found that institutional racism and recent University decisions on the Silent Sam settlement and Hannah-Jones tenure case make the UNC System a "hostile environment for faculty, staff, and students of color."

"That's what they're are trying to do, right?" Palm said. "They want UNC to be a whiter campus, both at the faculty level and ultimately among the student body."

Smith said the bill could make it nearly impossible for the University to recruit top scholars from around the country because no one will want to come to UNC System schools.

"I think it would be disastrous, to be blunt, if tenure were removed," Chancellor Kevin Guskiewicz told The Daily Tar Heel. "And I think it could be disastrous for the state of North Carolina."

A representative from the UNC System and sponsors of H.B. 715 did not respond for comment by the time of publication.

'Clear and blatant power grab'

The stakes for education in the state are high, Smith said.

Alongside H.B. 715, the faculty letter outlines concerns about the BOT's resolution to accelerate the development of the proposed School of Civic Life and Leadership and a recent legislative inquiry into the System's diversity, equity and inclusion efforts.

Palm said the proposed elimination of tenure and other bills in the legislature are a "clear and blatant power grab" by the largely conservative BOT, BOG and General Assembly. As of April, Republicans hold a supermajority in the N.C. legislature and can override Gov. Roy Cooper's veto.

As it stands, Smith said the University might also risk losing accreditation if faculty tenure is entirely eliminated.

Palm said H.B. 715, S.B. 680 and other conservative-led actions relating to higher education in North Carolina "are all part of an attempt to wrestle control of the curriculum from the faculty and hand it to politicians in the state Assembly and their appointed cronies on the Board of Governors and Board of Trustees."

'Listen to us'

Going forward, Chairperson of the Faculty Mimi Chapman told The Daily



DTH FILE/SAMANTHA LEWIS

South Building is pictured on Oct. 10, 2022.

Tar Heel she hopes the faculty will be better included in institutional decisions.

The importance of tenure is not widely understood outside of academia, she said. Without consulting faculty members on matters of tenure and curriculum, she said legislators, governors and trustees appear to be operating without adequate information.

"I think it's very important for people outside of the system, outside of the day-to-day running of it to at least gather information from a lot

of different sources before moving ideas forward," Chapman said.

Smith said that University leaders and faculty members must make clear to the legislature that tenure is vital to talent retention and academic freedom.

"It would be great if we could get together as administrators and faculty and persuade our leaders on the governing boards and in the State Assembly to to listen to us," he said.

Twitter: @alliemkelly



CONCERT

# Young Nudy headlines 2023 Jubilee festival

Despite bad weather, students packed Hooker Fields for UNC tradition

By Corey Davis  
Staff Writer  
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Hundreds of students and community members spent their Saturday at Hooker Fields experiencing a favorite UNC tradition — the spring Jubilee concert sponsored by the Carolina Union Activities Board.

CUAB began planning the Jubilee concert during the fall semester by holding a community vote asking which genre people would enjoy seeing at Hooker Fields in the spring. However, it was not until January that the organization began developing the fine print, CUAB's entertainment chairperson Gaby Rosado said.

For \$5, students had access to food truck vouchers, a variety of mini-games and a ticket to an anticipated setlist from local artists Barbara Teresa, Jack Taylor and Don Moonie, ending with headlining Atlanta rapper Young Nudy.

Moonie, a UNC junior whose stage name is Don Atlas, was among the first musicians to perform at this year's Jubilee event. While he values his audience's taste, he also prioritizes what is authentic to himself as a rapper.

"I feel like the ears of one are like the ears of a thousand," he said. "The only difference is the amount of opinions or the amount of interpretations, but it's the same message that's being portrayed."

Various photographers and content creators were granted access to capture moments from the concert.



DTH/KENNEDY COX

Rapper Young Nudy, the headliner of this year's Jubilee Music Festival, performs on Hooker Fields on Saturday, April 22.



DTH/KENNEDY COX

UNC students wait in the rain for rapper Young Nudy to perform at UNC's Jubilee Music Festival on Saturday, April 22.

First-year Kyran Taylor was one of the few students given photography access to the event as a member of clothing brand Franklin Street Market. "Things like this, especially during freshman year of college, are things you will look back on when you're older," he said. "And being the person that gets to capture that moment in a single frame is really inspiring to me."

Hundreds of eager attendees stood under umbrellas around Hooker Fields awaiting Young Nudy's arrival.

First-year Christopher Pickett was one of many who participated in the entire event starting at 11:30 a.m., even waiting through the rain.

"You know, it's Jubilee," he said. "Young Nudy is coming. I get a bunch of free stuff, and having never been here before, I could not be more excited for what's to come. Despite the terrible weather, CUAB

has thankfully managed to keep the event together the best they can."

With the unforeseen weather, several set changes were enforced, including the cancellation of student-led band CSB's set.

"I received an email saying that the forecast was looking like 90 percent chance of thunderstorms throughout the day, and to expect some type of disruption, but still arrive on time and plan the way we planned," UNC senior Casey Kibe, the lead singer of CSB, said.

Unable to perform at their scheduled time, CSB tried to negotiate with event executives to perform after Young Nudy concluded his set around 9 p.m., Kibe said. However, due to the highly restrictive contract rules and regulations, CSB's entire set was cut from the show.

"We have a couple more shows coming up, so it's not the end of

the world," she said. "But it did suck to have an entire article about Jubilee written with us, and to have been interviewed for it and then it not pan out."

Young Nudy took the stage at 7:30 p.m., performing some of his hit songs like "EA" and "Hell Shell".

Rolo Vera, a first-year student at Central Piedmont Community College who attended the event, said he was satisfied with his experience at the concert.

Nudy made efforts to interact with his lively crowd throughout the performance by taking videos on concertgoers' phones or even catching and wearing their hats.

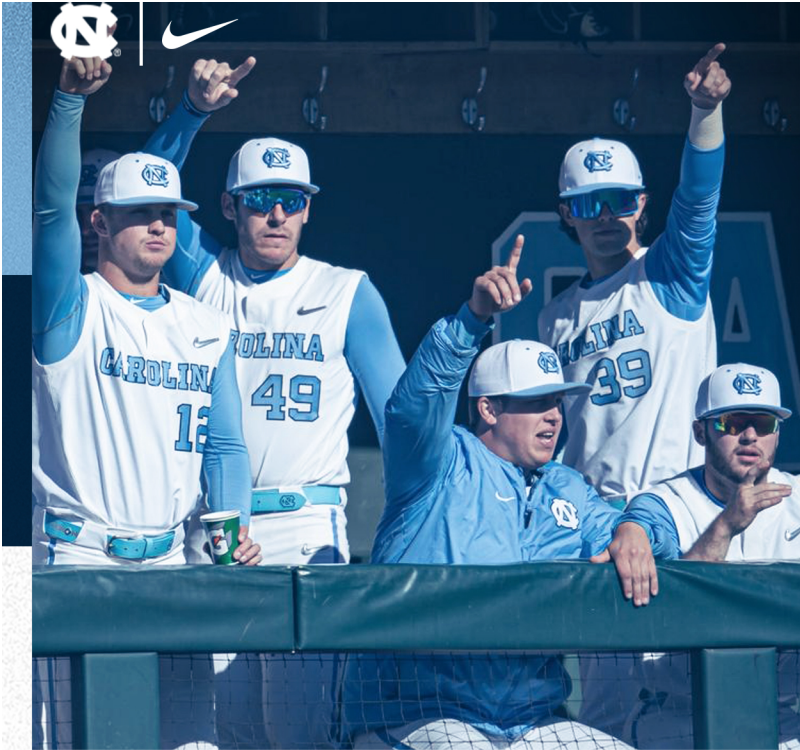
"I rounded up my friends and we came to see Nudy," Vera said. "Nudy definitely gave me an experience. I threw my hat that I got from my country, and he definitely wore it proudly."



DTH/KENNEDY COX

Rapper Young Nudy walks across the stage at this year's Jubilee Music Festival at Hooker Fields on Saturday, April 22.

Twitter: @coreymdavis04



# CAROLINA™

BASEBALL

vs. UNCW

TUESDAY, APRIL 25<sup>TH</sup>, 6 PM  
BOSHAMER STADIUM



# CAROLINA™

SOFTBALL

vs. CHARLOTTE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26<sup>TH</sup>, 6 PM  
ANDERSON STADIUM



**Best consignment store**

Winner:

**Rumors**

Runner-up:

**Clothes Mentor****Best brunch**

Winner:

**Carolina Coffee Shop**

Runner-up:

**Breadman's****Best place to shop for Carolina gear**

Winner:

**Shrunkn Head**

Runner-up:

**Johnny T Shirt****Best lunch bargain**

Winner:

**Suttons**

Runner-up:

**Hibachi & Co.****Best barbershop**

Winner:

**Arrow**

Runner-up:

**In Da Cut****Best meal after midnight**

Winner:

**Cosmic Cantina**

Runner-up:

**I <3 NY Pizza****Best car service**

Winner:

**Lloyd Tire**

Runner-up:

**Brown's Automotive****Best takeout**

Winner:

**Hibachi & Co.**

Runner-up:

**Bonchon****Best date spot**

Winner:

**Spicy 9**

Runner-up:

**Top of the Hill****Best vegetarian/vegan meal**

Winner:

**Med Deli**

Runner-up:

**Purple Bowl****Best place to take your parents**

Winner:

**Top of the Hill**

Runner-up:

**411 West****Best coffee**

Winner:

**1922**

Runner-up:

**Meantime**



**Best pizza**

Winner:

**IP3**

Runner-up:

**I <3 NY Pizza****Best sandwich**

Winner:

**Merrit's**

Runner-up:

**Tru Deli****Best burger**

Winner:

**Buns**

Runner-up:

**Al's Burger Shack****Best drinks**

Winner:

**Goodfellows**

Runner-up:

**He's Not Here****Best Mexican food**

Winner:

**Que Chula**

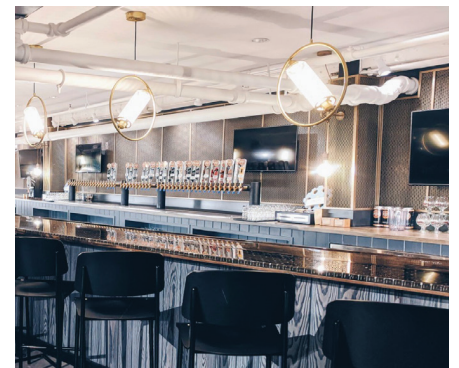
Runner-up:

**Bandidos****Best beer**

Winner:

**Gizmos**

Runner-up:

**Franklin Motors****Best Asian food**

Winner:

**Spicy 9**

Runner-up:

**Mr. Tokyo****Best place to watch a UNC game**

Winner:

**Four Corners**

Runner-up:

**Sup Dogs****Best frozen treat**

Winner:

**YOPO**

Runner-up:

**Maple View****Best place to dance the night away**

Winner:

**Goodfellows**

Runner-up:

**Might as Well**



SAFETY

# How sexual assaults are processed by University Police

The UNCPD crime log lists 76 offenses between 2015 and 2022

By Ashley Quincin  
Staff Writer  
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Content warning: This article contains mention of sexual assault.

Sophomore Brianna Brigman was sexually assaulted at a UNC frat party during her first year by a person she considered a friend. Brigman said that although she was too intoxicated to consent, she feared people wouldn't believe her if she reported the assault.

"Still to this day, sometimes I feel guilty for trying to speak out about it because, obviously, I know I didn't deserve that, but I just sometimes feel invalidated about it. People don't take you seriously," she said.

UNC Police's crime data encompasses any type of sexual assault such as rape, battery, fondling or other similar descriptions but excludes "victimless" crimes such as indecent exposure that was reported to UNCPD.

UNC's Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office commonly addresses reports of misconduct and Title IX violations. Resident advisors are trained to identify concerns, so on-campus housing tends to be an area that the office receives many reports from, said Rebecca Gibson, director of report and response in the EOC office.

"In that space, I would expect it is because we just have more trained staff who know what to look for," she said. "But, I think it's also a question that often comes up with looking at data to reflect lived experiences — is it because it's happening more in these spaces? Or are we just getting more reports from these areas as opposed to other areas?"

When the office receives a report, staff — occasionally in consultation with a response team of UNC Police, the Dean of Students Office and/or the Office of Human Resources — will evaluate the report to determine if the alleged conduct violates Title IX and whether further action is warranted or wanted by the reporting party.

Assaults can be reported through the EOC office, Chapel Hill or UNC police departments. Another way assault can be reported is through a Responsible Employee, Gibson said. Typically a dean or department chairperson, Responsible Employees at UNC include "any employee who has the authority to take action to redress sexual violence," according to the EOC website.

They are required to share any information to the office as soon as possible, even sometimes without the survivor's consent, Gibson said.

The annual EOC data reports for academic years 2015–16 through 2020–21 cited that the office formally investigated 68 reports of sexual assault over the six-year period.

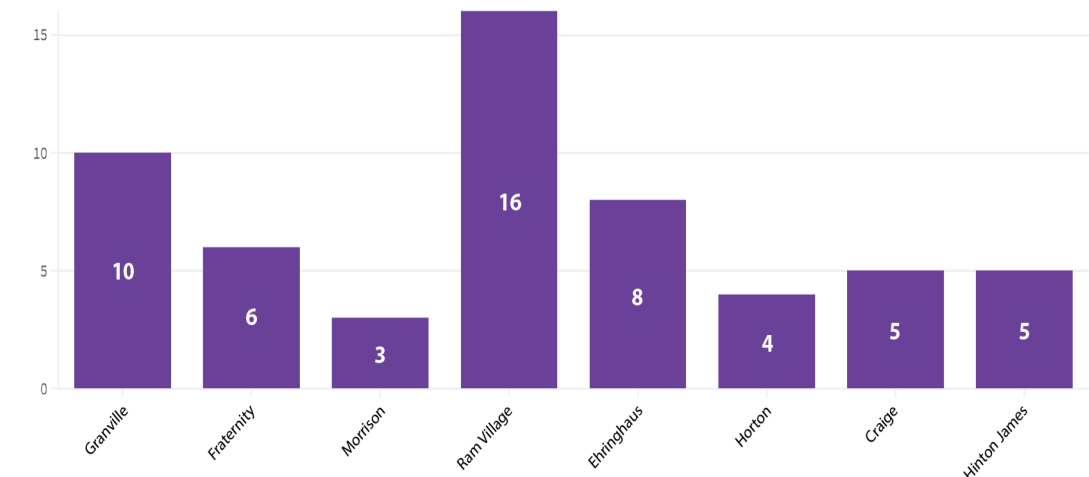
Formal investigations require contacting the responding party, or the accused individual, and informing them of the report filed against them. This can potentially compromise the emotional and physical safety of the reporting party, or the assaulted individual, Gibson said.

Because of this risk, many individuals opt to file an informal report, in which the EOC office concludes a resolution that focuses more on supportive measures rather than action against the responding party.

In these instances of informal investigations and resolutions, the EOC office "provides information, support and assistance with supportive measures," which include academic accommodations, housing changes or no contact orders.

## Highest reports of on-campus sexual assault from 2015 to 2022 at Ram Village and Granville Towers

Of the 100 reported sexual assault cases during this period, 76 occurred in either University residence halls or fraternity houses. Only locations with three or more cases are shown below.



Source: UNC Police • Data was collected between January 2015 and October 2022. In this chart, "sexual assault" includes reports of rape, fondling and sodomy (which UNC Police categorizes as sexual crimes) but not stalking, harassment or indecent exposure.

DTH DATA/KATE BAILEY

During the same six-year period, the office received 531 informal reports of sexual assault.

For many survivors of sexual assault who report, the restraining order process can be traumatic, Gigi Warner, a supervising attorney at Legal Aid of North Carolina, said.

"A victim of a crime like this can often feel very judged for different decisions they made, they can feel like they won't be believed, they can feel like it's just not worth the huge amount of emotional stress and time and energy," Warner said.

"Prosecution declined," means that though an arrest was made, the prosecutor didn't formally pursue charges.

The status can be "cleared" if a "victim refused to cooperate," which occurs

when a survivor recants a statement or declines to work with prosecution.

Only three of 100 cases that have occurred over the eight years are open.

Warner said this number "doesn't surprise" her. She also said this is because many survivors are either wary of law enforcement and the legal system or know that the process to secure a sexual assault conviction can be "extremely grueling."

"My advice would just be that each victim of this kind of crime needs to do what is best for them, is going to let them thrive and get through their day-to-day," Warner said.

She also said in addition to the University holding perpetrators accountable, fostering dialogue among students about not leaving

each other in vulnerable situations is crucial.

Despite not reporting through the EOC office, Brigman said her friends defended her when she was confronted with the person who assaulted her.

To increase safety on campus, the University is currently working on installing additional security cameras outside residence halls. The project was presented to the Board of Trustees Audit, Compliance and Risk Management Committee and given priority for funding after safety concerns were raised.

Editor's Note: Brigman used to be an employee of The Daily Tar Heel.

Twitter: @ashnqm

## Think you have COVID-19?

We need individuals with COVID-19 that live in or near Chapel Hill for a local variant surveillance study.

We drop off **two free at-home rapid tests** at your location, and if you test positive, we pick up an additional self-collected nasal swab for pathogen sequencing.

If you are interested in participating, please visit <https://tarheels.live/uncathome/>



This is for research purposes only and does not include treatment.

IRB Study # 22-2321



## WRAPPING UP

# Non-traditional seniors reflect on time at UNC



DTH/MATTHEW BREINER

Adriana Cook, pictured on Sunday, April 23, 2023, will graduate from UNC this spring.

## Students share their experiences in attending college later in life

By Liza Smith

Staff Writer

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The undergraduate college experience is often thought of as a transitional time into adulthood — a period for young adults to explore their identity and discover their aspirations.

However, the undergraduate experience is not limited to those 18 to 22 years old.

Adriana Cook, a senior at UNC, enrolled when she was 59 years old. She said her experience has sometimes been alienating as her peers and professors are unsure how to approach her.

Regardless, Cook is confident that this is the right time for her to attend college. Last September, she celebrated 14 years of sobriety and overcoming addiction — a feat that started her on the path to higher education.

“I couldn’t see that what I was doing was ruining my life at that time,” she said. “I think it’s important for younger students to maybe think about postponing college for a little bit — a year or two — to get some life experience and gain a better appreciation of school when they come back.”

She added that she is “hugely grateful” for everything she has learned at UNC and doesn’t think she would have appreciated the experience as much had she entered at a younger age.

Cook’s past experiences with addiction have led her to dedicate her life to helping others in similar positions as her younger self. After graduating this spring, she plans to eventually become a substance abuse counselor.

Her two years at UNC have not been easy. She’s been forced to deal with several health issues and the loss of a loved one. But she did not allow these factors to discourage her, and she said walking across the stage in her cap and gown at graduation will be vindication that her hard work was worth it.

Preston Terleski, a 29-year-old senior, is also appreciative of his timing in college and said gaining experience in the workforce prior to enrolling at UNC helped him garner a strong appreciation for the college experience.

He, along with Cook, encourages those outside of the traditional age group to consider returning to school.

Mary Grace, another senior at UNC, is in her 60s and found herself in the Triangle when her husband sought medical treatment at Duke University.

During the treatment, Grace said she felt she couldn’t return to work but wanted something to focus on. She decided to take classes at Durham Technical Community College and transferred to UNC a few years ago.

When Grace was the traditional undergraduate age, she was unable to afford university past a two-year degree. She went on to lead a life filled with activism, with one of her core beliefs being that education should be universal and free.

“If people were able to access education for as long as they wanted, then imagine how lovely the world would be,” she said.

She also said she’s enjoyed her time at UNC and used the option of an interdisciplinary major to build a curriculum that would further prepare her for a life of activism. Her advocacy covers a broad range of issues related to social justice but emphasizes the need for nonviolent conflict management.

“There’s just such a desperate need for communication skills, and the psycholinguistic underpinnings of how we use words in conflict is really key to solving much of the world’s problems,” she said.

Grace said her time at UNC has been a “gift and a joy.” Her time in college, with the help of a support group, has helped her work through grief coming with her husband’s passing.

“I don’t know what my life would have looked like had I been able to go to a four-year university at the get-go, but I know that this experience at UNC has pulled me full circle and I’m just profoundly grateful,” she said.

Each of these students expressed a high level of appreciation for the higher education they are now receiving.

“I would say it’s never too late,” Terleski said. “I would say that you will find people who will support you throughout the journey. You will add value that other people of the traditional age are simply not able to add, because they haven’t had life experience.”

Twitter: @dailytarheel

## ARTS &amp; CULTURE

# Senior UNC artists exhibit ‘Intersecting Realms’

The installation is highlighting 14 student artists until May 13

By Celia Funderburk

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A giant toothpick and a tapestry of tattooed skin currently line the halls where students wait to enter their classes in Hanes Art Center.

These works belong to a team of seniors who are either interested in arts or are pursuing degrees in it. While highlighting 14 UNC senior artists, all pieces have the common theme of intersecting realms. From April 17 to May 13, everyone can view this multimedia display found in the John and June Alcott Gallery and the Hanes Hallway Gallery.

“Intersecting Realms” is the overall title of the collection, meaning something unique to every artist. For Matthew Manchester, it represents the intersectionality of identity, specifically the duality of studying art and environmental studies.

“My biggest piece in the show is called the ‘Cathedral of Summer Choir,’ and it was inspired by time that I’d spent in the lab looking at insect wings under the microscope,” he said.

Samuel Tsois’ work featured pieces specifically meant to be touched and felt, which allows everyone, regardless of their ability, to experience his art.

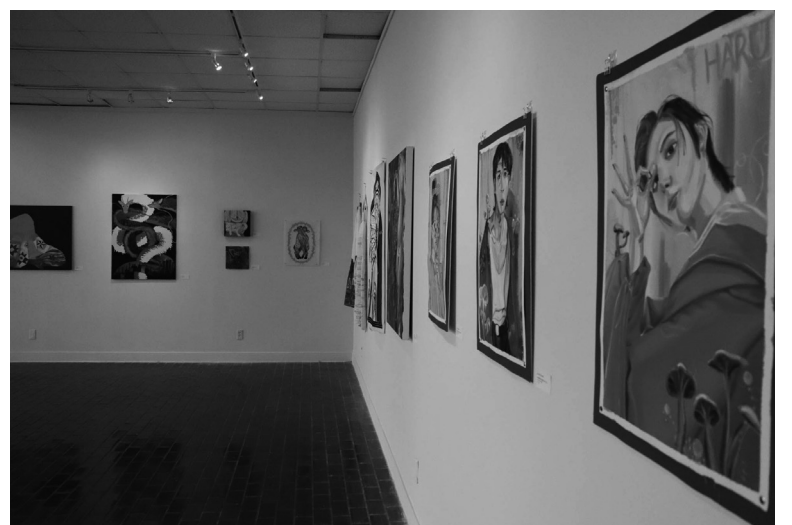
He believes his works matches the project’s theme through displaying the connections he’s made at UNC. “I’ve kind of realized that (accessibility) is an issue, especially in the gallery setting. You go and then it says, ‘You

can look, but don’t touch,’ or you can just look around.” Tsois said. “I feel like that’s kind of presumptive to assume somebody’s going to be able to experience it like that.”

Dacia Perez-Medina, another featured artist, said that “Intersecting Realms” to her is all about the combination of multiple mediums being used in artwork, especially since she uses multiple mediums in hers.

Although the display is always open to the public, there will be a closing reception on May 13 at 3 p.m., where artists will discuss their work. As it will be the same weekend as UNC’s commencement, the featured seniors will be able to share their work with friends and family before saying a final goodbye to UNC’s campus.

Twitter: @dailytarheel



DTH/OLIVIA PAUL

The senior BFA and BA exhibition titled ‘Intersecting Realms’ is seen in the John and June Alcott Gallery in Hanes Art Center on Wednesday, April 19, 2023. The exhibit is on display from April 17 until May 13, and it features seminar works from studio art seniors in ARTS 500.

# Conversations on lead testing, campus repairs continue

Continued from Page 1

The facility worker said morale among their colleagues is at an “all time low,” because they are understaffed and underpaid.

“There is no incentive to really do any more than what keeps us out of trouble,” they said.

Even after decades on the job, “the ends no longer meet,” they said, calling raises “minor jokes.”

Unable to use maintenance trucks for when they’re on-call, they said it is not uncommon for gas used to cost more than they make working the extra hours.

UNC Media Relations said the policy of not allowing staff to drive state-owned vehicles home during assigned on-call periods is a cost-saving measure implemented in 2021 to avoid workforce reductions during budget struggles.

“The University continues to face a challenging workforce environment, and like many campus units, Finance and Operations is struggling to recruit and retain critical staff,”

Media Relations said in a statement.

Media Relations said the division is committed to supporting its employees and has recently implemented pay increases and bonuses.

To many facility workers, the “pet projects” driven by personal politics are frustrating.

“The professors are very entitled here,” they said. “They’re very, very spoiled, and they get whatever they want as long as it’s loud enough.”

They described having to repaint offices different colors or moving cabinets year to year — especially in the revenue-generating departments. They said while the maintenance backlog is likely to never be completely resolved, reassessing where money should be prioritized is important moving forward.

These frustrations go unspoken since workers are “strictly” told not to speak with the press in any circumstance — without reason.

“In the last few years, they’ve really clamped down on we’re not allowed to talk to (the press) because I lose my job if my name were to get out,” they said.

UNC Media Relations said employees are not prohibited from speaking out on topics “as an individual,” and they are asked not to make statements or speak on behalf of the University without coordinating with communications staff.

The facility worker said all of facilities services signed non-disclosure agreements in October, but UNC Media Relations said “no non-disclosure agreement exists for Finance and Operations employees.”

“Certainly, we are confident that everyone on campus has access to lead-free drinking water,” George Battle, UNC’s vice chancellor for institutional integrity and risk management, said.

The University’s eight-month endeavor of testing every drinking fixture on-campus — about 3,900 in total — for lead officially came to an end last month.

About 146 buildings had at least one fixture with detectable levels of lead. Twenty-nine facilities were found with levels above the Environmental Protection Agency’s threshold to take action — 15 parts per billion.

“The vast majority of fixtures that we tested did not show evidence of lead, right? And even further, even when you look at the ones that showed evidence of lead, the vast majority of them were below 15 parts per billion,” Battle said.

Corrective repair or replacement action took — or is taking — place for all 420 fixtures that tested positive for lead. A timeline for the conclusion of this work is unclear, he said, since each fixture may require a different remedial approach involving installation or replacement of filters, pipes or full fixtures.

Remediation is complete for 101 fixtures so far, according to Media Relations. Once fixtures are repaired or replaced, they are tested for lead once again.

With the exception of Spencer Residence Hall, all on-campus housing remediation work has been completed, Battle said.

After dozens of recently installed in-room sinks were found with lead, an investigation took place to find the source of lead in Spencer.

Even though work continues, the building will be open for residents in the fall. All of the drinking water sources in the residence hall are being filtered for impurities and the water safe to consume, Battle said.

Moving forward, the University plans to test fixtures in buildings constructed prior to 2014 every three years.

This Sunday is the final day to receive free blood lead level testing at Campus Health or the Employee Occupational Health Clinic for those living, working or studying in affected buildings.

According to EHS, no results received so far were above the normal reference range.

Because of the testing conclusions, Battle said there is no reason to be concerned with the safety of the campus drinking water.

“In terms of if you’re measuring the safety of your drinking water by the presence of lead, we got the safest drinking water in the

Twitter: @forepreston



## SPEAKER SERIES

# TEDxUNC conference returns in-person

This year's event focused on curiosity, pursuing the unknown

By Elizabeth Egan

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Most people have not visited a nudist colony, spent four weeks as a drag queen and become a manager for professional boxers. Billy Warden has.

During his speech at this year's annual TEDxUNC conference, Warden, who is a journalist, talked about what he learned while writing a series of articles in which he immersed himself in these different communities. He urged the audience to look outside of themselves and explore unfamiliar experiences.

Warden was one of six speakers at this year's conference, which was held on Sunday at Curtis Media Center. The conference, which was the first in-person TEDxUNC event since spring 2020, was organized around the theme of XYZ — which “explores and celebrates the human essence of curiosity and the pursuit of the unknown across generations.”

Warden said he chose the topic of his talk because he felt his immersive stories were all about being curious and within the spirit of the theme.

In addition to Warden, the professional speakers were Mark Lindquist and Dhiren Thakker. The student speakers were Kenan-Flagler Business School MBA student Claire Barnett, senior Carter Broome and sophomore T Lockamy. The talks encompassed a wide range of topics, including the Russian invasion of Ukraine, how convenience services

provide accessibility to disabled people, what it means to be queer and even competitive jump rope.

Co-curator Shai Sayeed said that the TEDxUNC planning committee picked the theme because of how broad it was and the potential for speakers to be able to integrate their talks into it.

“In terms of what it means, we went towards a lot of celebrating the idea of the unknown, and what it means to talk about curiosity in different generations and how the idea of curiosity is what has fueled generations x, y and z, throughout the years to continue to advance as a society,” she said.

Sayeed said many of the speakers talked about things that are unknown to them, as well as what the audience probably did not know about them.

She said the overall TEDx organization's motto is “spreading ideas worth sharing,” and that the committee's goal is to bring that motto to life at UNC. TEDxUNC's goal is to give a platform to people with diverse backgrounds and create a space for the sharing of diverse stories on campus, she said.

“There's so much that we don't know, so many people that we typically don't get to hear from, so many topics in the regular day we don't tend to hear about and pursue,” Sayeed said. “So TEDxUNC offers that space for them to not only come together with the speakers and address these things, but also kind of take part in a subtle ratio of what it means to be human, and to approach what we don't know head-on.”

While TEDxUNC's mission has always remained the same, this year's conference looked different than those in the past.



DTH/LILLAH HAYES

Billy Warden addresses the crowd at the TEDxUNC event on April 23 in the Curtis Media Center.

First-year Owen Fender, who served as head of logistics, said another reason the committee chose the theme XYZ was since it was the conference's first year back in person. They wanted the speakers to have freedom with what they spoke about, he said.

Being the first year back, there were not very many people on the committee who had experience planning an in-person conference, which created a learning curve, Fender said.

“There was a lot of trial by fire,” he said. “We kind of consulted people from the past, we reached

out to others, because a lot of that past experience isn't in the organization anymore.”

Sayeed echoed Fender's sentiment that returning to an in-person format created challenges in the planning process. But, while the event was held on a smaller scale than in years past, she said she was still happy to be able to have all speakers and participants in the same space together.

As a speaker, Warden also appreciated the mission of TEDxUNC and the opportunity to share his experiences and

thoughts with the audience. He said in addition to providing new perspectives, one of his favorite parts about the conference is that it also gives people the chance to hear from speakers who may be going through similar things as them.

“Certainly there's going to be something in there that you're going to find comfort in or that will ring familiar to you that will make you a little less lonely,” he said.

Twitter: @\_elizabethegan

## AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

## UNC community discusses neurodivergent accessibility

This April, alumni and employees focus on inclusivity and progress

By Adele Morris

Staff Writer  
university@dailytarheel.com

When Hannah Spitzer was a child struggling with undiagnosed autism, she was told she would never be able to graduate college or live on her own.

But last May, Spitzer graduated from UNC with a degree in human development and family studies.

Now, she works as a research assistant at Project EXPRESS, a UNC research program that explores ways to promote executive functioning and social skills for individuals with autism

and other developmental disabilities.

As Autism Awareness Month is celebrated throughout April, UNC community members continue to try to create a safer environment for neurodivergent individuals.

Spitzer began exhibiting sensory issues when she was a child in the 1990s. She said she would stare at herself in the mirror for long periods of time, disliked wearing formal clothing and struggled with the sensations that accompanied washing her hair.

She said no one seemed to understand her disorder.

“No one knew the word autism, no doctors or anything,” she said. “When I began public school, they basically said that I would not be able to thrive.”

But even after receiving an autism diagnosis at 14, Spitzer said there were

still obstacles. She said socialization at UNC was particularly challenging.

Kara Hume, an associate professor at the UNC School of Education, said socialization is a majorly misunderstood aspect of autism. Hume's research focuses on how to build inclusive school and community spaces for autistic students.

She said a common false assumption is that autistic individuals do not want to be socially connected to their communities. In fact, they often do want to forge relationships with those around them, but struggle to create those initial bonds, she noted.

Just being more kind, warm and supportive can significantly help individuals with autism navigate new social relationships, she said.

Socialization is not the only problem

“No one knew the word autism, no doctors or anything. When I began public school, they basically said that I would not be able to thrive.”

Hannah Spitzer  
UNC Alumni

affecting autistic individuals at UNC. Spitzer said academic accommodations for Autism Spectrum Disorder can be an issue. She found her accommodations to be unhelpful because they gave her extra time for exams but in a different location, where she was unable to ask her professor clarifying questions.

“I had to choose between being able to ask questions about the questions on the test and extended time,” she said. “So it doesn't feel like an accommodation.”

UNC alumnus and author of the book “We're Not Broken: Changing the Autism Conversation” Eric Garcia echoed Spitzer's dissatisfaction with University accommodations as a person with autism.

“I wasn't opposed to asking for accommodations,” he said. “I just thought it was a waste of my time, because I remember getting accommodations and how piecemeal they were growing up.”

Despite struggles with socialization and accommodations, Spitzer and Garcia said they both felt welcome on campus and that most community members were familiar with autism.

Spitzer said the student organization Tar Heels at the Table was particularly helpful for her. Tar Heels at the Table is a student-run student advocacy group that provides consultation and support to the University on how to build more inclusive spaces, Hume said.

She also highlighted community groups such as the Autism Society of North Carolina's chapter at UNC and the UNC TEACCH Autism Program, a statewide organization that offers a variety of support for individuals with autism and those close to them.

She said the UNC School of Social Work just received funding to build a training module for faculty and staff on how to provide additional support for neurodivergent students. As a member of the advisory board, Hume said the group is currently uniting a panel of individuals with and without autism to create content for the module.

But even with the availability of these resources, Hume said the UNC community should focus on being supportive of autistic individuals.

She said that for professors, support could look like giving students the opportunity to share with a peer at their table or write down their thoughts on a notecard instead of speaking aloud in front of an entire class.

“There are lots of ways that people can participate and communicate that go beyond what we might think of in a traditional classroom or social setting,” Hume said.

Garcia added that professors should allow their students to engage in self-soothing and stimming — behaviors that help manage emotions or overstimulation — as long as these behaviors are minimally disruptive.

Now that there is a greater understanding of autism, UNC needs to be ready to provide services for these students, Garcia noted.

“The University needs to grow, and if it really is the University of the people — and I know that that is the way it bills itself — then it needs to include autistic people and any other neurodivergent type of person in that classification,” he said.

Twitter: @adelepmorris17



PHOTO COURTESY OF HANNAH SPITZER

Hannah Spitzer visits Las Vegas, Nevada in 2018. Spitzer is a former UNC student diagnosed with autism.



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LETTER

# UNC faculty oppose NCGA, Board of Governors and Board of Trustees overreach

We are alarmed by the interference and overreach of the North Carolina legislature, the UNC System Board of Governors, and the UNC-Chapel Hill Board of Trustees whose actions violate the principles of academic freedom and shared governance that undergird higher education in N.C. and the U.S. If enacted, we believe that these measures will further damage the reputation of UNC and the state of North Carolina and will likely bring critical scrutiny from accrediting agencies that know undue interference in university affairs when they see it. Among the disturbing recent developments:

House Bill 715. This bill, called the Higher Ed. Modernization & Affordability Act, will “prospectively eliminate academic tenure and establish (a) uniform contracting procedure for faculty at constituent institutions and community colleges.” Contract terms will range from one to four years; the new law would go into effect on July 1, 2024. The bill grants the BOT the power to “(e)nsure efficient use of institutional resources, including regularly evaluating and eliminating unnecessary or redundant expenses, personnel, and areas of study.”

House Bill 96. If passed, it will create a new American history/government graduation requirement for all students of public colleges and

universities in the state. In its current form, the bill would prescribe what is taught in this course and even determine much of the content and weight of its final exam. H.B. 96 violates core principles of academic freedom. It substitutes ideological force-feeding for the intellectual expertise of faculty.

The Board of Governors’ ongoing assault on diversity, equity and inclusion efforts at UNC schools. The Board presumes to dictate what words are acceptable in any discussions with prospective students, employees, or incoming faculty. Led by people apparently opposed to equity and made uncomfortable by the concept of inclusion, these anti-DEI efforts violate the First Amendment and interfere with the unfettered pursuit of truth and enlightenment.

The UNC-Chapel Hill Board of Trustees’ proposed School of Civic Life and Leadership. This initiative, reflecting BOT members’ proclaimed desire for greater partisan balance among the professoriate, came from BOT members rather than faculty, and it comes with \$4 million in state funding amid financial austerity elsewhere at UNC.

It constitutes a clear violation of the established principle that faculty, not politicians,



DTH/SAMANTHA LEWIS  
South Building is pictured on Oct. 10, 2022.

are responsible for a college’s curriculum.

Unfortunately, these threats are familiar.

In 2022, the national American Association of University Professors did a thorough investigation of the problems of shared governance, academic freedom, and institutional racism at UNC since 2010, concluding that UNC needs leadership that “respects faculty expertise, that observes widely accepted principles of academic governance, that protects academic inquiry from political pressures and constraints, and that is willing to do more than simply pay lip service to the idea of equity.”

Instead of heeding this warning, our leaders continue to disregard campus autonomy, attack the expertise and independence of world-class faculty, and seek to force students’ educations into pre-approved ideological containers. We must protect the principles of academic freedom and shared governance which have long made UNC a leader in public education.

– Jay M. Smith, Associate Professor of History and  
Maxine Eichner, Professor of Law

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# Graduating DTH Seniors



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Listed right to left, top to bottom: Seniors Guillermo Molero, Allie Kelly, Hunter Nelson, Olivia Rojas, Clay Morris, Ira Wilder, Hannah Collett, Preston Fore, Heidi Pérez-Moreno, Tania Tobaccowala, Elizabeth Egan, Taylor Barnhill, Emily Gajda and Layla Peykamian.



DTH/SAMANTHA LEWIS

Listed left to right, top to bottom: Graduating seniors Elizabeth Egan, Preston Fore, Hunter Nelson, Clay Morris, Guillermo Molero, Allie Kelly, Layla Peykamian, Tania Tobaccowala and Emily Gajda.

## FAREWELL COLUMN

### Hope beyond long news days

By Preston Fore  
Director of Enterprise

I still remember exactly where I was, and the excitement I felt, when I was accepted as a staff writer for The Daily Tar Heel.

While I was less enthused when I got my first story assignment — to sit through a University parking committee meeting — I was always ecstatic when I saw my byline appear on an article.

The door of my first-year dorm quickly became full of newspaper clippings with my articles, especially since we published print editions three times a week then.

But little did I know I would get to interview an astronaut and deputy director of NASA, become so invested in the politics of the Board of Trustees or be designated “lead man” for covering campus drinking water.

I also never thought I would be on the front page of the paper, let alone help direct coverage. And I definitely would have never imagined I would get to report from inside the Supreme Court of the United States with my fellow University desk-ers Liv Reilly and Ira Wilder.

While in recent months some of my reporting has seemingly been about not so great parts of campus: race discrimination allegations, lead in drinking water and accessibility issues — I truly owe a lot to UNC.

Running in the snow in the Karen

Shelton Stadium, playing mini golf in the Undergraduate Library and seeing a Bernie Sanders rally then running to Memorial Hall to hear from the United Nations’ High Commissioner for Refugees are just some of the unique memories that will stay with me forever.

Plus, I got to see parts of the worlds I had only dreamed of before during my study abroad experiences — the first time I ever traveled outside of the U.S.

But as my days checking whether the Hamilton Hall elevators are working come to a close, I am beyond thankful for the incredible opportunity I have gotten to be part of a team that cares about core journalism principles, like holding leaders accountable and uplifting underrepresented communities.

I am also grateful for the countless memories and friends UNC and the DTH has brought me. Special shout-out to this year’s management team — Guillermo Molero, Allie Kelly and Lilly Egan — for tirelessly giving their all every single day and for accepting me into the fold halfway in to the year.

And while some days in news — well, actually a lot of days — are long and tiresome, working with many talented and wonderful people at the DTH has given me hope for the future of journalism and the world.

Twitter: @forepreston



DTH/SAMANTHA LEWIS

Preston Fore (left) and Clay Morris (right) pictured on April 20, 2023.

## FAREWELL COLUMN

### A season of lessons

By Clay Morris  
DEI Co-Chairperson

Everything becomes more vivid when you’re about to say goodbye. And now that I’ve written that, it sounds goofy. But it’s true.

In the past three weeks, I’ve felt that The Daily Tar Heel office has simultaneously been a lot louder and a lot quieter. Quieter because faces I started with at the paper have left or graduated. And louder because the memories I’ve shared with friends and coworkers in the space repeatedly greet me at very high octaves.

Ironically, though, during my first year at UNC, I was dedicated to never joining The Daily Tar Heel. Several upperclassmen, Black upperclassmen, told me that the paper’s overwhelming whiteness was virtually a biohazard for journalism students of color.

“If you must: get your clips and get out,” one of them warned me.

For about a year, I listened. And then my stubbornness and hardheadedness got the best of me, and I joined the University desk where I briefly became a senior writer. I appreciated being able to apply the skills I was learning in my Hussman classes as a reporter, but I also could tell that my mentors were telling the truth about the newsroom’s whiteness (not that I didn’t believe them — you know who you are).

So, when the opportunity arose, I applied to become the diversity, equity and inclusion chairperson at the paper. I didn’t seek the position assuming I could rewrite the DTH’s legacy in one to two years. (After all, it is the campus paper of a University built by slaves.) Instead, I sought the position because I felt like I would at least be honest with

the newsroom about its issues, if nothing else. No one else had said it. And some of the mistakes made, though irreparably damaging, were simply foolish. (Yes, I’m looking at the boba as a cultural trend article... and the “We’re Sorry” column.)

And in my weeks of creating audits, hosting workshops and editing articles alongside Maydha Devarajan, Sonia Rao and Tania Tobaccowala: I realized that sometimes even being honest isn’t enough.

Because, think about it, how can a paper successfully rooted in whiteness create an effective DEI department? It can’t.

And this isn’t to say that I wasn’t able to accomplish great work, but that some things have to be torn down from the root-up. They didn’t pay me enough to be that much of a bulldozer.

However, no lesson is a wasted lesson, and especially not when the lesson is accompanied by moments of joy and indelible news-making. Had I not walked into the newsroom and began running my mouth, I never would have become friends with Olivia Rojas; made Popeyes runs with Allie Kelly and Guillermo Molero; learned that Leni Schenkel, Hannah Collett and I equally find the phrase “gummy candy” funny and discovered the wonder of Caitlyn Yadee’s black tea lemonade and Starbucks grilled cheese order. Or been able to give two-syllable nicknames to Sophia Alem (SoSo), Collin Pruitt (CoCo), Carson Elm-Picard (CoCor) and Courtney Mitchell (Diet CoCo).

So, hello to the beginning of remembering lessons that could be described with 1,001 different words.

Twitter: @claybmorris



DTH/SAMANTHA LEWIS

2022-2023 Editor-in-Chief Guillermo Molero poses in a graduation cap outside The Daily Tar Heel office on April 20, 2023.

## FAREWELL COLUMN

### Gotta spend time to make time

By Guillermo Molero  
2022-2023 Editor-in-Chief

I don’t have any words.

I’ve been sitting at this desk, typing away on this keyboard that’s slightly too small for my hands and putting together newspaper after newspaper, week after week. And I still don’t have any words.

Funny how that works, isn’t it?

But what could I say, really? I’ve been here for so long, it’s honestly getting hard to remember a time when I wasn’t doing this job. It’s like I’ve always been here.

Admittedly, that comes with a few caveats.

There have been sleepless nights, even more sleepless than usual. Nights where I wouldn’t see friends from outside the newsroom or my roommates. Nights where I wouldn’t see my roommates. There were nights where I was so caught up with the job and so overwhelmed, I wouldn’t have even known what to say to them if I did see them.

Hell, I forgot to wish my dad a happy birthday. And it hurt. A lot. It still does.

The last thing I want to do is make myself seem like some sort of martyr, wasting away for the sake of the news cycle. But it’d be wrong for me to not acknowledge the amount of time I’ve spent here.

It’d be even more wrong for me to make anyone think I regretted it. It’s important to clarify that all of the time I’ve spent here has been exactly that. Not “wasted.” Spent. And damn well-spent, too.

For every night I spent alone in the office, I spent more than I could count alongside the best company in the world.

Elections were made lively not by the tumult of the results as votes were counted, but by the yelling and joking and pizza that we shared together. The adrenaline of covering breaking news stories wouldn’t have felt as good if there weren’t another dozen or so people working feverishly to get the story out alongside me. None of it would have felt as good.

Every day since the start of August, I’ve woken up and looked forward to going to work in that office. Every day, I’ve been lucky to count myself among an elite group of journalists, whose skill and dedication never cease to amaze me. There are few greater feelings in this world than to see the people you love and care about grow, and, with this job, those chances don’t stop coming.

I got to see, first-hand, writers new and old come into the office and get sharper. The articles, columns and editorials they wrote got more lively, more direct, more inspired. The joy on their faces when they realize the impact their coverage is having on the community is infectious. It’s part of why I was able to stay motivated to keep doing my job in the first place.

And it’s not just our staff. Our editors have inspired me, too.

If the news cycle is one thing, it’s incessant. It will keep going and going

Twitter: @guimolero

## FAREWELL COLUMN

### It’s 3 a.m. and I can’t think of a good headline

By Allie Kelly  
Managing Editor

I’ve always been a morning person.

I leave the blinds of my bedroom window cracked slightly so I wake up to the sunlight. I’m most productive before noon and I subscribe to the novelty of lazy Sunday pancakes. It’s bright and I like the quiet.

The Daily Tar Heel has made me endlessly grateful for mornings.

The 3 a.m. variety. Newsroom mornings don’t come with toast or a side of scrambled eggs. There’s still (lots of) coffee involved but slightly less silence. There’s delirious laughter, spontaneous karaoke and strong opinions about punctuation.

The news cycle doesn’t sleep — and sometimes I don’t either.

There is so much about this job I couldn’t anticipate. Being a student at the school I report on meant I processed a community mental health crisis as both a student and a journalist. I often had to choose between studying for a midterm and making a print deadline or cover a breaking news story during class.

I made mistakes, fell short and woke up from many libel-related stress dreams. I cried in the conference room, threatened to quit as a joke and genuinely thought about quitting for real. But, like I said, there is so much about this job that surprised me.

Passing out NCAA Tournament victory papers to a blocks-long line of students, my hands stained from fresh printer ink, was the perfect adrenaline rush. Pressing the publish button on The Abortion Issue is a memory I will never forget. We spent long hours waiting for election results, got irrationally excited about public records and laughed way too hard at our own jokes.

I learned news judgment, confidence and far more about the Board of Trustees than any student should know. I investigated issues that directly impact our community, a responsibility I never took for granted. And I spent every day with a group of people that care as immensely about journalism, thoughtful storytelling and each other.

I’m a different person than the enthusiastic first-year scribbling notes



Community Engagement Director Elizabeth Egan poses in a graduation cap outside The Daily Tar Heel office on April 20, 2023.

## FAREWELL COLUMN

### Being vulnerable, having joy and printing news

By Elizabeth Egan  
Community Engagement Director

“The parts of ourselves that make us vulnerable are also the parts that make us beautiful.”

I heard these words in a church service I attended a few weeks ago while visiting a friend in Washington, D.C. And, for the last few weeks, while thinking about the end of my time at UNC and at The Daily Tar Heel, they keep coming back to me.

I feel vulnerable all the time. I usually don’t like it. I used to be incredibly private about my emotions and didn’t want to share what I was feeling. I have gotten better about this, but it is still hard.

But being at the DTH has taught me not only how powerful being vulnerable is, but how necessary it is. If I have learned anything here, it is to do things that make you feel vulnerable. Do things that are hard. Do things that scare you.

Even going to UNC scared me. “It’s too big,” I thought. I went to a small high school and was nervous how I would fare in a larger college environment. But I came here anyway.

“You can make a big school smaller but you can’t make a small school bigger.” I don’t remember exactly which neighbor told me this when I was deciding where to go to college, but I will never forget these words.

I joined The Daily Tar Heel during my first year of UNC, looking to find my own small part of the University. My first semester as a City & State writer was hard — I had never written a news article, never covered a Chapel Hill Town Council meeting, never gotten criticism on a council member’s blog for an article I had written. But the DTH had quickly become one of my favorites part of UNC, so I stayed.

The hard parts never went away, they just changed. I’ve jumped around to different roles at the paper — from City writer, University senior writer, assistant Audience Engagement editor, Audience Engagement editor and now Community Engagement director and they all had their own unique challenges. And a lot of times, I couldn’t avoid being vulnerable. There’s no way I could have excelled in all these positions without asking for help.

When former EIC (and my newsroom mom) Praveena Somasundaram asked me how I was doing, I knew she wouldn’t take anything other than an honest answer. And I will always be grateful for that. General Manager Courtney Mitchell has been a support system for me, given me advice and rejoiced with me about my successes. My fellow management members — EIC Guillermo Molero, Managing Editor Allie Kelly and Director

of Enterprise Preston Fore — have always had my back. Elise Trexler, who was my assistant last spring, has always been there to be my personal assistant as well.

With everything that scared me, there has been so much learning. Learning how to push through the hard parts to get to the good parts, and learning that, often, they are the same thing. Learning how to write a headline and manage social media and edit stories and lead a team of staffers. Learning how to not leave my laptop on the quad and also not accidentally almost walk through people doing archery in the pit on my quest to retrieve it (yes, this did happen). Learning from the experiences of people I probably never would have had the chance to talk to if it had not been for the paper.

And, there has also been joy. The joy of learning I would be on the management team this year as the community engagement director. The joy of having an article on the front page of the paper. And, most importantly, the joy of meeting so many wonderful people.

In “Glee,” a personal favorite TV show of mine, Rachel Berry realizes that “being a part of something special does not make you special. Something is special because you are a part of it.” And that’s how I feel about The Daily Tar Heel. The people here have made this paper something special, and I will always be grateful to have been a part of it.

Through the editing, the social media, the staff meetings, the vulnerability and the joy, I found my own little slice of the University. My very own smaller UNC.

So, thank you, Daily Tar Heel. Thank you for being my little piece of campus. Thank you for teaching me how to be a journalist and a human at the same time. Thank you for all the small moments that have made the last four years so filled with joy and anything but boring. Thank you for Wednesday night sessions of sharing “lore.” Thank you for giving me countless friends and sunsets on the fire escape and quotes on the quote wall and trips to Linda’s Bar and Grill and Monday editing breaks at He’s Not Here.

Thank you for teaching me how to be vulnerable and giving me the grace to do so. Thank you for teaching me that sometimes, the hardest things are the most worthwhile.

And most of all, thank you for making it so hard to say goodbye.

Love,  
Lilly

Twitter: @\_ElizabethEgan



DTH/SAMANTHA LEWIS

Managing Editor Allie Kelly poses in a graduation cap outside The Daily Tar Heel office on April 20, 2023.



DTH/SAMANTHA LEWIS

Elizabeth Egan and Allie Kelly pictured on April 20, 2023.



FAREWELL COLUMN

# Dear DTH, when will you make diversity a priority?



DTH/SAMANTHA LEWIS  
Elevate Editor Tania Tobaccowala  
pictured on April 20, 2023.

By Tania Tobaccowala  
Elevate Editor

Last August was the first time I had set foot in The Daily Tar Heel office.

I had no expectations, strong feelings or idea of what being a writer or editor at this newsroom meant. I had no friends who worked at the newspaper before last year and I heard nothing about the working environment or the pressures of being in this workplace. I walked into a blank slate, ready to learn and absorb as much as possible.

For the first few weeks, I took my job as an observer very seriously. I needed to understand how a newsroom worked – and I felt more foreign than ever.

I often went up to management and asked them silly questions. “So, um, what exactly is a CQ?” “What is that thing called below the headline?” “How do you look for quotes in Otter?”

I was initially hesitant — should I have known about this before I signed up? However, comfort came quick. My questions were never laughed at and I was encouraged to ask more.

Things work fast in a newsroom, faster than I had ever anticipated.

In that constant sprint, I was in awe of the hard work everyone put in, how meticulous people were and how hours went into editing a single article with a writer. This was the first time I had seen anything like it.

Quickly, I also learned that in the middle of this madness, people cared about me and I cared about them.

I was often checked up on, given spontaneous hugs, invited to dinner and then dropped off at home late

at night. Deep conversations and connections have turned into lifelong friends I am so grateful for.

But again, things moved quickly. And suddenly, I realized that in the middle of the race, I did not have time to reflect on my position or understand my role in the newsroom. Maybe I was blinded by my excitement to be a part of this monumental organization.

When things slowed down, I began to reflect.

My position in this newsroom is the Elevate Editor. And, as the Elevate editor, when people ask me what I do in this role, I still don’t know how to explain it. When taking on this position, I was told that The Daily Tar Heel historically had “issues” when reporting on specific topics. These “issues” have hurt minority groups; therefore, the Elevate section and editor came into existence. A whole (separate) section to highlight underrepresented communities.

I had no context when I decided to take on this position a year ago. This role sounded important and I was ready to be in that vital position.

Today, I believe my role should not even exist.

During the last few months, when I battled with this thought, it was hard not to think about everything wrong with this newsroom. It was hard to put friendships and love aside and critique the place you decided to work and the position you willingly signed up for.

The Elevate section and Elevate editor position give people an excuse. An excuse for others not to catch problematic terms, an excuse to not have certain conversations within their team and an excuse not to implement diverse sources in every single story — not just those marked as Elevate.

The Daily Tar Heel makes an active effort to report on various communities, and I believe we do so. However, is it fair to have editors and writers that do not currently represent our readership? Is it okay to have an overwhelmingly white newsroom with one editor and two DEI officers to look over everything “diversity” related?

I recently read Leah Asmelash’s farewell column, in which she writes: “The DTH needs its editors of

color. Journalism needs editors of color. And if we are not actively ensuring that our staffers of color are uplifted and welcome in our newsroom, whether they be college or professional, we are failing.”

That was in 2018. I never met her. Now, in 2023, this still holds true, and I don’t see an active effort to make it a priority. Voices are truly amplified in our community when the voices are truly uplifted within the newsroom.

Thank you, Clay and Sonia, for our countless discussions about diversity, equity and inclusion within the DTH and the future of Elevate. Thank you to management, my friends Guillermo, Allie, Preston and Lilly, for hearing me out and caring for me through all the institutional frustrations.

It’s time these conversations turn into action and hiring a more diverse newsroom becomes the absolute precedence. An editor should not be writing about this in their 2028 farewell column.

Twitter: @dthopinion

FAREWELL COLUMN

# A blue-hearted send-off, I fear

By Hunter Nelson  
Sports Editor

Despite my proud Michigan upbringing, I always knew I wanted to be a tarheel (one word, lowercase).

As a young foodie that craved the imaginary taste of a Time Out chicken cheddar biscuit and a NASCAR aficionado that owned more Ricky Rudd merchandise than any sane follower would like to admit, I thought spending time in the “Southern Part of Heaven” could be the move.

My first semester on campus ended up being everything I could’ve hoped for, but I still felt another play was to be made.

It was time to become a purist.

After months of snagging the latest copy of The Daily Tar Heel en route to hooping for hours in the Rams Head Recreation Center, I decided to apply for a spot on the sports desk. A week later, I almost deleted an email from then-Sports Editor Ryan Wilcox with a suspiciously labeled subject line that said, “you’re hired” — just how any reasonable student should react to a seemingly Mickey Mouse opportunity.

As it turned out, giving the message a second glance proved I knew ball.

Sitting here three and a half years later with numerous bylines and countless relationships formed, I can proudly state that joining the paper and staying loyal to the grind of becoming an editor was perhaps the best college decision I ever made.

From my first softball assignment at Anderson Stadium to the Final Four in New Orleans to the full send Talladega trip I’m still recovering from, the DTH has allowed me

to complete an abundance of side missions and has catapulted me into a main character role I can be proud of.

Given this is likely the last story I’ll ever publish in this publication, I should probably turn off the shot clock to take it myself and brag further about all the cool things I got to do. But instead, I wanted to take the time to show some love to the people that helped make it happen.

I’m a bit of an old head, so shouting out all the former editors I went into battle with each day might take a minute. But from a standpoint of your Jared McMasters, your Zach Crain, your PJ Morales, your Ryan Heller and your Jeremiah Holloway, thank you for taking this ride with me and being incredible people to interact with on a daily basis.

Wait... you know what? Here go two more shoutouts for y’all.

To the current assistants, Lucas Thomae and Shelby Swanson, thank you for bringing so much passion into the office every day and guiding the writers to become the best versions of themselves they can be. I also wanted to show love to all the journalism professors and professional mentors (you all know who you are, no need for me to report) that pushed me to work hard and helped me become a quality storyteller — although I know there’s still room to grow.

But lastly, thank you to Chapel Hill for being the theater that made it all happen.

When I first visited the town in May 2019, I had visions of becoming a blue-hearted fan that would do anything to watch the heels (again, lowercase) come out on top. Although I’m happy I made the

transition to an objective reporter that values the “game within the game,” I still got chills each time I covered a home event because I had to pinch myself that being here was my current reality.

In just a few clicks, my final words to graze this website will be filed. In a half-hour, I’ll deliver one of my final “YEEEEOOOOOs” as I enter the elevated door at 109 East Franklin St. with a Panera Charged Lemonade clenched in my fist.

And in a week, I’ll miss it all.

Hidden behind all the desk-related jargon and the inside jokes that will go over the heads of many, I think adding a quick nut graf below as the cherry on top of this sabbatical is sneaky bag.

So, the TL;DR?

To the people close to me, to Chapel Hill and to a student newspaper of a supposedly “dying” industry, thank you for being “so love” and helping little Hunter make the most of his dream.

Twitter: @hunternelson\_1



DTH/SAMANTHA LEWIS  
Sports Editor Hunter Nelson  
pictured on April 20, 2023.

FAREWELL COLUMN

# Muses from a girl still growing up



DTH/SAMANTHA LEWIS  
Assistant Opinion Editor Layla  
pictured on April 20, 2023.

By Layla Peykamian  
Assistant Opinion Editor

A message about my class being canceled, some junk mail and an email from a DTH reader entitled “You’re not ready for the grown-up world.” That’s what my inbox looked like one day after publishing a column about sexual harassment on Franklin St.

That last email contained some choice words discouraging me from advocating against sexual harassment. It was a collection of angry complaints that wasn’t meant to inspire a profound reaction.

If there’s anything I’ve learned since my time here at the DTH, it’s that I am not ready for the “grown-up world.”

The DTH is composed of 200-something, 17- to 22-year-old college students. Two hundred students living out of dorm rooms with a meal plan, assignments they’re behind on and, odds are, a hangover. Two hundred grown-up children.

I was completely unprepared for college. Now, at the end of my collegiate career, I feel like I finally have all the skills I needed to do college “right.” I

know how to plan my schedule, what to ask for at The Meantime Coffee Co., what settings on dorm washing machines to use, how many alarms it takes me to make it to an 8 a.m. class

And now that I finally have these skills, I’m leaving college. I’m entering new territory where I am once again woefully unprepared. I don’t think I ever could be completely ready — and maybe I’m not supposed to be.

But the DTH has constantly served as a place where it’s okay that I’m still learning. It’s okay to be a little stressed, a little messy and a little bit closer to being a grown-up child than an adult.

To everybody in the newsroom for helping me with AP style every 15 seconds because I have never taken a journalism class. To late nights, too much coffee and endless inside jokes. To my writers for working so hard and watching me struggle to come up with a “QOTD” every single meeting.

To everyone in the “hot brunettes” group chat for validating my anxieties over Que Chula tacos and margaritas. To my amazing editors Paige Masten and Rajee Ganesan, who saw something worth publishing in my work. And to Caitlyn Yaede, for giving me this job, being my number one supporter and being one of my best friends.

Thank you, all, for letting me grow up in front of you.

People say your time in college is the best years of your life, but I have to disagree. No matter how great these past years have been, I want every year to get better.

So, no, I’m not ready for the grown-up world. But I am excited. And I’ll see you there.

Twitter: @dthopinion

FAREWELL COLUMN

# Realizing Who in Fact “we” Are, together



DTH/SAMANTHA LEWIS  
Copy Board Member Emily Gajda  
pictured on April 20, 2023.

By Emily Gajda  
Copy Board Member

Sometimes, I still feel like I’m new around here.

I only joined the staff of The Daily Tar Heel in September, long after many of my fellow seniors did. By now, it’s only been about seven months.

I’m not going to say I’ve loved every minute. Honestly, working here has given me a lot of complicated feelings — towards journalism, the University, Chapel Hill and even my colleagues.

I think it makes sense to feel sour towards your college town when I’ve lived here for four years and am ready to move onwards and elsewhere. But, at the same time, it’s nice to know my bartenders at Zog’s and Linda’s. I love having a favorite seat at a coffee shop.

Every student has their ups and downs with their university. Did I want to go to UNC? Not particularly. I wanted grander spaces, stained glass windows, colder winters and something more reminiscent of Gilmore Girls.

But I found my way once I got here.

Over time, I noticed my campus’ beauty, as I realized the serenity of McCorkle Place, the antique comfort of Graham Memorial Lounge, the

warmth of sunshine and friends on the Quad on the first warm day at the end of winter.

And journalism has its ups and downs. The nature of news is that there always is some — meaning there’s rarely a day when I don’t think about work.

When I started working at the DTH, I was in the middle of preparing for the LSAT. I was about to visit UC-Berkeley’s law school. I had a grand plan for what I was going to do next and none of it involved the news.

The job itself can be grueling, and I couldn’t write a column like this without mentioning how tired I am at the end of this semester.

But here I am now, having not applied to a single law school, planning for my next move to start reporting at a local independent paper.

I never would’ve made the decision to pursue journalism without the

people I worked with.

I doubt I would’ve even applied for that job.

The DTH office isn’t redeemed by its comforting and peaceful energy, nor its snack selection. It’s redeemed by the people inside it.

That’s what complicates those tired, sometimes (often) defeated feelings at the end of a print cycle — the friends who are there encouraging me through every story I write or edit, drinking blue cups after deadlines and watching all the coverage of Donald Trump’s indictment on our phones.

They’re the ones who make me happy that I took this job randomly.

The people I get to work with every day have made my senior year better than I ever thought it could be — and even harder to let go of now that it’s ending.

Heading into my next chapter, I’m

thinking about my favorite quote from Aldous Huxley’s 1962 novel Island:

“The more a man knows about himself in relation to every kind of experience, the greater his chance of suddenly, one fine morning, realizing who in fact he is — or rather Who (capital W) in Fact (capital F) “he” (between quotation marks) Is (capital I).”

I’m so lucky to have had this specific experience and to have been surrounded by people who made me not only a better journalist but a better person. The experience of working with them was one I didn’t know I needed, but that I am so glad that I had.

These people have gotten me closer to finding myself.

At the end of the day, isn’t that what we’re all really searching for — Who in Fact “we” Are?

Twitter: @dthopinion



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Extra words...25¢/word/day Extra words...25¢/word/day  
EXTRAS: Box: \$1/day • Bold: \$3/day

DTH office is open Mon-Fri 9:00am-5:00pm



Deadlines

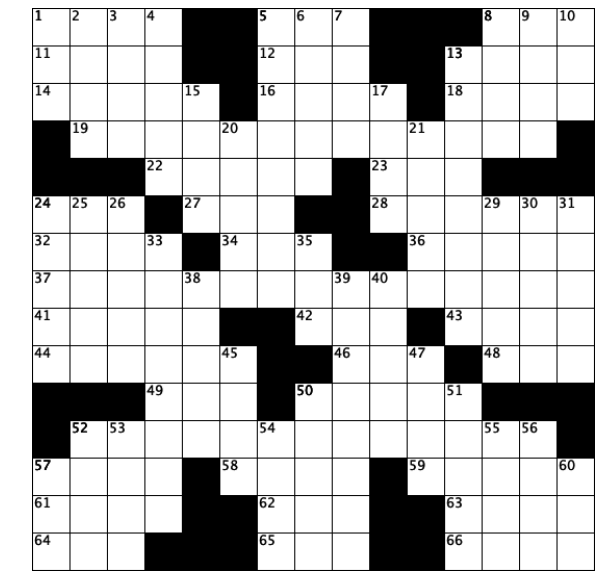
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go to [www.dailytarheel.com/classifieds](http://www.dailytarheel.com/classifieds)  
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Help Wanted

**CHCCS IDEA PUBLIC NOTICE** The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA-Part B, Public Law 108.446) Project is presently being amended. The Project describes the special education programs that Chapel Hill Carrboro City Schools proposes for Federal funding for the 2023-2024 School Year. Interested persons are encouraged to review amendments to the Project and make comments concerning the implementation of special education under this Federal Program. All comments will be considered prior to submission of the amended Project to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction in Raleigh, North Carolina. The IDEA-Part B Project is open to the public for review and comments from April 20, 2023 to April 28, 2023, in the office of the Executive Director of Exceptional Children located at 750 S Merritt Mill Rd, Chapel Hill, NC 27516.

**NANNY NEEDED FOR 6 MONTH OLD** Looking for full-time nanny in May. Located in Pittsboro, \$20 an hour. We would like to bump up to a share with one other child this summer and the rate would go up to \$25 an hour. Sick and vacation offered. We are a same-sex family with 3 cats and one child. She will be 6 months pretty soon and is a laidback, happy baby. Must be non-smoking. Spanish speaking a plus but not a requirement. Great for someone finishing college in May that wants to take a gap year or two! Contact at [krichards15@gmail.com](mailto:krichards15@gmail.com).



"SUBLIMINAL MESSAGING"

This week's crossword was created by Liam Furlong. Liam is a UNC sophomore majoring in comparative literature and education. He is from Wilmington, Delaware.

- Across**  
1 Senior year dance  
5 UNC's MAC Program graduate  
8 Egyptian boy king  
11 Like a juicy steak  
12 Participated in the Tar Heel 10-Miler, say  
13 Unit of medicine  
14 Initial illness wave  
16 2023 Taylor Swift tour  
18 Provoking thought  
19 Unfortunate draws in "Monopoly"  
22 Dalmatian's prints  
23 Amazement  
24 Monet or Manet prints  
27 Colorado resort type  
28 Federer's equipment  
32 "\_\_\_\_, hear our prayer..."  
34 Adam's original partner  
36 Retail building  
37 "How I Met Your Mother" instrumental symbols  
41 Group of Muslim scholars  
42 "\_\_\_\_ have to repeat myself?"  
43 "Take a nap!"  
44 ABC's "\_\_\_\_ Family"  
46 Lawmakers in the U.K.  
48 Tags in an Instagram comment, say  
49 "A long time \_\_\_\_..."  
50 Microsoft competitor  
52 Greenlaw 223, meeting space for English majors  
57 Prefix for 'rail' and 'myth'  
58 Qatar continent  
59 Punk, rock, or punk rock  
61 "Don't \_\_\_\_ give up!"  
62 Asian-American comedian Wong  
63 Periodicals, informally



- 64 \_\_\_\_ Moines, IA  
65 Mighty writing tool  
66 Lying on
- Down**  
1 Not an amateur  
2 Called via telephone  
3 Approximately  
4 Introduces oneself at swim competitions?  
5 Able to think out of the box  
6 "Midnight in \_\_\_\_," starring Owen Wilson  
7 Fussiness that rears its ugly head  
8 Chrisley that knew best, until he was arrested for tax fraud  
9 Purposes, functions  
10 Beverage sometimes containing boba  
13 Kubrick or Kurosawa, professionally  
15 Bests the competition  
17 "The Lion King" antagonist  
20 Class clown, perhaps  
21 Flooded with water  
24 Counting Crows's "Hard Candy," for instance  
25 Viking, first ruler of Normandy  
26 Brought into an exact shape, with honest effort  
29 1950-53 war location  
30 Young's law partner  
31 Examines with MRIs and CT scans  
33 Disposition  
35 "The \_\_\_\_ is near"  
38 1996 film starring Frances McDormand and Steve Buscemi  
39 Whine about  
40 African river-dweller, shortly  
45 PBS science series  
47 Snail sans shell, possibly  
50 Feeble, weak with age  
51 Medical injection, which you might pay out the rear for  
52 Soap brand and peace symbol  
53 Small denominations  
54 Soonest ETA  
55 Small insect with a bite  
56 "Therefore..."  
57 \_\_\_\_ Deli (bottom of Lenoir option)  
60 Psychic's ability

Help Wanted

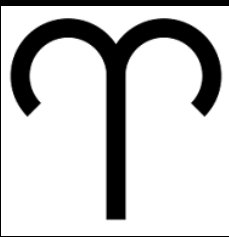
**OFFICE MANAGER** For construction firm, full or part time. Successful applicants will benefit from experience with Microsoft Office programs, strong communication and editing skills. Applicants with little experience should apply as pay will increase with time and experience. Position located in Chapel Hill. Email Resume to [helpwanted@ncbuilding.com](mailto:helpwanted@ncbuilding.com).

**ACCOUNTING - ENTRY LEVEL** CPA/CFP teaches students QuickBooks accounting software in Gov Club home office. Build resume skills. Work your own schedule. \$15/hour. Send resume to [cardello@fpec.org](mailto:cardello@fpec.org). Call 919-619-3176.

**LEGAL ASSISTANT WANTED** Haywood, Denny & Miller is a Durham law firm looking for a full-time legal assistant. Good typing and computer skills required. Send resume to [lwinfree@hdmllp.com](mailto:lwinfree@hdmllp.com)

HOROSCOPES

If April 26th is Your wBirthday...



Today's Birthday (04/26/23). Dream and plan this year. Community coordination builds strong foundations for success. Discover exciting insights and inspiration this spring. Nurturing each other and collaborating to address summer changes motivates an autumn health and energy boost. Surrender outworn personal habits next winter. Envision what you want.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

**ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19)**  
Today is an 8 — Avoid traffic or roadblocks and stick close to home. Make repairs or upgrades for lasting improvement. Make a domestic change you've been dreaming about.

**TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)**  
Today is a 9 — Ignore distractions, rumors, gossip or idle chatter. Adapt around unexpected plot twists. Your creativity comes up with useful solutions. Discover a missing link.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)  
Today is an 8 — Stay in communication to keep finances flowing. It's not a good time to gamble. Don't buy toys now either. Adapt around confusion or changes.

the future. Consider the big picture. You're the author of your own story. How do you want it to go?

**VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)**  
Today is a 9 — Rely on support from friends with a challenge. Wait for better conditions to advance. Refine the shared mission, goal and vision. Invite participation.

**LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)**  
Today is a 9 — Adapt to unforeseen professional changes. A dreamy opportunity tempts. Realize what you envision with discipline and determination. Don't force things. Wait and prepare.

**SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)**  
Today is a 7 — Wait for better travel conditions. Assess the situation carefully before advancing. Adapt your educational exploration. Patient, gentle connection can open doors.

**SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC.21)**  
Today is a 7 — Review numbers before committing to a purchase. Another financial obstacle could

arrive; roll with it. Avoid silly arguments. Listen generously. Collaborate with kindness.

**CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)**  
Today is an 8 — Collaborate behind the scenes. Strategize with your partner for solutions around obstacles. Communication is key. Watch for secret signals. Share a treat together.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).  
Today is an 8 — Prioritize health and energy. Your work is gaining attention. Practice challenging moves. Slow for sharp corners. Avoid making technical errors. Keep doing what's working.

**PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)**  
Today is a 9 — Wait for romantic developments. Obstacles lie ahead. Play by the rules. Network and find clever solutions. Stay flexible.

SUDOKU

1	3	5	9	2	8	4	7	6
6	7	9	3	4	1	8	5	2
4	8	2	6	7	5	9	1	3
7	1	4	5	6	3	2	8	9
8	9	3	2	1	4	5	6	7
2	5	6	8	9	7	1	3	4
9	6	8	7	5	2	3	4	1
5	2	1	4	3	6	7	9	8
3	4	7	1	8	9	6	2	5

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9.

			3	8				
5								1
		9		1		8	2	
8			7			4		6
3	7						9	2
9		5			3			8
	9	7		8		2		
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CRIMINAL JUSTICE

# ACLU challenges new NCGA riot legislation



DTH/ANASTASIA GARCIA

The North Carolina Legislative Building is pictured on Monday, April 24.

The bill became law without the governor’s signature on March 21

By Maddie Singleon  
Senior Writer  
city@dailytarheel.com

Earlier this month the American Civil Liberties Union of North Carolina filed a lawsuit challenging multiple provisions of House Bill 40, which is set to impose stricter penalties for rioting.

In its complaint, the ACLU named two members who would

be affected by the bill due to their continued involvement in Black Lives Matter protests, including Jaelyn Miller, a community lawyering fellow at Emancipate NC.

The suit argues the law will dissuade people from engaging in lawful protest activities, according to a press release. H.B. 40 amended and expanded the N.C. Anti-Riot Act, which, according to the complaint filed by ACLU, violates the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution and three sections of Article I of the North Carolina Constitution.

H.B. 40 — which was sponsored

by N.C. House Speaker Tim Moore (R-Cleveland, Rutherford) — defines a riot as a public disturbance of three or more people which through disorderly or violent conduct results in injury or damage. It also said that anyone who urges someone to riot can be charged.

Samuel Davis, an attorney with the ACLU of NC Legal Foundation said H.B. 40 violates the First Amendment for two reasons.

The first, he said, is that the law is overbroad to the point that it includes lawful protest activities. The second is that speech that urges other people to engage in a riot is protected by the First Amendment, due to a precedent

set by the Fourth Circuit finding a nearly identical provision in the federal Anti-Riot Act unconstitutional.

“We think this is pretty clearly an effort to combat or to target dissenting views and to undermine peaceful protest movement and so we brought suit to vindicate the constitutional rights of all North Carolinians and to protect the rights of individuals who engage in peaceful protests,” Davis said.

The bill became law without Gov. Roy Cooper’s signature on March 17 and amendments to the Anti-Riot Act are scheduled to take effect in December. In 2021, Cooper vetoed similar legislation due to First Amendment concerns.

“I acknowledge that changes were made to modify this legislation’s effect after my veto of a similar bill last year,” Cooper said in a statement. “Property damage and violence are already illegal and my continuing concerns about the erosion of the First Amendment and the disparate impacts on communities of color will prevent me from signing this legislation.”

Miller said she believes the law is a reaction to the Black Lives Matter movement and events in 2020.

She said the law will have disproportionate effects on people of color. Even at protests that are predominately white, police will target Black and brown organizers, and H.B. 40 attempts to put a chilling effect on protests by making people afraid of arrest if they exercise their First Amendment rights, she said.

“If you chill the movement and you chill the protest, then you chill the benefits to the Black and brown community,” she said.

Davis said the law will have disproportionate effects on

communities of color because vague and over-broad laws give prosecutors and police major discretion as to how they are enforced, leading to discriminatory enforcement.

“I don’t think it’s an accident that legislators first sought to enhance and expand the Anti-Riot Act in the first legislative session after the Black Lives Matter movement,” Davis said.

Miller said Republican lawmakers are afraid of the results of the Black Lives Matter movements including efforts to defund the police and the rising interest of young people in politics. She said Democrats who passed the law are out of touch with their constituents and compared them to N.C. Rep. Tricia Cotham (R-Mecklenburg), who recently switched parties.

Davis said North Carolina is not alone in using the Anti-Riot Act in this way. Over the past few years, several similar laws have been passed in response to the Black Lives Matter movement across the country and have been enjoined by federal courts.

“There’s a national coordinated campaign to start trying to slow down these protests because they are having such a profound effect on our country — nationally on the conversations we’re having around policing and police misconduct,” Miller said.

Instead of listening to the movement, Republicans want to shut it down, she said.

Davis said the ACLU has not yet heard back from opposing counsel and is waiting for them to indicate who will be representing the parties and begin the preliminary stages of litigation.

Twitter: @msingleton42

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY

# ‘Lives depend on it’: NC Dems introduce crime bill

House Bill 596 would address rising hate crimes in North Carolina

By Tori Newby  
Staff Writer  
city@dailytarheel.com

Four Democratic N.C. House Representatives introduced a bill that aims to address the rise in hate crimes across the state.

House Bill 596, otherwise known as the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, would increase punishments for those who commit hate crimes, require additional training for law enforcement and prosecutors and mandate establishing a hate crimes statistics database.

The bill did not have bipartisan support when it was introduced.

The FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Program defines a hate crime as a crime that is motivated by the offender’s biases against characteristics such as race, ethnicity, religion, disability status, gender identity or sexual orientation.

“We’re really trying to address this problem holistically because people’s lives depend on it,” Rep. Caleb Rudow (D-Buncombe), one of the bill’s primary sponsors and the only Jewish member of the House, said.

The bill’s other primary sponsors are Reps. Nasif Majeed (D-Mecklenburg), Maria Cervania (D-Wake), Allen Buansi (D-Orange).

Majeed, the bill’s lead sponsor and the only Muslim representative in the House, said he’s had experience with discrimination and wanted diverse co-sponsors representative of the state.

Rudow said his motivation for co-sponsoring the bill stemmed from experiencing violence against the Jewish community.

“Every time I go into the synagogue, we have an armed guard there,” Rudow said. “There have been real attacks on synagogues throughout the country, and we, unfortunately, have to be prepared.”

Buansi said a racially motivated attack on one of his constituents years ago highlighted a need for stricter legislation.

“I can’t see why a reasonable person would not want to address hate crimes with the level of seriousness that it deserves,” he said.

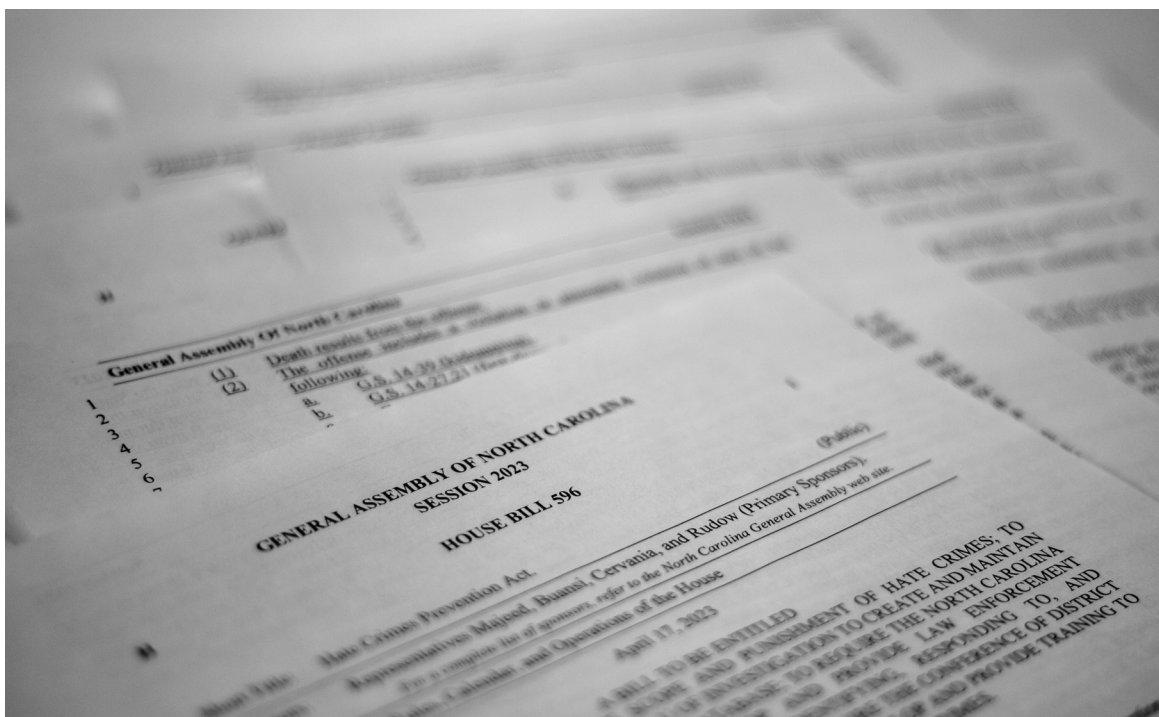
According to the FBI Crime Data Explorer, North Carolina had a record number of reported hate crimes in 2021, the most recent year for which data is available. Across the state, 273 hate crimes were reported.

The bill would increase punishments for crimes motivated by bias, if passed.

For example, the most serious type of misdemeanors, which include offenses such as assault with a deadly weapon, would be reclassified as a felony if found to be motivated by bias. The maximum sentence for that felony type is 25 month in prison instead of the misdemeanor type’s 150-day sentence.

Rudow said he hopes an increase in severity of punishments will deter people from committing hate crimes.

Jovita Lee, policy director for Advance Carolina, said an increase in punishments could provide reassurance for victims that offenders will be held accountable. They said the bill wouldn’t eradicate hate crimes, but that there could be a decline in these offenses.



DTH PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/PHILLIP LE

DTH Photo Illustration. The N.C. House introduced House Bill 596, which increases the penalties for hate crimes.

In 2021, the U.S. Department of Justice reported 62.1 percent of hate crimes in North Carolina were motivated by race, ethnicity or ancestry.

“This is decades upon decades upon centuries of violence that has been conducted against these groups, especially Black and Brown communities,” Lee said.

The Hate Crime Prevention Act would require the N.C. Conference of District Attorneys to develop training for prosecutors on hate crimes. The bill would also require the North

Carolina Justice Academy to provide law enforcement officers with training on handling hate crimes.

“Law enforcement officers aren’t experts at social justice issues,” Lee said. “That’s not what they’re hired to do. And so they’re going to need that additional support and training to even be somewhat equitable or productive in that space.”

If the bill is passed, it will also require the State Bureau of Investigation to create and maintain a database to track hate crime offenses and identifying

characteristics of victims and offenders. Hate crimes go underreported in North Carolina, according to Buansi.

Rudow said the database would be an important tool to assess whether heavier penalties and more training are reducing hate crimes effectively.

On April 17, the bill was moved to the House rules committee.

Majeed said he is working on getting support from the House’s Republican supermajority.

Twitter: @torinewbyy



U.S. SENATE

# Lumbee Tribe seeks federal recognition

A new bill would open up more funds for the North Carolina tribe

By Walker Livingston  
Senior Writer  
city@dailytarheel.com

The Lumbee Tribe, the largest Indigenous tribe in North Carolina and east of the Mississippi River, is continuing its 135-year-long pursuit of federal recognition through the Lumbee Fairness Act.

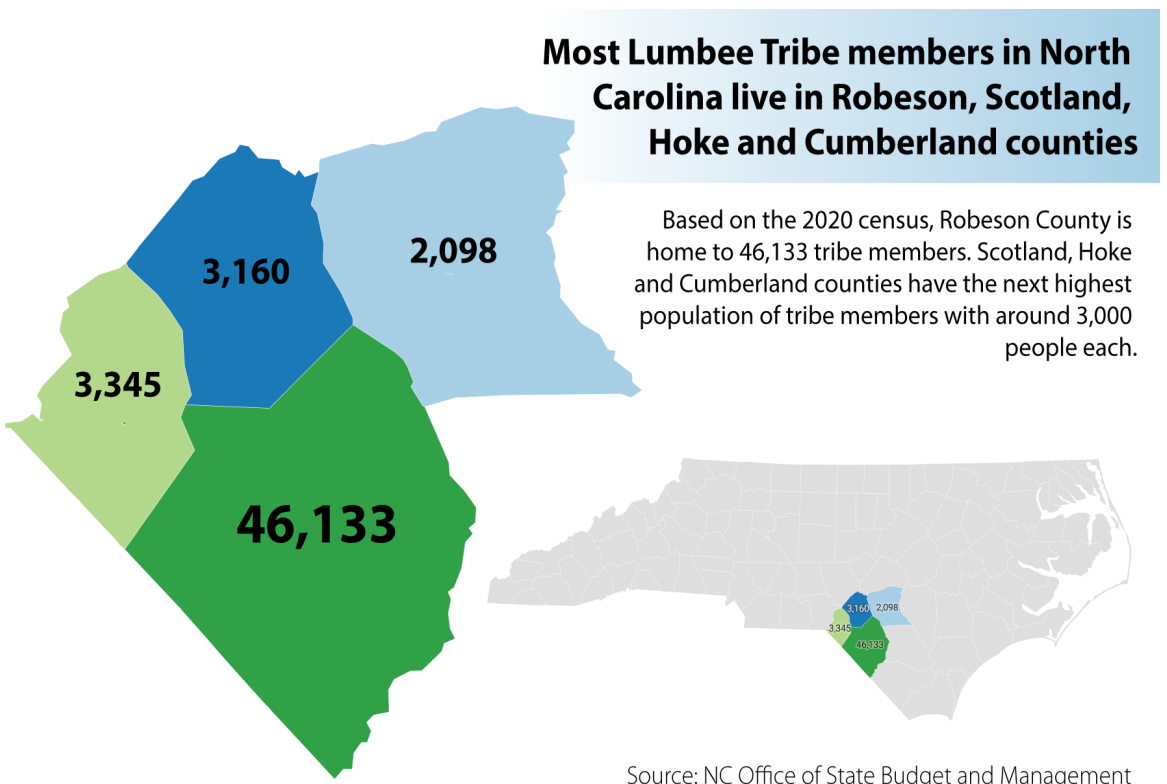
The Lumbee Fairness Act was introduced by Sens. Ted Budd (R-N.C.) and Thom Tillis (R-N.C.) in the Senate on February 17. This piece of legislation is one of many attempts at federal recognition for the Lumbee in past years.

The Lumbee, whose tribal territory is located in southeastern North Carolina in Robeson, Hoke, Cumberland and Scotland counties, became one of North Carolina's eight state-recognized Indigenous tribes in 1985.

Three years after gaining state recognition, the Lumbee began pursuing full federal recognition. In 1956, Congress passed the Lumbee Act, which acknowledged the Lumbee as a tribal nation, but denied the Lumbee services and benefits from the government.

"We are continuing to ask Congress to get right what their predecessors got wrong," John Lowery, the chairperson of the Lumbee Tribe, said.

Though the Lumbee Tribe — which has more than 55,000 members — does not receive the financial resources from the government that other federally recognized tribes do, the tribe works to provide housing, health and education services to members.



"I want people to know that we are a tribal entity, we are a tribal government, we are a government that is self-sustaining," Lowery said.

Lowery believes that if the Tribe can gain federal recognition status, these resources will increase economic development in the tribal territory, he said.

If the tribe was federally recognized, it would have access to funds and programs run by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs and would have access to health care through Indian Health Service.

"I am very pleased with the bipartisan, bicameral support that we have in the United States Congress,"

Lowery said. "I don't know if we've ever had it this solidified before."

Lowery has worked with Budd, Tillis and Rep. David Rouzer (R-N.C. 7th), the congressional representative for much of the Lumbee tribal territory, to build support for the act.

"It's just really about political relationships," Keith Richotte Jr., an associate professor of American Indian law at UNC, said.

The eight state-recognized tribes are the Coharie Tribe, the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation, the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe, the Lumbee Tribe, the Meherrin Indian Tribe, the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation,

the Sappony and the Waccamaw Siouan Tribe.

Tony Hayes, the chairperson of the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation, has worked to push for the Lumbee Fairness Act. The Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation is a state-recognized tribe whose tribal territory encompasses UNC and Orange County.

"If you're federally recognized that means you have a sovereign piece of land," Hayes said.

Hayes, who also works with the NC Indian-Economic Development-Initiative, said that full federal recognition can allow tribal nations to create a revenue stream that state-recognized tribes cannot.

"This new bill is exciting, but it's one of many, many, many attempts."

**Tia Hunt**  
UNC sophomore, member of the Lumbee Tribe

"There's this whole dividing line amongst the Indian tribes of America based on the treaties of the late 1700s and the early 1800s which allowed certain tribes — due to size, proximity and value to the U.S. government — to be federally recognized," Hayes said.

Smaller tribes, like the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation, have less of an opportunity to pursue federal recognition, he said.

Tribal nations can pursue federal recognition through Congress or the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Pursuing federal recognition through the bureau is a long and often expensive process, Lowery said.

"For the most part, we think about the federal government as being the body that mostly deals with Native nations," Richotte said. "So that's why the United States passes laws like the Indian Child Welfare Act."

Members of the Lumbee Tribe, like UNC sophomore Tia Hunt, are hopeful but wary about this year's attempt at federal recognition for the tribe.

"This new bill is exciting, but it's one of many, many, many attempts," Hunt said.

Hunt said she wouldn't be proud of the label that federal recognition holds, but would be proud of the resources that recognition would provide the Lumbee, she said.

"It's deserved at this point, so either give it to us, or don't," she said.

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STATE LEGISLATURE

# House Republicans aim to criminalize drag shows

House Bill 673 would ban performances where minors may be present

By Arwen Helms  
Staff Writer  
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On April 18, Republican lawmakers in the N.C. House of Representatives filed House Bill 673, which would criminalize drag shows in the presence of minors statewide.

In the bill, the definition of "adult live entertainment" includes

"male or female impersonators who provide entertainment that appeals to a prurient interest, regardless of whether or not performed for consideration." The bill does not clarify the meaning of "prurient interest" or "male or female impersonators."

N.C. Rep. Jeff Zenger (R-Forsyth), one of the primary sponsors of the bill, said in a statement to WCNC that constituents were concerned after an incident at Forsyth Technical Community College in which a drag queen performed a lap dance on a high school student.

"This bill is a response to those concerns expressed to me about age-appropriate entertainment," Zenger said.

Tami Fitzgerald, executive director of the NC Values Coalition, said in an interview with ABC11 that while adults have the right to see adult performances like drag shows, they should not be imposed on children.

The proposed bill makes a first offense a Class A1 misdemeanor and subsequent offenses Class I felonies. Class I felonies are punishable by 3 to 12 months in prison. Other Class A1

"I realize, to these lawmakers, that they probably don't see this as that big of a deal. But it is felt very much as a personal attack."

**David Zealy-Wright**  
Therapist, educator and drag performer

misdeemeanors include child abuse and sexual battery, while Class I felonies include domestic violence and terrorist threats.

"That's a lot for just putting on some heels," Lolita Chanel, a North Carolina drag queen, said.

They said the bill seeks to criminalize the transgender and queer communities.

"Everything you put into drag is nothing more than art," Chanel said. "And the queer community, in general, has this as our base type of expression."

David Zealy-Wright, a therapist, educator and drag performer who goes by the stage name DeVida, said drag is a place for him to perform authentically.

"Drag can be political. Drag can be thought-provoking. Drag can be funny," Buff Faye, a drag queen and activist, said. "That's what it means to me."

Zealy-Wright said that the big-picture goal of this legislation is to discriminate against queer people — to incarcerate, remove and limit the community's freedoms — regardless of the appropriateness or safety of such actions.

Faye said bills targeting drag performances aim to discriminate against the LGBTQ+ community and motivate the Republican base to vote in the gubernatorial election.

Chanel said they are scared about the proposed legislation and have received messages from loved ones who share their fear. They said the

legislation impacts everyone, not just the drag community.

"I realize, to these lawmakers, that they probably don't see this as that big of a deal," Zealy-Wright said. "But it is felt very much as a personal attack."

The bill could put people out of work, Zealy-Wright said, especially those who rely on successful drag brunches in cities like Raleigh and Charlotte for their livelihoods. He said passing the proposed legislation would result in people openly defying the law and being arrested as a result.

Chanel said that the bill could impact the drag community's charitable donations and hurt nonprofits that depend on their support.

Drag performers have historically served as activists and supporters of the LGBTQ+ community as a whole. Drag queens like Marsha P. Johnson lead the Stonewall Riots in 1969 in protest of police raids on gay clubs.

"We are the face of the queer community," Chanel said.

Zealy-Wright predicted more behavioral and emotional challenges for LGBTQ+ youth if H.B. 673 passes. He also thinks young voters will not reflect officials pushing this legislation, since he said it is an unreasonable use of time and taxpayer dollars — which he considers a bipartisan view.

"At the end of the day, all this rhetoric hurts our young LGBTQ+ youth who are struggling already just to be who they are," Faye said.

Twitter: @arwen\_helms



Lolita Chanel collects tips from the crowd during a performance.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BOBBY KERNS



HEALTH & WELLNESS

# National Donate Life Month combats medical mistrust



DTH/GURU BALAMURUGAN

UNC Hospital is home to the Jason Ray Transplant Clinic off of Manning Drive in Chapel Hill, pictured here on Monday, April 24.

## Perceptions of discrimination in the medical system affect rates of organ donation in NC

By Olivia Gschwind  
Staff Writer  
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Every April, National Donate Life Month encourages people to sign up to become organ donors through activities and events that foster community engagement and education.

However, some believe a history of medical discrimination and inequity in the health care system has targeted underrepresented groups and continues to affect the donation process for both organ donors and recipients.

“There is a lot of medical distrust, and it’s rightfully earned in a lot of cases,” Tiffianna Elmore, DMV and teen outreach program manager for Donate Life NC, said.

North Carolina has a population of about 10.6 million people, but only 5.6 million are registered to be donors, according to Elmore.

As of December 2022, the Organ Procurement & Transplantation Network approved a new policy that addresses racial biases in estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) calculations—which gauge kidney function. Doctors use these calculations to assess how sick a kidney patient is.

The policy requires hospitals to assess their transplant waiting lists and backdate waiting times for Black kidney transplant candidates who were disadvantaged by the use of race-inclusive eGFR calculations.

According to OPTN, the use of Black race variables in calculating eGFR values was found to overestimate a Black patient’s kidney function by as much as 16 percent.

Overestimating kidney function means that a patient could appear to be less quantitatively sick than in reality, which may influence placement on the transplant waiting list.

In June 2022, the OPTN board of directors voted unanimously to implement a race-neutral eGFR calculation.

Pam Smith, the manager of multicultural initiatives for Donate Life NC, donated her kidney to her husband in 2013.

Smith said she presents facts and information to people about organ donation to help them make their own informed decisions.

Smith and her husband, Rev. Antonio Smith, co-founded the nonprofit Smith Bios Group, which encourages people to lead

healthy lifestyles and register to become organ donors.

Smith said they go to predominately Black churches to dispel myths, share their stories and encourage people to register as organ donors.

“There’s also that history, all of that history, where African Americans weren’t treated properly,” she said. “And it’s interesting that, even in 2023, that is still a concern for a lot of people and that’s one of the first things people think about sometimes when we approach them.”

The American Board of Internal Medicine Foundation commissioned a NORC study that examined medical mistrust among socioeconomic demographics. The study found that physician distrust increased during the COVID-19 pandemic and is higher among Black and Hispanic patients.

The study also examined the drivers of distrust between doctors and patients. Many patients attributed their distrust to a lack of interaction with their doctors. However, many doctors attributed patients’ perceived distrust to poor communication.

Daniela Matz is a transplant social worker at a UNC Health Latino Kidney Clinic. The clinic, which addresses shared cultural values, beliefs and misconceptions, has increased access to kidney transplants in the North Carolina Latino community.

“The Latino Clinic is not to segregate people,” Matz said. “It is just to be able to provide more culturally competent care and not only understanding the language and being able to communicate with our patients, but also understanding the culture.”

Cultural competence in health care works to address communication and language barriers. It also provides training to staff and recruiting employees from the community in an effort to improve health care access and increase patient satisfaction.

“I feel that the health care system could better serve everybody,” Matz said. “If everybody had access to preventative care, it would make a huge difference.”

This lack of access, even to be able to adhere to doctors’ recommendations, continues to hinder health care for underrepresented communities and trust in the patient-doctor relationship, according to NORC data.

Matz said there are ways that the state is trying to close these barriers, but it takes a lot of effort and support from the system.

*Editor’s note: Matz said her views are her own as a social worker and not the views of UNC Health.*

Twitter: @OliviaGschwind

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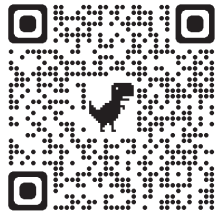
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MUSIC

# ‘Trumpet Monk’: Franklin Street’s brass musician

Chris had a long guitar career before returning to Chapel Hill

By Jenna Rupp  
Staff Writer  
city@dailytarheel.com

At the pinnacle of his guitar career in 2012, a local musician who goes by “Trumpet Monk” realized how deeply unhappy he was.

He put down his guitar, intending never to play music again.

But Trumpet Monk said his outlook changed in 2022 with the onset of the Russia-Ukraine war.

He said he was watching the news when he saw an interview with a jazz musician, who was playing very close to the Russia-Ukraine border just prior to the invasion. The musician said she was not scared of the war because she was so immersed in her music.

“It was the spark that reignited my flame,” he said. “I grabbed the trumpet, and I can’t put it down.”

Publicly, he also goes by his first name, Chris.

During his guitar career, he traveled around the world 10 times, performing in cities such as Beijing, Hong Kong and Bangkok.

After learning how to play the trumpet, Chris said he felt called to remain in Chapel Hill rather than return overseas because of his sentimental connection to the area.

“I want to give back to UNC,” he said. “We all gain so much from our time here, and we’re all blessed to be here.”

As a native of Chapel Hill, Chris said he was first introduced to



DTH/ANGIE TRAN

Chris, the “Trumpet Monk,” plays his rendition of a Louis Armstrong piece at sunset by the corner of Chapel Hill Florist in Chapel Hill, N.C. on April 25th.

music when his mother, a music major at Duke University, could not afford daycare. He said she instead brought Chris along with her to college music classes.

Chris said he learned about the importance of physical representations of ideas from Lauren Leve, a professor at UNC. He can be found most nights

beginning around sunset on Franklin Street, playing jazz and losing himself in his music.

“You can record music on YouTube, but the most powerful is face-to-face, and that’s one of the things that brought me out again,” he said.

Chris said that he also plays his music on the streets as a form of

community outreach. He said he wants his music to be accessible to everyone and not be barred by those who can afford it.

“The more music there is on the streets, the less guns on the streets, the less violence on the streets, that’s why I do this here,” he said.

Seth Laney, a senior at UNC

“When people hear me play, I hope they gain peace in a very turbulent world,”

**Chris, ‘Trumpet Monk’**  
Street musician

and a resident of Franklin Street apartment complex Carolina Square, said he can frequently hear Trumpet Monk playing on the street beneath him.

“It’s nice and peaceful, to have music in the background when you’re doing anything or just walking around,” Laney said.

He said the presence of jazz music on Franklin Street might not be a characteristic that people notice right away, but adds to Chapel Hill’s charm.

“When people hear me play I hope they gain peace, in a very turbulent world,” Chris said.

Michael Rogers Jr., a junior at UNC, said his fraternity recently hired Chris to perform at one of their social events earlier this semester.

He said he loved having Chris and that everyone was into the music.

Rogers said it is important to him that his fraternity support local musicians, which allows these artists exposure and the opportunity to grow.

“I think live music is so important,” Rogers said. “Having him play in person is so much better than just putting jazz on a speaker.”

Twitter: @jennarupp\_

## Tar Heel Verses

Sponsored monthly by Bob Young ‘57 in honor of his wife, Pat, and the 1957 UNC National Championship basketball team.

### For my Father

By Alice McCracken Knight

I cannot promise, but  
I will try to keep my word.  
The next I see you,  
I'll hug you with my whole chest,  
flutter against your collarbone that is  
soft and sunken, memorize the collision  
of my wet cheek on light blue  
plaid collared shirt.  
Even on weekends and pizza nights  
you wore a plaid collared shirt.

When I flinched at your aged coffee breath,  
faked a laugh at your physics jokes,  
sat judging in the passenger  
as you yelled Go, goddamnit!  
When I told myself in whispers and journals  
I did not ever want to be like you.

Here comes gurgling from my gut, through my throat,  
like a hairball I've been choking down for years,  
all the regret I never voiced. Covered in my blood  
and spit. Come sit by it with me. Shhhh.

Alice McCracken Knight is a junior studying Dramatic Art and Communications (Performance Studies), with a Creative Writing minor. In their free time, Alice loves to hike, sing, and lounge around campus eating oranges. Their favorite spot is the Campus Y, where they are a student leader. Alice is from Boone, NC. You can follow them on Instagram @alicemck to hear about their upcoming projects.



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OFF TO THE RACES

# Runners tackle 16th annual Tar Heel 10 Miler

Thousands participated in the campus-centric event on Saturday

By **Audrey Kashatus**  
Staff Writer  
city@dailytarheel.com

Though last Saturday morning was cloudy, the inclement weather did not stop thousands of people from lining up to participate in the 16th annual Tar Heel 10 Miler. Spirits were high among the runners, spectators, volunteers and emergency personnel despite the looming storm.

With a course that travels through UNC’s campus and surrounding historic neighborhoods, the Tar Heel 10 Miler is a UNC tradition. The race hosts UNC students, UNC alumni and community members.

Other race options include the Fleet Feet 4 Miler and the 14-mile Double Down Challenge.

In case of emergency, several EMS personnel were stationed at the start line and along the course.

Chris Pope, the Orange County deputy chief of emergency medical services, said the most common emergencies he sees at races are dehydration and exhaustion. The cloudy weather helped prevent those problems at Saturday’s race, he said.

“I’m really excited just to be a part of the whole race because it’s such a great community event and I’m just happy to be a part of it.”

**Alyssa Ustby**  
UNC women’s basketball player, race participant

“It’s gonna be nice weather today for a run because we’re gonna have good cloud cover and probably some rain, so I’m not looking for heat emergencies,” Pope said.

One UNC student participating in the race was women’s basketball player Alyssa Ustby. Since she was unable to run last year because of post-season basketball games, she said she was excited to run with her brother and his girlfriend.

“I’m really excited just to be a part of the whole race because it’s such a great community event and I’m just happy to be a part of it,” she said.

Erin Bostic, a UNC senior who ran the Fleet Feet 4 Miler for the first time, said she was excited to finish her UNC career “with a bang.”

Bostic said she was most excited to see the people running and watching the race.

“I’ve heard that there’s a lot of spectators and that they’re very encouraging and very fun, and I’m excited to see everybody and meet new people and just enjoy it,” she said.

While her friends and her dad — a UNC graduate — ran in the race, UNC first-year Margaret Freeman held up a sign at the Bell Tower to cheer them on. The sign read, “Tar Heel 10: May the course be with you.”

Freeman said she planned to



DTH/GRACE RICHARDS

Racers sprint the final stretch past Teague Residence Hall during the Tar Heel 10 Miler on Saturday, April 22.

watch everyone start at the Bell Tower, walking to Franklin Street and back to Kenan Stadium to see the finish of the race.

Many UNC alumni returned to campus for the run, including Claire Atwell, class of 2011.

Atwell ran the four-miler with her husband, who ran the full 10 miles. Atwell also brought her young daughter in a stroller and was excited to give her a tour of campus, she said.

In addition to UNC students

and alumni, the Tar Heel 10 Miler draws runners from all across North Carolina.

Runner Brad Hanes drove from Stokesdale, North Carolina, which is over an hour away from Chapel Hill. Hanes said he found out about the race from his friend, Jeff Olson. Olson said he learned about the race from other runners and online.

“I know several people — friends and also in my running clubs — have done it in previous years, and

it looked like fun so I thought I’d give it a shot,” Olson said.

As they checked people in before the start of the race, volunteers Olivia Prevette and Valeria Rico said energy was high all morning.

Sherita Eaton, a traffic controller at the course’s start, said her favorite part of the race is seeing everyone’s smiles.

“I’m always here for the ambiance of people supporting one another,” Eaton said.

Twitter: @audreykashatus7

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MEN'S TENNIS

UNC falls in ACC quarterfinals

The Tar Heels await a bid to the 2023 NCAA Tournament

By Senja Levy  
Staff Writer  
sports@dailytarheel.com

CARY, N.C. — The North Carolina men's tennis team (17-8, 9-3 ACC) lost to Florida State (19-8, 8-4 ACC), 4-2, in the quarterfinals of the ACC Tournament on Friday.

What happened?

Sophomore Casey Kania and graduate student Ryan Seggerman lost the first doubles match 1-6, stealing the fifth game from Florida State. Soon after, first-year Will Jansen and graduate Karl Poling lost in a close set, 4-6. Graduate Brian Cernoch and first-year Benjamin Kittay played were down 5-3 but did not finish as Florida State claimed the double's point.

In singles play, Kittay played in a highly competitive match, losing the first set, 7-6, and the following, 6-4. Jansen trumped Youcef Rihane in the first set, 6-1, but dropped the next two.

The number one singles match was aggressive. In the first set, Cernoch lost 6-4. He brought even more intensity to the second set and beat Florida State's Cornut-Chauvinc, 7-6. The match was ultimately unfinished in the third set due to the result of Jansen's match. Seggerman beat Florida State's



DTH/JENNIFER TRAN

UNC graduate student Ryan Seggerman waits for doubles partner, Casey Kania, to serve during the men's tennis match against Wake Forest at the Cone-Kenfield Tennis Center in Chapel Hill on Sunday, April 2, 2023.

Loris Pourroy, 7-6, in the first set of their singles match. He won the match after a commanding 6-2 final set win.

Who stood out?

Jansen had explosive energy throughout his matches. He was constantly getting hype with fans and increasing the overall energy of the match. Throughout his doubles match, he was serving fiercely and consistently. In his singles match,

he won the first set, 6-1, and had many point-winning overhead shots Rihane struggled to return.

When was it decided?

UNC went into tiebreakers in three of their first sets in singles play. Losing two of them left the Tar Heels in a difficult position for the rest of the day. The final two matches of the night were played by No. 1 Cernoch and No. 3 Jansen. Jansen lost before Cernoch could finish his match.

Why does it matter?

The Tar Heels played Florida State on April 14 at home and beat the Seminoles, 4-1. Just a week later, the Seminoles beat North Carolina to advance to the ACC semifinal. After the defeat, the Tar Heels await a bid for the 2023 NCAA Tournament.

Twitter: @SenjaLevySports

UNC men's basketball team adds Ingram

Stanford transfer Harrison Ingram announced on Saturday that he will take his talents to Chapel Hill. In a post on Twitter, Ingram wrote "Chapel Hill, it's UP!" with the hashtag "committed."

Ingram was previously predicted to transfer to Kansas, but momentum started to shift in North Carolina's favor after Ingram visited Chapel Hill and rescheduled a visit to Kansas.

Ingram was considered one of the top transfer targets for Hubert Davis and the UNC men's basketball program, and was ranked as the No. 4 player in the On3 transfer portal player rankings.

After losing four wings in the offseason, Ingram fills a need for the Tar Heels.

The former Stanford player averaged 10.5 points and 6.2 rebounds per game in his two seasons at Stanford. And, in his first year in Palo Alto, Ingram was named Pac-12 Freshman of the Year.

Ingram is UNC's fourth pickup from the transfer portal after Paxson Wojcik, Jae'Lyn Withers and Cormac Ryan.

Davis and his coaching staff have two more available scholarships.

- Shelby Swanson

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Tar Heels come up short against NC State

The loss ends UNC's record-breaking win streak at 29 games

By Caroline Wills  
Senior Writer  
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For the first time all season, the North Carolina women's tennis team fell short.

"It wasn't really us," coach Brian Kalbas said.

After coasting by Wake Forest and Virginia with 4-0 wins, the Tar Heels ultimately lost to N.C. State, 1-4, in the ACC tournament championship game on Sunday — marking the Wolfpack's first ACC tournament title in program history.

"(N.C. State) seemed like they were out there to accomplish something they hadn't accomplished before," Kalbas said. "We were kind of out there trying to protect something that we've accomplished before."

In the semifinals on Saturday, it appeared like the path for the conference tournament trophy was in view as the Tar Heels overcame Virginia's aggressive doubles pairs and clinched the point. Kalbas said it was a performance that made him believe the North Carolina doubles teams were competing hard.

Considering the team's lackluster doubles performance the last time they played the Cavaliers, it seemed like Tar Heels were gelling at the right time.

"We lost a doubles point (against UVA in February), and I feel like that definitely motivated us more," junior Fiona Crawley



PHOTO COURTESY OF CAROLINA ATHLETICS

The UNC women's tennis team huddles together after the 2023 ACC Women's Tennis Championship in Cary, N.C., on Sunday, April 23. UNC fell to N.C. State 4-1.

said. "But, it still is in the back of your mind like, 'Oh God, the last time we played this team, they literally wrecked us.'"

The Tar Heels continued to excel in singles play against Virginia, making seemingly-impossible shots that allowed Crawley, senior Elizabeth Scotty and sophomore Carson Tanguilig to clinch the match victory.

But on Sunday, when UNC faced N.C. State for the second time this year, the Wolfpack was a different team. The Tar Heels earned a decisive 7-0 victory on April 6,

when the Wolfpack played without their top singles player — No. 12 first-year Diana Shnaider.

Bolstered by the return of Shnaider, N.C. State knew exactly what weaknesses to exploit in the title match. North Carolina struggled to build game-winning momentum from the get-go, as the doubles point — an opportunity for an early lead — quickly slipped through their fingers.

"We've been doing a really good job of coming out aggressive, and we didn't really do that today," Kalbas said. "We were very

tentative, and that didn't quite translate into executing the way we needed to against a very good doubles team."

Against a top-10 duo in N.C. State fifth-year Nell Miller and junior Amelia Rajecki, Crawley and Tanguilig struggled to find their rhythm, resulting in a 1-6 loss. Costly mistakes and rogue shots plagued graduate student Abbey Forbes and junior Reilly Tran, and the pair finished their match with a score of 2-6.

"I look around, we're hanging our heads," Kalbas said. "We were not

quite ourselves out there, and we didn't have that competitive intensity that we've had all year long."

Losing the doubles point meant the Tar Heels had to muster four singles victories to win the match, but ultimately, UNC could not live up to the pressure. Every singles match was an "uphill battle" according to first-year Reese Brantmeier, who was the only North Carolina player to post a singles win.

With a loud, Wolfpack-dominated crowd behind them, the usually-poised Tar Heels seemed at a loss. Kalbas said he thought the crowd made his players "feel like they had to do more than they needed to do."

Frustration was evident as Scotty smacked her racquet into the fencing after a return went long. Her second set ended with a 1-6 loss, officially deciding the match in N.C. State's favor and ending the Tar Heels' record-breaking win streak.

Still, Kalbas isn't worried — citing Sunday as a learning opportunity. The team can advance into the rest of the postseason with the lessons from the ACC title game as they seek out the program's first NCAA championship.

And after the pain of the loss set in, a long postgame huddle between teammates and several tears of frustration were shed, the pressure of perfection can finally roll away for the Tar Heels.

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## BASEBALL

# Diamond Heels swept by Boston College

Team searches for answers after losing six of last seven ACC games

By Grace Nugent

Staff Writer

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Following the North Carolina baseball team's third and final loss against Boston College last weekend, head coach Scott Forbes reacted bluntly to his team's performance.

"I think you gotta call a spade a spade," Forbes said. "We got beaten in every aspect of the game this weekend: pitching, defense and timely hitting."

The then-No. 20 ranked Eagles came to Chapel Hill and played clean, fundamental ball by executing in all facets of the game, which helped them outscore North Carolina by 10 runs during the series. The Tar Heels gave the Eagles 21 free passes — walks or batters hit by a pitch — over the course of the weekend and committed three errors on Friday, which helped Boston College take control.

UNC's woes began in game one when junior starting pitcher Max

Carlson lasted only 2.2 innings and surrendered five runs.

The Tar Heels scored six runs in the first inning but proceeded to follow that monster frame with seven scoreless innings before eking out a late run to force extras.

Forbes was impressed with the "battle offensively" after the team collected 16 hits. He was also drawn to the "outstanding" performance of the bullpen, namely Dalton Pence, Matt Poston and Kevin Eaise.

But when it came to putting the game away, the Tar Heels were unable to stop the Eagles. The team's three errors ultimately proved fatal.

"(Boston College is) gonna play clean and kind of make you beat yourself," junior infielder Jackson Van De Brake said. "So I mean, I'm going to keep saying it, we're gonna find a way to get through that."

Junior pitcher Connor Boviar, seemingly the key to conquering the Eagles' offense, allowed just two runs in 7.1 innings during Saturday's game — after he exited, the Eagles scored seven more times in the last two frames.

Sunday's game unfolded in a similar fashion, with starting pitcher

Jake Knapp taking the mound for 4.1 innings and allowing two earned runs. Poston came in and held the Eagles hitless for 1.2 more innings, before the remaining bullpen surrendered four runs to put the team behind.

While the Tar Heels were productive at the plate for most of the series, bats went ice cold on Sunday as the offense came up empty-handed outside of a two-RBI single by Hunter Stokely.

Forbes said he believes pointing fingers is useless and insisted that it wasn't just one aspect of play that led to the series loss. After losing six of the last seven conference games, the Diamond Heels have two options — find consistent success or sink deeper into a hole of close losses and inconsistency.

The next few weeks will be crucial for UNC, during a season that bears resemblance to 2022's five straight mid-season ACC series losses before an eventual ACC tournament victory.

It took a home sweep by Virginia around this time last year for the team to turn things around.

"We were dead in the water — let's just be honest — last year, and everybody thought we sucked except us," Forbes said. "And that's the most important



DTH/HOLLY TURNER

First-year Casey Cook celebrates his first home run during UNC's 10-0 victory over Longwood on Wednesday, Feb. 22, at Boshamer Stadium.

trait any team can have and these guys have to believe in themselves more, and I'm going to tell them that today."

Despite the team's recent struggles, the Tar Heels have little time to reflect as they prepare for an upcoming slate against top opponents, including top-15 ranked ECU and Coastal Carolina.

Junior catcher Tomas Frick said the Tar Heels need a mental shift to find lasting success.

"You gotta refuse to lose, or you gotta be a winner," Frick said. "You gotta have heart."

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## SOFTBALL

# Tar Heels sweep conference series against NCSU

'The Heels are hot' — North Carolina builds five-game winning streak

By Lindsey Ware

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The North Carolina softball team added to late-season success with its first conference series sweep since 2019 — against rival N.C. State.

After not having traveled in nearly three weeks, the Tar Heels headed to Raleigh this past weekend for a three-game matchup against the Wolfpack. North Carolina entered the series on a hot streak, having won seven of its last eight games and only dropping two contests in April.

Head coach Donna J. Papa attributed the newfound success to better situational hitting and execution.

Although UNC hadn't hit the road in some time, it didn't pose an obstacle against the Wolfpack. In fact, Papa said the team hardly considers the trip to Raleigh a road



DTH/JENNIFER TRAN

Head coach Donna J. Papa talks to the UNC softball team before the softball game against Elon at Anderson Stadium on Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2023.

series, and the Tar Heels were able to warm up on their home field because of the proximity to Chapel Hill.

UNC defeated N.C. State 5-4 on Friday night, with all four of the Wolfpack's runs coming in the fourth inning. North Carolina hoped to

capitalize on its momentum Saturday, but the game was rained out and turned Sunday into a doubleheader.

Sophomore pitcher Lilli Backes took the mound in the first game after picking up her sixth straight win two days earlier with a career-high 10 strikeouts.

Game one of the doubleheader was a pitcher's duel, and Backes got the job done. With nine strikeouts and only four hits allowed, Backes led the Tar Heels to a 4-2 win to clinch the series.

"I've worked on keeping batters off balance with my off speed and throwing competitive pitches out of the zone," Backes said. "This was a really big one for us to beat our in-state rival."

The offense in game two was paced by fifth-year Kiersten Licea. She kickstarted the offense by leading off the second inning with a solo homer and also led off the fourth with another home run.

"I was just as surprised as everyone else," Licea said. "Keeping the momentum going definitely helped me approach the at bats."

Game two of the doubleheader didn't seem as promising for the Tar Heels. UNC never trailed in the first game, but the team found itself in a 3-2 deficit heading into the top of the seventh of the final game of the series.

Aside from another home run from Licea in the fourth inning,

the bats were cold for most of the game. However, the team pulled off the comeback thanks to a go-ahead inside-the-park home run by sophomore Alex Brown, who has now logged a hit in 12 consecutive games.

Needing just three outs to clinch the sweep, Backes came in to close the door and retired the Wolfpack to seal the 5-3 win.

This series victory contributes to the Tar Heels' late-season success as they look to finish in the top six in the conference and earn an ACC Tournament bye. The team's next test will be next weekend when they travel to Georgia Tech, where the Tar Heels will look to maintain their sixth-place standing.

"It's been a little run here near the end; hopefully we learned something," Papa said. "Our destiny is kind of in our own hands."

When asked about the rest of the season and the team's postseason outlook, Backes and Licea had just one thing to say.

"The Heels are hot."

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## OFF THE COURT

# For medically retired collegiate athletes, life goes on



PHOTO COURTESY OF JON GARDINER/UNC-CHAPEL HILL

Dr. Mario Ciocca, UNC's director of sports medicine, was named a recipient of the C. Knox Massey Distinguished Service Award, which recognizes outstanding UNC employees each year.

Students who face injuries find fulfillment in new, varied ways

By Emma Moon

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While practicing for the ACC Big Ten Challenge in December, UNC redshirt senior guard Ariel Young heard a pop in her knee, causing her to hyperventilate.

After spending the entire 2021-2022 basketball season recovering from a torn ACL, her fear of another injury was real.

Young later found out the pop was caused by cartilage thinning. She

decided to forego the surgery, because of the operation's limited success rate and extensive recovery process.

After 18 years of playing basketball, Young was done — "I felt depleted," she said. "I felt defeated."

Like Young, junior Max DiMuccio, a former cross-country runner, made the decision to step away from his sport after his seventh stress fracture. He said making the choice was "the most difficult thing" he's ever done.

Young and DiMuccio aren't alone. About 4,000 athletes suffer season- or career-ending injuries each year. But to aid UNC athletes in the grieving process that coincides with injury and retirement, the University offers services that work to help athletes' physical and mental health through this process.

Mario Ciocca is the University's Director of Sports Medicine and the primary care physician for baseball, football and men's soccer. If athletes are considering stepping away from their sport due to injury, they consult with him for medical evaluation.

Ciocca said he reviews the athlete's injury or medical condition and

evaluates if it is safe for them to return. The risks are weighed with the athletes, and Ciocca ensures they understand the short-term and long-term implications of their condition so they don't rush their decision-making process.

During and after an athlete's recovery, they can still contact coaches, physicians, trainers and physical therapists. Ciocca also recommends the athletes visit sport psychologists at UNC to aid in the transition.

Young attended biweekly sessions with UNC mental health clinician Cydnia Young during her recovery.

"So all those emotions and stuff, I kind of brought to the UNC sports psychologist Cydnia," Young said. "I definitely leaned on Cyd specifically and the sports psychology program here."

To help players take their minds off their respective sport, UNC provides a student-athlete development program.

"We like to think of ourselves as the people who help you off the field and outside of the classroom," Cricket Lane, UNC's senior associate athletic director for student-athlete development, said.

Over a year removed from each of their injuries, Young and DiMuccio have come to terms with life outside of varsity sports by tapping into UNC's resources.

In his room, DiMuccio has a poster that reads, "The race is not always to the swift but to those who keep on running." After stepping away from cross country, he sees the poster in a new light.

"I think that I am still running in a sense because running to me wasn't like actually going for a run," DiMuccio said. "It was just something that I love to do. So like today, everything that I do, it's what I love to do. I'm still running in that sense."

He is still involved intramural sports and will be the co-president of UNC club lacrosse next year.

Young also plans to continue her involvement with athletics and is looking forward to changing the stigmas around athletes and injuries.

"I just want to ultimately share my story, and also help anyone that's a student-athlete or who wants to be a student-athlete succeed," Young said.

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MEN'S LACROSSE

# Tar Heels set to face top-ranked Notre Dame

A win on May 6 could bolster UNC's NCAA Tournament hopes

By Hunter Nelson  
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Heading into its final regular season game, the North Carolina men's lacrosse team is still looking to clinch an at-large bid in the 16-team NCAA Tournament.

When the Tar Heels face top-ranked Notre Dame on May 6, they'll have a prime opportunity to potentially punch their ticket.

Just last week, UNC fell to the Fighting Irish, 16-9, in a game that saw Notre Dame dominate offensively. Given UNC's No. 14 ranking in the RPI, a win would go a long way in securing a spot in the NCAA Tournament.

With its season on the line, here are two keys that could help the Tar Heels pull off the upset.

Start strong

The Tar Heels immediately dug

themselves into a hole in the last matchup by falling behind 6-1 through the first 15 minutes of play. Although the team closed the gap in the second quarter, UNC was outscored 4-1 in the third and ultimately couldn't recover.

UNC has dropped five of its last nine games, and the Tar Heels were outscored in the first period in all but one of their losses. Setting the tone of a matchup is critical against any team, but that importance is magnified when facing a top-ranked opponent like Notre Dame, whose high-powered offense ranks second in the nation with 16.4 goals per game.

Part of the North Carolina's struggles to come out firing relates to its occasional carelessness with the ball, as the Tar Heels committed seven turnovers in the first period and five in the third against the Fighting Irish on Saturday. When the team improved its play in the second period, it only turned the ball over three times.

Although the Tar Heels were eventually able to respond offensively – primarily thanks to hat tricks from sophomore Dewey Egan and first-year James Matan – Notre Dame jumped out to its early lead by

building a 15-8 shot margin in the first quarter, which put tremendous pressure on the Tar Heels' back line. If UNC hopes to dictate the tempo early, the team will need to make the most of its opportunities and eliminate extra possessions for the Fighting Irish offense.

Lock in defensively

It might be stating the obvious, but the Tar Heels perform much better when their defense is clicking.

North Carolina's 35 goals over the past three games should have been enough to squeak out at least one victory, but defensive shortcomings have the team in the midst of a rare losing streak.

Slowing down the star Notre Dame sibling tandem of Pat and Chris Kavanagh is a difficult proposition for any team, but the Tar Heels demonstrated the ability to play solid defense in small spurts this season. Amid UNC's recent struggles in the backfield, the team still ranks a respectable 12th in the nation with just 10.38 goals allowed per game, thanks in large part to the efforts of junior goalkeeper Collin Krieg.



DTH FILE/EMMA PLUMLY

UNC first-year attackman James Matan (7) passes the ball during the men's lacrosse game against Brown at Dorrance Field on Saturday, March 11, 2023.

Despite losing to the Fighting Irish, the team demonstrated its physicality by winning the faceoff battle and preventing Notre Dame from holding a considerable advantage in the ground ball department, two key components for building a stable defensive unit.

As the team looks to get back on track and return to the postseason

following a one-year absence, the Tar Heels will need to play a complete game to come out on top. While the team has shown its potential in spurts, the final matchup will be the last chance to piece it all together.

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WOMEN'S LACROSSE

# UNC begins ACC title defense against Clemson



DTH FILE/DEREK PENG

UNC first-year midfielder Kaleigh Harden (17) passes to graduate attacker Lauren Figura (27) during the second quarter of the women's lacrosse game against Duke at Koskinen Stadium on Thursday, April 20, 2023.

Tar Heels are seeking their seventh consecutive ACC championship

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This Wednesday, the No. 3 seed North Carolina women's lacrosse team will play their first postseason game of 2023 when they travel to Charlotte to play the No. 6 seed Clemson Tigers in the first round of the ACC Championship.

UNC's record of 12-3 overall and 7-2 in the ACC has launched them into contention to win its seventh

consecutive ACC Championship. But Clemson will not be an easy first opponent, as the Tigers have built a name for themselves during their program's inaugural season. They currently hold a record of 12-5 as they look to upset the Tar Heels.

On March 26, UNC and Clemson faced off for the first time, and the Tar Heels took the game handily with a decisive 17-8 victory.

Here are three keys for UNC to pull out a victory and advance in the ACC tournament:

Continue the offensive flow

First-year attacker Marissa White has proven to be an integral part of UNC's offense this season. She is currently UNC's leading scorer with 35 goals.

In UNC's first matchup with Clemson, White led the team with five goals. These five goals came with assists from playmakers Caitlyn Wurzbarger and Reilly Casey, who lead the team in assists with 29 and 26, respectively.

In each of UNC's three losses this season, White scored two goals or less. UNC is undefeated when she scores three or more in a single game.

Similarly, UNC is undefeated

when Wurzbarger has three or more assists. In all three of UNC's losses combined, Casey only had one assist.

North Carolina is a hard team to beat when White, Wurzbarger and Casey are on top of their games. That trio will work to create an offensive presence that may prove insurmountable for the Tigers.

Lock down on defense

The Tigers' offense has been led this season by veteran transfers Hanna Hilcoff and Gianna New. The pair lead the team with 50 and 49 goals, respectively, and both have started every game this season.

Hilcoff and New will be a challenge for UNC sophomore goalkeeper Alecia Nicholas, who surrendered five goals to the pair last month.

In addition to Nicholas, Emily Nalls and Brooklyn Walker-Welch have served as UNC's top one-on-one defenders. Nalls leads the pack with 20 ground balls and 19 caused turnovers. Walker-Welch has 17 ground balls on the season and 10 caused turnovers.

A concerted effort from Nicholas, Nalls and Walker-Welch will be essential for a win against the Tigers.

Establish an early rhythm

All three of UNC's losses this season followed a pattern: the Tar Heels allowed too many first-half goals without scoring many of their own and was forced to play a game of catch-up.

In their first loss against Northwestern, UNC allowed three goals before scoring. By halftime, North Carolina had only scored four goals compared to Northwestern's eight.

Despite stealing momentum away and scoring four unanswered goals midway through the second half, the Tar Heels were not able to pull out the stops necessary for the win and suffered their first loss in 29 games.

On the contrary, UNC dominates when they strike first. Eight of their 12 wins have come after UNC scored first and built solid ground to stand on.

Even though UNC has already taken down the Tigers once this season, Clemson has won three of its last four games and will have their minds on upsetting the reigning ACC Champions.

It all comes down to 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday.

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SOCCER

# Kenan Stadium to host international club sides

U.K. teams Chelsea and Wrexham to face off this summer

By Lucas Thomae  
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For the first time in its history, Kenan Stadium will host an international soccer match.

On Thursday, UNC Athletics and the Florida Cup (FC) Series announced that Chelsea Football Club and Wrexham Association Football Club will face each other in Chapel Hill on July 19. Tickets will go on sale on April 27, and a portion of sales will be donated to the Pediatric Hematology Oncology Clinic at UNC Children's Hospital.

Representatives from the two clubs, as well as UNC football head coach Mack Brown and women's

soccer coach Anson Dorrance, addressed the media from the field of Kenan Stadium.

"The energy of the campus, the tradition, the history — it is a great honor for us to be hosting one of the first really international events here in sports in the temple that really produces some of the world's greats such as (Michael) Jordan, Mia Hamm across so many multiple sports," FC Series CEO Ricardo Villar said.

Chelsea plays in the Premier League, which is the top level of English football. The Blues have a sizable following in the U.S. and have a history in North Carolina. Most recently, the club played a friendly match against Charlotte Football Club in front of about 75,000 fans at Bank of America Stadium last July.

Wrexham plays in the fifth division of the English football league system, but

made headlines in 2020 when Hollywood stars Ryan Reynolds and Rob McElhenney bought the Welsh club. The team's story was documented in the FX series "Welcome to Wrexham," which premiered in August.

Shaun Harvey, who sits on Wrexham's board of directors, said Reynolds and McElhenney were "100 percent committed" to Wrexham, but he couldn't confirm that they would be in attendance for the match in July.

Harvey also said that this match would be the club's U.S. debut.

"This is about Wrexham coming out to the U.S.A.," he said. "So we actually bring what we're trying to achieve to everybody who's been so supportive of the club through the documentary."

Kenan Stadium has played host to soccer matches before, notably in 1981 when Dorrance and the women's soccer team won its

first national title. On Thursday, Dorrance praised the organizers of the Chelsea-Wrexham match and said that he will use it to his advantage to court top recruits.

"We're absolutely going to use this in recruiting," he said.

There's still work to be done before Kenan Stadium will be soccer ready. Gary Paczesny, UNC's assistant athletic director of communications and creative services, said that the University's groundskeepers will convert the stadium's turf field into true grass ahead of the match.

"Once this is probably re-turfed and becomes dressed as a soccer stadium, you can actually feel, now, the vibes come that day when it is a soccer stadium," David Barnard, director of football operations at Chelsea, said. "For that one day, it will be totally fantastic."

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DTH/LUCAS THOMAE

Shaun Harvey, David Barnard, Molly Pendleton, Ricardo Villar, Anson Dorrance, Mack Brown and Grant Porter pose together at a press conference on April 20, 2023.