Year in Review

What fuels the fire.

By Abby Pender

From the University cafeteria workers’ 1969 strike to the student-sparked Franklin Street march against Apartheid, University members have consistently used their voices and campus to address injustices. 2023 was no different.

UNC’s chapter of March for Our Lives rallied against gun violence following the campus shooting on Aug. 28, students demonstrated for improved accessibility and UNC’s Students for Justice in Palestine held protests and sit-ins advocating for Palestinian freedom amid the war in Gaza.

The first controversy of the year was the acceleration of the School of Civic Life and Leadership, announced at a January UNC Board of Trustees meeting. The school’s introduction sparked debate concerning what the Wall Street Journal called a “self-reinforcing culture of conformity” plaguing higher education.

When the Supreme Court ruled on June 29, denying UNC and other public universities from considering race in admissions, the University responded with admissions changes.

Then-Graduate and Professional Student Government President Theodore Nollet ran as a write-in for the race, but students ultimately voted for Christopher Everett to be the student body president in February. This year, Everett has prioritized improving campus accessibility, an issue students advocated for with a 32-hour sit-in on the steps of South Building in March. They demonstrated in support of “No body or mind left behind.”

In the spring, students called for a “meet-and-greet” at Umstead Park.

Outside the University, North Carolina politics shifted in April after then-Democrat N.C. Rep. Tricia Cotham (R-Mecklenburg) switched her party affiliation to Republican, giving the party a supermajority in both houses of the legislature.

When the Supreme Court ruled affirmative action unconstitutional on June 29, denying UNC and other public universities from considering race in admissions, the University responded with admissions changes.

In August, a week after the semester’s first day of class, Alert Carolina messages and emergency sirens announced an active shooter on campus. Students banded in classrooms and libraries sending anxious messages to their loved ones for more than three hours.

Following the shooting that resulted in the death of Professor Zijie Yan, hundreds of students took to campus to honor and memorialize him. Days after the Aug. 28 lockdown, students organized anti-gun violence rallies, demanding action from the state legislature.

Less than three weeks after Yan’s death, emergency sirens sounded a second lockdown and students frantically searched for shelter after an individual brandished a gun at Alpine Bagel Cafe.

Though the two lockdowns marked this year with an unforgettable attack on the University’s safety, community members still found joy, celebration and unity on campus.

They commended the UNC field hockey team and student-turned-coach Erin Moracco as their new chair and UNC women’s tennis celebrated their first national title.

Outside the University, North Carolina politics shifted in April after then-Democrat N.C. Rep. Tricia Cotham (R-Mecklenburg) switched her party affiliation to Republican, giving the party a supermajority in both houses of the legislature.

Austin O’Connor won an individual wrestling title for 157 pounds and diver Aranza Vasquez achieved two NCAA titles.

These reactions aren’t unprecedented. They are evidence of the UNC community’s strength, which has persisted for generations and fuels its fire.
Chancellor Kevin Guskiewicz reflects on 2023

Chancellor Kevin Guskiewicz reflects on the year during an interview in his South Building office on Monday.

There is a lot of misinformation around this conflict. There is a lot that is out there on social media that’s often painful to read and to hear.

We have the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies and the Center for Middle East and Islamic Studies that have been holding roundtables. I think we need to do that and we have to be thoughtful about the approach we’re taking, trying to be careful so we can part of the solution rather than the problem.

To address the elephant in the room, I would like to ask about your consideration of the Michigan State University presidency. Can you provide any clarity on your decision?

When you’re in those roles I think in, you’re going to have calls from other institutions and firms and knock on the door occasionally. These are family decisions. I started my academic career here and will love Carolina regardless of what I end up, which could be here——it could be anywhere.

Q&A

As 2023 winds down, Editor-in-Chief Emmy Martin sat down with several Carolina presidents and chancellors to talk about UNC’s experience in the past twelve months. This interview has been edited for brevity and clarity.

The Daily Tar Heel: We’re coming to the end of a semester and a year that has seen a lot of highs and lows. Could you share some overall reflection on 2023?

Kevin Guskiewicz: It’s been a year that brought challenges but also so many opportunities and certainly some highs. Just a week into the semester, the tragedy of the stabbing on campus has been so public and so real. There have been some initiatives from UNC, including activating our plan to secure the facilities down. I just want to acknowledge that committee today and we talked about potentially requiring active shooter training on campus and how we would implement that.

DTH: College campuses have seen rising tensions over the war in the Middle East since October 7, with reports of antisemitism, racism and Islamophobia circulating in the country. What are you doing to support UNC students amid this tension? Are there any specific groups you’re supporting with?

I’ve got a lot of state and student groups over the past few months around this issue, as well as members of our leadership team. There are a lot of resources on campus and on this I think it’s important that we are listening to all of those groups. We had our Middle Easterner First Amendment rights and also reminding people of the importance of respectful dialogue. If there’s one thing that I’ve learned about this, it’s that having that dialogue is still important.

The Carolina Center for Jewish Studies is out there on social media that’s often painful to read and to hear.

Kevin Guskiewicz reflects on 2023
Community calls for more campus safety

Recent violence, threats bring campus welfare into question

By Madeleine Ahmadi
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This year, students and faculty experienced a series of events on campus that many considered to threaten the safety of the University community.

“I think this year has really changed the way safety has looked on campus,” Jaleah Taylor, the undergraduate student body secretary said.

Gun violence on campus

On Aug. 28, associate professor Zijie Yan was shot and killed in Caudill Laboratories. Less than three weeks later, another lockdown occurred when an individual brandished a firearm at Alpine Bagel in the Student Union.

Nikhil Kothegal, a student who previously worked as a graduate worker on-campus, stated that he feels his voice has been heard.

In an effort to improve safety, hundreds of security cameras were installed in various buildings on campus.

instances of assault, like the altercation at the intersection of Raleigh Road and South Road, the sexual assault at McClinton Residence Hall in October, have propelled UNC into action.

From the annual Sunset Serenade in Polk Place to the Pro-Choice Pit, students came together in 2023 to celebrate lasting traditions and new experiences.

During the 2022-2023 academic year, VAPAS trained over 383 students, staff, faculty, and community members on topics related to bystander intervention, consent, healthy relationships, and supporting survivors of gender-based violence.

The campus safety program, which students can use to book safe rides home after nights out. She also said UNC’s Violence Prevention and Advocacy Services works to keep the campus that many considered safe on campus, Lewis said, “The idea of safety is one that, as I’ve gotten older, I realize I’m not really sure I believe that there’s such a thing as safety,” Kothegal said.

She will focus some of her work on designing an approach for potential threat identification, according to UNC Media Relations. Gray, who received her master’s degree from UNC, previously worked as general counsel for the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigations.

In her role, Gray will report on the doors, they’re working on threats bring campus welfare into question.

Throughout this year, many students have reflected on their experiences surrounding campus violence.

“The idea of safety is one that, as I’ve gotten older, I realize I’m not really sure I believe that there’s such a thing as safety,” Kothegal said.

Emma Lewis, a community outreach organizer with Students Demand Action, a gun violence prevention organization, said her group met with Chancellor Kevin Guskiewicz on Oct. 31 to reflect on campus gun violence.

While she said there were concerns about how the shooting was handled, Lewis said there are changes being made.

“We are getting more locks on the doors, they’re working on support for UNC Carolina Union Activities Board’s event throughout the day.

With the ‘Woke Left.’” The event was supported by over 15 campus and community organizations.

UNC Young Democrats also held their annual Holiday Concert in the Student Union, drawing hundreds of students to watch campus a cappella groups perform at Polk Place. While students of all ages take part in the tradition, SAA co-chair David Kelly said the event is a great opportunity to welcome new students to UNC.

“All the new students to get a sense of some of the different clubs or experiences campus has to offer,” Kelly said. “They can meet people, and they can listen to different cappella groups.”

SAA also hosted its annual Holiday Concert in the Student Union Great Hall on Nov. 28, which garnered around 300 attendees to watch five of UNC’s cappella groups perform holiday tunes.

SAA’s Homecoming Committee held free events in Polk Place for this year’s Homecoming Week in November. According to Homecoming Committee President Madison Buscheek, during one event, the group gave out approximately 250 burgers from AJ’s Burger Shack to students in the Pit. Buscheek said she thinks approximately 500 people came to the event throughout the day.

The committee also partnered with Carolina For The Kids to bring a dunk tank to the Pit for Homecoming Week. According to Buscheek, attendees paid $1 per throw to dunk members of the UNC men’s basketball team. All proceeds went to UNC Children’s Hospital.

In March, Carolina For The Kids celebrated its 25th annual Dance Marathon. CFTK executive director Meredith Bradby said in an email that 383 students registered to dance and fundraise at this year’s event, with the event raising a total of $290,519.61 to support the patients and families at UNC Children’s Hospital.

According to a statement from UNC Media Relations, UNC’s annual FallFest expanded its footprint this year to allow more space for attendees to enjoy the festival. Others drew online attention, like the Carolina Union Activities Board’s annual Jubilee concert. This year, the headliner was Atlanta rapper YoungThug, who performed for hundreds of students and community members at Hooker Fields in April.

According to Media Relations, the concert sold over 1,300 tickets.

In April, former U.S. Vice President Mike Pence spoke in the Great Hall at UNC Media Relations, UNC’s annual event titled “Saving America from the Woke Left!” Before the start of his speech, UNC Young Democrats held an opposition rally in the Pit called “Saving America. With the ‘Woke Left.'” The event was supported by 15 campus and community organizations.

UNC Young Democrats also held a Pro-Choice Pit Party in opposition to anti-abortion activist Kristan Hawkins’s “I’m Coming For Your Abortion Access” event in the Great Hall in October.

UNC Young Democrats President Sloan Duval said both events had hundreds in attendance. She said the thought process behind the rally and party centered around meeting speech with “more speech.”

They’re exercising their First Amendment rights, and we can do the same,” Duval said.

For next year’s campus events, students can visit UNC’s Heel Life page and the University Calendar.

The Daily Tar Heel
Where the School of Civic Life and Leadership stands now

Ten months after announcement, faculty still have concerns

By Samantha Nichols

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Nearly a year after the UNC Board of Trustees passed the resolution to accelerate the development of a new School of Civic Life and Leadership — a move that many faculty members said they were not consulted about — the school has been led by a group of 9 inaugural faculty members with legislative funding.

The school was first announced during a Jan. 26 BOT meeting. Since its conception, the SCiLL has been shrouded in secrecy about the role of political ideology in higher education.

Development of the SCiLL

UNC’s Program for Public Discourse was created in 2017 by Provost Chris Clemens to establish a “center of excellence” on campus, according to an email obtained by The Daily Tar Heel.

Sarah Treul Roberts, the SCiLL’s interim dean, said many faculty members are currently working on developing a vision and curriculum to launch the school.

The PPD is being “folded into” the new school, but the two programs potentially begin offering courses in the fall of 2024, Treul Roberts said.

“As an instructor of American politics courses, I see polarization everywhere, everyday, and I think that involves faculty, but the fact remains that it was a fait accompli,” she said. “And, hopefully, this school provides our students, but also the broader community, with tools in which to communicate past differences, beyond differences and move us toward creating a better democracy, a stronger democracy and a better nation.”

Jaleah Taylor is a member of the Agora Fellows, a discussion group within the PPD. She said she feels the events and discussions held by the PPD are effective in facilitating constructive dialogue on campus. She also said she feels there is a perception that UNC has a particular political ideology.

“I would think if they’re creating another program that’s similar to Program for Public Discourse, it would be in efforts to change not just student perspectives outside of the general expressed concern that the development of the SCiLL did not follow the same procedures as the School of Data Science and Society, the most recent school created before the SCiLL.”

“There’s nothing similar about it, in terms of the chronology and the collaboration across the campus,” Estroff said. “The most important preliminary thing being the idea that academically, intellectually and in terms of what the world needs — these things are what drove [the School of Data Science], not a budget allocation that came from the legislature before anybody knew about it.”

The N.C. General Assembly allocated $8.2 million for the development of the SCiLL for each of the next two fiscal years in their September budget. An additional $1 million pledge from the Ovillie Gordon Brownie Foundation has been received to establish an endowment for a professorship at the school.

Looking forward, Estroff said she wants to improve communication between the Board of Governors and the Faculty Council to “really make sure that we’re hearing the full spectrum of faculty voices.”

Aimee Wall

On Feb. 27, Wall succeeded Mike Smith as dean of the School of Government. She joined the School’s faculty in 2001 and served as senior associate dean from 2020 to 2023.

“The Aug. 28 shooting, reactions to the conflict in the Middle East and the potential departure of Chancellor Kevin Guskiewicz have been my main concerns during her first six months in the role.”

Students celebrate inclusive developments at UNC

New on-campus groups uplifted diverse identities this year

By Liza Smith

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During 2023, many students worked to highlight representation of their communities on campus. Here is a rundown of some of the most notable student projects that aim to bring more inclusivity to UNC:

Founding of the first Black Pre-Law Student Association

In September, UNC junior Jaleah Taylor — alongside Black Student Movement President Joanna Yeh and former BSAM president Taylah Smith — founded the first Black Pre-Law Student Association.

“I noticed that a lot of our white counterparts had a lot of networks and resources already when they came in, and a lot of Black students just didn’t have that,” Taylor said.

The organization aims to build community and networks for Black pre-law students through a variety of professional development and social events.

Hiring of Asian Americanists after student petition

Joanna Yeh, a junior at UNC, said there is a serious lack of educational resources for Asian American studies.

In the fall of 2022, Yeh, alongside members from the Asian American Student Association at UNC, petitioned for the expansion of opportunities in the department. As a result of the petition and the support from Asian American students, the University moved forward with the decision to hire 10-20 tenured or tenure-track faculty members focused on this area of study in spring 2024.

“But it doesn’t end there — that’s where it starts,” Yeh said.

Founding of Crips in College Movement

UNC junior Laura Saavedra Foretore, a wheelchair user, was trapped in Koury Residence Hall for 32 hours during her first year at UNC due to an elevator outage which rendered her unable to exit the building from her fourth floor room.

One year later, she sat on the steps of South Building, joined by various supporters and former Campus Y Co-president Megan Murphy, for 32 hours in a demonstration to ensure her demands for accessibility were heard.

This 32-hour action served as the hard launch for Crips in College — a community-based movement advocating for accessibility in higher education.

“Because of so many different barriers, disabled people are kept out of higher education — and that’s purposeful,” she said.

Crips in College serves as a way to harness the support from inside and outside of the disabled community into collective power and action.

Founding of AMERICAN chapter at UNC

UNC senior Jonathan Cortez was interning with AMERICAN, the Association of Mexicans in North Carolina, Inc., when he said he realized it would be important to bring something similar to UNC.

“It’s very important to ensure that people coming in, and the people who are currently here, feel that UNC still play a place they can come and feel welcome,” Cortez said.

The founding UNC chapter of AMERICAN is working in collaboration with the larger organization to give help from other UNC seniors Aislin Sanchez and Christian Rendon. The organization hosts casual social events that celebrate Mexican culture, as well as informational panels focusing on topics such as immigration and first-generation students.
the purpose if their leaders punish private universities cannot fulfill in Florida’s state universities. The UNC chapter of SJP used the same imagery in its flyer as other pro-Palestine groups. From BOT chair John Preyer and two elected staff of the UNC Office of Federal Operations for the UNC System, Hardister did not respond to The DTH’s request for comment.

Frederick E. Sellers, the vice president for safety and emergency operations for the UNC System, responded to Kotis on Oct. 12, saying both University and government security forces monitored the situation, including “conversations conducted in foreign languages.” UNC SJP said it was disturbed but not surprised to learn that the University administration and BOT members have been surveilling the group, specifically condemning efforts to “retroactively punish students, staff, and faculty as we exercise our free speech rights as guaranteed by the University.”

On Oct. 13, Preyer, the BOT chair; asked if SJP received University funding. Kotis followed up with screenshots from the Undergraduate Student Government’s Fall 2023 Budget. In the last funding cycle, SJP received $1,380. In the next few days, Kotis questioned the legality of wearing masks at protests in further emails. SJP has asked participants to wear maskless, which Kotis said violates N.C. Statute 14-12.4 as well as University policy.

The DTH did not obtain any further communication about the mask policy or enforcement statements from SJP chair Brian James via UNC Media Relations. Kotis did not address the mask policy either.

University and SJP response

In a statement, Media Relations said Guziewski and Clemens were “disturbed to see the paraglider imagery promoting the SJP protest and do not condone calls for violence or prejudice against any member of the UNC community.” Student Government’s Fall 2023 statement also violated free speech.

UNC SJP said that videos from the sit-in affirm that the organization has addressed any efforts to remove the image in the post to be “troublesome” and made his intention to continue challenging public officials to provide the free speech rights of everyone, not just those with whom they agree, Hauss said. The sit-in also draws on landmark cases that have established a precedent that prohibits colleges from denying recognition or generally available funding to student groups on the basis of content.

No statement from the University, nor any of the comments from the BOT, did not address any efforts to restrict funding from the student group.

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UNC students rallied, protest across campus in 2023
Activists pushed for better pay, accessibility, gun control and more this year

By Akash Bhowmik
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Wednesday, December 6, 2023

UNC students rallied across campus in 2023 for better pay, accessibility, gun control and more. Protesters gathered in front of South Building in February for a “No body or mind left behind” protest and advocacy on campus this year: Among UNC students in 2023. Hot labor wages found a major home ranging from gun control to civil rights. Activists pushed for better pay, accessibility, gun control and more this year.

UNC's Equal Opportunity and Compliance unit is investigating a complaint filed by members of Palestinian students. The complaint accuses the university of violating Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by supporting Israel.

The university has not commented on the complaint and is conducting a fair and impartial investigation, according to a spokesperson for the Equal Opportunity and Compliance unit.

“We are investigating the complaint and will take appropriate action if there is a violation of Title VI,” the spokesperson said in an email.

The complaint was filed by members of a group of Palestinian students who are members of the Israel divestment movement. The group is calling for the university to divest its investments in companies that do business with Israel in order to support the Palestinian struggle for self-determination.

The university has a policy of not commenting on pending investigations.

Last month, all sections of Hebrew language classes at UNC were temporarily moved online due to campus safety concerns. According to Morgan Piteca, the chair of the Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, the decision was made after a Hebrew class was disrupted by a protest demanding divestment from companies doing business with Israel.

The department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies has not received any additional requests to move classes online, according to Piteca.

The lawsuit — which was filed by the Asheville-based Palestinians for Justice in North Carolina's congressional delegation. The challenged districts were drawn by the North Carolina General Assembly and the lawsuit was filed by the American Civil Liberties Union of North Carolina.

With regard to current initiatives, Media Relations said an elevator modernization project is underway at the Corolla residence hall. Carolina Housing is also planning a number of projects to improve accessibility and design for the system to be more customizable for students based on the specific outages that could impact them.

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As a wheelchair user, she said she had classes in Morehead Chemistry Labs — an experience she described as “bittersweet.” Though renovations were completed in 2021, she was not informed until she received an email from her professor at the start of this semester.

As a neuroscience and biology major, Ferguson said she had classes in Morehead Labs over the last three years that did not include accessible accommodations for students with disabilities.

“I feel like the University is definitely on the right track to making campus and the University more accessible to wheelchair users,” she said.

Students with concerns related to physical access or barriers can report them through a form now available through UNC’s Equal Opportunity and Compliance office, Media Relations said.

Tensions later escalated as the demonstration was met with a counter-protest from pro-Israeli supporters. An associate professor from the Department of Religious Studies was escorted from the event for verbally harassing students.

S&P organized a second protest during November on the steps of South Building, where students and community members called for UNC to divest its resources and contracts away from Israel.

The November protest was part of an international movement called “Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions” — a demonstration with its members standing in solidarity with the Palestinian people.

LOOKING AHEAD

Campus accessibility a work in progress

Affected students reflect on accommodation efforts

By Isabella Hopkins
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Though 2023 brought accessibility improvements across campus, UNC students continue to advocate for more inclusive spaces for community members with disabilities.

In February, students sat in front of the South Building to rally against a University contract that did not satisfy their two main working demands: increased wages and free parking. Though UNC housekeepers had been collaborating with The Workers Union to meet their list of demands since October 2022, Eric Elliott, a UNC housekeeper, said there are more issues regarding accessibility.

UNC Media Relations said.

UNC Media Relations said. The project is underway at the Carolina Union.

Senior Mary Frances Lutz said a notable step forward for students with disabilities was the university summer renovation of a ramp connected to the Old Well.

Lutz said the renovations were also important for students with “invisible disabilities.”

“It helps a lot of students,” she said. “[Students] that aren’t wheelchair users who have accessibility issues can benefit from these changes.”

Ferguson said she sees the Old Well renovations as a “wonderful” addition, but she doesn’t feel that it was the necessary improvement for the University to prioritize. To her, it seems to be more for “publicity” than functionality.

“People come in and out, but they can’t see accessibility improvements,” she said.

“The University put higher priority on something that’s visible versus something that is actually functional.”

Ferguson also said she had to change her studio art major to a minor because there is no accessible restroom in Hanes Art Center.

This was the case for several students with disabilities to be able to voice their concerns to University administration.

“We had a strong foot in the door to finally get meetings,” Ferguson said.

In June, then-Chancellor Kevin Guskiewicz approved the modernization of elevators in Carroll Hall, Dey Hall, Marron Residence Hall, Brinnah-Bullitt Building and Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, UNC Media Relations said.

Senior Laura Saavedra Forero, said the protest began with a protest in Polk Place to voice frustrations over gun violence two days after the University shooting of UNC professor Zijie Yan in Condui Laboratory.

With approximately 400 participants attending the rally, the coalition included groups from Search For Our Lives, Students Demand Action and UNC Young Democrats.

In August, a coalition of student groups organized a protest to meet their list of demands that did not satisfy their two main working demands: increased wages and free parking.

In the months following the protest, the University added accessibility improvements across campus, including a renovation to the Old Well that finalized an integrated wheelchair ramp.

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“We are investigating the complaint and will take appropriate action if there is a violation of Title VI,” the spokesperson said in an email.

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Hebrew courses move online

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The classes were moved online at the students’ request, which was submitted by Morgan Piteca, the chair of the Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies.

According to Piteca, on Nov. 17, one Hebrew class was held online because it occurred during a pro-Palestine protest held at South Building, where some pro-Israeli protestors also convened.

The department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies has not received any additional requests to move classes online, according to Piteca.

congressional maps challenged as illegal racial gerrymander

A lawsuit filed Monday in federal court challenges several districts in North Carolina's new congressional maps and alleges they are an illegal racial gerrymander under the 14th and 15th amendments.

The lawsuit — which was filed by several individual voters from across the state — specifically said congressional districts 1, 6 and 14 were drawn to dilute the power of voters of color and that District 12 was drawn to pack voters of color into a single district.

The challenged districts were drawn by legislators after the Republican majority on the N.C. Senate has conceded a previous decision that yielded an even-7 even partisan split in North Carolina's congressional delegation.

The new districts are likely to produce either a 10-4 or 11-3 advantage for Republicans.

— Ethan E. Morton

BRIEFS

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Abortion advocates say gerrymandered districts could influence state policies

By Kathryn Delhart
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On Nov. 7, Ohio voters approved a constitutional amendment that enshrines abortion rights in the state constitution. Earlier this year, the N.C. General Assembly — led by a Republican supermajority — passed Senate Bill 20, a 12-week abortion ban that was temporarily blocked by a federal judge, but is now in effect. The Ohio amendment was a citizen-initiated ballot referendum. In North Carolina, constitutional amendments must be initiated by a supermajority of the General Assembly and then voted on by the state's voters. Citizen-initiated ballot initiatives are not allowed in North Carolina.

Tara Romano, the executive director of Pro-Choice North Carolina, said Ohio’s recent vote continues the trend of voters being in favor of abortion access, regardless of party affiliation. She said North Carolina is uniquely more anti-abortion than Ohio and some Ohio voters that likely voted for Republican candidates who reflect their views of health care they need without government interference.

Both North Carolina and Ohio have state legislatures with Republican supermajorities, and both states have recently dealt with gerrymandered maps.

Marques Thompson, the organizing director at Democracy North Carolina, said the N.C. General Assembly does not fully represent the voting base and is a result of gerrymandered maps.

In the 2022 U.S. Senate elections, Sen. Ted Budd (R-NC) won with 50.5 percent of the vote, while his Democratic opponent Cheri Beasley lost with 47.27 percent.

The General Assembly districts are heavily gerrymandered, and, as a result, one party has a supermajority in the General Assembly and can enact pretty much any policies they wish. According to The Atlantic, a member of Common Cause North Carolina and the vacuumed plaintiff in Harper v. Hall, said.

Harper v. Hall was a series of cases in the N.C. Supreme Court that was ultimately overturned and allowed the state legislature to have full power over redistricting. The latest decision in Harper v. Hall said state courts could not override the legislature on map-drawing.

Harper said the fundamental problem with gerrymandering is that voters do not have the choice to vote for candidates who reflect their views. She also said there is a disconnect between the general public opinion about issues and the abortion and the policy that is enacted.

Romano said it is important for voters’ voices to be reflected in the General Assembly when it comes to abortion. She said, regardless of personal opinions on abortion, the majority of voters in North Carolina believe people should have access to the medical care they need without government interference.

Romano said, S.B. 20 put medically unnecessary restrictions on abortion, including a 12-week ban and new requirements for abortion consultations. She said S.B. 20 mandates a patient’s first consultation must be done in person and requires 72 hours between the consultation and the actual procedure.

She said this rule can be a barrier for people who live far away from an abortion clinic, forcing them to either spend a few days in the area or make two trips to get to the procedure.

Romano said the protests following the passage of S.B. 20 show how strongly people in North Carolina opposed these new measures.

Since the U.S. Supreme Court’s Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization decision that overturned Roe v. Wade, there have been seven statewide referendums across the country where voters have been able to directly vote on abortion access.

“What's happened when abortion was actually put on the ballot as a single issue, not in traditionally conservative states, like Ohio and Kansas, is that voted against the abortion ban, opposed this new measure,” Harper said.

Kansas Republicans also hold a supermajority in the state legislature.

Romano said his protests remained a warning to our current Republic power held by the legislature after this change made years can change up for the 2024 election.

This year brought many environmental policy changes for North Carolina, from sewage to waste water to renewable energy. Here are some of the most important environmental laws introduced by the N.C. General Assembly — passed, overridden and stalled — this year.

By Lola Oliverio
Senior Writer
city@dailytarheel.com

This year brought many environmental policy changes for North Carolina, from sewage to waste water to renewable energy. Here are some of the most important environmental laws introduced by the N.C. General Assembly — passed, overridden and stalled — this year.

**Regulatory Reform Act**

House Bill 660, or the Regulatory Reform Act of 2023, was filed in April and passed easily in both the House and Senate.

The bill would prohibit the hub industry from requiring updated sewage waste practices, which in turn could contain hazardous drinking water. Additionally, the bill would only allow the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality 90 days to examine the expansion of the Mountain Valley Pipeline-South Mountain natural gas pipeline into Alamance and Rockingham counties.

Gov. Roy Cooper vetoed the bill in October, but his veto was overturned eight days later.

**Farm Act**

Senate Bill 582, the North Carolina Farm Act of 2023, includes a provision that changes provisions for waste water.

According to N.C. Sen. Graig Meyer (D-Caswell, Orange, Person), he said the protests following the passage of S.B. 20 show how strongly people in North Carolina opposed these new measures.

“Since the U.S. Supreme Court’s Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization decision that overturned Roe v. Wade, there have been seven statewide referendums across the country where voters have been able to directly vote on abortion access,” Harper said.

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**Health and Environment**

In May, after Cooper’s switch, the bill was vetoed by Cooper in June, this decision was overturned by the General Assembly four days later. Cooper’s veto message stated that the waiver harmed protections that would worsen flooding, especially in the eastern part of the state.

“Both bills reverses our progress and leaves the state vulnerable without vital state legislation on water purification tools,” he wrote.

**H.B. 720 and H.B. 801**

On April 18, representatives filed a bill establishing a state goal to rely completely on renewable energy by 2050. The bill stalled and never reached the floor. Another bill filed the same day, House Bill 801, which would have reintroduced a solar energy tax credit, was not debated.

**General Assembly**

Reps. gained a supermajority this year by Grace Whittemore
Staff Writer
city@dailytarheel.com

In early April, N.C. Rep. Tricia Cootham (R-Mecklenburg) announced she was changing party affiliation from Democrat to Republican, just a few months after she was sworn in.

After the 2022 midterm elections, Republicans in the N.C. House fell one seat short of a supermajority. But, Cootham’s partisan switch secured a supermajority for the GOP and allowed them to override any of Gov. Roy Cooper’s vetoes.

Cootham’s new alignment, though not the first partisan switch in North Carolina’s history, garnered national attention and shifted state politics.

The Democratic leader of the House, N.C. Rep. Robert Reives (D-Orange, Winston-Salem) said, while he still has a working relationship with Cootham, he felt like her candidacy had a right to know how she felt before she switched.

Unfortunately, I think a lot of people who are in leadership, especially here in North Carolina, want people not to trust government more, but I think when you already have a distrust of government, when something like that happens, it does feel like people who vote, that they’ve not had a chance to have their voices heard without government interference.

Cootham did not respond to a request for comment from The Daily Tar Heel.

In May, after Cootham’s switch, the General Assembly passed Senate Bill 20 over Cooper’s veto, creating a new state-wide 12-week abortion ban.

Jane Pinskey, the director of the Coastal串联er Lobbying and Government Relations with Common Cause North Carolina, said Republicans’ new ability to legislate the most powerful state legislature in the country and eliminate any separated powers of a state level.

This new governing power in the legislature implies up the level of the House and president pro tem of the Senate to be two of the most influential people in the state, rather than statewide elected officials, he said.

Neither N.C. House Speaker Tim Moore (R-Cleveland, Rutherford) nor N.C. Senate President Pro Tem Phil Berger (R-Guilford, Rockingham) responded to a request for comment by The Daily Tar Heel.

In addition to the more visible actions taken by the General Assembly in 2023, UNC law professor Rick Shearer said the move up the hierarchy through under the supermajority in the past year could have major implications, even though they haven’t garnered much media attention yet.

Su said the increased appointment power held by the legislature after these changes made years can change up for the 2024 election.

N.C. Rep. Allen Buansi (D-Durham) said that House Democrats are trying their best to serve everybody while protecting the environment.

“We have been in a number of measures that unfortunately were never heard, but certainly not for lack of trying,” he said.

**State budget**

The new state budget, passed in the General Assembly, contains provisions prohibiting local governments from banning the use of — or enacting fees on — plastic bags and also preventing North Carolina from leaving the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, which aims to "reduce power sector CO2 emissions.”

Marcy Meade Ashill, the director of the Southern Environmental Law Center’s North Carolina Offices, said that many environmentally friendly measures were added to the budget, which ultimately has to pass eventually.

**Local environmental changes**

In 2023, the federal government faced pressure from organizations like The Center for International Diversity to add Chapel Hill’s coal ash dump to the list of Superfund programs, which was established in 1980 and aims to clean up and prevent contamination.

A study conducted in 2022 determined that the concentration of toxic metals in the water supplies of Bolin Creek in Chapel Hill, concentrations of toxic metals are up 10-30 times higher than the baseline concentrations of soil.

“Most of these pollutants ended in places that could be dangerous is being moved into blind landfills, but that’s a multi-year process, state, including UNC’s own coal-burning power plant.”

OWASA continues to test for harmful — and possibly carcinogenic — chemicals in their water treatment plants, including UNC’s own coal-burning power plant.

“Don’t give up hope,” Ashill said.

"Know that the environmental justice timeline is different than our justice. They are not lawyers, and we are not getting creative, and we’re gonna think about other ways to protect the environment.”
On Nov. 21, the Carrboro Police Department provided Nathan Milian, the property manager of Carr Mill Mall, with a notice of violation regarding the towing signs located on the mall’s property. According to the notice, the police department conducted a review of towing signs on Carr Mill Mall’s property on Nov. 20 after receiving a complaint the previous week. The police department found the signs were not in compliance with Town code.

Milian said he was informed some of the lettering on the property’s towing signs were a quarter of an inch short. He said, after receiving the notice of violation, he contacted the Town to ask for a detailed explanation of what appropriate signage looks like.

“We didn’t agree with the interpretation, but we didn’t want there to be any noncompliance,” Milian said.

The Town gave Milian a 14-day grace period to have all signs on the property in compliance with Town codes and ordinances in question, which Carrboro Mayor Damon Seils said is standard practice. Milian said he has a signage company on standby to create signs as quickly as possible. The company on standby to create signs as soon as they are approved by the Town. He said new signs were installed on Tuesday and that the Carrboro Police Department would check their compliance on Wednesday.

If the signage still contains violations after the grace period has expired, the Town can subject their compliance on Wednesday.

“The word is getting out that there is good parking supply,” Seils said. “What we need to be doing better as a Town is making sure that our residents and visitors know how to find that parking.”

Seils said the Town used to have much stronger regulations on towing, such as fee caps. But, in 2014, the N.C. Supreme Court ruled municipalities cannot set limitations on towing, such as fee caps. But, in 2014, the N.C. Supreme Court ruled municipalities cannot set limitations on towing, such as fee caps. But, in 2014, the N.C. Supreme Court ruled municipalities cannot set limitations on towing, such as fee caps. But, in 2014, the N.C. Supreme Court ruled municipalities cannot set limitations on towing, such as fee caps.

Seils said he is worried about how the business owners at Carr Mill Mall are being affected by the towing violations.

“This is purely the behavior by the mall’s property manager and local towing company, and I don’t want our local businesses to be punished because of their behaviors,” Seils said.

Milian said he values the customers of Carr Mill Mall, but he said the mall cannot accommodate downtown Carrboro’s parking needs.

“We don’t want to tow anybody,” Milian said. “It’s not our preference to tow people — it’s our preference for people to just respect that they can’t park here and go somewhere else.”

Carrboro, asked Milian for permission to place small signs on the mall’s property containing QR codes with information regarding nearby public parking before the notice of violation.

Milian said that he received no other recent contact from the Town regarding towing concerns at Carr Mill Mall.

He said that since the notice of violation was issued, fewer cars have been towed.

“The word is getting out that you can’t just park here and go somewhere else,” he said. “Hopefully, that’s going to last.”

Milian said no one at the mall has any sort of financial relationship with Barnes Towing, which conducts towing at Carr Mill. Barnes Towing did not respond to The Daily Tar Heel’s requests for comment.

Seils said he has no plans to adjust his towing practices, and that his goal is to get his property in compliance with Town code.

Source: Carrboro Police Department | Data was last collected on Nov. 20.

The towing of illegally parked cars in this lot dramatically increased in 2023 — with a 1,190 percent increase from September to October.
It has been nearly two months since the war in Israel and Gaza ended and questions and articles about the role of individual U.S. states in foreign affairs. Many states, including North Carolina, have connections with Israel and domestic pro-Israel groups independently from the federal government — and some politicians do, too.

The North Carolina American Israel Public Affairs Committee — a bipartisan group that aims to get pro-Israel policies passed by U.S. Congress — announced its plans to form a PAC called ADAPAC PAC. The group also formed a super PAC called United Democracy Project (UDP), ahead of the 2022 election cycle.

In this year's federal election cycle, North Carolina became a $146.8 million contributor to Israel, with most of the state's money coming from businesses and services.

The House passed H.R. 6126, a $14.3 billion aid package for Israel, passed in the U.S. House in early November with support from all seven North Carolina Republican Representatives and all Democratic Rep. Don Davis (D-NC 11th), who was also supported by UDP PAC, which paid more than $240,000 to Moore's opponent critical of Israel. The resolution asked the Biden administration to stop aid to Ukraine.

The resolution, which did not include aid to Ukraine or Gaza. Rep. Alma Adams (D-NC 12th) is the only member of Harper that North Carolina who signed onto the House Resolution 876 on Oct. 19, which called for a cease-fire in Israel and occupied Palestine. On Dec. 2 a month and a half after the initial cease-fire resolution, Foushee signed a letter to President Joe Biden along with 11 other House members calling for a bilateral cease-fire.

"Each elected official has an element of power to change the narrative that individual citizens don't necessarily have." - Danya Holtzmann, Member, Triangle chapter of Jewish Voices for Peace leadership team

VOTING RIGHTS

Legislature given control over congressional maps in 2023

By Tori Newby

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This year, partisan gerrymandering became effective legally in North Carolina with Harper III decision in the N.C. Supreme Court. Now, the N.C. General Assembly can draw maps without review of the state supreme court. The Harper H. Hall series took the main stage in N.C. politics with the third case in the series, Harper III, being decided on Dec. 2. In Feb. 2022, the N.C. Supreme Court found for the first time that the maps for congressional districts, drawn by Republican legislators, had effectively locked Democrats out of GOP advantages. The court then ordered the redrawing of the maps.

Later, in Dec. 2022, court ruled in Harper H that the N.C. Senate maps were also gerrymandered to favor Republicans.

The Republican majority court overturned the previous two Harper cases in April with Harper II. Newby drew partisan gerrymandering as not justiciable — political and geography-based decisions to redraw maps that favor one political party over others cannot be overridden by state courts. In June, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in Moore v. Harper — a case appealed from the state supreme court Harper cases — that the elections clause in the U.S. Constitution does not give state legislatures full control of federal elections.

This ruling rejected independent state legislature theory, which asserts that state legislatures should have exclusive authority in establishing rules for federal elections unless Congress has somehow been given a role. But, the appeal that turned into Moore v. Harper was accepted by the U.S. Supreme Court before Harper III was decided, and the case was finalized after Harper III. Moore v. Harper ultimately had no impact on North Carolina because Harper III ruled that partisan gerrymandering is not justiciable under the state constitution. Harper III and the House ruled that state courts could still interpret their state constitutions in partisan gerrymandering claims.

Paul Newby, the N.C. Supreme Court chief justice, wrote in his Harper III opinion — which partisan gerrymandering does not violate the state constitution's free elections clause, which states that "all elections shall be free." In his opinion, Newby interpreted the clause to mean that voters have the right to cast a ballot without interference or intimidation. This case is not about partisan politics but rather about realizing the proper roles of the judicial and legislative branches," Newby wrote. "Today we begin to correct course, returning the judiciary to its designated lane."

Jim Stirling, research fellow with the conservative John Locke Foundation's Civitas Center for Public Integrity, said he thinks partisan gerrymandering is an "inherently political question" — a phrase that Justice Robert Orr wrote in his Harper III opinion — and should not be overseen by courts. But, Harper III and the House made the decision to not justiciable under the state constitution.

"We don't know how much is too much political gerrymandering," he said.

Bob Phillips, the executive director of Common Cause North Carolina, a group that has challenged N.C. maps as gerrymanderers in the past — said he believes the state supreme court was correct in ruling on the unfairness of maps before Harper III.

"I believe in the interpretation that the North Carolina constitution does provide that partisan gerrymandering is a violation of the state constitution," he said.

After Harper III, the General Assembly could create new maps with no constraints on partisan gerrymandering. The new congressional maps split the state into 10 safely Republican districts, three safely Democratic districts and one tossup. However, Democrats in the General Assembly argued that N.C. Senate maps were racially gerrymandered by "cracking" Black voters across multiple districts in the northeastern part of the state.

On Nov. 20, two individual voters filed suit under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act — which prohibits voting procedures that discriminate on the basis of race — challenging the new state senate map as a racial gerrymander. The plaintiffs filed a motion for an expedited decision, which was rejected on Nov. 27. The case will continue on a regular schedule. On Monday, a lawsuit on the newly drawn congressional maps was filed by 18 N.C. residents. The lawsuit said four of the districts in the new maps unconstitutionally weaken the power of voters of color to elect representatives of their choice. The plaintiffs requested the congressional maps be thrown out and new remedial maps be drawn for the 2024 elections.
In past years, local nonprofit EMPowerment Inc. has sought out money to purchase homes for their affordable housing inventory. This year, the organization worked chiefly to fund the construction of new affordable housing in downtown Chapel Hill.

Delores Bailey, the executive director of EMPowerment, said the organization’s primary focus this year was to create housing for community members who make at or below 30 percent of the area’s median income.

The PEACH Apartments, an affordable housing project sponsored by EMPowerment, broke ground in October. The apartments will house individuals who make at or below 30 percent of the area’s median income.

Jackie Jenks, the president and CEO of the Inter-Faith Council for Social Service, said she thinks this year, there was an increased consciousness around the need for affordable housing for community members who earn low incomes, no income or a fixed income.

“That has been a bigger focus for local government and the community in general, which is really heartening to see,” she said.

In 2023, the Town of Chapel Hill approved 380 units of affordable housing and the 2018 affordable housing plan, which Sarah Vilas, the director of affordable housing and community connections for the Town, said was a major highlight of the year.

She also said the Town’s first ever comprehensive affordable housing plan, which was approved in September, will serve as a roadmap for projects in the next five years.

In June, Chapel Hill received a $5 million contribution from UNC Health to establish an affordable housing revolving loan fund, which will be used to help create between 500 and 1,000 units of affordable housing. Bailey said the amount is huge to that we can see more nimble and jump on naturally occurring affordable housing and keep it affordable,” Chapel Hill Mayor Pam Hemminger said. “We didn’t have a way to do that before.”

During the pandemic, there was an increase in applications for duplex housing projects. But Bailey said she was proud the Town decided to make changes to try to create additional affordable middle income housing.

Vilas said the market conditions have made working to create affordable housing “exceedingly challenging” this year. Construction and development costs, as well as inflation, have been high this year, she said.

Hemminger said she hears from developers all the time that projects are being delayed, which upsets her, “because the housing that is not being built today is not going to be there tomorrow,” she said.

Since the text amendment was passed, there has not been an increase in applications for duplex housing projects. Vilas said the market conditions have made working to create affordable housing “exceedingly challenging” this year. Construction and development costs, as well as inflation, have been high this year, she said.

Bailey said that EMPowerment plans to develop at least two properties in 2024 and create a minimum of 18 new units of affordable housing.

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The community is still seeing a significant need for housing for community members who are extremely low income and who are either homeless, she said.

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UNC theater troupes encourage the unconventional performance

A diverse range of shows provides students with community, laughter

By Delphine Liu

The UNC student theater community collectively produced over a dozen successful shows in 2023, embracing diverse stories and auspicious performances.

Company Carolina, LAB! Theatre and Pauper Players are all well-known student-led theater groups. While actors often participate in multiple companies through the season, each company has its own style, structure and repertoire.

"People go back and forth," Kyle Robinson, the treasurer for Pauper Players, said. "It's all just really one big community and you just go to whatever company is doing the show that you are most interested in."

In this year's spring season, Company Carolina's "Heathers: The Musical" opened Thursday, during which student actors collaborated to perform the musical "Next to Normal." They hope to continue this connection with the "Heathers: The Musical" next spring.

"Bringing reality, a premier at Company Carolina, said the groups overlap often and she loves seeing the dynamics and connectedness between them.

First-year dramatic art major Ellie O'Connell acted and helped choreograph Company Carolina's many successful productions, including "Alice by Heart."

She said when she started at UNC this year, she was scared to be a "small fish in this really big sea," but her cast members helped smooth the transition. After being cast as the Queen of Hearts, O’Connell said the community she found was welcoming and judgment-free.

In the past, many of the productions on campus showcased serious topics such as abortion, abuse and mental health disorders.

As a result, Kenan Theatre Company, run by UNC’s Department of Dramatic Art, wanted to lighten the mood this fall.

"This year, we made a conscious effort to be like, 'Let’s be a little bit more of a kinder, gentler Kenan Theatre Company,'" David Navalinsky, the director for undergraduate production in the dramatic art department, said.

With the gender-bent Manifest Destiny adventure comedy, "Men On Boats," and a ridiculous, yet serious revenge comedy in "Exit Pursued by a Bear," the company has achieved just that.

"The neat thing about having the students involved is that what we like to do changes because the students change," Navalinsky said.

At the Kenan Theatre Company, students are very involved in the productions, serving as producers, technicians and play-selection committee members. According to Navalinsky, the company prioritizes student growth in an educational environment.

Student-led groups like LAB! have full authority over their productions, and intentionally leaned into the unconventional this fall.

"This year's shows all had this spunk of alive-ness I think is less common in some more traditional theater spaces," Erica Bass, a UNC senior and one of the executive directors of LAB!, said. "You get these world products that wouldn't normally be produced, but you have people that are so passionate about it, and are just raving in the absurdity of it. I think it’s a space that creates a lot of joy."

Despite the fact that LAB! operates on a tight budget, their free tickets are one way they demonstrate their commitment to accessibility. Bass said that in recent years, many of the shows have become site reflective of the people that produce them.

Bagley, who has also been involved in Kenan Theatre Company, LAB! and Pauper Players, shared that he tried his best to find her by being both honest and representative of her queer identity.

"I think that especially as an audience member, watching something once you start to relate is really impactful," Bagley said.

"Dry shows by LAB! such as "The Most Massive Woman Wins" and "Dry Land" have ignited conversations about self-acceptance and the female experience.

"Being willing to come up with something that’s totally new — and probably not going to succeed at first — is actually another thing we can work in tandem with representation to make social change," Bass said.

Excitement for next year’s productions is in the air. The Kenan Theatre Company has announced it will put on "The Seagull" and the musical "Something Rotten."

Company Carolina will perform "A Midsummer Night’s Dream, A Sloshed Midsummer Night’s Dream" in which cast members over 21 years of age perform Shakespeare tipsy, in an outdoor setting. The show will be in collaboration with Pauper Players.

"The Seagull" is an absurd play and "Firebringer" is a commissioned project written by a UNC senior.

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Student-run publications see year of creativity, growth

New and familiar groups elevate artists’ voices on campus

By Mila Masmenc

Staff Writer

UNC-Chapel Hill publishes various magazines and journals in which the main character, Orlando, transitions from male to female. Ovrutsky said the novel is a meditation on gender and sexuality — the overarching theme of her life.

She called for submissions on social media in November and received 50 from poets of different ages, places, cultural backgrounds and educational levels. She said the journal is a minor in creative writing, and is the editor-in-chief of "ORLANDO."

"I think that especially as an editor-in-chief of ORLANDO, you get these single-issue print zine featuring the work of queer poets."

"ORLANDO started as a final project for Ovrutsky's English 490: Creative Writing Special Topics class."

The title is inspired by Virginia Woolf’s novel of the same name, in which the main character, Orlando, transitions from male to female. Ovrutsky said the novel is a meditation on gender and sexuality — the overarching theme of her life.

"It's a variety of people, which I think is actually another way to queer community I was going for," she said. "I'm excited for people to see this project.

Print copies of "ORLANDO" will be available this spring at the Caffeine Hall, Epilogue Books Chocolate Brew and student campus stores.

The Health Humanities Journal can be found in boxes around campus and on the journal’s website.

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Lifestyle

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A diverse range of shows provides students with community, laughter

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At the Kenan Theatre Company, students are very involved in the productions, serving as producers, technicians and play-selection committee members. According to Navalinsky, the company prioritizes student growth in an educational environment.

Student-led groups like LAB! have full authority over their productions, and intentionally leaned into the unconventional this fall.

"This year's shows all had this spunk of alive-ness I think is less common in some more traditional theater spaces," Erica Bass, a UNC senior and one of the executive directors of LAB!, said. "You get these world products that wouldn't normally be produced, but you have people that are so passionate about it, and are just raving in the absurdity of it. I think it’s a space that creates a lot of joy."

Despite the fact that LAB! operates on a tight budget, their free tickets are one way they demonstrate their commitment to accessibility. Bass said that in recent years, many of the shows have become site reflective of the people that produce them.

Bagley, who has also been involved in Kenan Theatre Company, LAB! and Pauper Players, shared that he tried his best to find her by being both honest and representative of her queer identity.

"I think that especially as an audience member, watching something once you start to relate is really impactful," Bagley said.

"Dry shows by LAB! such as "The Most Massive Woman Wins" and "Dry Land" have ignited conversations about self-acceptance and the female experience.

"Being willing to come up with something that's totally new — and probably not going to succeed at first — is actually another thing we can work in tandem with representation to make social change," Bass said.

Excitement for next year’s productions is in the air. The Kenan Theatre Company has announced it will put on "The Seagull" and the musical "Something Rotten."

Company Carolina will perform "A Midsummer Night’s Dream, A Sloshed Midsummer Night’s Dream" in which cast members over 21 years of age perform Shakespeare tipsy, in an outdoor setting. The show will be in collaboration with Pauper Players.

"The Seagull" is an absurd play and "Firebringer" is a commissioned project written by a UNC senior.

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Student-run publications see year of creativity, growth

New and familiar groups elevate artists’ voices on campus

By Mila Masmenc

Staff Writer

UNC-Chapel Hill publishes various magazines and journals in which the main character, Orlando, transitions from male to female. Ovrutsky said the novel is a meditation on gender and sexuality — the overarching theme of her life.

She called for submissions on social media in November and received 50 from poets of different ages, places, cultural backgrounds and educational levels. She said the journal is a minor in creative writing, and is the editor-in-chief of "ORLANDO."

"I think that especially as an editor-in-chief of ORLANDO, you get these single-issue print zine featuring the work of queer poets."

"ORLANDO started as a final project for Ovrutsky's English 490: Creative Writing Special Topics class."

The title is inspired by Virginia Woolf’s novel of the same name, in which the main character, Orlando, transitions from male to female. Ovrutsky said the novel is a meditation on gender and sexuality — the overarching theme of her life.

"It's a variety of people, which I think is actually another way to queer community I was going for," she said. "I'm excited for people to see this project.

Print copies of "ORLANDO" will be available this spring at the Caffeine Hall, Epilogue Books Chocolate Brew and student campus stores.

The Health Humanities Journal can be found in boxes around campus and on the journal’s website.

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LISTENERS EXPLORE UNDERGROUND GENRES, RECEIVE “SOUND TOWN”

By Sophia Melin
Staff Writer
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It’s that time of year again. 2023’s biggest artists, songs and albums — from SZA’s “SOS” to Zach Bryan’s self-titled project — are all over social media. Spotify Wrapped, which was released on Nov. 29 this year, provided users with extensive data about their music streaming habits.

First released in 2015, the annual analysis is a marketing campaign by Spotify, the most-used music streaming platform in the world. On the day of its release, users are given a color-coded, funny slideshow with information about their top songs, artists and genres that can be easily shared on other digital platforms.

Chloe Johnson, a DJ at student-run radio station WXYC, said she expected an increase in TikTok. “I’ve seen people have Travis Scott and Lake Combs in the top five,” she said. “I’ve seen people have K-pop and Taylor Swift and EPOCAPIA in the same top five.”

Little, however, said they were expecting more variability among the most popular artists of listeners. “A lot of people seem to stick to their genre,” they said. This year’s Spotify Wrapped also featured some new statistics — including “Sound Town,” based on listeners’ musical preferences. Weikel was assigned to a small town in California, which he said made sense to him as an indie rock fan. His top artists included The Beths, Peach Pit and Briston Maroney — artists he said today many Californian residents would gravitate toward.

“It was a really cool thing I wasn’t expecting to see,” he said. “I think it’s a fun little tidbit, a little bit of context.”

FASHION

Sustainable, ‘timeless’ styles grace UNC’s campus

Some students use apps, websites to rent clothing items

By Sydney Brainard
Senior Writer
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Campuses and runways have been chock-full of new trends and styles, whether it be real or faux leather, thin stripes or thick. Still, students are becoming increasingly tired of the rapidly changing trends.

“I feel like the fast cycle is still there,” Jessica Williamson, secretary of the UNC fashion club Xpressions, said. “But people are starting to wake up to the issue that that’s said. “Okay, let’s slow down.”

Sustainability has also become an important factor for many students this semester. The use of apps and websites to rent clothes for events like formals has become increasingly popular. Renting allows shoppers to pick out something to wear out of their comfort zone to wear for a night or two, without having to commit to actually purchasing something they may not reach for again.

“At UNC it’s like a huge thing, like everyone uses Nanny for Rent the Runway or FashionPass,” junior Camilla McIntyre said. UNC sophomore Annie Ascher saides says.

“People always don’t have much space in your closet and money in your wallet, but it’s more sustainable than buying new clothes for events like formals,” junior Camila Rodriguez said.

This year’s biggest trend of all might have been the idea of “timelessness.” Min Mu, a brand that filled their runways with “staple pieces,” was ranked the hottest brand this past quarter by The Lyst Index. Popular style influencers like Sofia Richie, Camila Coelho and Abercrombie & Fitch — such as drill — a subgenre of hip-hop music — and Afrobots, trending on TikTok.

According to Little, indie artists are thriving because people are actively seeking out underground music. They said they have also noticed club music, such as drill — a subgenre of hip-hop music — and Afrobots, trending on TikTok.

Little said they have enjoyed seeing artists be more experimental and expressive with their production over the years, such as the mixing of jazz sounds in rap music.

First-year Reid Weikel also noticed the expansion and intermixing of genres in the industry. He said he sees the focus shifting from industry giants to individual artists. This allows creatives to have a lot of space, sound, instead of following what executives tell them is marketable, he said.

“I think there’s a lot of genres now that wouldn’t have existed 25 years ago,” Weikel said.

There was a “wide, eclectic combination” of artists from various genres in the Top Five lists that Weikel said this year. “I’ve seen people have Travis Scott and Lake Combs in the top five," he said. “I’ve seen people have K-pop and Taylor Swift and EPOCAPIA in the same top five." 

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Students unwrap diverse Spotify statistics

Country music dominates North Carolina’s top ten songs this year

Compared to the U.S. as a whole, North Carolina’s Spotify was more influenced by country music — with standards “Something in the Water” by Zac Brown and “First Car” by Uncle Kracker. This year, provided users with extensive data about their music streaming habits.

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Happy Birthday Olivia! Happy Birthday to the best photographer at the DTH! I am so grateful to be your friend and roommate. Have an amazing day! <3

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

Title: “Nabokov’s Quartet”

Across
1 Fundamentals
7 Sword’s handle
11 Tampon alternative
13 Insects able to lift 10x their weight
14 A black belt in karate, for example
15 Unspecified place
16 “Is ___?” (“Me here,” quite pompously)
17 “Praise to the good Lord!”
19 Sarah Levy to her bro, Dan
21 Camera eye
22 Nearly-sacrificed Biblical son
23 Mild, gentle
24 Fitting
25 Sometimes, it’s more
25” or ‘craft’ suffix
31 Address for a knight from Desiree
32 Find the leopard’s favorite bar?
33 Part of a foot race
34 E.g. final exam
35 “Don’t ___ for Me, Argentina”
37 Pivaar or Plácido Domingo
38 Blemished by injury
39 Stone & Leaf or Meantime
40 Combine
41 Letter opener?
42 Brooklyn basketball team
43 Like some texts to your crush, sadly
44 Classroom furnishing
45 Fractions of tennis matches
46 Wood in black piano keys
47 Wastepaper basket
48 Personal dread and pity
49 “The Daily Tar Heel” photographer Wilder
50 Look into the future
52 Work hard to attain, say
56 “Unwrap your birthday present!”
58 “Nabokov’s Quartet” band, to their
59 Hypothetical degree
61 Fitting
62 “The Daily Tar Heel” photographer Wilder
63 Casts a mean look at
64 Sometimes to your crush, sadly
65 Mouth-related (no jokes, please)
66 Time period
67 Sword’s handle
68 ‘Might’ or ‘craft’ suffix
69 “The Final Countdown” band
70 Franklin Street burger shack
71 Concludes the show
72 Posed with the tower in 11-down

Down
1 Pleads to have
2 Rod connecting train wheels
3 Find the leopards favorite bar?
4 ‘Might’ or ‘craft’ suffix
5 “Don’t ___ for Me, Argentina”
6 Posed with the tower in 11-down
7 “WandaVision” actress Kathryn
8 Purple flower
9 Port of a foot race
10 Largest French Polynesian island
11 Home of famous Italian tower
12 ‘80s band that didn’t sing “Africa”
13 The ‘D’ in CDs
14 11-down
15 Wood in black piano keys
16 Vol. 12 of CD
17 11-down
18 Bird’s abode
19 ‘80s band that didn’t sing “Africa”
20 Arrange the china and chess pieces?
21 Camera eye
22 Nearly-sacrificed Biblical son
23 Mild, gentle
24 Fitting
25 Sometimes, it’s more
26 Shrek, for one
27 Killer whales
28 Trojan hiding place
29 Unit of corn
30 Pavarotti or Plácido Domingo
31 Address for a knight from Desiree
32 “___ for the money…”
33 Bernie Sanders’ title, abbr.
34 Mr. Potato Head, for one
35 “Don’t ___ for Me, Argentina”
36 Stone & Leaf or Meantime
37 ‘80s band that didn’t sing “Africa”
38 Agreement that seemed lost comes into focus.
39 Communication gain clarity, impact
40 Combine
41 Letter opener?
42 Classroom furnishing
43 Wastepaper basket
44 The ‘L’ in the NFL
45 11-down
46 Fractions of tennis matches
47 Faded shade
48 International travel document
49 Mouth-related (no jokes, please)
50 There are twelve of these, in the Christmas variety
51 Faded shade
52 Brooklyn basketball team
53 Colorful gas light
54 Work the keys?
55 Mouth-related (no jokes, please)
56 11-down
57 Larger, enthusiastic
58 ‘80s band that didn’t sing “Africa”
59 Colorful gas light
60 Work the keys?
61 Take, like advice
62 Arizona
63 Kansas
64 Days ___ (molot chain)
65 Shade
66 Time period

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New restaurants add flavor to area

Several eateries have come to Chapel Hill, Carrboro

By Grace Gao
Staff Writer
glife@dailytarheel.com

Chapel Hill and Carrboro have a diverse mix of food offerings, from food trucks to restaurants with cuisine from all around the world. Since the start of this year, a number of new restaurants have opened in the area, serving interesting flavors to the area’s wide variety of cuisines.

La Montaña, 370 E. Main St.
Suite 170, Carrboro

In every corner of La Montaña there is a unique story, and every piece of its decoration, especially the bamboo wall panels, is reminiscent of the childhood of Yung Nai, the owner and chef. The restaurant opened on Oct. 7, a day after Nai’s life transitioning from the mountainous region in Vietnam to his Latin-influenced upbringing in the United States. It is also a dedication to Nai’s father.

La Montaña offers breakfast, lunch, dinner and weekend brunch. One signature drink recommended is the “Flamenco of Plechk”, which is made with rose powder and green tea. It is created to honor Vietnamese veterans.

Nai said the restaurant is a support to be source of support to the community, whether that be providing more opportunities for those involved in the food industry or providing a pleasant place for people to come.

“We hope to be welcoming and hospitable for the community, going through life with, with a meal and a drink and things like that,” Nai said.

Raising Cane’s, 101 E. Franklin St., Chapel Hill

Raising Cane’s, a fried chicken chain that recently added coffee drinks, opened on Chapel Hill Nov. 7.

Customers wait in line for the grand opening of Raising Cane’s on Franklin Street on Nov. 7.

The restaurant is a popular stop on game days, and the line often snakes out the door. On Saturday, the restaurant was populated with customers who were in town for the UNC men’s basketball game against Florida State University.

The restaurant’s spicy chicken and Texas toast were featured in the menu.

They said their experience was pleasant and they would recommend trying it again.

Tonya’s Cookies & Bake Shop, 400 S. Elliott Road, Chapel Hill

On South Elliott Road stands a new cookie shop, Tonya’s Cookies & Bake Shop. The establishment was inspired by owner Tonya Council’s personal memory and appreciation of her grandmother’s culinary skills at her restaurant, Mama Dij’s Kitchen.

Council grew up working at her grandmother’s restaurant, which motivated her to sell cookies. She also emphasized her Latin-influenced upbringing in the mountains of Pleiku, Vietnam, to honor Vietnamese veterans.

Tonya’s Cookies has a wide menu ranging from their signature pecan crisp cookies to cakes and pies. The restaurant also sells pastas and other dishes, and locally owned bar and art gallery Lapin Fines.

Each piece of its decoration, especially the wall murals, is something new to the local business community using customers to get adventurous and taste the unknown.

“Looking at my business, I think that it’s just really about supporting local businesses, supporting each other and it’s not even just that people don’t have extra money to spend, it’s also about, you know, being as much a local business as you can,” said Tonya Council.

“Coming together as a community, whether it’s to bring these fun experiences downtown or whether it’s to help support another business, we’ve had a bright spot in downtown that is amazing and just to be part of it is unbelievable,” she said.

Schoolkids Records owner Stephanie Wright said his business has seen its best gross sales in two decades in the last few years, but this year has been different because inflation has caused people to focus their income on necessities like groceries and rent.

He also said his business is now ordering less, which can create issues that many businesses struggled with coming out of the pandemic. However due to inflation, he said the problem now is people not having enough money to spend, instead of not having enough money to spend and we know that — it’s not even just that people don’t have extra money to spend, it’s also about, you know, being as much a local business as you can,” he said.

Christyna Passamini, the owner of Sofa’s Boutique in Carrboro, said the biggest challenge her business faced this year was not having a shift in people’s ideas about work during the pandemic.

Employees did not want to simply have a job anymore, they wanted to be able to express themselves and connect to something, meaningful, she said.

Passamini said business is generally going well in the community because people

This year’s themed group exhibitions focused on “Body of Work,” “Anti-Portraits” and “Remember, Remember the Wreath,” she explained.

Spery is also showing pieces in a benefit show at Lumpy and a group exhibition at Peel. They said the Triangle’s art community is supportive, communal and willing to help one another.

“It doesn’t feel like people are fighting so much, it doesn’t feel like little things like it can in New York or something,” she said. “The Triangle is very unique, I think, in that it’s a very community-oriented and uplifting art environment.

Spery also attends as many art events as she can, which they said is also a good way to find out about spaces to exhibit work.

Information about upcoming and past events can be found on individual gallery or museum websites and social media pages.

X: @dthlifestyle
The Editorial Board reflects on the year's coverage

2023 has been one hell of a year. A look back at the Editorial Board's coverage over the past 12 months might give you some idea as to why.

Our role, as the Editorial Board, has remained relatively constant throughout the year. As we act as a voice for the UNC and Chapel Hill area and reflect what our community cares about. We aim to be holistic in our commentary and consider multiple viewpoints when we meet each week before releasing an opinion or calling for change. We also acknowledge that we are not able to comment on everything and we have, at times, overlooked important issues.

For this reason, we feel compelled to reflect on what we have covered in 2023 — and what we missed.

What we covered

We began this year talking about the dignity of labor and the important work of UNC housekeepers. We advocated for living wages, and they began more directly, urging the University to pay something that they deserve. This has yet to happen.

We sought accountability of politicians when we "Go to Hell, Tricia Cottham" after the representative’s disingenuous switch to the Republican party after representative’s disingenuous switch to the Republican party. This has yet to happen.

One of our most assertive editorials came after the announcement of the School of Civic Life and Leadership, which we argued was another example of ideological combativeness.

This editorial provided a model for how we want to approach similarly relevant, contentious news. It laid out all of our reasonings for opposing the ideological reasons for introducing instruction, this schedule hasn't always worked. The uncertainty of class made some students feel as though there was no time to rest being crammed for the remainder of work they are meant to complete.

In addition to the University's response to this event, we were thrown into coverage about the death of a beloved Med Deli to return.

Our role, as the Editorial Board, has remained relatively constant throughout time: We act as a voice for our campus and opinion columnists. Politicians, echoing the sentiments of their constituents, often came down to whether we as an Editorial Board felt that we could adequately do justice or provide munce to the topic. However, if we don't write about the events close to the UNC student body, who will? As one of few student groups with a platform to express an opinion, in addition to providing information, it is important for us to do our best to cover these events so that we know our community cares about.

Looking ahead

In the coming year, we will not shy away. It is our role to provide a perspective formed not just by one person, but by a group of students committed to accountability and fairness.

2024 is an election year, making it a critical time for us to strengthen important aspects of our work: political endorsements. We want to ensure that our platform will inform our readers, scrutinize candidates’ policy plans and hold them to our community’s values and the causes they claim to champion.

Furthermore, in reflecting on our recent election preview, we want to include more perspectives from community members in our endorsement process and directly engage in conversations about their priorities.

Going into the new year, we hope to continue to provide important, timely and impactful commentary while embracing our core values of integrity, accountability, creativity and fairness. We don’t know what next week will bring, but everyone is excited to keep giving you our (unsolicited) opinions.

X: @dthopinion
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This campus needs to call it what it is: a genocide

By Harry Black
Columnist
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On Oct. 13, Chancellor Kevin Guskiewicz released a statement following the Hamas attack on Israel condemning the act of violence and this “horrifying” act of terror. It came at a time of contentious debate over Israel and Palestine’s place in the Middle East and the two countries’ geopolitical relationship. Regardless, Guskiewicz understood the toll the killing of innocent civilians was an act of terror. It’s shocking then, that last month, Guskiewicz and Provost Christopher Clemens declined to take a stance in a subsequent statement regarding the continued violence and massacre of civilians in Gaza, because they were “committed to institutional neutrality on political matters.”

Institutional neutrality is a recently adopted resolution by the UNC Board of Trustees regarding the University’s role in political social action. It posits that universities should remain “neutral on issues of the day.” But why is it that this position of neutrality is only present when discussing the deaths of Palestinians? If University communications can clearly label thousands of innocent citizens in Gaza had been killed, of which more than 4,000 were children. Videos of the instantaneity of the news, videos about what’s going on in Gaza, yet was able to do so for Israel with ease. Perhaps Guskiewicz has developed a different opinion as more children have been killed, but has been too busy campaigning for Michigan State University president to update us — but the point stands. If this University can separate a terrorist attack from politics, then they are weak and cowardly for refusing to do the same thing for the ceaseless murder of children.

Today, it’s easy to become desensitized to the issues of the world because of social media and the instantaneous nature of the news cycle. I’m sure you’ve seen constant videos about what’s going on in Gaza right now. You may have grown tired of them, and watched something lighthearted instead. It’s the natural news cycle on social media. But when you watch these videos, try to process the reality of bodies piled in the streets. If people are truly processing and understanding the depth of these videos and what’s happening on this island, than everyone on this campus is so scared to say the word genocide. The Daily Tar Heel itself labeled this mass murder as the “Israel-Gaza war” in its series of op-eds on the issue. A war. This newspaper’s motto is “Printing news. Raising hell.” Then refusing to call this a genocide for the sole purpose of avoiding anger is certainly not raising hell. I’m not sure how many more innocent people and children need to die before this news organization does the bare minimum by simply calling what it really is a genocide. This University has been on the wrong side of history since its inception. UNC has a historical acknowledgment page on its website. It says that the land it is built on was stolen from indigenous people. It was constructed with the use of slave labor. And UNC did not admit a Black student into its undergraduate population until 1955, 166 years after its founding. That same acknowledgment page says, “UNC-Chapel Hill is committed to reckoning with its past.” What is the point of this University’s silence when it comes to past if it refuses to reckon with its present and support the oppressed? When will we ask the real question? History is made by those who show up, not those who cower in the corner and defend themselves with talks of “institutional neutrality.”

Welcome to UNC Finals Survivor

By Shea McIntyre
Editorial Board Member
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Finals are less than a week away and you’ve chosen one of our constituents for your brainstorm column. You’ve chosen to talk about your finals schedule this season. Welcome to the fall 2023 season! Training is well underway. Undernote: students average around 22 hours of (brain) exercise, to prepare for the day that waking up before 8 a.m., but that really means whenever you’re ready. Plus, everyone on UNC Finals Survivor will wait for you to start the challenge. Take your sweet, sweet time! The experience really is what you make of it.

You’re on this island not to do well, but to make it memorable for UNC Finals Survivors viewers and past voters. Faciae drama as much as you can, be insufferable and don’t actually prepare for any tasks because you’ll ace them regardless.

Good luck!

X: @dthropinion

An ode to morning classes

By Bright Pierce
Columnist
opinion@dailytarheel.com

One of the most common pieces of advice that people give me (often unsolicited) before starting my first semester of college was to not sign up for any morning classes. They told me that I wasn’t in high school anymore, so I had the freedom to choose my own schedule, and God forbid I would have to be out of bed before the clock said “9 a.m.”

Like any naive soon-to-be college first-year, I took other people’s advice to heart. I meticulously planned my schedule so that none of my classes would start before 11 a.m. Only the backups to my morning classes were morning classes, and I was confident that I wouldn’t need to use them. Because class registration guidance was going to be a breeze for me, right? Right?

When this second statement was came and went, leaving me with morning classes just because other people told you they are a bad idea. As I reflect on this past semester, I realize my morning classes are one of the best things that could’ve happened for me and my academics. I encourage everyone to try out a morning class, even if it doesn’t end up working out for you. It’s important to try new things to figure out what works for you, instead of focusing too much on others’ well-intentioned, but sometimes misguided, advice.

By Brigit Pierce
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I understand that not everyone agrees with morning classes being a bad idea. Some people’s circadian rhythms cause them to go to bed late and wake up early. Early classes are not the best option for these people. And that’s fine.

The reason that I’m really trying to get across is to not discount morning classes just because other people tell you they are a bad idea. As I reflect on this past semester, I realize my morning classes are one of the best things that could’ve happened for me and my academics. I encourage everyone to try out a morning class, even if it doesn’t end up working out for you. It’s important to try new things to figure out what works for you, instead of focusing too much on others’ well-intentioned, but sometimes misguided, advice.
A look back at UNC's national championships this year

Five North Carolina teams, individuals secured titles

By Sports Desk

Nicknamed the "University of National Champions," UNC sports programs brought home the hardware this year. From individual titles to team championships, here's a look at each national championship.

Field Hockey

The No. 1 North Carolina field hockey team (18-3) earned its 11th national championship title and fifth title in six years on Nov. 19 after defeating No. 2 Northwestern in a penalty shootout, 2-1. 23-year-old head coach Erin Matson became the youngest Division I coach to win an NCAA title, doing so in her first year at the helm.

The championship match, hosted at Karen Shelton Stadium, went to a shootout after 60 minutes of regulation and two overtime periods and resulted in a tied 1-1. Graduate goalkeeper Maddie Kahn made three saves in the shootout and helped UNC win its 12th national championship.

The Tar Heels scored first in regulation on a penalty shot by senior forward Avery Patterson on Nov. 19. UNC scored three goals in the game, led by Fiona Crawley, who won the Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award and was named the Final Four Most Outstanding Player.

"It was a lot of fun," Crawley said after the game. "We've been playing really well lately, and I think we're just starting to get our groove back."

The Tar Heels will face the University of Connecticut in the Elite Eight on Nov. 26 in Chapel Hill to face the Huskies for the national championship.

Women's Tennis

The Tar Heels went on to win the national championship, defeating Penn State in the championship match on Nov. 19.

 UNC's 2-1 victory over the Nittany Lions was the Tar Heels' fourth national title in six years, including their first national title in 1995.

"We worked really hard throughout the entire season," said senior captain and team captain Marisa Tanguilig. "It's been a long journey, but we're finally here and we're ready to take on the challenge."

The Tar Heels will face the University of Texas in the first round of the NCAA tournament on Nov. 29.

Women's Soccer

The Tar Heels finished the regular season 13-2-1 and were ranked No. 3 nationally in the final College Soccer News poll.

The Tar Heels finished the regular season with a 13-2-1 record, including a 6-1-0 record in ACC play. The Tar Heels will face the University of Virginia in the ACC championship on Nov. 27.

"We're excited to be here," said senior forward Ally Phillips. "We've been working really hard all season and we're ready to show what we're capable of."
Aranza Vazquez

Aranza Vazquez has proven herself as a trailblazer at UNC, underscored by the accolades she’s amassed this year, such as the 2023 ACC Women’s Diver of the Year and the 2022-23 CSCAA Women’s Diver of the Year.

Vazquez etched her name in UNC history as the first diver to clinch a national title after being crowned a champion in both the one-meter and three-meter springboard at the 2023 NCAA Championships. Vazquez also claimed victory in the ACC Championship one-meter, three-meter and platform events, earning a spot on the All-America first team for the second time and was a finalist in the ACC Women’s Swimming & Diving.

Not only did Vazquez shine athletically, but she earned a place on the ACC All-Academic Team. Vazquez also claimed victory in the ACC Championship one-meter, three-meter and platform events, earning a spot on the All-America first team for the second time and was a finalist for the prestigious Honda Award for the Honda Award for Swimming & Diving.

Omarion Hampton

Last year, the spotlight was on 2022 ACC Player of the Year Drake Maye and his star receiving a spot on the All-America first team for the second time and was a finalist for the prestigious Honda Award for Swimming & Diving.

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Fiona Crawley

When one thinks of UNC’s top programs, others may come to mind before tennis. In 2023, Fiona Crawley brought tennis into the limelight, leading the UNC women’s team to its first NCAA Team Championship in program history and winning the NCAA Doubles Championship alongside partner Carson Tanguilig.

The San Antonio native was coming off an unprecedented 2022 fall season, in which she won the women’s All-American and ITA Fall Championship singles titles, and helped lead Team USA to a 10th title in the Master’s BNP Paribas Championship.

The Daily Tar Heel sports editors have compiled their picks for the 2023 Athlete of the Year.

SPORTS editors’ picks: Athletes of the year

By Shelby Swanson

Daniel Wei, assistant sports editor

and Gwen Peace

Assistant Sports Editor

Sports

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

COLUMN

Drake Maye and his star receiving the 2022 ACC Player of the Year honors and earning the 2023 ACC Championship one-meter, three-meter and platform events, earning a spot on the All-America first team for the second time and was a finalist for the prestigious Honda Award for Swimming & Diving.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF OLIVIA PAUL, JORDAN TILLMAN AND JENNIFER TRAN

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Tar Heels seek to gain their first ranked win of the 2023-24 season

By Emma Richards

The Daily Tar Heel

The story of Edwin Okoroma, UNC’s first Black varsity athlete

By Brendan Lunga

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