

The Daily Tar Heel

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2024

131 YEARS OF SERVING UNC STUDENTS AND THE UNIVERSITY

VOLUME 132, ISSUE 6

NEW SCHOOL

Emails detail the creation of the SCiLL

By Madeleine Ahmadi
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For the first time, students can now register for classes in UNC's new School of Civic Life and Leadership, which encourages students to pursue democratic and civil engagement.

While the SCiLL was officially announced to the University at a January 2023 Board of Trustees meeting, its development began years ago with a chain of processes that former chair of the Faculty Council Mimi Chapman described as a "zombie."

"I see it as a series of efforts that it gets thwarted one way and then it gets

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DTH/GRACE RICHARDS

Solar eclipse of the Quad

Monday's eclipse brought students and community members outside in droves. Near Wilson Library's steps, Carolina Union Activities Board inflated a giant colorful bouncy castle. Al's Burger Shack later handed out hot dogs. Hundreds of people sprawled out under the cloudless sky, passing eclipse glasses back and forth. The Quad became a sea of upturned faces as people took a moment to marvel at the rare event, squinting to find the yellow sliver of sunlight behind the moon. Others marveled at the tiny crescent-shaped shadows cast onto the brick walkways. As the eclipse hit its peak at 3:15 p.m., the crowd clapped and cheered. Read more on PAGE 2.

EDUCATION

Next-gen therapists enter field

How students are preparing to be mental health professionals

By Lauren Rhodes
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Content warning: This article contains mentions of suicide and mental health issues.

Ever since middle school, Julia Bondareva has noticed that they, along with the people around them, have faced challenges with their mental health, especially anxiety and depression.

Now a UNC junior studying neuroscience and psychology, Bondareva is among the students

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MUSIC



DTH/ADRIAN TILLMAN

SZA sings atop a wrecking ball during her set at Dreamville Festival in Raleigh on Saturday.

Festival fulfills dreams

Dreamville attracts national audience to local stage in Raleigh

By Hamsini Sivakumar
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A couple songs into his set at Dreamville Festival on Saturday, rapper Lil Yachty hyped the crowd up, commenting that the SZA

fans up front were tired and they "couldn't hang with the Boat fans." It was six hours into the first day of the two-day music festival, and there were still over two hours left before SZA took the stage for the last show of the night.

But the crowd disagreed. Even after standing for hours, they were screaming the lyrics and jumping to the beat for every minute of

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ACTIVISM

'This feels like a due process violation'

Community demands barred law student be allowed at her graduation, petition to be delivered on Thursday

By Emmy Martin
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Jamie Marsicano, who will graduate from the UNC School of Law in May, hasn't stepped foot on University grounds in over a year. She can't.

Former UNC Chancellor Kevin Guskiewicz barred Marsicano from campus last spring following a domestic terrorism charge in DeKalb County, Ga. Marsicano was one of 23 people who were arrested at a March 2023 outdoor music festival in Atlanta held to protest the construction of the controversial law enforcement training facility called the Atlanta Public Safety Training Center, commonly known as "Cop City." The charges remain unindicted.

Now, Marsicano, who uses she/they pronouns interchangeably, is finishing her UNC degree at Duke University School of Law under the schools' interinstitutional program.

Their UNC classmates and friends say they miss them. So much so that more than 100 people protested the ban in April 2023, marching from the law school to South Building, where they delivered a petition to allow Marsicano back on campus. UNC community members protested again in September 2023.

A year later, her fellow third-year law students are asking interim Chancellor Lee Roberts — who was not a part of the original decision to ban Marsicano — through a petition to allow her to walk with them at their May 10 graduation.

"Jamie has walked alongside us and supported us



DTH/KENNEDY COX

Jamie Marsicano sits outside of Duke University School of Law, where they take classes, on Monday.

as we've lost loved ones, struggled to pull together funds to pay for medical expenses, and welcomed new children into our lives," the petition says. "Just like all of us, they have earned their degree and their right to be honored and celebrated at graduation."

As of Monday, more than 740 people signed the petition, which closes at 5 p.m. on Wednesday.

Students will walk from the UNC School of Law to deliver the petition to South Building on Thursday at 12:30 p.m. The demonstration, called South Building Music Festival, was promoted on Instagram by an account named @letjamiewalk. Attendees were asked to wear a

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FUNDING

Orange County passes resolution for school improvement bond

Board of County Commissioners pledges \$300 million

By Grace Whittemore
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In its most recent meeting, the Orange County Board of

County Commissioners passed a preliminary resolution showing its intent to hold a countywide referendum on a \$300 million bond for the school facility improvement.

Travis Myren, the deputy county manager, said the resolution was the first step needed to allow Orange County residents to vote on the creation of the bond through a referendum alongside

federal and state elections in November 2024.

"They took the first of four legislative actions on Tuesday night by basically approving a maximum amount that the bond can be and the purpose that the funds must be used for," Myren said.

He said, at its next business meeting, the board will approve the creation of a bond education

committee which will likely include representatives from the Board, Orange County Schools and Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools. The committee will put together educational materials about the bond and its potential impact on taxpayers, Myren said.

This won't be the first time

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WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- The bond would need to go through three more steps before it would be placed on the November ballot.
- The exact impact on taxpayers has not yet been publicized. Commissioners will form a committee during their next meeting to start the process of educating community members.
- Improvements could include upgrades to technical and career learning spaces.

“And everything under the sun is in tune, but the sun is eclipsed by the moon.”

PINK FLOYD

The Daily Tar Heel

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Behind the beginning of the SCiLL at UNC

Continued from Page 1

reborn in some other fashion," she said.

Since its inception, the school has received criticism for what some believe to be conservative origins.

Emails obtained by The Daily Tar Heel reveal the initial stages, going back to 2017, of developing a civil discourse program — originally called the Program in Civic Virtue and Civil Discourse — that would later give way to the SCiLL.

Early developments

In a 2017 email, Christopher Clemens, current provost and then-senior associate dean of natural sciences and mathematics, expressed his and the administration's interest in a conservative program on campus to Robert George, director of Princeton University's James Madison Program.

"I have been among the most outspoken conservative members of the Art & Sciences faculty at UNC for many years, sponsoring the College Republicans, the Carolina Review, and several other student organizations," he said. "I am currently the senior associate dean of natural sciences and am intrigued to learn of our administration's interest in housing a conservative center on campus."

Clemens' email followed a visit to the James Madison Program by UNC faculty, including former Chancellor Kevin Guskiewicz, the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the time.

In an email statement to The Daily Tar Heel, George said that program leaders told UNC administrators about operations, programming, funding and administration during the visit. He did not respond to requests

for comment regarding early steps in the process for creating the SCiLL.

When asked about his email to George, Clemens said in a statement that the focus of the SCiLL has always been a place where students can listen, engage and deliberate over ideas.

"This objective transcends partisan concerns and lies at the bedrock of the University," Clemens said.

The idea for the UNC's civic discourse program was also influenced by visits to other civic leadership programs, including the School of Civic and Economic Thought and Leadership at Arizona State University.

Paul Carrese, ASU school's director, later served on the initial advisory committee for UNC's civic discourse program. He said initially, it was determined the Program in Civic Virtue and Civil Discourse should be program-sized rather than a new department.

During the development process, some faculty expressed concern about a new civic discourse program at UNC.

In a 2019 email, current associate professor of women's and gender studies Karen Booth said some faculty were concerned about a new program being developed by UNC administration alongside George, who she said was a self-described conservative professor from Princeton.

Booth did not respond to The DTH's request for comment.

The Program for Public Discourse

Retired UNC professor Larry Grossberg served on the initial advisory committee for the proposed Program in Civic Virtue and Civil Discourse. Though there may have been an original idea for the initiative

to look like a conservative think tank, he said that was never on the table in his discussions with the committee.

The initial advisory committee for the program was established in 2019 and chaired by George. It also involved UNC faculty, UNC Board of Trustees members, Board of Governors members and external members — including leaders from other universities like Carrese.

The committee met in Chapel Hill on Aug. 21 and 22, 2019. Donna Gilleskie, chair of the UNC economics department and then-committee member, said the committee wanted the program to be integrated into the College of Arts and Sciences and involve the general faculty.

After its first in-person meeting, the committee was disbanded because Carrese said there was a focus on the project being homegrown.

Three weeks later, the program was announced under a new name — the Program for Public Discourse.

Gilleskie said the PPD focused on bringing in speakers who would showcase difficult dialogue to explore different perspectives, something she said the program has done successfully.

The PPD is now included within the SCiLL and is featured on the home page of the school's website. The school builds on the program's model for showcasing and encouraging public discourse, according to the SCiLL website.

Building the School of Civic Life and Leadership

Carrese said it made sense to him that the PPD was only an initial step, and that UNC and the state legislature continued to be interested

in the creation of a school. He said faculty who disagree with the creation of the SCiLL should look at the state of American civic life and the need for restoring civic education.

"So it's not unusual or anti-academic at all," he said.

David Boliek, then-BOT chair, said in a January 2023 interview with Fox News that the initiative to create the SCiLL was all about balance.

"We have no shortage of left-of-center and progressive views on our campus, like many campuses across the nation, but the same really can't be said about right-of-center views," Boliek said. "This is an effort to try and remedy that."

Shortly after the announcement, nearly 700 current and retired UNC faculty members signed a letter opposing the proposed school, calling it an act of overreach.

Chapman said she was not surprised that Clemens referred to the original idea for a civic discourse program as a conservative center.

"Can something good be made from something that starts really with a kind of a poison pill? And to me, that's the question here," Chapman said. "In the case of the Program for Public Discourse, something good did come from the original strife."

With a newly instated dean and class registration fully underway, Chapman said a year is not enough time to think deeply about solidifying a school's curriculum and leadership.

Still, Gilleskie said she thinks it is wonderful that students can now explore what the school offers.

"I don't think that in the beginning I ever thought that it would be something like what it has grown into," Gilleskie said.

X: @maddieahmadi

CELESTIAL EVENT

UNC watches eclipse

By Charlene Wu

Staff Writer
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Eyes turned toward the sun on Monday to catch the partial solar eclipse, which peaked over Chapel Hill at 3:15 p.m.

Students, staff and community members across campus gathered to watch this rare celestial event, as the next one will not be visible for another two decades.

Before the eclipse started, sophomore Anna Keith Sullivan patiently waited in line outside Wilson Library for a pair of solar eclipse glasses. Just in case she could not get a pair, she followed a TikTok tutorial the night before to create a makeshift eclipse viewer out of a granola bar box.

She had to make sure she would see it. Sullivan said she isn't necessarily interested in astronomy, but felt the eclipse was a special event that she might not see again. Sullivan witnessed the last total eclipse in 2017 at the beach.

"I don't know how to explain it," Sullivan said. "It almost was dreamlike, and I thought that was so cool because I've never experienced anything like that before."

She hoped the eclipse in Chapel Hill would be just as exciting to see everyone looking up at the same time, and watched it from Polk Place with her friends.

The Morehead Planetarium and Science Center also hosted a solar eclipse party. Inside, the planetarium hosted a live stream of the total eclipse, meteorite activities and eclipse-themed screenings in the Fulldome Theater.

Outside, they had free hands-on astronomy activities, such as using disco balls to observe the eclipse's reflections, as well as looking through tree shadows. These allowed attendees to experience the eclipse without special glasses, Chris Katella, the planetarium's marketing and communications manager, said.

When they were not looking up, eclipse viewers were able to look down at crescent-shaped shadows dotting the ground.



DTH/GRACE RICHARDS

UNC junior Parmis "Maeve" Kimia watches the eclipse from the Quad on Monday.

The viewing activities were a new addition to this eclipse year, and the event was an effort across many different departments, Katella said.

"We knew what it takes," Katella said. "People look to Morehead here in the Triangle, not just in Chapel Hill. We are experts in what we do."

Nia Freeman, a digital communications specialist at the planetarium, said she loved seeing people in awe of what they were witnessing, and how everyone came together for the event, she said.

Joy Harrison is an astrophysics student at UNC and works for the planetarium. For most of the day, she was inside a packed Fulldome Theater, presenting educational shows on the science behind the eclipse.

Harrison saw the 2017 eclipse with her family at the same planetarium, so it was full circle to be on the other side, helping others have a positive eclipse experience, she said.

"It's like capturing lightning in a bottle," Katella said. "To be able to look up with one of these [eclipse glasses], and see something happening that you have no control over is really humbling, inspiring and just, exciting."

x: @dthlifestyle

NOTICE OF ELECTION
ORANGE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

The statewide second primary and the Orange County Schools Board of Education Runoff Election will be held on Tuesday, May 14, 2024.

Polls will be open from 6:30 am to 7:30 pm on Election Day. Voters must go to their assigned precinct on Election Day.

Voters will be asked to show photo ID when they vote. All voters will be allowed to vote with or without ID. Voters who lack ID can get one for free from their county board of elections. Find out more at BringItNC.com.

Early voting will be held at the following location from Thursday, April 25, 2024, through Saturday, May 11, 2024:

Orange Works at Hillsborough Commons (in lieu of BOE office): 113 Mayo St, Hillsborough Monday – Friday, 8 am – 5 pm and Saturday, May 11, from 8 am – 3 pm

Absentee ballots will be mailed to voters who have requested them as soon as they are available. A voter can fill out an absentee ballot request at voteymail.ncsbe.gov, or by filling out a request form provided by the board of elections. The request must be received through the website or by the Orange County Board of Elections by 5 pm May 7, 2024.

The Board will hold absentee meetings at 5 pm on April 9, April 16, April 23, April 30, May 7, May 13, and May 23, 2024. The Board will begin the absentee count at 2 pm on May 14, 2024. Canvass will be held at 11 am on Friday, May 24, 2024. All meetings will be held at the Orange County Board of Elections office at 208 S. Cameron St, Hillsborough.

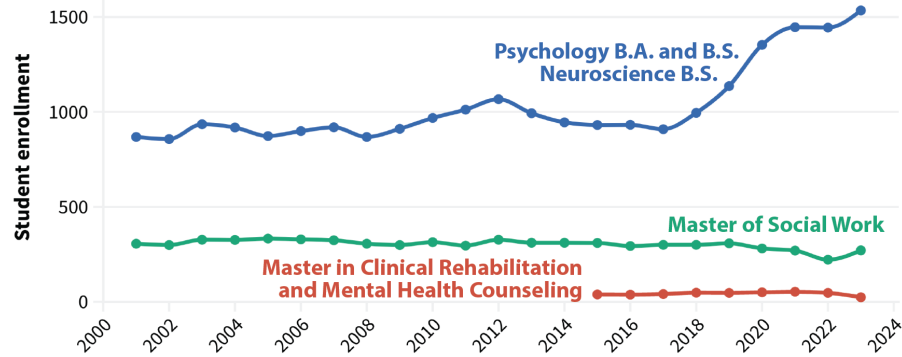
Voters aged 18+ and registered in the Orange County Schools district are eligible to vote in the Orange County Schools Board of Education Runoff Election.

All registered Republicans are eligible to vote in the second primary. Additionally, unaffiliated voters who did not vote or voted the Republican ballot in the first primary are eligible to vote in the second primary.

Questions? Call the Orange County Board of Elections Office at **919-245-2350** or send an email to vote@orangecountync.gov.

Enrollment in undergraduate psychology and neuroscience degrees at UNC has increased 69 percent since 2017

In contrast, Master of Social Work and Master in Clinical Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling enrollment has remained mostly steady in recent years. Therapists commonly hold degrees in psychology and social work.



Source: UNC Office of Institutional Research and Assessment • Note: Enrollment statistics for the Master in Clinical Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling was only available from 2015 onward. Enrollment refers to the number of declared majors.

DTH DATA/PRITHIKA ROY

Students prepare to become next mental health professionals

Continued from Page 1

currently working to become the next generation of mental health professionals and researchers.

As they grew up, they realized there was a larger issue, especially impacting people their age, which inspired them to look into the mental health field. When they took a psychology class in high school, they realized that this was the field they wanted to pursue. The class was the most interesting subject they had learned about yet, and Bondareva said they fell in love with how the subject facilitated human connection in a variety of ways.

Younger generations uniquely struggle with mounting academic and social pressure, Bondareva said, which can exacerbate existing conditions or genetic predispositions for mental illness.

“I think that pressure really makes or breaks people,” they said. “Seeing that firsthand, in a lot of my friends and myself, first inspired me to be like, ‘There’s a problem and I need to learn more about it because this is not going to go away.’”

In a 2022 study published by the National Library of Medicine, researchers found that young adults aged 18-25 years old had increased anxiety and/or depression symptoms from before the COVID-19 pandemic. In total, 48 percent of the young adults surveyed had mental health symptoms, 39 percent of which received treatment with 36 percent reporting unmet counseling needs.

Regular stressors, such as poverty or academic pressure, are worsened by unique issues — such as the recent rise in social media use and isolation as a product of the pandemic — young adults have faced in their formative years. UNC senior and UNC Chapter President of Helping Give Away Psychological Science Aidan Spelbring has seen this firsthand throughout his work and collegiate experience at UNC.

Spelbring, who studies psychology and conflict management at the University, said he decided to step into the field of psychology because of a mixture of personal experiences and environmental factors.

When he was a sophomore in 2021, at least three students died by suicide in the fall semester. Spelbring said he was deeply impacted by the idea that people in UNC’s community were seriously struggling.

“I knew that I wanted to be a force for good and trying to combat that for people,” he said.

While every student has their own reason for entering the mental health field, Spelbring said most students who pursue health service professions have been impacted in some way or another by the issues they are trying to work against.

Twenty years ago in 2004, 918 were

MOUNTING PRESSURES

- Sources say younger generations struggle with increasing social pressure, which can exacerbate existing conditions or predispositions for mental illness.
- A 2022 National Library of Medicine study found that young adults aged 18-25 years old had increased anxiety and/or depression symptoms from before the pandemic.
- Regular stressors, such as poverty, are worsened by unique issues — like the recent rise in social media use and isolation as a product of the pandemic.

enrolled in UNC’s psychology and neuroscience program as of the tenth day of the fall semester, while the clinical mental health counseling master’s degree didn’t exist, according to UNC’s Office of Institutional Research and Assessment.

Last year, 1,534 students were enrolled in the University’s psychology and neuroscience program as of the tenth day and 24 in the clinical mental health counseling master’s degree program, showing an increase in student interest over the past two decades.

UNC senior Cameron Thomas is studying psychology, conflict management and cognitive science, and fell in love with the field in high school. Thomas said he thinks about mental health like an annoying roommate — while they’re always there, the way you interact with them can change everything.

“I’m able to organize the chaos that’s in my head and, ultimately, I feel better at the end of the day after sorting some of it out,” he said.

The more students talk about and interact with mental health, the less stigmatized it becomes, Thomas said. At least at UNC, he thinks that a lot of young people are passionate about being a part of the solution, both in and out of the classroom.

“I think people are definitely more engaged with the topic because I think it relates to everybody’s lives,” Bondareva said. “As time goes by, it’s a growing field. We learn more techniques, we learn more about how to improve other people’s lives.”

Bondareva said even though people can get tired of hearing about mental health, it’s still important to learn about. They believe that there will be a point in most people’s lives where they will need to reach out for help and when that time comes, that people need to know how to take care of themselves more.

“Don’t go through it alone, don’t try to bottle it up, it’s probably going to find you anyway,” Spelbring said. “So, deal with it, talk to someone and do things that make you happy.”

X: @L_rhodsie

Dreamville drives crowds to Raleigh

Continued from Page 1

the weekend’s hip-hop and R&B lineup — one featuring headliners SZA, 50 Cent, J. Cole and Nicki Minaj. 50 Cent was a last-minute addition after original performer Chris Brown dropped out due to unforeseen circumstances.

Dreamville’s festivities start even before the music.

On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, Raleigh’s “Dreamville Festival Week” included a stand-up comedy showcase, adult game night and yoga with Olu of hip-hop duo EarthGang, who performed on Saturday.

Charities like the North Carolina Black Alliance and Heal Charlotte set up booths near the entrance of Dorothea Dix Park, which was transformed for the weekend. And the two stages — which alternated performances throughout the afternoon and evening — were surrounded by a ring of food and drink vendors.

The process to make it as a Dreamville food vendor is rigorous. Favor Desserts, a bakery in Durham, was previously rejected to become a vendor, and when they were finally accepted for the first time last year, the bakery’s owner Keijuane Hester called it their big break.

This year, Hester created a new cake for the festival — the “Dreamer Cake” — which is four alternating layers of strawberry and strawberry/vanilla marble cake with strawberry buttercream between layers and strawberry crunch on the sides of the cake.

Hester said coming to Dreamville is a great way to increase exposure for the business.

“It has impacted us tremendously because, first of all, we get to vend at a high-end festival like Dreamville where there’s going to be hundreds or thousands of people,” he said. “And this allows our brand to be able to be on a huge platform.”

Tiffanie Viverette, a junior at UNC Charlotte, attended Dreamville for the first time this year. Despite being from North Carolina, Viverette said she believes that the festival has a much broader appeal.

“I think it’s really well known outside [of North Carolina] just because the communication, the sponsors — everyone talks about it,” Viverette said. “I found out about it two years ago because of a friend that goes to Florida.”

Viverette was most excited to see SZA. She had been waiting there for hours, squished between a group of Duke students and a SZA superfan who screamed before SZA even made her entrance.

Some highlights from her set — which was almost two hours long — included a



DTH/ADRIAN TILLMAN

Fans crowd in Dorothea Dix Park to see Rae Sremmurd during their set at Dreamville Festival in Raleigh on Sunday.

sword routine before her hit song “Kill Bill” and moments sitting on a wrecking ball during “Low.”

Leading up to the performance, the audience came committed to every artist — even when they didn’t know the words, they were more than willing to put their hands up and cheer for the non-headlining artists like Luh Tyler and Teezo Touchdown.

SZA was also a highlight for UNC first-year Sarah Maness. This is her second year at Dreamville, and she said she would go again. This year, she went with a group of friends that she ran into by accident at the festival the year before.

“I definitely think knowing more people makes it feel a little more intimate and more of a Raleigh-based community thing,” Maness, a Raleigh native, said. “But for every person that I did know, there were 10,000 people I didn’t — so it still feels really big, nationwide.”

Dreamville only seems to get more well-known every year, Hester said, and he said he appreciated the revenue and exposure it brings to Raleigh, especially from out-of-town attendees.

Last year, the City of Raleigh reported that the festival had a total economic impact of \$145.9 million and provided the equivalent of over 1,300 full-time jobs.

“It’ll make you want to come back next year and bring somebody and spread the word,” Hester said. “So you know, I think it’s only gonna get bigger and bigger and bigger from here.”

X: @hamsinisiva

“For every person that I did know, there were 10,000 people I didn’t — so it still feels really big, nationwide.”

Sarah Maness
UNC first-year



DTH/ADRIAN TILLMAN

Rappers Lil Yachty and J. Cole perform “The Secret Recipe” during Cole’s set at Dreamville Festival in Raleigh on Sunday.

UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP

SCiLL director hopes to help students ‘flourish’

Jed Atkins steps into new position at new school

By Maeson Wagner

Staff Writer
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Jed Atkins assumed his role as the first permanent dean and director of the UNC School of Civic Life and Leadership on March 28.

Prior to his appointment as dean of the SCiLL, Atkins was an E. Blake Byrne associate professor of classical studies at Duke University and director of Duke’s Civil Discourse Project. In addition to his appointment as dean, Atkins will hold the Taylor Grandy distinguished professorship on the philosophy of living.

In his new position, Atkins said he hopes to make UNC a place where students can address questions about meaning, purpose, community and human flourishing.

“By doing that, students can come to transcend their original starting points and thereby transcend the gridlocks that often infect our politics,” he said.

Atkins graduated from Bowdoin College and then traveled to the United Kingdom to earn his master’s and Ph.D. in philosophy at the University of Cambridge. He began as an associate professor in the department of classical studies at Duke in 2009, when Mary



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNC MEDIA RELATIONS

Jed Atkins has been named the new director and dean of the UNC School of Civic Life and Leadership.

“Tolly” Boatwright was the interim chair of the department.

Before hiring him, Boatwright said she was familiar with Atkins because a friend of hers taught him as an undergraduate student and “spoke the world about him.”

“Jed stood out,” Boatwright said. “He is so smart, but in a wonderfully accessible way.”

Delaney Thull, a philosophy graduate student at UNC, was a predoctoral fellow at The Kenan Institute for Ethics at Duke University, which

houses the CDP, last year.

While Atkins was the faculty supervisor for the research group and teaching program, Thull said he was very good at helping her find a place in the program and advance her goals.

“He is able to set aside all of the things on his very full plate and focus on the person in front of him,” Thull said.

As a part of the CDP, Atkins taught a course entitled “The Good Life: Religion, Philosophy and Life’s Ultimate Concerns.”

Thull said the students she met who took Atkins’ course came from a range of academic backgrounds, yet they were all able to benefit from the class because of Atkins’ approach.

John Rose, associate director of the CDP, said in an email that Atkins is the most “entrepreneurial academic” he has met.

“Jed is a natural born leader with great vision and energy,” he said. “Equally important, he’s someone of real integrity and courage.”

Because the SCiLL is housed within

the College of Arts and Sciences, the school’s courses are a part of the IDEAs in Action curriculum and students at UNC are likely to take these classes to fulfill general education requirements.

Atkins is well-suited to impact a broader number of students, Thull said, because he understands that the purpose of being in the College of Arts and Sciences is integrating academic and personal interests.

Atkins said he hopes students will come out of SCiLL courses with the courage to pursue meaning in their life, think for themselves and have conversations with those who think differently than they do.

“I dream what that can look like in 40 years,” he said. “Imagine having the country, maybe the world, filled with Carolina graduates who are living these values. That’s the sort of vision that made me want to take this job.”

Though the creation of SCiLL was met with widespread criticism due to a lack of faculty involvement in its creation and controversial political ties, Atkins said he believes “origins are not destiny” and the type of civic education he is committed to will prepare students for the responsibilities of democratic citizenship.

“I can’t think of anything that is more nonpartisan or bipartisan than that,” he said.

X: @dailytarheel

HUMANITARIANISM

Middle East Refugee Aid receives public service award

Student-run group promotes health literacy, education

By Adele Morris

Senior Writer
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A quote by Paul Farmer greets viewers on the website landing page of Middle East Refugee Aid, a nonprofit and UNC student-run organization:

“If access to health care is considered a human right, who is considered human enough to have that right?”

To Salma Hakam, a UNC junior and MERA’s director of public health, the quote touches on the importance of the group’s mission — to reduce health disparities in refugee communities through literacy-based interventions.

On Friday, MERA received the Robert E. Bryan Public Service Award from the Carolina Center for Public Service. Recipients of this award are characterized by “outstanding engagement and service to the state of North Carolina,” the center’s website says.

UNC seniors Bilal Azzam and Tala Jazairi first established MERA as a nonprofit in 2022, but Azzam said it really gained momentum last summer. This academic year, they created a MERA student organization to make use of their resources on campus. Azzam, Jazairi, Hakam, Aabia Saeed and Adam Sherif serve on the student organization’s board.

Azzam, MERA’s director of medical aid, said the group focuses on promoting health literacy in all of its endeavors. After its founding, MERA leaders consulted with health professionals to see how they could best serve refugee communities around the world. The professionals highlighted that while there are medical and dental supplies in some refugee camps, a big problem is a lack of awareness of how to use them.



DTH/NATE SKVORETZ

Middle East Refugee Aid board members Bilal Azzam, Tala Jazairi, Salma Hakam, Aabia Saeed and Adam Sherif pose for a picture with their Robert E. Bryan Public Service Award outside Wilson Library on Saturday.

“What we realized is that if we instill educational curricula about preventative health in these refugee camps, then we can essentially eliminate a problem before it exists,” Azzam said.

Last November, the organization hosted a health fair for local refugees at the Zakat Foundation of America Community Center in Durham. The groups collaborated with UNC Emergency Medical Services, Carolina Nursing, UNC Mobile Health, MyEyeDr and translators to provide a variety of free medical services and food to 130 local community members.

“There’s so many barriers that our local refugee population faces,” Jazairi, who serves as MERA’s director of dental aid, said. “And so it was really, really rewarding to be part of a team that helped to alleviate that.”

MERA also partnered with other student organizations, like the Arab Student Organization and the Muslim Students Association, to fundraise for emergency aid efforts in Morocco, Libya and Palestine.

In August, MERA arranged the distribution of dental health brochures

at refugee camps in Jordan and sent a humanitarian worker to Egypt to pack medical equipment onto convoys entering Gaza, in December.

Hakam noted that the Middle Eastern identities of MERA members means they are part of the marginalized communities they serve. But she also said that many members have the privilege of attending UNC and have not experienced international occupations and humanitarian crises.

Both Hakam and Jazairi said they most look forward to the growth of MERA and future initiatives. Azzam, who comes from a family of refugees and grew up hearing stories of war and trauma, said he most looks forward to continuing the work.

“The idea that one day, my career and the time I spent in college and hopefully medical school, went toward reducing health disparities and giving back to my ancestral experience — I think that is going to be the most rewarding thing I could ever do,” he said. “And so that’s what really excites me.”

X: @dailytarheel

BRIEFS

UNC’s Seth Trimble enters transfer portal

UNC men’s basketball guard Seth Trimble entered the transfer portal, per his Instagram on Tuesday afternoon.

The sophomore averaged 5.2 points and 2.1 rebounds for the Tar Heels in the 2023-24 season. Known as the team’s go-to sixth man, he logged 17.1 minutes per game and was used as a spark off the bench. Usually tasked with defending opposing teams’ primary ball-handlers, Trimble also saw an uptick in all shooting metrics in his sophomore campaign — including an improvement from 16.7 to 41.9 percent from long range.

The Menomonee Falls, Wis. native was a 4-star recruit ranked 49th in the Class of 2022 by ESPN. Impactful showings from Trimble this past season include scoring 10 points on 5-of-9 shooting in UNC’s 93-84 home win over Duke and knocking down both of his 3-point attempts in an 8-point showing against Alabama in the Sweet 16 last month.

Currently, UNC’s guard rotation includes Elliot Cadeau and reigning ACC Player of the Year RJ Davis, who can still elect to use his final year of eligibility. Incoming first-year Ian Jackson, a 5-star recruit, also headlines the Tar Heel backcourt for the upcoming season.

— Daniel Wei

A community-sponsored fashion show struts to town

On April 12, models of all races, genders and sizes will bike, skate and walk down Weaver Street in Carrboro as a part of a unique, community-sponsored fashion show by designer Marcela Slade.

The show will take place during Chapel Hill and Carrboro’s monthly 2nd Friday Art Walk from 6-8 p.m., during which Weaver Street will be closed from The Spotted Dog restaurant to the Carrboro Century Center.

Slade, who works across artistic disciplines, said the show is more of a performance or cultural experience rather than a debut of a new collection of clothing.

For this show, Slade will focus on her upcycled designs, including base materials of jean skirts, dresses and large T-shirts. She began producing fashion shows in 2007, and this upcoming show will be her 15th.

“She’s definitely a renaissance woman,” Christian Molina, Slade’s husband and a member of her production team, said. “She’s not only a fashion designer; she does all sorts of arts, and she’s always in contact with the community. She tries to be as creative with the community as she can.”

— Marion Rambler

UNC banned student after domestic terrorism charge

Continued from Page 1

robe, be it a graduation or a bath robe. Approximately 53 percent of the third-year students at the law school have signed it, organizers said.

Meghan Rankins, Nicholas Hatcher and Sunny Frothingham — all third-year law students, organizers and friends of Marsicano — said she was a leader at the law school.

Frothingham described her absence on campus as “bizarre.”

The arrest

The site of the Atlanta Public Safety Training Center has drawn the attention of a variety of critics, including protesters of police militarization and environmental activists concerned about damage to a large urban forest in a predominantly Black community.

They decided to attend the Atlanta South River Music Festival in early March 2023 after learning about the event on Instagram.

On March 5, 2023 — the second day of the festival — police surveillance footage at the training facility shows masked activists damaging equipment at the site and throwing fireworks at officers.

Marsicano, who was arrested the same day, along with nearly two dozen protesters, said she was not near the site or among those who damaged property. The music festival was about three-quarters of a mile from the training center and the arrests at the festival took place more than an hour after the violence occurred, according to The Associated Press.

“While at the festival, the police raided it and indiscriminately grabbed people,” Marsicano said. “I was one of the people arrested.”

Marsicano was denied bail and spent three weeks in jail, where and was later released March 23, 2023.

In a March 5, 2023 news release, the Atlanta Police Department alleged that the 23 people who were arrested “used the cover of a peaceful protest of the proposed Atlanta Public Safety Training Center to conduct a coordinated attack on construction equipment and police officers.”

Democratic DeKalb County District Attorney Sherry Boston announced in June 2023 that she would not prosecute any of the related domestic terrorism cases due to a difference in philosophy between her office and law enforcement. Georgia’s Republican Attorney General Chris Carr’s office took over the prosecution of the cases the same month.

In a June 2023 social media post, Carr said his office “will not hesitate to uphold the law,” referring to the domestic terrorism cases.

Georgia broadened its definition of domestic terrorism in 2017. Previously, the state’s definition criminalized acts intended to or reasonably likely to kill or injure at least 10 people. The current statute includes attempts to kill or seriously harm people or disable or destroy “critical infrastructure” with the intent to force policy change.

But the domestic terrorism charges also served as the foundation for a broader case that Carr’s office is seeking under the state’s racketeering law.

Marsicano, and 60 other people, including all of the 23 people arrested for domestic terrorism, is also facing an indictment in Fulton County, Ga. They are being prosecuted for alleged involvement in a criminal conspiracy against the police training facility. In the 109-page indictment, Carr calls the defendants anti-police anarchists who joined a “conspiracy in an attempt to prevent the training center from being built.”

The process

Following her release from jail, Marsicano received an email from the Dean of Students’ office informing them of their interim suspension from UNC and requirement to immediately notify the University of any intention to return to campus. If they wanted to return, they would have to meet with representatives from the Dean of Students’ office and the UNC School of Law.

Marsicano could request a hearing with the Emergency Evaluation and Action Committee — which she did.

The committee handles situations requiring a more rapid response than the UNC Honor System, specifically emergencies that “require a University response because they pose some danger to the University,” according to UNC policy. The EEAC met with Marsicano and their attorney on March 30, 2023, exactly one week after her release from jail.

Maxine Eichner, a UNC law professor who had Marsicano in two of her classes, acted as Marsicano’s personal representation to the committee. She said the UNC School of Law administration and faculty were supportive of Marsicano throughout the process.

“I was there because Jamie asked me to be there,” Eichner said. “Not only did I have absolutely no qualms about Jamie presenting a safety risk, I thought quite the opposite — that the community would really lose something as a result of losing Jamie’s presence.”

While she thought the hearing was fair, Eichner said having heard the evidence, she felt strongly that the charges were unjust and Marsicano should be allowed on campus.

“Jamie was doing what we want our law school students to be doing, which is supporting the cause of justice,” she said.

The decision

Documents obtained by The Daily Tar Heel show that Guskiewicz informed Marsicano in April 2023 of his decision to ban her from UNC’s campus, based on the recommendation of the EEAC and UNC’s police chief. She was also barred from any activities sponsored by UNC or the UNC School of Law.

Guskiewicz said Marsicano could complete their spring 2023 courses via recording or asynchronous participation — not via Zoom — and future class enrollment would require EEAC approval. The DTH was unable to reach Guskiewicz for comment before the time of publication.

“I felt like UNC administration [on the] main campus was saying, ‘You can’t go to class, you can’t participate in Zoom, you can’t be in any clubs. And if the law school wants to figure it out with you from there, then that’s on them,’” Marsicano said.

Despite the policy claiming the EEAC’s decision to suspend a student should not be “construed as an adjudication of the student’s guilt or innocence of the violation charged,” Marsicano said they felt like the process presumed guilt.

“From my legal education that I learned at UNC, I am able to articulate exactly how I feel it’s violative of my constitutional rights and articulate that this feels like a due process violation,” Marsicano said.

If the committee determines that a theoretical guilty verdict would pose a serious threat or danger to the community, the EEAC policy states that it will suspend the student indefinitely “to minimize risk.”

“There’s no reason, even if we assume that Jamie was guilty, that it would have any relevance or any threat against students on campus,” Nicholas Hatcher, third-year law student and Marsicano’s friend, said.

Marsicano appealed the chancellor’s decision to UNC System President Peter Hans. In late May 2023, documents obtained by The DTH show that Hans affirmed Guskiewicz’s ban, calling it “reasonable” considering Marsicano’s felony charge and noted that the courtroom is a more “appropriate forum” for defending Marsicano’s innocence.

The UNC System did not respond to The DTH’s requests for comment by the time of publication.



DTH/KENNEDY COX

Jamie Marsicano stands outside the Duke University School of Law, where she is finishing her Juris Doctor, on Monday.

When Marsicano appealed for permission to attend in-person classes at UNC for the fall 2023 and spring 2024 semester, she was denied both times because the criminal process for her domestic terrorism charge remained unresolved.

Marsicano said UNC School of Law professors and administration made accommodations for her to finish spring 2023 courses asynchronously in addition to helping her enroll in Duke law school classes this academic year, where she could work toward her degree in person.

Compared to the “adversarial” process at UNC regarding their felony charge, Marsicano said Duke’s process was the opposite. They felt welcome at Duke and met with the university administration on campus.

Marsicano will graduate from law school in a month.

But if UNC’s decision remains unchanged, they will not be able to walk across the stage in Carmichael Arena come May. And as they watch their friends become attorneys, they will continue to support those going through the criminal justice system.

Marsicano won’t be able to take the bar exam herself until her criminal charges are resolved — a process that could take years.

X: @emmyrtn



DTH FILE/SAMANTHA LEWIS

Members of the campus community walk through Polk Place on April 13, 2023. The students protested Jamie Marsicano’s barring from UNC campus.

The Daily Tar Heel

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Distribution: Rick Harris

The Daily Tar Heel is published by DTH Media Corp., a nonprofit North Carolina corporation, weekly on Wednesdays according to the University calendar. Callers with questions regarding billing, classifieds or display advertising should call 919-962-1163 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Editorial questions should be directed to 919-962-0245.

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City & State

The Daily Tar Heel

EDUCATION

Schools seek to maintain literacy over summer

Revived program aims to close reading gap between students

By Katelyn Cai

Staff Writer
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Following a five-year pause due to the pandemic, the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Public School Foundation has restarted its Books Over Break program to increase students' equitable access to books and retain academic progress made during the school year.

The program is designed to provide economically disadvantaged students with at least six self-selected books to take home during the summer break.

Through June 1, the PSF is collecting new and gently used books appropriate for students in pre-K through 8th grade for the Books Over Break program. Donations can be dropped off in collection boxes at any Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools school lobby, Flyleaf Books, Grata Diner



PHOTO COURTESY OF FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS

and The Chamber for a Greater Chapel Hill-Carrboro. High-interest books — like graphic novels, books in Spanish and many popular middle school-age titles — can also be purchased at Flyleaf Books for donation.

Madeline Blobe, executive director of the PSF, said Books

Over Break is aiming to distribute 10,000–12,000 books this year. After collecting the books, PSF will sort them and send them to the district's 11 elementary schools and four middle schools. Once schools receive books, school coordinators will host a book fair for selected economically

disadvantaged students to choose their titles.

Books Over Break is occurring in conjunction with Tailgate Stories, a summer program where teachers will host storytimes over the summer in neighborhoods with higher numbers of disadvantaged students.

A study from the Colorado Department of Education showed that reading just four to six books over the summer has the potential to prevent the “summer slide,” or a decline in reading achievement scores while school is out between the spring and fall semesters.

Laura Nolan, librarian of seven years at Seawell Elementary School, said her school serves a diverse population. She said many students hail from stable-income neighborhoods, public housing, low-income apartment complexes and the women and children's homeless shelter. Across the school, she said that students speak 21 different languages at home.

Nolan said the result of the diversity is a huge variance in literacy levels among students. But, Seawell is not the only school

in the district with a wide range of literacy levels.

In 2018, a study from the Stanford Center for Education Policy Analysis found CHCCS has the second-largest achievement gap between Black and white students in the country. Nolan said, while there are many resources available, she worries they are not accessible to all students. She said there are other barriers to resources, such as transportation and broadband access, that concern her.

Nancy Zeman, the PSF's associate director for programs, said the PSF aims to provide funds to cover programs that state and local dollars don't cover. Over the past 40 years, the program has provided more than \$15.4 million in supplementary funding to the district.

She said for disadvantaged students, literacy may not level the playing field, but it does boost their chances for success.

“It enables kids to escape, it enables kids to find comfort, it enables kids to serve their mental health,” Nolan said.

X: @dthcitystate

Facilities need upgrades to improve safety, learning



DTH FILE/GILLIAN FASKI

Chapel Hill High School, located off Seawell School Road, is pictured on Sept. 10, 2022.

Continued from Page 1

Orange County voters have seen a bond referendum on the ballot. In 2016, a \$120 million bond for school facility improvement and a \$5 million bond for low- and middle-income housing were voted on via referendum.

County commissioner Earl McKee said getting approval for this bond from Orange County voters is important because the proposed bond is so large and would likely bring tax increases for voters.

The board chose the amount for the bond based on the results of the Woolpert School Facility Study, which assessed the needs of every school in the county — both in Orange County Schools and Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools.

The report presented the commissioners with multiple paths to move forward with the County's school facility improvement, according to BOCC chair Jamezetta Bedford.

She said many schools within the county need basic infrastructure upgrades that will allow for the improvement of student safety and learning opportunities.

Bedford said one of the ways infrastructure upgrades can lead to improved student learning is by allowing the creation of technical and career learning spaces, like an industrial kitchen

for students who are interested in culinary arts.

Many of the infrastructure upgrades are needed because the facilities are aging, McKee said.

“While we aren't trying to build a new school to have it listed in Architectural Digest, these facilities have been aging over time,” McKee said. “They do need a facelift.”

Dwayne Foster, OCS's chief operations officer, said the bond would allow for a variety of renovations and repairs that will allow Orange County students to be the best possible versions of themselves in the classroom.

He said the county has schools that were built in the 1950s and '60s, which do not meet the educational adequacy needs for students in 2024.

He also said community members should consider voting for the bond because it will help to ensure that students in the county get a quality education, which benefits the community as a whole.

“It's not just whether I have a student necessarily in Orange County schools,” Foster said. “But for the future of those in the community and for the future of ensuring that our young people are getting exactly what they need to grow and be great contributors to our society.”

X: @dthcitystate

DEVELOPMENT

Town receives \$1.5 million for affordable housing project

Construction is set to begin this summer

By Reyna Drake

Staff Writer
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On March 27, Tanyard Branch Trace, an affordable housing development on Jay Street, received a \$1.5 million award from the federal government.

The development is projected to cost \$8.9 million and will be supported by the recent award along with a low-income housing tax credit award the project received in 2023. The low-income housing tax credit award, given by the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency, will bring more than \$10 million to the project, said Sarah Viñas, the director of affordable housing and community connections for the Town of Chapel Hill.

She also said that in order to acquire the \$1.5 million award from the federal government, the Town submitted a request through Rep. Valerie Foushee (D-N.C. 4th), which went through a long vetting process before it was finally approved.

The project will include 48 housing units, ranging from 1-3 bedrooms and will be available to households that earn at or below 80 percent of the area median income (AMI). While a majority of these units will serve residents that earn at or below 60 percent of the AMI, 12 of the 48 units will be reserved specifically for households that earn 30 percent AMI.

According to the project's website, the development will be close to public transit and numerous employment opportunities — two factors that will be critical to the community's long-term success.

The Town partnered with Community Home Trust and Taft-Mills Group in 2021 to manage the project. Both groups have been longtime partners with the Town in management



DTH FILE/SAMANTHA LEWIS

The future site of Tanyard Branch Trace Development is located on Jay Street in Chapel Hill.

of affordable housing, with Community Home Trust buying and selling more than 330 permanently affordable homes in Orange County as of 2021.

Viñas said the project has been in the works for several years — the town council prioritized Town-owned land on Jay Street for affordable housing in June 2018.

Theodore Nollert, a town council member, said the development is being built on Town-owned land to decrease the overall cost of the project, since the Town does not have to purchase the lot.

“We are really excited to have this project come alive, because we know that we have a national and local affordable crisis,” she said. “This project helps chip away at the need for affordable housing in the community.”

According to Chapel Hill Affordable Housing's most recent quarterly report, the Town has seen a steady rise in home values and rental rates since 2019 — with a 24 percent increase in rental rates and a 51 percent increase in home value.

“I think a lot of the existing affordable housing is falling into disrepair and it's hard to maintain it,” Blake Rosser, interim director at Orange County Housing Department, said. “Rental prices have increased a lot over the last several years. They seem to be increasing faster.”

The median household income in Chapel Hill is \$116,200, according to the quarterly report. This means that a household making the median income and spending 30 percent of their income on housing would spend more than \$34,000 per year on housing.

“It helps — it provides housing that's below the naturally occurring floor for what people can buy or rent, generally speaking, so this fits into that subsidized bucket and it's an important contribution to a high area of need for the town,” Nollert said.

Construction on the development is set to begin this summer and opening is planned for winter 2026.

X: @dthcitystate

POLITICS

Addressing the common confusion that follows local policies

Questions rise with growing population in the Triangle

By **Lola Oliverio**
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As Chapel Hill and Carrboro's populations increase, so do questions and misconceptions about affordable housing, stormwater management and zoning.

Here are the answers and clarifications to some of those questions and misconceptions.

What are the Town's building height requirements?

The two most common zoning types throughout Chapel Hill are R-1, which are generally single-family residential areas with three units per acre, and R-2, residential areas with four units per acre. These districts cover the majority of the town, and have their own set of building requirements. Zone R-1 allows buildings to reach 40 feet in height, and R-2 zoning has a height maximum of 50 feet.

There has been debate over the construction of taller buildings in these zones, especially about a 2023 proposed development at the East Rosemary Street and Henderson Street intersection and the East Rosemary Redevelopment Project, which broke ground in September 2021. The project will bring a 238,000

square-foot wet lab to the 100 block of Rosemary Street, and the building — and its adjacent parking deck — will be seven stories tall.

Whittemore said, because Chapel Hill has historically been a small town, people are not used to a lot of activity and congestion.

"Sometimes, a lot of activity is exactly what people want, and in other cases, it's not," Whittemore said. "You're gonna have this tension around that, but it's fundamentally politics."

What's going on with affordable housing?

In 2010, Chapel Hill enacted a policy for new residential developments: in proposals with over five units, 15 percent must be considered affordable — meaning they cost no more than 30 percent of a household's income.

Developers are able to challenge this as long as they make a payment to the Town in place of the units. Delores Bailey, executive director of EMPOWERment Inc., said this payment would be turned around and put toward affordable housing.

Bailey said, according to surveying by the County, families that have the most unanswered needs are those making below the area's median income. She said there is about a 1,200-unit gap for those residents.

Organizations such as EMPOWERment Inc., Community Home Trust and CASA are working to close these gaps in affordable housing availability, and the Town



DTH DESIGN/GRACE DAVIDSON

has also approved affordable housing projects on its own land.

How is the Town handling stormwater and flood prevention?

The areas in Chapel Hill that surround creeks are highly prone to flooding, especially Umstead Drive, Eastgate Crossing and Chapel Hill High School.

There has long been conversation and concern surrounding the Town's stormwater management efforts, especially in neighborhoods such as Barred Owl Creek in Carrboro, which does not have a homeowners' association to rely on.

In recent years, the Town has implemented policies such as the Flood Damage Prevention and Resource Conservation District ordinances.

These policies include requirements for developments to reduce flooding, Alex Carrasquillo, the Town's public information officer said in an email.

The Chapel Hill Town Council will also vote soon on an increase to stormwater requirements for new developments.

X: @dthcitystate

SUSTAINABILITY

Town to increase stormwater control requirements

Council is addressing increased rainfall from climate change

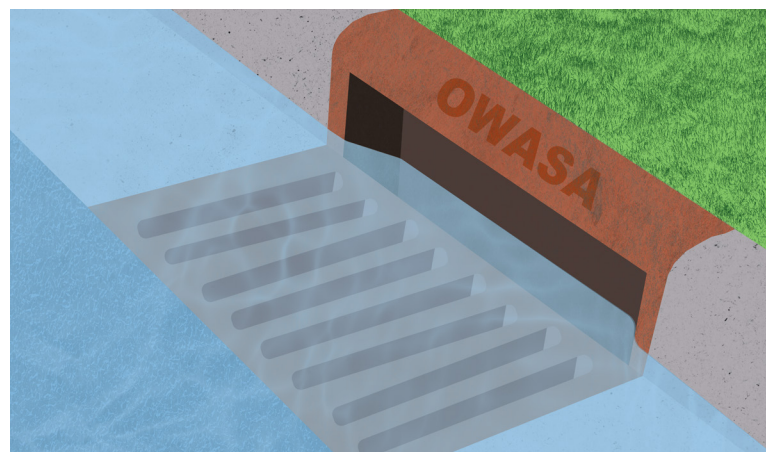
By **Kristin Kharrat**
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The Chapel Hill Town Council will vote on May 1 to increase stormwater requirements from 25-year storms to 100-year storms as part of the Town's effort to support its climate action and sustainability goals.

There is a four percent chance that a 25-year storm will occur over a 24-hour period in any given year, according to Todd BenDor, a UNC professor of city and regional planning.

There is a one percent chance that a 100-year storm will occur over a 24-hour period in any given year, he said.

Chapel Hill Town Council member Melissa McCullough said that storm probability calculations are made using data from past storms — but



DTH DESIGN/MEGAN MACDONALD

because climate change is causing more severe and frequent storms, relying on historical patterns will not be as accurate.

McCullough said the Town aims to prevent flooding by increasing the stormwater requirements for new developments and redevelopments.

"If you think about any given house being built, or any given store being built, and you're saying, 'It's a little

bit more impervious surface, which is going to cause a little bit more runoff, which means that when we get a big storm there's more water that's going into streams faster, but just a little bit,'" BenDor said. "So nobody is ultimately responsible for floods downstream, even though everyone is responsible for floods downstream."

He said while the Town is aware of the importance of stormwater

management, the Town's hands have been tied because there are only so many policy tools they can use to build developments on public property.

McCullough said many of the Town's current problems result from the Town being built without an understanding of stormwater. The burden of stormwater control now falls on newer developments, she said.

She said the Town collects money for a stormwater utility fund through property taxes. She said the Town has built stormwater control structures, and there was a plan to build more, but it was determined that the new structures were too harmful to ecosystems. The Town, she said, is still working to address stormwater control issues.

"The one thing that it does emphasize to people is that, wherever you can, redevelop an existing site, because that already has been impervious and you won't have to control as much in terms of trying to address the cost

issue," she said.

Professional engineer Philip Post said the increase in stormwater requirements will be especially harmful to many smaller projects, specifically affordable housing.

Large projects use ponds to store stormwater, which can be altered and increased in depth, Post said. But, smaller projects typically depend on features such as bio-retention, sand filters or artificial wetlands, which can only exist at one depth, he said.

Post said he does not object to the change, yet he has asked the town council to carefully approach and consider methods to protect small, affordable development projects such as churches and daycares, that may be severely impacted.

"I'm hoping that rather we do something quickly, we do something better," he said.

X: @dthcitystate

COMMUNITY SPACES

'They love the library, and we love them back': CHPL nationally recognized

Institution announced as finalist for museum and library medal

By **Makenzie Mills**
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Last week, the Institute of Museum and Library Services announced the Chapel Hill Public Library is a finalist for the 2024 National Medal for Museum and Library Service.

According to the IMLS, the National Medal for Museum and Library Service is the nation's highest honor for institutions that make significant and

exceptional contributions to their communities. This year, 15 libraries and 15 museums were named finalists for the award.

Teri DeVoe, the associate deputy director for Grants to States at IMLS, said the NMMLS Board conferred on the nominations for this year, and then provided recommendations to the director of IMLS, who selects the winner. DeVoe said the board members were appointed by President Joe Biden.

Congresswoman Valerie Foushee nominated Chapel Hill Public Library for the award. Hannah Olson Kanwischer, marketing and communications coordinator for Chapel Hill Public Library, said following the nomination by Foushee,

library staff were asked by IMLS to turn in a narrative application — a document explaining the library's accomplishments and strategies.

Kanwischer said in the past couple of years, the library has focused on expanding internet access and digital literacy by hosting pop-up tech events for the Refugee Community Partnership and Senior Center.

"We do a lot of things just beyond books here at the library," Kanwischer said.

Kanwischer also said the library highlighted their commitment to environmental education, early childhood and family literacy, and community history in the application.

"Chapel Hill, as a town, loves to read," Kanwischer said. "They love

the library, and we love them back."

Ellen Furlong, a frequent visitor of Chapel Hill Public Library, said she often utilizes the study rooms and also reads books to children.

"I think we have a great library," Furlong said. "I've lived here for a while, so I remember when it was like half the size. And now it's huge and really clean and big and nice and quiet. Yeah, it's just a great way to study with your friends."

Another visitor, Kelly Norman, said she does not visit the library as frequently as she did when her children were younger, although she does use the Chapel Hill Public Library app for digital materials. Norman also said in the past she has attended talks in the library's event

spaces and used the study rooms to meet with her students.

According to a statement from the Town of Chapel Hill, winners of the National Medal will be announced in late May, and the winning institutions will be honored during a National Medal Ceremony at the White House this summer. Kanwischer said it would be nice if people posted their stories in the library during the IMLS social media campaign to share the impact.

"It would be a very exciting thing to be able to show and say, but also really a visual representation of how much the community and the library work together," Kanwischer said.

X: @makmills23

ACCESSIBILITY

Chapel Hill venues offer sensory-friendly events

Neurodivergent people find community, accommodations

By Shreya Senthilkumar

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On the third Wednesday of every month, Kidzu Children's Museum in Chapel Hill opens their facilities after their scheduled hours to allow children to enjoy the museum without the typical noise, crowds or overstimulation.

These nights are specifically for children with sensory-processing differences. This can include people diagnosed with developmental or learning disabilities such as autism.

David Laxton, the director of communications at the Autism Society of North Carolina, said there's been an increase in sensory-friendly initiatives in the state within the last decade.

He said many venues have come to realize that their spaces fail to accommodate people who are sensitive to stimuli such as lighting or noise levels.

"[People that may not be dealing with sensory issues] may notice that it's loud, but it can be unbearably loud for individuals who have sensory challenges or who have autism because their sense of hearing may be so much more intense than what yours or mine may be," he said.



DTH DESIGN/GIULI HOFFMANN

Accommodations look like offering headphones and fidget toys to guests to lower sensory stimuli and ease anxiety.

He emphasized that every person's sensory-friendly needs are different.

"I think the main thing is you want to create a space where folks have the feeling of a sense of control or where they can better regulate their senses," he said.

During sensory-friendly nights, Kidzu removes noisy toys and offers sensory toys to help children transition between activities and cue cards for non-verbal children.

Kailey Singleton, the museum's director of operations, said the most rewarding part of the program is seeing how children have formed connections with others like them as they play in a comfortable and unstructured environment that differs from school and behavior support programs.

"We hope that this will kind of be a launchpad space where they can learn how to interact with each other and understand that there are opportunities for them to be themselves and to play," she said.

At the Chapel Hill Public Library,

visitors can find sensory kits, comfy furniture and a green sensory trail in the woods outside for all to explore.

These additions are part of the library's "Neurodiversity and Nature" initiative, which offers nature-related spaces and materials for people with sensory-processing differences.

Since last year, CHPL has also provided items such as coloring books and scented sprays and added beanbags, hanging chairs and other sensory-friendly furniture in its space.

The library also began hosting monthly sensory story times. These

story times were developed in partnership with organizations that work with neurodiverse children.

Hannah Olson, the marketing and communications coordinator at CHPL, said these story times have fewer attendees and take place in a larger space. They also have longer transitions between activities.

"It adds a little more time for folks to kind of engage with the stories in a more flexible way, rather than our typical story time [that] will go immediately from story to song to story to dance," she said.

B3 Coffee, a nonprofit coffee shop that operates a kiosk in the CHPL, provides a similar sense of community for adults with sensory needs through their social events, which range from weekly coffee meetups to holiday parties. The events are open to both neurodivergent and neurotypical community members. Boheler said she hopes these events can continue to promote disability justice, reduce stigma and build community among B3's members. Attendees, she said, often tell her they feel like they can be themselves and belong at B3 events.

"I think we want to continue nurturing a community that gives everyone a sense of belonging and I think we want to continue expanding equitable access to this community," she said.

X: @http_shreya

EVENTS

Inaugural zine festival celebrates creativity

Chapel Hill and Carrboro appreciate local artwork

By Brooke Xu

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Handwritten yard signs advertising "CHBORO ZINE FEST" were posted around Carrboro Town Commons on Sunday.

The inaugural Chapel Hill/Carrboro Zine and Printed Matter Festival, sponsored by The ArtsCenter of Carrboro, brought together approximately 70 vendors, mostly from around the Triangle and North Carolina.

Attendees browsed tables that displayed zines, art prints, stickers and more. They could also make their own zines at tables manned by volunteers and the artist collective the CoLab Raleigh. They could even get tote bags or T-shirts screen printed.

SamLevi Middleton-Sizemore, founder of the Chapelboro Zinefest, said they were inspired to organize the festival after they started attending other zine festivals and art markets regularly and noticed differences in how the festivals were planned.

"As someone who is disabled and cares a lot about access, I wanted that to be at the center of the organizing — beyond the art being at the center of it all," they said.

Marty Rogers, co-organizer of the festival, said because they had negative experiences at art markets in the past, being on the other side has been empowering.

"I really just appreciate the emphasis on access and care that SamLevi has really led with," they said. "Because I think it's something that can always be improved on in the community and I think it's really important to lead with care and access. And of course we're all there for the art, but even more so, I feel like it's about community."

A big priority for the festival was to make everything free, Rogers and Middleton-Sizemore said. There were no tabling fees for artists. Additionally, they offered free snacks to artists and free masks to everyone visiting the event.

Accessibility and community were major commitments for the organizers of the festival, but they are also some of the reasons why people enjoy making and reading zines, too.

"I think they're just a really awesome way to express yourself that's really accessible," Middleton-Sizemore said. "By accessible in this case, I mean it

takes almost no materials and no money to make a zine."

Adriana Torres, an artist from Lexington, N.C., said she was drawn to making zines because they are cheap and easy to make — and they can be about anything.

"I'm trying to expand my work into more personal things, focus on my culture and my background," she said. "I have a couple things coming up that are related to being Mexican American and just having immigrant parents, because there's not a whole lot of that in the zine community, so I kind of also just want to showcase that."

For Yumeng Fu, an illustrator and comic artist based in Cary, the event was her first time tabling at an art market.

Art is a way for her to express herself, but also a way to share her ideas with others, Fu said. Events like the Chapelboro Zinefest, she said, are good opportunities for her to meet other artists and learn from them.

"It's really community-based — just to see everyone interact with each other," she said. "I met lots of cool people during that event, and I was like 'Man, I kind of want to keep seeing these people and work with them.'"

Beyond connecting artists with other artists, the zine festival also allowed attendees to interact directly



DTH/JENNIFER TRAN

Tasso Hartzog, Rosie Scott-Benson, Logan Doshier and Sophie Lowry host a table at the Zine Fest in Carrboro on Sunday. Their table featured a variety of different art, from patches and prints to earrings and balaclavas.

with artists and hear about their work.

Lore Morton said that events like this are important in showcasing a community of people finding alternative ways to support themselves through their art and creativity.

"I think zines are really, really important right now," she said. "The publishing industry is really hard for

a lot of people to break into, even indie publishing. So showing people that there are unique ways to have their work seen and appreciated, and that there are people willing to support them directly is so important."

X: @dthlifestyle



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ARTISTS

Gibson & Toutant release album

Durham-based duo create distinctive sound

By Alexis Clifton

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In music duo Gibson & Toutant's debut album "On The Green," the Durham-based couple creates an unconventional combination: buzzing lo-fi sound and DIY American folk.

Josephine McRobbie and Joseph O'Connell, the makeup of Gibson & Toutant, spun together the composition as the product of their married lives together and the friendships they have sustained with the other artists at their label, Sleepy Cat Records.

"On The Green," which was released on March 22, is ambient and analog, like the buzzing of static on a television mistakenly left on, or the hum of cicadas at the dying end of summer. It toes the line between Western roots and synth sound.

It is an accumulation of work over the last couple of years, when the two started mixing and recording bits and pieces between their everyday life caring for their newborn and working amidst COVID-19.

According to McRobbie and O'Connell, their musical process became a game of telephone.

"So we had three days where we wrote everything and that kind of consisted of us each writing some riffs or keyboard line or guitar line or bass line," McRobbie said. "Then passing it to the other person, who would write some lyrics or flesh it out or add a chorus, and then passing it back."

This "mish mash" of telekinetic composing can be heard on the album in songs like "Vicky's Chimes" and "The Click," which contain on-the-fly home recordings of fiddle, audio ephemera of background conversation, keyboard, guitar and more. The demos were created in the comfort of their home before being taken to the studio.

"There would be times where I would walk in and Joe would be mixing some of the album — because he mixed most of it himself — and he'd be like, 'Oh, this needs a little something'" McRobbie said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LIBBY RODENBOUGH

Not only is "On The Green" the result of an unspoken, intimate understanding between two people, but McRobbie and O'Connell also pulled in some friends along the way, including — but not limited to — artists Libby Rodenbough and Joseph Decosimo.

At the time the album was recorded, all of them lived in the same neighborhood. The COVID-19 pandemic pushed them closer together, cultivating a close bond that made their seesaw recording style easy.

They would create a foundation for each song, adding experimental, impromptu elements as ideas came to them — like the discordant ending to "Vicky's Chimes" of drums, bass guitar and fiddle.

Rodenbough said that half of the battle of making music is non-verbal communication, and that already knowing the people you are working with allows for a meaningful and creative collaboration.

"It's nice if you're just working with people that you already have the years of established jokes and friendship and witnessing things in each other's lives, then you start from a foundation where you can just jump off and make things together, and it can be like a playground from the get-go," she said.

Rodenbough not only sang backup vocals and played fiddle

and cello for "On The Green," but she also took the photos used for the album's cover. At times she even babysat for the couple and Decosimo, who also had a newborn at the time.

Decosimo, too, recalled the days spent running between recording in one room, to the makeshift daycare in the other. He said it was a down to earth kind of project — the work of a community.

"There's just a collaborative nature going on," Decosimo said. "I think that the project, in a lot of ways, is drawing on friendships that they have with folks around Durham and the area."

Gibson & Toutant's home-to-studio style is also inspired by McRobbie and O'Connell's personal experiences with music, from playing in college bands to listening to their favorite bands, like the unplanned creativity of Indiana-based Red Queen Hypothesis.

Most importantly, it's inspired by the two of them and their shared lives together. "On The Green" is about taking something small, like a hummed melody, and giving it an unexpected purpose.

"Ultimately I think that's part of the enjoyment of making it, for both us and the people who are helping us," O'Connell said. "We don't quite know where it's going and it's a little bit unpredictable and eccentric."

X: @dthlifestyle

CULTURAL COMMUNITY

Qué Rico hosts first N.C. collegiate Latin dance competition

By Delphine Liu

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On Sunday, Sabrosura, the Duke University Latin dance team took their trophy in silver and blue button-downs, tassel dresses and matching sets, making them the inaugural winners of La Competencia, the first collegiate Latin dance competition in North Carolina.

Sponsored by UNC-Chapel Hill's Qué Rico and hosted in the Great Hall, participants also included UNC Greensboro's Ritmo Latino.

La Competencia was structured into three rounds: the first consisted mostly of bachata, the second, salsa, and the third was up to the team choreographers. In between each set, two MCs kept the crowd energized with dance battles between audience members, as well as dance history trivia.

Qué Rico was inspired to organize a dance competition of their own after winning one at Old Dominion University in Virginia last year.

Rosa Elias, co-manager of Qué Rico, said she wants to expand Latin dance and culture across North Carolina. The dance groups who attended make up three of only five college teams in the state.

Elias said she hoped the event would generate appreciation for styles like salsa or bachata from audience members who are unfamiliar with Latin dance.

Qué Rico's other co-manager, Luisa Peñaflor, wanted La Competencia to

be a way for the teams to come together in friendly competition, showcase their work and bond.

Because Qué Rico's 28 members were selected through auditions, they are all dedicated participants year round, and regularly rehearse six hours a week, Renton Varga, a UNC-CH sophomore and member, said.

He said the support of the group helps him alleviate nervousness or anxiety about being on stage. Varga said he is glad that they are hosting in Chapel Hill because it allows his family to come see him dance.

The word "Sabrosura" means flavor, spice, heat, people moving, people feeling themselves and laughing, Julian Camacho, co-president of Duke's Sabrosura, said. The group is all about having fun.

As a co-choreographer of a salsa piece set to "Bajo La Tormenta," by Sergio George's Salsa Greats, Camacho said that he was most excited to see the first round dances.

"Salsa is just back to basics," he said. "It's the roots of why I do this."

First-year UNC-CH student and dancer Anthony Sanchez-Padilla said his favorite style is merengue because it allows him to express himself with its fast pace and hip action.

"A key thing that joining the club has made me realize is how much I really love dancing, how much I love Latin music especially, and how in touch it's made me feel with my heritage," Sanchez said.

X: @delphine_sbl



DTH/GRACE RICHARDS

Dancers compete at Qué Rico's La Competencia dance competition in UNC's Great Hall on Sunday.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Campus thrifting creates avenues for sustainability

The passion supports organizations, provides students income

By Marisa Rosa

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Ellie Maltzahn, a junior at UNC, has worked in the resale and consignment industry for nearly five years — but last year, she realized that she could take her passion for reselling clothing beyond the workplace.

At her job, Maltzahn found herself drawn to items that her company turned away. She realized she needed another outlet where she could sell items that she thought were valuable.

"I started just collecting things because I love thrifting and I love the Goodwill bins — I think it's just really fun," Maltzahn said.

On her Depop store, smelliethrifts, she resells both items from her own closet and clothing that she thrifted specifically to resell.



DTH FILE/SAURYA ACHARYA
UNC students Naomi Major and Redding Thomas pose for a portrait by the Pit on Oct. 26, 2022.

Junior Cynthia Tran also has experience reselling pre-loved and thrifted clothing. In 2022, she founded Tarheel Thrifts, a philanthropy-based clothing thrift store whose profits are donated to charities.

"It grew into an organization where I would collect donations from the campus community or even people in

the Raleigh-Durham Triangle area," Tran said. "They would donate their clothes, and I would sell them and then donate [all of the profit] into charity."

Tran said she is currently on a hiatus, but during her active period, she earned and donated over \$1,200 to organizations including the Carolina Abortion Fund, Save the Children Afghanistan and United Way Ukraine.

Like Maltzahn, Tran said that her pricing depended on the condition and trendiness of the pieces she had to sell. For her, keeping the pricing fair and affordable was important.

Carolina Thrift is a student-run nonprofit at UNC that aims to encourage socially responsible consumerism in the area.

Lacy McKee, the organization's senior adviser, said because there are not many thrift stores within walking distance of campus, Carolina Thrift has become a way for students to get involved with thrifting.

"It's about being a resource for students on campus and off campus," she said. "To be able to contribute to our initiative and

kind of keep the items that students donate within the system at school instead of taking it to Goodwill or another thrift store that's inaccessible for a lot of students."

Like Maltzahn's Depop store and Tarheel Thrifts, Carolina Thrift resells some of their items for profit. A majority of their proceeds go toward their sustainability fund, which is donated to students and student-run organizations who are interested in hosting a sustainable project.

McKee said that outside of Carolina Thrift, she has experience reselling clothing for profit.

"Because I thrift almost all of my clothes, over time, if I don't like something anymore or I never really wore it, I'll sell it then," she said. "So it's not really because I see something and I'm going 'cha-ching.'"

Across their various experiences, Maltzahn, Tran and McKee all have one goal in common: promoting ethical consumerism.

To Tran, an ethical consumer is someone who is aware of where their clothing comes from, and who

considers the socio-economic and moral contexts of their purchases.

Maltzahn said that as a college student, she understands the convenience of fast fashion but sees resale as an opportunity to start a movement of more circularity — or, reusing rather than wasting — in the textile industry.

"People have a hard time thinking about the long-term impacts of what they do," McKee said. "Because it is kind of daunting to think about and a lot of people feel like they don't have a lot of control."

Reselling clothing, she said, can be a way to develop a sense of control over her role as a consumer and follow through with the ethical intentions she has set for herself.

"I think that ethical consumerism is different for everyone," McKee said. "It's going to be dependent on what your personal situation is, but I think for people who have the means to shop sustainably, in my opinion, they should do so."

X: @marisarosaaa

CELEBRATIONS

Community comes together for Holi Moli



Dancers perform at Holi Moli on Hooker Fields on Saturday.

DTH/MCKENZIE BULRIS

Students participate in popular UNC event on a colorful Saturday

By Caleb Herrera

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On Saturday, Hooker Fields became the site of a vibrant explosion of color as students and the local community gathered to celebrate at UNC's annual Holi Moli event.

According to Holi Moli co-director Divya Korategere, Holi — which is both a religious and cultural event — is a Hindu tradition that celebrates the commencement of spring and the welcoming of the harvest season. Originating from Hindu mythology, it is also a celebration of good over evil and symbolizes bringing color and light into darkness, she said.

UNC student group Hindu Yuva first hosted the festival as an event for its members in 2008. However,

since then it evolved into its own organization and welcomes people from across UNC, other universities and community members. Holi Moli has even been an item on UNC student bucket lists for years.

This is the third consecutive year the event has been held since its in-person return in 2022.

Korategere and co-director Mansi Gupta began planning for Holi Moli in August, leading four executive committees: cultural, finance, logistics and publicity and design.

In the week leading up to Holi Moli, the organization held events in order to bring awareness to South Asian culture and to promote Holi Moli. These activities included a Bollywood Zumba class, CholaNad in the Top of Lenoir and a roundtable discussion with local South Asian representatives.

Gupta, who is graduating in May, has been involved with Holi Moli since her first year at UNC. She said the event and its organization has given her the opportunity to make new friends and celebrate what Holi means to her.

"I just love to see how it has grown to be such a big part of the community and how I played a role in that," she said.

Gupta said the team sold around 1,700 tickets for this year's event, including dancers, photographers and other staff. She added that it was great to see a continued growth in attendance over the years.

Proceeds from tickets sold this year will be split between the Orange County Rape Crisis Center and the Desai Foundation. Philanthropy has always been a part of Holi Moli, Korategere said, and this year it was important to the organization to choose a charity that serves the local community as well as one that supports South Asian communities both in India and the U.S.

The event began at 2 p.m., when attendees were given food, heard from a guest speaker and watched multiple dance performances from student organizations including UNC Chalkaa, Tar Heel Raas and Ek Taal.

UNC Chalkaa rehearsed their set for the past year, and dancer Sreekar Kompella said that it was special to perform a part of it for the UNC community and his friends.

"It's always fun — just people that you've known throughout your life all showing up at Holi, even if it's for a brief second of throwing color and being like 'Happy Holi,'" he said. "It's

always a good thing to see everyone having fun."

Attendees were also treated to crowd-favorite Bollywood tunes from Neil Auroni, a UNC junior who was the DJ for the afternoon.

Then, at 4 p.m., a rainbow plume of colored powder floated into the sky and the music was drowned out by cheers from the crowd as attendees ambushed friends and strangers alike with color.

"I feel like [my favorite part was] putting colors on random people and them just being okay with it — everyone was just really friendly to

each other because it was just a fun, colorful event," UNC first-year Sarah Villaruel said.

This was a common expression among attendees after an hour of dancing and throwing colors.

UNC sophomore Emily Sang said Holi Moli makes the student body feel safer and more connected.

"I think events like this remind us of how big of a community we are and how much love we have for each other," she said.

X: @CalebHerrera_

X: @nithyaind



DTH/MCKENZIE BULRIS



DTH/MCKENZIE BULRIS

SPRING HAS SPRUNG

'Slice of heaven in the middle of campus': Coker Arboretum in full bloom

Garden showcases native plants, provides community space

By Josie Wissel

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As the weather gets warmer, nature is springing back to life across UNC's campus — especially in the Coker Arboretum.



DTH/GAGE AUSTIN

Flowers in an array of vibrant colors bloom in Coker Arboretum on Tuesday, April 2.

The garden and many of its 600 species of plants are currently entering full spring bloom.

"It's like walking into a room that's being painted in about six different shades of one color, and it's constantly being painted every time you come into the room," Geoffrey Neal, Arboretum curator, said.

The native plants that are flowering right now are the spring favorites, Neal said, including dogwoods, red buds and native azaleas. Other

plant life is also beginning to bloom, making the garden all different hues of green, Neal said.

"There's always something in flower, in April there may be as many as 60 different species in bloom throughout the month," he said in a follow-up email. "Some will be showier and get all the attention, but all are worth seeing."

Located on the corner of Cameron Avenue and Raleigh Street, the Arboretum has been a community space since its development in 1903 by William Chambers Coker.

Coker's goal was to not only create a space to showcase plants native to North Carolina, but to also be used as a teaching garden, Neal said. Students can complete a work-study there and learn to garden.

"As a student, I think it's great just because I don't know many places that have an arboretum directly on their campus that they can just walk through," UNC senior Lucy Smithwick, who has worked at the arboretum for the past three years, said.

Smithwick said the arboretum is a nice way to enjoy a confined space of nature on campus, and in the coming weeks visitors can view several flower species in full bloom, including lilacs and banana shrubs that smell just like a Banana Laffy Taffy, she said.

"I just think it's a really valuable space to have, and I'm glad people use it like they do, and I wish more people knew about it," Smithwick said.

Jillian Joyce, a sophomore at UNC, said she often finds herself reading or napping in the arboretum in between classes.

"It's a little slice of heaven in the middle of campus," she said.

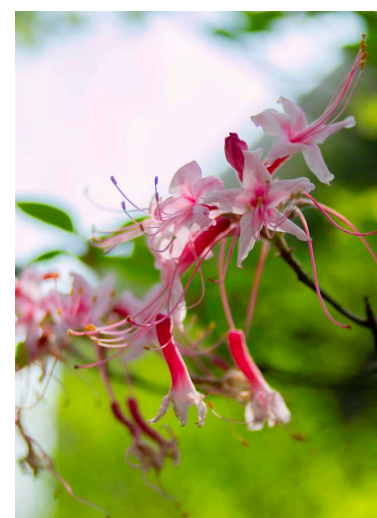
Neal said that students come to the arboretum to get away from campus without leaving it. He also said it's a popular destination for students to take graduation photos.

"You really do feel like you're in a different place," he said.

Last spring, the 300-foot Coker Arbor walkway that stood alongside the garden was removed by UNC Facilities Planning and Design and the North Carolina Botanical Garden due to structural and safety issues.

The new arbor, now in its fifth rendition since 1911, will be slightly higher and will consist of several structures to allow more light in, Neal said. The stairs at the west end of the arbor will also be removed, and there will be a new elevated brick walkway to allow for increased safety and accessibility.

"It'll just be a more beautiful structure," Neal said.



DTH/GAGE AUSTIN

Work on the new arbor will start this spring and is set to be done by the end of the fall 2024 semester, but Neal said the timeline is tentative.

Even without the arbor, students can catch the seasons changing as plant species continue to bloom throughout the next few weeks. The flowers in the arboretum are constantly changing and can come and go within a few days.

Still, there's "no shortage of color there," Neal said.

Editor's note: Smithwick is a former staff member of The Daily Tar Heel.

X: @dailytarheel

Opinion

The Daily Tar Heel

The Daily Tar Heel

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Columns, cartoons and letters do not necessarily represent the opinions of The Daily Tar Heel or its staff. Editorials reflect the opinions of The Daily Tar Heel Editorial Board, which comprises 14 board members, the assistant opinion editor and editor and the editor-in-chief.

PLAYLIST

Office DJ: A new song every day

By **Olivia Goodson**
Design Editor
opinion@dailytarheel.com

I am trying to be a better version of myself.

These ten words I say way too often, but I'm honestly not sure if it is true. Eating a salad or submitting an assignment before the eleventh hour is not going to change me, but it does make me feel good for a few seconds.

When 2024 began, I did what every girl in her 20s was made to do: curate a Pinterest board and a playlist. My Pinterest was flooded with manifestations of getting fit, finding internships and being successful. But those are just pictures on social media.

My playlist, though? She is alive and breathing. An asset to my day and

currently the only thing I find myself shuffling when I hop in the car.

On Jan. 1, I made a promise to myself that if I do anything this year, it would be to update a playlist with a new song every day. The only rules: no repeats, no back-to-back artists.

Seems pretty easy right? Wrong. Sometimes a day feels like "I'm Tired" from the Euphoria soundtrack and then a week later I feel the same again. On days I don't do anything, finding new or random songs is my go-to. I have even taken recommendations for other people's songs of the day. Thank you Copy Chief Sarah Monoson for contributing several.

The same day I made this promise, I was feeling afraid. A new year is hard, especially when you have no idea what the next six months of your life will look like.

"What Was I Made For?" by Billie Eilish defined that first day. Sitting at the dining table with my mom, filling out a bullet journal I have not touched since then and thinking about the fear of the unknown.

Now that March has come and gone, I have a good idea of what I was made for. I definitely think I have become a better version of myself.

My days are filled with CycleBar classes that play songs from Hamilton at full volume. I come into the office on The Smiths Sunday and suddenly "There Is a Light That



DTH DESIGN/OLIVIA GOODSON

Never Goes Out" is a staple in my playlist. "The Iron Claw" soundtrack has backed plenty of study sessions.

Music has come to define my day-to-day life.

Citizen Cope's "Sideways" sounds like my mom laughing on a road trip and "Doses & Mimosas" sounds like my high school best friend's basement on a Friday night. Some days are made for reminiscing.

But most days sound like the unknown. I was made for a summer where I still do not know what I am doing, days with my baby cousins, laughing with my roommates and

possibly sticking around in The DTH office for a bit longer.

A lot has changed since January, but I am no longer afraid.

I am a better version of myself. I am a 20-year-old with a dusty Pinterest board, but an energetic, whiplash-y playlist, and I am confident that 2024 will continue to improve me.

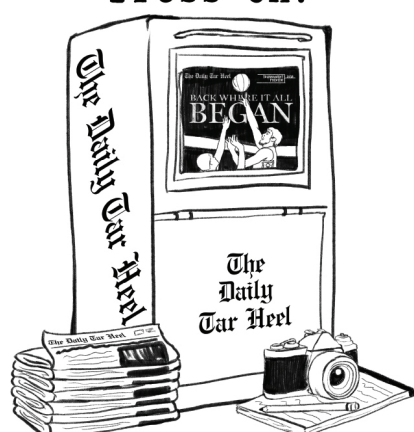
Please, enjoy "Supermarket Flowers" by Ed Sheeran immediately followed by "Hefner" by Tana Mongeau. It is something I think everyone should experience.

X: @goodsonolivia_

LISTEN TO THE PLAYLIST:



Press on.



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COLUMN

Take advantage of political science classes

By Madelyn Rowley
Columnist
opinion@dailytarheel.com



DTH DESIGN/KAITLIN STRATEMEIER

It's that time of year again. The time of year where students gather anxiously around their laptops, fighting like weak gladiators against lions in our respective ConnectCarolina arenas. Bloodstained and tear-soaked, we pray we will make it out unscathed, hoping that the last remaining open section of our desired class is inaccurately represented by its 1.8/5 rating on Rate My Professors ("It can't be that bad, right?" Famous last words).

It's also that time of year where I rally as a passionate pre-law student to encourage everyone that lends an ear to listen: please include a political science class in your registration.

Objectively, it's difficult to rank the importance of different fields of study. This is a clear truth in an environment like UNC. On a daily basis, I am fortunate to be surrounded by exceptional scholars from all backgrounds, pursuing difficult and diverse careers that will

no doubt lead them to success. It's also easy to favor one's own field. I know I'm a biased author. We all have tendencies to look upon our own work as that of utmost importance.

I don't write this column because I'm trying to convince you that the field of political science is more difficult than others or that it has any more validity in career pursuits, but

because I hope you see that it is the single most relevant and applicable subject that young educated students should understand.

If I take chemistry classes alongside my political science major, the world will not change, despite the fact that chemistry is a highly rigorous and complex subject. I am not forced or even encouraged

to dabble in local scientific communities. My wayward scientific opinions do not matter to or impact other people, nor are they directly relevant to the world around me.

If, on the other hand, a chemistry student takes political science classes, the world will certainly change. That chemistry student likely can vote. That chemistry student likely has a voice in how the government operates. Their opinions and knowledge about politics do impact other people, and they are relevant to the world around them.

This phenomenon makes political science more relevant and applicable than any other selection of classes, because its real-world applications are open to everyone — regardless of background, prior knowledge or education level.

It's our responsibility to know what is going on in the world around us. Our hope in graduating from such an institution is that we will be well-prepared to exist in a demanding, evolving and influential world. We simply cannot do this without a semblance of a political background and understanding, regardless of

whatever else we may be studying.

Enrolling in college-level, professor-taught classes is a drastically different experience than teaching oneself about the political climate. Before I enrolled at UNC, I thought I had the qualifications to call myself politically versed.

But a singular class, my first-year International Relations and Global Politics course, changed all of this entirely for me. When students around me asked questions about countries I didn't even know existed, I realized I had grossly overestimated my political knowledge.

Our own assumed theories are not enough to fully develop one's understanding of the political climate in a way that is significant. I urge students everywhere to own up to our responsibility to become educated about the workings of our government. To be anything but educated on the political climate is an active choice that involves turning away from the massive rush of information that presents itself to you daily. Get educated, literally.

X: @madelyn_rowley

COLUMN

Pauli Murray deserves to be part of UNC's legacy

By Maggie Mead
Columnist
opinion@dailytarheel.com

It's more than a little morbid to think about how I want people to remember me when I die, but I can't avoid thinking about my legacy.

Legacies are a manifestation of every person, place, and thing that has ever entered and exited your life; I'm shaped by the people around me, and in turn, they're shaped by me.

Right now, I find myself at the end of my freshman year at UNC, the legacy of America's oldest public university has likewise become inseparable from mine. I now get to partake in its long history, and I'm incredibly thankful to be pursuing my passion for learning at this University.

However, scattered among the blooming flowers and verdant old-growth trees of the campus I've grown to love stand monuments to a legacy that I want no part in.

It's easy to venerate the history

that gives UNC the prestige, culture and resources that it's become known for, but to embrace this history while ignoring the reality that many buildings and statues pay tribute to figures who perpetuated hateful ideologies is antithetical to the values of learning, collaboration and inclusivity that the university purports to champion.

UNC has taken action to remove tributes to figures who worked to perpetuate hateful ideas, primarily white supremacy, and replace them with the names of people who better embody the university's values.

The recent renaming of the Henry Owl Building, McClinton Residence Hall, Ruffin Jr. Residence Hall and Student Stores all illustrate attempts to recenter the university's legacy around people who strove to create a better world for everyone.

Despite these efforts, blemishes remain. In 2020, a petition was signed by the chairs of the history, sociology, political science; and peace, war, and defense programs to rename the site

of their departments, Hamilton Hall, to Pauli Murray Hall. The building's namesake, Joseph Grégoire de Rouillac Hamilton, contributed to the perpetuation of harmful ideology in his time at UNC, using his position as chair of the UNC history department to spread white supremacy.

Standing in stark contrast to the life of Hamilton is Pauli Murray, a trailblazing scholar who fully embodies UNC's values. Murray spent their life overcoming the obstacles that Hamilton and others who shared his ideology had worked to perpetuate at institutions like UNC.

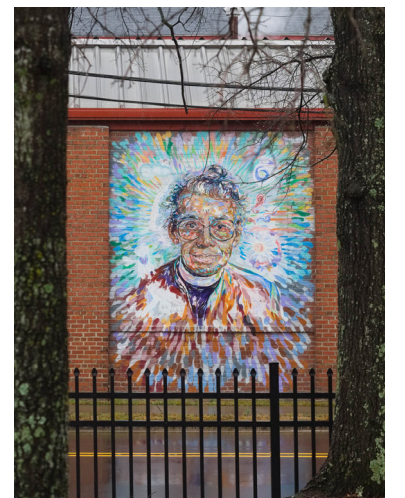
After being denied from UNC's doctoral program in sociology due to their race in 1938, Murray went on to graduate as valedictorian at Howard Law School and earned a Masters of Laws degree from the University of California, Berkeley. Following this, Murray would attend Yale Law School, where they became the first African American to receive a Doctorate of Juridical Science from Yale.

Murray used their education to work tirelessly to advance the rights of marginalized groups in America. Their work as an attorney played an influential role in *Brown v. Board of Education* overturning *Plessy v. Ferguson*, and in serving as co-counsel in *White v. Crook*, which succeeded in prohibiting sex and gender discrimination in the jury selection system.

In addition to their legal work, Murray also played a key role in the American Civil Liberties Union, helped found the National Organization for Women and served as a professor of law and politics at Brandeis University.

Murray's commitment to scholarship, equality and public service presents a legacy that students at UNC should seek to emulate.

To continue to endorse Hamilton is to either reject the truth or be complicit in his hate, thereby continuing to exclude marginalized groups from partaking in UNC's legacy. If UNC truly wants to be an institution that



DTH FILE/AUSTIN WANG

A mural of Pauli Murray adorns a wall along South Buchanan Boulevard in Durham on Feb. 14, 2021.

prioritizes helping everyone pursue their passions through education, people like Murray must be who we name our monuments after. A building in which students study history to politics has a responsibility to learn the complete stories of the people who've shaped the world we live in.

X: @dthopinion

COLUMN

We should be more mindful of the phrases we employ

By Harry Black
Columnist
opinion@dailytarheel.com

I recently had a conversation with a friend where she aired out her grievances against her boyfriend about a fight they had had the week before. I listened intently as she went into detail about all of the reasons she was mad at him, and have compiled them here.

He lied to her about being busy when she asked to hangout (claiming to be at the gym, but was at his apartment).

After confronting him, he said he was just too tired to hangout and scared to tell her.

The next day he texted her several times apologizing for lying to her.

While telling me this story, my friend used the words "gaslighting" and "love bombing" as ways to describe his behavior. She claimed that he had gaslighted her about his location and then attempted to love bomb her after the fact with excessive apologies.

While I certainly empathize with my friend's frustration, I couldn't help but note her usage of these words. Gaslight. Love bomb.

Recently, with the proliferation of TikTok relationship advice, I have

seen a massive increase in phrases like these. Phrases that describe oftentimes serious psychological manipulation in relationships being tossed around without any regard for their actual meaning.

To be clear, what this boyfriend did was unacceptable, but labeling any action that relates to lying as gaslighting is diminishing to the actual meaning of the word.

Words mean something — or at least they should. The social media dictionary, however, has created an entirely separate word bank with completely different meanings for words than originally intended.

While this isn't inherently harmful, in situations where words like gaslight are thrown around wherever and whenever, it devalues genuine instances of gaslighting, which is oftentimes employed in manipulative relationships to control one's behavior.

The misuse of these words can make it difficult for victims of such a situation to even understand that this is what they are experiencing. It can also make it more difficult for them to be taken seriously when describing the gaslighting they have experienced.

Take for example, the term depression. Depression describes a

consistent, serious mood disorder that disrupts daily life, yet this word is tossed around in casual conversation.

I'd never invalidate someone's depression, but the term has become interchangeable with sadness in general; they aren't the same thing and implying such is misguided.

A result of equating depression to sadness is the tendency for people to write off depression as just another bad day. If everybody, everywhere is constantly walking around casually saying that they're depressed because they've had a few down days, then there's no actual significance to depression itself.

I don't mean any of this to discourage people from speaking about their mental health, or seeking help from others, but it's important that people understand the full implications of a word before they use it.

In a situation where you are engaged in a genuine fight with a partner, immediately resorting to the conclusion that gaslighting has occurred, as my friend did, can shut down an actual productive discussion. In any relationship there are difficult discussions to be had, and broadly describing instances of

lying as a general form of gaslighting completely prevents that.

There's nothing one can do to stop other people from using a specific word, and if you are confident enough in a situation to label it with a term like love bombing or gaslighting, then feel free to do so.

That being said, we need to be more mindful about the phrases we employ. Taking your entire terminology from social media

creates an extreme mindset where people are running around using words they don't fully understand. Just because you see a word used everyday on the internet, it doesn't mean you should pick it up yourself.

As I said to my friend, not everything needs to be labeled. Sometimes your boyfriend does something shitty and it's not gaslighting, it's just shitty.

X: @dthopinion



DTH DESIGN/GIULI HOFFMANN

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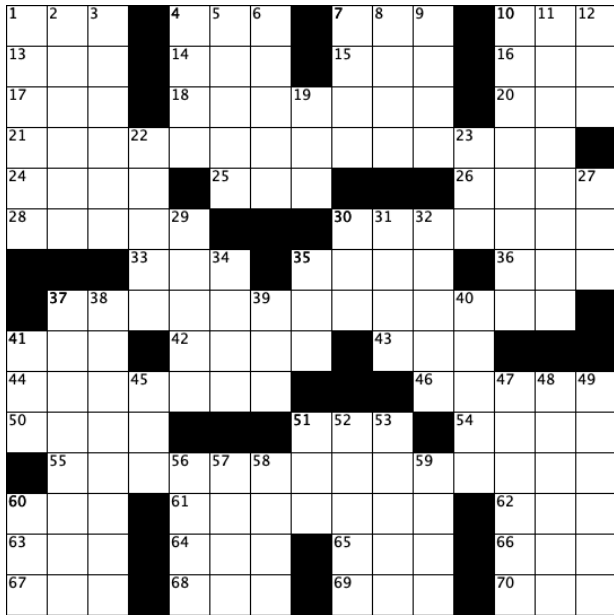


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This week's crossword was created by Liam Furlong. Liam is a UNC junior majoring in comparative literature and education. He is from Wilmington, Delaware.

Title: "A Side of Fries"

HERE TO SOLVE THE CROSSWORD?
 Puzzle solvers make great accountants.



ACROSS:

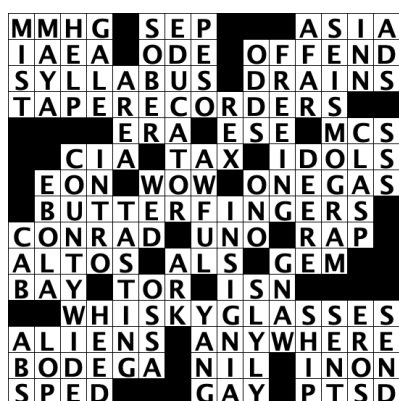
- Rapid-fire card game
- Jerry's feline nemesis
- Cupped clothing
- Pod inhabitant
- colloquial abbreviation for Asexual
- Tint, shade
- French emblem Fleur-de-___
- Say the last word
- "Hey, bruh"
- Early center of Christianity
- Mobile campers
- Orange slices that, to the lactose intolerant, aren't so a-peeling?
- Male sweetheart
- Moose relative
- "Marco!" response
- Musical opening
- Beirut country
- Blazer sleeve
- Famous anti-drug initiative
- Gorilla Grodd, for one
- Breakfast staple in Brussels
- Outdated email alternative
- Tolstoy protagonist Karenina
- Elton John's title
- Signs of stress?
- Casino furniture
- Indigenous Chinese group
- Number required to tango
- Pointless, like some points
- "Forgive the foul language, s'il vous plaît"
- Common kitchen find
- Take to the next level, say
- She's got a habit for religion
- Hospital heart readout, abbr.

- When life gives you lemons, add an appropriate suffix
- Hamilton's bill
- "Whatever it ___, _ don't care!"
- 'Likable' former President
- Reason for a trip?
- Cartoon explosive
- So on and so forth, abbr.

DOWN:

- Spicy condiment
- Keen insight
- Write "Keen insight" again
- East Asian connection?
- 1/16 in a pound
- Have you met Al? He's not so dense...
- Political coalition
- In a high tax bracket
- Connors's rival on the court
- Word before 'day' or 'development'
- This answer contains one letter!
- Game day interruptions
- For fluid writing?
- Provincial
- Environmental org.
- "___ for the money..."
- Lung or liver, for example
- The 'L' in 'LSAT'
- Taylor Swift tour title
- Suit nicely
- Coin producer
- Cold case evidence
- Dora the Explorer's purple companion
- Brief discussion
- Ques. counterpart
- Set up for an art heist gone wrong?
- American flight org.
- Unit of corn
- Clyde's ride or die
- One of many Biblical plagues
- Cultural, in a way
- Tobacco virus, abbr.
- Rangers outfielder Langford
- Frequently
- Soul-binding transaction, sometimes
- Former Chevy competitor
- Require

Last week's solution:



Help Wanted

WAITSTAFF FOR GRAD PARTY Looking for waitstaff for a graduation party in Chapel Hill on May 4th, from 5-8pm. \$25/hr, experience preferred. Text Irina at (919) 949-7245 if interested.

APPLE IPHONE 15 PROMAX 512 GB Promo Promo Promo Apple iPhone 15 Promax 512gb UNLOCKED \$800

HOROSCOPES



Today's Birthday: 4/10/24

Generate opportunities for financial growth this year. Go for your dreams with steady, disciplined efforts and win. Abandon outworn habits this summer for a productive, creative autumn. Navigating winter changes with your partner inspires your autumn work, health and energy. Spin lucrative opportunities into gold.

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 19)

Today is a 9 — Negotiate a lucrative deal. Profitable opportunities develop through communication and social networking. Prepare and research behind the scenes. Clarify and simplify. Think long term.

LEO (JULY 23 - AUG. 22)

Today is a 9 — Professional opportunities are ripening. Let prospects develop naturally. Maintain responsibilities. Don't worry about the future. Take advantage of luck and discipline.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22 - DEC. 21)

Today is a 9 — Focus on health and fitness objectives. Surrender excess baggage. Practice builds strength. Nurture yourself with what your body needs now. Prepare for high performance.

TAURUS (APRIL 20 - MAY 20)

Today is a 9 — You're gaining influence. Take charge for the results you want. Dress for success. Share what's possible and how to participate. Make it happen.

VIRGO (AUG. 23 - SEPT. 22)

Today is an 8 — Explore options. Monitor conditions to expand boundaries. Get involved in a fascinating conversation. Expand your networks. You're learning fast. Note your discoveries.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22 - JAN. 19)

Today is an 8 — Have fun with your inner circle. Balance business with pleasure. Luck follows disciplined action, especially regarding love and romance. Express what's in your heart.

GEMINI (MAY 21 - JUNE 20)

Today is a 7 — Put extra effort into planning and organization to adapt with recent changes. Avoid noise or crowds. Find a peaceful spot to consider possibilities.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23 - OCT. 22)

Today is a 9 — Collaborate for shared gain. Share thoughts, priorities and dreams. Together, you can resolve a financial challenge. Fortune benefits your joint venture. Listen and learn.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20 - FEB. 18)

Today is a 7 — Domestic modifications have your focus. Fortune follows commitment, especially with renovation projects. Make sure family is on board. Research, plan and then choose.

CANCER (JUNE 21 - JULY 22)

Today is a 9 — Contribute to a common cause. Coordinate communications and generate positive action. Inspire others to rise by example. Listen with empathy. Lend a helping hand.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23 - NOV. 21)

Today is a 9 — Strategize with your partner. Deepen your connection with shared experiences and fun. Romance is possible. Communication plus action equals unbeatable. Celebrate accomplishments together.

PISCES (FEB. 19 - MARCH 20)

Today is a 9 — Trust your own good sense and tap into brilliance. Express creative ideas and possibilities. Challenge the generally held opinion to discover hidden solutions.

SUDOKU

Last week's solution

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

ALUMNI

Vince Carter headlines class of 2024 Basketball Hall of Fame

The former small forward joins 12 other Tar Heels

By Anna Laible

Staff Writer

sports@dailytarheel.com

It's called the "Dunk of Death." Rewind about 24 years. Team USA is up 69-54 over France in the 2000 Olympic Games with sixteen minutes left in the second half. Vince Carter, a 6-foot-6 small forward wearing No. 9, swipes a sloppy behind-the-back outlet pass from France's Yann Bonato.

One dribble. Another. Two steps and... liftoff.

"I'm not easily impressed by things, but some of the things that he did on the court, I'm thinking to myself, 'Wow, that's incredible,'" said Phil Ford, who was a three-time All-American, the 1978 National Player of the Year and former UNC assistant coach.

Carter, most known for his electric dunks, will headline the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame class of 2024 inductees, an honor only a dozen other Tar Heels — player or coach — have received. He will join fellow UNC basketball standout Walter Davis, who will be honored posthumously.

Alongside legends like Chauncey Billups and Jerry West, Carter will be enshrined in Springfield, Mass. on Aug. 17, with 12 others. Carter and Davis will be the seventh and eighth players from UNC to be selected into the Hall of Fame, more than any other school. The two played under former UNC head coach Dean Smith, marking Smith's ninth and 10th players to reach the Hall — the most of any coach in college basketball history.

"To see the things that Vince accomplished at Carolina — the fans, he did something that was never seen before," former UNC teammate Antawn Jamison said.

Speaking to ESPN's Jay Bilas and Rece Davis, Carter was taken aback by the honor when he received the call he would be in the hall.

"To just be on the finalist list is top-notch itself," he said. "To get the call on April Fools' Day, I



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNC ATHLETICS

Then-UNC basketball player Vince Carter celebrating after UNC's win in the 1998 ACC men's basketball tournament championship game in Greensboro.

needed a moment just to process it to make sure it was real. It's a wonderful moment. To get to be a part of it is just so surreal."

In college, Carter was most known for helping lead the Tar Heels to back-to-back Final Four appearances. He was a first-team All-ACC pick and All-American in 1998, averaging 15.6 points and leading the ACC in field goal shooting.

Jamison, 1998 National Player of the Year and retired NBA player, was there to witness Carter's growth from the beginning. As teammates, the two became like brothers. Their close relationship off the court helped explain their success on it.

"It was one of those situations where we were very inseparable," Jamison said, "and we learned not only how to be student-athletes together, but just defining what kind of men we were going to become together as well."

After college, Carter was drafted fifth overall in 1998 by the Golden State Warriors, but he was traded immediately to the Toronto Raptors, where he would make his largest mark. The all-time record holder for NBA seasons played with 22, Carter won the NBA Rookie of the Year award in 1999 and the Slam Dunk Contest in 2000.

He is one of only five players to reach both the 25,000-point and 2,000 3-pointer milestones. In addition, he was named to the all-star team eight times and was an All-NBA selection twice.

"He was able to take coaching, but with the God-given athleticism that he had,

he just became a great, great player," Ford said. "By the time he left Carolina, he was just an all-around skilled player that was extremely athletic."

Not only did Carter cement himself as one of the greatest dunkers to ever play in the NBA, but he also helped lead Team USA to Olympic gold in 2000 in Australia, where he made one of the most memorable dunks in basketball history with his "Dunk of Death" leap over 7-foot-2 French center Frederic Weis.

"He would be dancing after a dunk," Jamison said. "[It was just] so enjoyable, just watching the acrobatic moves and the hanging in the air. It was unbelievable as a teammate to watch. I can only imagine [watching] as a fan."

Now a dream that Carter could have never imagined is going to become a reality later this year.

"Last time we talked, I said, 'Man, did you ever envision yourself going into the Basketball Hall of Fame?' Jamison said. "He was just like, 'I never thought it would be possible.' I can just remember that first day as teammates at Carolina to looking at him now."

Carter said this moment is emotional because he has a great appreciation for the honor.

"I think that's where the emotions come for me because yes, I played the game, but until you receive that call, the reality was bliss for me," he told ESPN. "I just needed to hear it to believe it."

X: @anna_laible

CONFERENCE PLAY



DTH/GWEN PEACE

UNC senior infielder Parks Harber (14) runs to second base during the UNC baseball game against the University of Virginia in Charlottesville on Saturday, April 6.

Baseball prevents UVA sweep

North Carolina outlasts resilient Virginia offense in road series

By Harry Crowther

Senior Writer

sports@dailytarheel.com

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — Parks Harber stepped up to the plate in a tie game in the seventh inning.

North Carolina had just squandered a large lead for the second time in three days, and Virginia was eyeing a series sweep. But Harber wasn't fazed. His approach was the same as with any other at bat.

On a 1-2 count, he hit it over the fence — just a few feet left of the right-field foul pole.

"[It] just kind of let the air out," head coach Scott Forbes said.

Harber's homer kickstarted a late-inning renaissance for the Tar Heels in game three on Saturday. UNC held on to beat the Cavaliers, 12-7, preventing a Virginia sweep.

The senior first baseman recorded four RBIs, including the go-ahead solo shot in the seventh after Virginia completed the erasure of a six-run UNC lead in the previous frame. Redshirt sophomore outfielder Casey Cook drove in three runs, and graduate outfielder Anthony Donofrio was a double shy of the cycle.

UNC rode a nine-game win streak before Thursday's series opener against Virginia. It was a rough first inning for first-year starter Folger Boaz, allowing six runs on two big flies in the opening inning, but the streak looked set to reach double digits after the Tar Heels put up a seven spot in the third to take an 11-6 lead.

"Getting out big in the beginning is huge, but we gotta keep stacking runs, keep scoring," Harber said.

Boaz left after just two innings, requiring the bullpen to work overtime. The Tar Heels' relievers struggled, and the bats went cold. UVA scored eight unanswered runs off the UNC pen over the final six innings to take game one, 14-11.

North Carolina did not lead in game two, losing 7-2 with the only Tar Heel runs coming through two solo homers off the bat of junior outfielder Vance Honeycutt.

Saturday's game became crucial. It was almost a mirror image of Thursday's. Almost. UNC got out to a big lead early, scoring six in the first two innings.

But, like in game one, Virginia came back. After the Cavaliers tied the game at six, Forbes did not have a special message for his team.

"I didn't say a word," Forbes said. "This group, you gotta stay out of their way."

Harber had a big swing in a big moment. First-year catcher Luke Stevenson hit one off the batter's eye in center for a 2-run homer. Harber plated two more with an RBI single an inning later. Senior Matt Poston clutched the victory, allowing one run over three and a third.

Forbes said the win is indicative of his team's strong character. The Tar Heels didn't leave Charlottesville with dejection, but rather, momentum.

"Road series are tough," Donofrio said. "The perseverance to come back and salvage [the final game and], be able to get a W, is huge."

X: @dthsports



DTH/GWEN PEACE

UNC redshirt sophomore outfielder Casey Cook (16) waits to bat against the University of Virginia in Charlottesville on Saturday.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Deja Kelly enters NCAA transfer portal

The senior guard has one more year of eligibility due to pandemic

By Emma Moon

Senior Writer

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UNC women's basketball senior guard Deja Kelly will enter the transfer

portal, according to reporting done by ESPN's Alexa Philippou.

After four seasons at North Carolina, Kelly has one more year of eligibility remaining due to the NCAA's rules regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. According to Philippou, UNC is still an option for Kelly's final season, but she is also exploring other schools.

As an integral member of UNC's lineup, Kelly started all four seasons

at North Carolina and led the scoring effort for three of those years. In the 2023-24 season, the guard averaged a team-high 36.1 minutes of playing time. For the last three consecutive seasons, the senior received First Team All-ACC honors.

During her final game as a Tar Heel against South Carolina in the second round of the NCAA tournament, Kelly recorded seven points, four rebounds and two assists. Throughout the 2023-24 season, the senior scored 20 or more points 11 times. During an away contest against then-No. 8 Virginia Tech, Kelly scored a season-high 29 points.

The guard is the sixth player so far to leave the team after the conclusion of the 2023-24 season.

Following a slew of injuries plaguing the guard rotation, Kelly became the primary on-ball player over the season. With such a short lineup, the senior's role change led her to experience what she labeled as one of the "toughest years" of her career.

"I think it was a lot of up and down," Kelly said. "[It] probably took a toll on everyone mentally."

Kelly arrived in Chapel Hill in 2020 as a part of Banghart's first recruiting class. The guard ranked No. 10 in her class, according to ESPN. During her first season, Kelly joined five other recruits in senior forward Alyssa Ustby, senior forward Anya Poole, senior guard Kennedy Todd-Williams and senior forward Alexandra Zelaya.

Apart from Ustby, every other recruit from Banghart's first recruiting class entered the transfer portal in the last two seasons.

As the Tar Heels look forward to the 2024-25 season, Kelly's absence will likely be an extreme loss. For the last four seasons, North Carolina looked to the guard for consistent scoring everywhere on the floor.

In her absence, UNC will likely turn to graduate Lexi Donarski, first-year Reniya Kelly and redshirt sophomore Kayla McPherson to lead the guards for the upcoming season. Both Reniya Kelly and McPherson are currently recovering from season-ending injuries.

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SENIOR DAY

'I feel like I've really grown into myself'

Graduating women's tennis players reflect on their time at UNC

By Caroline Wills
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Before taking the court against Virginia Tech, graduate student Abbey Forbes took the microphone.

Continuing a Senior Day tradition formerly championed by senior Fiona Crawley, Forbes took center stage on court two to sing the national anthem — her teammates and coaches lined up beside her with their hands pressed over their hearts.

Unlike Crawley, whose performance last year involved reading the lyrics off her phone and mid-song eruptions of laughter, Forbes' rendition — a fulfillment of a dream she's held since the fourth grade — earned looks of awe and dropped jaws from her teammates. Crawley admitted she was one-upped.

"She was amazing," Crawley said. "She told me a while ago because she was like, 'Should I do this?' And I was like, 'Yes, please make it a tradition. Carry it on.' So now that puts pressure on the underclassmen. Somebody has to do it next year."

The moment symbolized the

preservation of recent traditions, yes, but also the closing of a chapter for the North Carolina women's tennis team's most decorated senior class — the players responsible for the program's first ever NCAA title and four ITA National Team Indoor Championships.

On Sunday, the team celebrated Forbes, Crawley and fellow seniors Anika Yarlagadda, Elizabeth Scotty, Reilly Tran and Sara McClure. To cap off their final regular season match at the Chewning Tennis Center, the No. 6 Tar Heels earned a 4-1 victory over No. 4 Virginia and dominated Virginia Tech, 4-0.

Although most said their pre-game routine didn't differ much from any other gameday, the graduating Tar Heels still took a moment to reflect on their career.

Tran said the past four years transformed her into a completely different person. She described her first-year self as a stubborn perfectionist who hated being wrong and being told she wasn't good at something. 18-year-old Tran cried the entire first week of practice because she was so nervous of messing up.

She recalled a practice in her first year when she wore an all-blue outfit that her teammates relentlessly made fun of her for, even going so far as to call her a "Smurf." All in good fun, of course, because Tran

said she always idolized the seniors for their leadership and talent.

But now? Tran said she's helped foster a supportive environment and learns something new every day, even from the team's first-years.

"I feel like I've really grown into myself," she said.

Crawley also fondly remembers the early days of her UNC career — the tiny, scared first-year with long hair, occupying the final place in the team's singles line-up.

Even for a group that brought home the program's first ever NCAA team title, Crawley's favorite memory has nothing to do with the team's victory in Orlando. Instead, she looks to a match from her first year.

On her 19th birthday, North Carolina faced Texas — another school that recruited Crawley — at the indoor tournament in Seattle. The outcome would be determined by both Crawley and Scotty's singles matches, and Crawley said all she could think about was not being the first-year to lose it for her entire team.

"[Coach Tyler Thomson] was on my court, and he was like, 'Just breathe, this is literally what college is about,'" she said. "That match honestly set the tone for the rest of my career."

Crawley won, and Scotty followed up with the clinch. Indeed, the match set the tone for her tenure at North



DTH/NATE SKVORETZ
UNC senior Reilly Tran celebrates after winning her singles match against Virginia at Chewning Tennis Center on Friday.

Carolina. Since then, she's become a national champion, a Honda Award winner and the program's second-ever ITA National Player of the Year.

"She's just kept ascending to higher heights," head coach Brian Kalbas said. "She can do anything she wants to accomplish."

Only time will tell if the underclassmen continue the Senior Day traditions Crawley and the other members of her class created, but their impact is already cemented into the brick walls of the Chewning

Tennis Center, where recognition of their history-making national title rests in black lettering.

"We're really grateful that we can play another home match after this because hopefully we'll host NCAAs," Yarlagadda said. "But if not, this is my last regular season home match with my best friends. We're really going to be with each other, embrace each other and be there for each other."

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SERIES SWEEP

Softball loses to Duke

Three takeaways from the games against No. 1 team

By Anna Page Lancaster
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DURHAM — The North Carolina softball team traveled to Durham this weekend and was swept 3-0 by the No. 1 Blue Devils. Here are three takeaways from the series' action:

Ability to fight against top competition

Following the weekend's action, the Blue Devils rose to No. 1 per Softball America. Although North Carolina was not able to win a game in the series, they showed fight against the nation's top team.

UNC faced one of the nation's best pitchers in Duke's Cassidy Curd. She dished out twelve strikeouts, no walks and no errors on Saturday. The game was over after five innings and eight unanswered Duke runs.

Despite this shutout and the eventual series sweep, North Carolina was able to produce multiple hits and runs throughout the weekend. The ability to compete with the top-ranked team is an indicator of the power this team can unleash.

Capitalizing with runners in scoring position

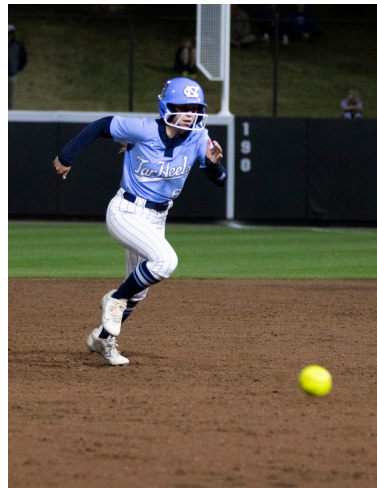
The Tar Heels scored five runs across the three-game series. The team left a total of 20 baserunners on the bags to end its at-bats and was not able to capitalize when given opportunities.

Ten runners were left on base in the final game of the series, which UNC lost 6-1.

This season, QABs — quality at-bats — are something head coach Megan Smith Lyon emphasized with her players. The team will look for QABs in the coming weeks as the Tar Heels look to get back in the win column.

Utilizing the whole lineup

Throughout the season, the Tar Heels have shown any player can make a difference. The Tar Heels



DTH/OLIVIA PAUL

UNC sophomore infielder Caroline Fox (6) runs to third base during the softball game against Duke on Sunday at Duke Softball Stadium.

have shown they can score runs down their whole lineup.

Coleman led the way in this series, going 6-of-9 and tallying one or more hits in every game played. Graduate Destiny Middleton also stood out for the Tar Heels, going 3-of-3 on the final game of play. However, the duo's leadership was not enough to pull out a win.

In order to prevail against tough competition, North Carolina will look to utilize its whole lineup to score runs. Having started the season atop the NCAA in batting average, it will take a team effort to capitalize when it matters most.

Sophomore Kenna Raye Dark started on the mound on Friday and Sunday. She recorded no strikeouts across the eight innings she pitched. Across the weekend, UNC played five different pitchers and tallied one strikeout.

When North Carolina has a hot pitching night, it has proven hard to beat. By utilizing multiple starting pitchers, UNC has shown it has the potential to withstand sound hitting days.

The Tar Heels are back in Chapel Hill this Wednesday for a mid-week game against Longwood at 5 p.m.

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PROFESSIONAL SPORTS

Breaking down the UNC players who are in Major League Baseball

Seven former Diamond Heels are in the MLB

By Lydia Kampe
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With the 2024 MLB season under way, seven former Diamond Heels are already making an impact in their respective pro organizations.

Here's a breakdown of how each of those players are doing:

Daniel Bard

After being scooped up by the Boston Red Sox as the 28th MLB draft pick in 2006, pitcher Daniel Bard was named the Red Sox Rookie of the Year following his debut on the mound in 2009. Now, Bard plays for the Colorado Rockies and, at 38 years old, is the seventh-oldest player in the MLB.

During his junior year at North Carolina, Bard led the Diamond Heels to the College World Series finals. After his first few years in the MLB, his performance faltered, and in 2017, Bard retired from the sport. But in 2020, Bard decided to step back on the mound, where he has seen success — his win percentage was notably high last season at .667. He is currently on the 15-day injured list.

J.B. Bukauskas

Drafted as the 15th pick in 2017 to the Houston Astros, pitcher J.B. Bukauskas made his debut with the Arizona Diamondbacks in 2021. Currently, Bukauskas is signed with the Milwaukee Brewers.

Bukauskas has a slider and changeup in his repertoire, but his most impressive pitch is his fastball. He throws comfortably in the 93-96 mile per hour range, and it's not uncommon for him to hit 98-99. With pitches like these, Bukauskas can be expected to make positive, periodic impact for the Brewers throughout this season.

Michael Busch

First baseman Michael Busch — drafted as the 31st pick to the Los Angeles Dodgers in 2019 — is the youngest Diamond Heel currently in the MLB. This season, Busch was traded to the Chicago Cubs. Busch can do some damage in the batter's box, having already loaded up eight hits, four runs, and five RBI this season. Busch is off to a strong start with the Cubs.

Zac Gallen

Pitcher Zac Gallen was drafted in the third round to the St. Louis Cardinals in 2016. He made his MLB debut with the Miami Marlins in 2019 and was traded later that season to the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Gallen has won several accolades over the last few years, and in 2022, went six straight starts in a row without allowing a run — tying the MLB record. Gallen is quick to adjust on the mound and is currently sitting at a 3.17 ERA over his career.

Ryder Ryan

Initially drafted in the 30th round by the Cleveland Indians in 2016, Ryder Ryan made his debut last fall with the Seattle Mariners. This season, Ryan has seen the mound a

few times with the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Ryder is a developing arm in the big leagues as he strides into his second season on the mound for the Pirates. So far this season, he has faced 22 batters and averaged 5.06 runs scored per nine innings.

Jacob Stallings

Catcher Jacob Stallings just signed with the Colorado Rockies, where he will join Bard. Stallings was initially a seventh-round pick by the Pittsburgh Pirates in 2012, where he made his debut in 2016 and stayed until 2021.

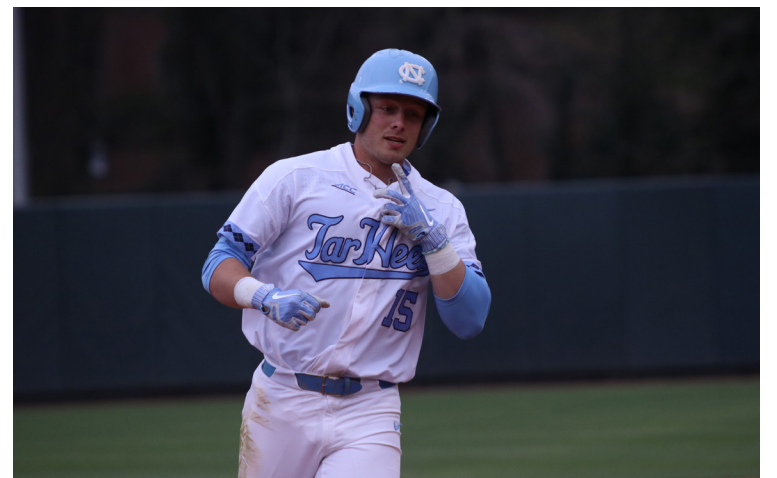
During his senior year at UNC, he caught all but one game and put up a batting average in the high .200s. In the MLB, Stallings has notched 318 hits and 24 homers on a .235 average.

Trent Thornton

North Carolina native and current pitcher for the Seattle Mariners, Trent Thornton was a fifth-round pick by the Houston Astros in 2015.

Thornton currently averages a 4.48 ERA throughout his MLB career. Almost all 36 of his game starts took place in his debut 2019 season with the Toronto Blue Jays, but all 17 of his game closers have come in the last four years.

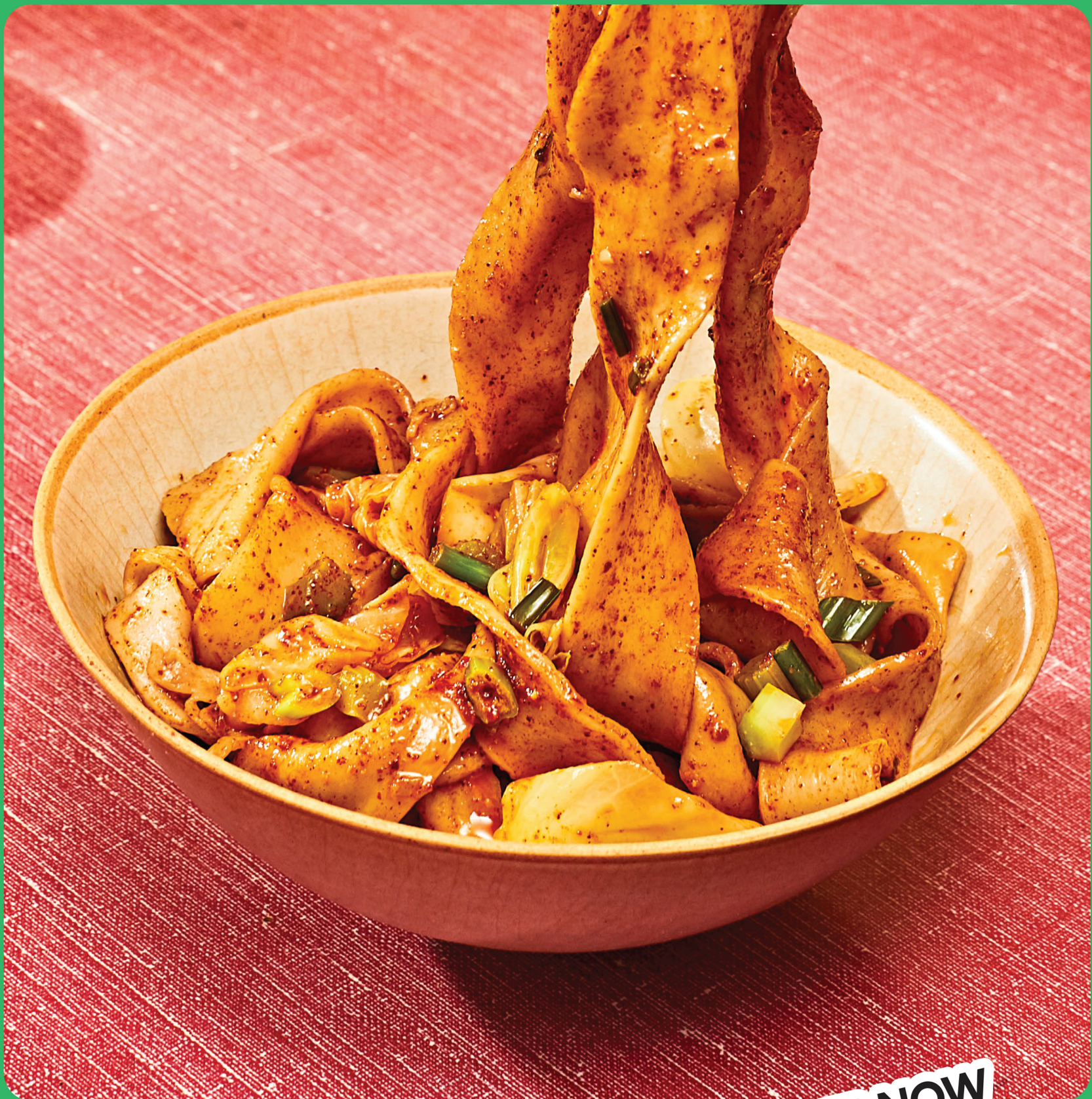
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DTH FILE/NASH CONSING
Then-sophomore infielder Michael Busch (15) runs around the bases after a grand slam against Maryland on March 20, 2018 at Boshamer Stadium.

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