

# The Daily Tar Heel

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132 YEARS OF SERVING UNC STUDENTS AND THE UNIVERSITY

VOLUME 133, ISSUE 17

## REFLECTION

### UNC improves safety measures in two years since shooting

Student organizers push to combat gun violence

By Maria Sullivan  
Senior Writer

and Jackson Auchincloss  
Staff Writer

Last month, UNC marked the two-year anniversary of the on-campus shooting and death of Associate Professor Zijie Yan with a memorial site dedication. The anniversary was a time to remember Yan's legacy and served as an opportunity for the community to reflect.

Ashley Ju, a UNC junior and the president of Students Demand Action at UNC, views the anniversary as a reminder that there's still more to be done to prevent gun violence on campus and at large.

"This, of course, happening on our own very campus, widened my eyes even more," she said. "It's like, 'Wow, it truly can happen anywhere, anytime, any place.' It showed me that anyone and everyone was at risk. Even though I knew that before, it just solidified that."

Ju said the organization has done work over the past two years since the shooting to combat gun violence, as well as demanding Chancellor Lee Roberts and the administration make UNC's campus a safer place.

For example, the group



DTH/VIYADA SOUKTHAVONE

UNC junior Ashley Ju poses for a portrait at associate professor Zijie Yan's memorial site on Tuesday, Sept. 9.

wants Alert Carolina to be more accessible to non-English speakers, and offer, at least, a Spanish translation of messages.

Ju said she knew of many University dining employees who were particularly vulnerable during the shooting, citing how many of them weren't aware of what was happening because they couldn't understand the Alert Carolina messaging.

UNC Media Relations wrote in a statement to The Daily Tar Heel

that the University's top priority is the safety of those present on campus.

Media Relations also mentioned several changes made since the shooting to increase campus safety. These include making Alert Carolina messaging clearer, offering situational response training to faculty and staff and creating a new team that identifies, assesses and manages individuals "who may be on the pathway to committing an act of

targeted violence such as a school shooting."

Currently, English is the only language available on Alert Carolina, and training for faculty and staff is only "strongly encouraged" — not mandatory.

Now, Students Demand Action is also fighting gun violence by opposing North Carolina Senate Bill 50, which, if passed, would deregulate the use of firearms.

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## FOOTBALL

### UNC beats Charlotte, 20-3, on the road

Game marks Bill Belichick's first collegiate win

By Jack Morris  
Senior Writer

Head coach Bill Belichick made one thing clear after UNC's blowout loss against Texas Christian University on Monday night, Sept. 1: North Carolina was a lot better than their performance showed.

After a quick five-day turnaround, the Tar Heels had a chance to back up that claim. While the result was different, the questions raised in their opening game against the Horned Frogs remained unanswered.

North Carolina tallied its first win of the season Saturday night at Jerry Richardson Stadium, defeating UNC Charlotte 20-3. But even in Belichick's first career collegiate victory, the Tar Heels struggled to impress, only gaining three first downs in the second half.

The first drive looked familiar for UNC, using three plays and a 51-yard pass from redshirt sophomore quarterback Gio Lopez

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## DANCE

### NO VISA parties return to N.C.

The series reinvents traditional club music at pop-up venues

By Phoebe Martel  
Senior Writer

NO VISA, a genre-agnostic dance party series, has taken to Tokyo, Johannesburg and Brooklyn — but the North Carolina scene remains their creative heartbeat.

On Aug. 23, NO VISA hosted a sold-out party at PS37, a pop-up venue in Durham, in partnership with London promoter and global dance music community, Keep Hush, which films and archives raves around the world.

NO VISA co-founders and brothers Alec Lomami and Mike Tambashe — who also run a music management company, Immaculate Taste — have brought underground headliners like Baltimore's JIALING and Atlanta's Nikki Nair to their parties. But for the Keep Hush collaboration, the brothers prioritized spotlighting local talent and making the event free for all.

Lomami was born in Belgium, raisein Congo and eventually settled in Hillsborough to join Tambashe and their father.

A desire to spotlight Francophone dance music informed Lomami's early forays into live mixing, and he continues to feature sounds from West Africa at NO VISA and his other DJ ventures.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALEC LOMAMI

People gather at a NO VISA dance party on July 12 in Durham.

NO VISA's tagline, "No immigration paper needed, just a will to dance," speaks to the brothers' dedication to international music and building a border-defying community.

The concept behind NO VISA came from Lomami's experience in a detention center for undocumented immigrants where he witnessed music as a healing force.

"That was a real, tangible example of what music can do," Lomami said. "In that horrible

place, you will still have these moments of joy and bringing people together."

The name 'NO VISA' does not just refer to the series' transcendence of geographic and generic boundaries. It also alludes to the diversity of music played — at any given party, one could hear K-pop, UK jungle and 2000s crunk all at once.

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## UNIVERSITY

### Associate dean fired at School of Civic Life and Leadership

The change follows a trend of high faculty turnover at the School

By Aidan Lockhart  
Enterprise Editor

and Regan Butler  
University Editor

School of Civic Life and Leadership Dean and Director Jed Atkins fired David Decosimo from his associate dean position on Aug. 8. Decosimo remains a tenured associate professor in the school.

In addition to the change in leadership, SCiLL's faculty retention issues have also continued, as two more inaugural faculty members have turned in their resignations since July — history professor Molly Worthen and physics professor Fabian Heitsch.

With only one of the inaugural nine UNC SCiLL faculty remaining, multiple professors who cut ties with the school have expressed concerns regarding Atkins' leadership style and accused him of having a tendency to abuse authority.

In a thread on X, the former associate dean wrote that he was fired without explanation. Decosimo's position as associate dean was an "at-will" appointment, meaning that it could be terminated at any time, with or without cause,

according to section 300.1.1 of the UNC policy manual.

Still, former chair of the SCiLL dean and director search committee Mark Katz said that in his experience, he's typically seen a great effort made to explain the dismissals of those in at-will appointments.

"And actually, before that's even done, there is usually, and actually supposed to be, an effort to help that person remedy whatever problems there might be," he said.

Asked to comment on Decosimo's firing and the resignations, Atkins provided a written statement to The Daily Tar Heel:

"I appreciate the contributions of Molly Worthen and Fabian Heitsch and thank them for their hard work during their time with the School of Civic Life and Leadership," he wrote. "I look forward to continuing to work with David Decosimo as a professor in SCiLL. I continue to be encouraged by the dedication of our core SCiLL faculty and of the caliber of colleagues they are able to recruit from around the world."

The DTH requested further comment from Atkins, but he did not respond by the time of publication.

Dustin Sebell, a SCiLL professor who chaired the faculty search committee, also provided comment on Decosimo's firing.

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“They say Rome wasn’t built in a day. And yet what a difference a day makes.”

GOSSIP GIRL



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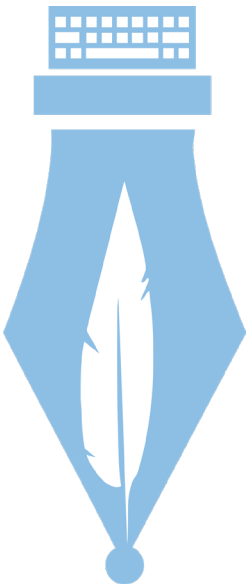
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Campus community feels impact of shooting years later

Continued from Page 1

The bill aims to legalize concealed carry of handguns for anyone over the age of 18 in North Carolina. Ju said the limited training and lack of a background check required to purchase a firearm makes the bill even more concerning.

Joe Friedman, a UNC Clinical Psychology doctoral student, conducted a study following the 2023 shooting and a lockdown caused by an armed suspect the following month. The study observed how post-traumatic stress symptoms impacted entire communities following the two campus threats, and why certain individuals are more at risk than others of struggling with PTSD symptoms after the fact.

Friedman said that during the study, which was conducted over about seven months, some participants were eager for a return to normalcy while others were deeply affected, many experiencing painful and anxiety-provoking memories upon their return to campus.

Faculty members experienced this phenomenon as they had to return to work in the days following the shooting. Theo Dingemans, chair of the Department of Applied Physical Sciences, who worked alongside Yan and spoke on his legacy at the memorial on Aug.

28, said it was initially hard for the department to return to their offices following the incident. However, the team realized that they couldn't let the event dictate their lives.

"It was really fun to see how the whole team came together to say, 'Look, we're just going to go back to our offices, we're not going to change who we are,'" Dingemans said. "That was very impressive."

Friedman said that his study discovered that participants with negative views of themselves and the world around them reported heightened PTSD symptoms. He encouraged those who are still dealing with the fallout of the shooting to talk to a mental health professional or seek out services from Counseling and Psychological Services. Friedman added that community members shouldn't feel any shame for still feeling the impact of the incident.

"One big takeaway is just that it is very common after something like a lockdown for lots of people to be affected by it, and also that not everybody is going to be affected the same way," he said. "Everybody recovers on their own timeline and it's possible that students, staff and faculty who were there that day are going to be affected by this for a very long time."

"It's possible that students, staff and faculty who were there that day are going to be affected by this for a very long time."

Joe Friedman  
UNC Clinical Psychology doctoral student



DTH FILE/SAMANTHA LEWIS

A memorial for Zijie Yan sits outside of his office in Caudill Labs on Sept. 12, 2023.



DTH FILE/SAMANTHA LEWIS



DTH FILE/LAUREN RHODES



DTH FILE/SAMANTHA LEWIS

X: @mariaesullivan

FACILITIES

Carolina Housing addresses alleged mold sightings in Ram Village

Residents of 4 and 5 claim to see spotting on ceiling tiles

By Tulsia Asokan  
Staff Writer

Earlier this semester, Carolina Housing notified residents of Ram Village Apartments 4 (Taylor Residence Hall) and 5 about possible moisture damage, describing the incident as "spotting or staining" on ceiling tiles on the upper floors.

Carolina Housing first notified residents about the moisture concerns on Aug. 14.

Allan Blattner, executive director of Carolina Housing, wrote in a statement to The Daily Tar Heel that the damage stemmed from prolonged heat and humidity, which caused condensation to form on pipes and ductwork in the attics of the buildings.

According to Carolina Housing's mold protocol, "given a source of moisture, microbial growth (commonly referred to as mold) can grow just about anywhere within 24-48 hours." Students are urged to report any water intrusion issues to Facilities Services immediately.

Abby Adeshina, a sophomore resident in Ram Village 5, said she had received the emails from Carolina Housing about potential moisture issues in the apartments. While she had not experienced problems in her own unit, she said she saw what appeared to be mold-damaged ceiling tiles outside of her brother's room in Taylor.

"The tile outside of his room, it looks like it's growing mold or something," Adeshina said.



DTH/CONNOR RUESCH

The Ram Village Apartments are shown on Sept. 3.

She also reported seeing a hole in the ceiling of her brother's closet — another potential effect of damp ceiling panels.

Blattner said Carolina Housing has "successfully addressed the root causes of the reported moisture concerns" on Sept 2. However, some residents have raised concerns about how quickly those requests are handled.

Adeshina, for example, said her brother submitted a request over the weekend of Aug. 16 to repair the damage in his closet ceiling, but that it has not yet been addressed. "I'm assuming the response hasn't

been quick for people who have had issues with different problems around their room," Adeshina said.

In an Aug. 15 update email sent to residents of Taylor and Ram Village 5, Carolina Housing stated that the University had consulted with heating, ventilation and air conditioning experts and had begun the process of drying out the ductwork to resolve any moisture issues.

The process involved resetting the baseline temperature of the HVAC system. The email further stated that the changes could make some areas of the building feel warmer than usual.

With this temporary measure, some residents faced higher temperatures in their apartments.

Oscar Dublina, a sophomore resident in Ram Village 2, said his friends in Taylor experienced air conditioning issues at the start of the semester. "The heat was really bad for that first week," Dublina said. "We had like, two fans running."

Although Dublina does not live in the residence halls most affected by the moisture issues, he said he also experienced water dripping from his air conditioning unit in Ram Village 2.

Moving forward, Carolina Housing is hiring an HVAC contractor to

carry out proactive cleaning and maintenance designed to prevent condensation. As part of the effort, crews will also clean and dry pipe surfaces near the HVAC distribution box in the ceilings, as well as the air vents. Blattner wrote that this process will help prevent condensation above the ceiling due to improved airflow.

Carolina Housing will share information about the anticipated cleaning timeline with residents once the schedule is finalized, Blattner stated.

The recent situation in Ram Village Apartments is not the first time the University has dealt with concerns about moisture and microbial growth in residence halls. In 2023, students reported that they felt sick and drowsy after potential exposure to mold in Ehringhaus Residence Hall. One also reported black mold in Koury Residence Hall.

In 2019, more than 1,000 residents were evacuated from Granville Towers during a mold removal operation. While it is a partner of Carolina Housing, Granville Towers is a private entity that issues contracts independently through American Campus Communities.

Past incidents highlight how quickly moisture problems can escalate to mold growth in residence halls. Blattner advised that if residents notice any spots or signs of a leak on their ceiling tiles, they should submit a Fix My Room request as soon as possible. This allows the facilities team to assess the issue, clean the affected area above the ceiling and replace any damaged tiles.

X: @tulsiasokan



CREATIVE EXPRESSION

# Screen printing event responds to mural takedown

Students and faculty gathered in solidarity with Gaza

By Mariah Temple  
Staff Writer

Students and faculty from the Hanes Art Center hosted a pro-Palestinian screen printing event last Wednesday, welcoming community members to print poet June Jordan's quote "I TOLD YOU I LOVED YOU AND I WANTED GENOCIDE TO STOP" on T-shirts and other items. The event was hosted in solidarity with Palestine and the artists whose mural — which featured the same quote — was taken down by UNC Facilities Services early in the semester.

Hosted in the Hanes Art Center's Alumni Sculpture Garden, the event was a collaborative effort with the UNC chapter of The American Association of University Professors. Belle Boggs, president of the North Carolina conference of the AAUP, said the organization was "horrified" by the "assault on academic freedom" after the artwork was taken down. To show their support for the UNC community, the AAUP reached out to UNC art professor Hồng-An Trương to gauge students' interest in a screen printing event, as Trương taught several of the students who created the mural in her spring 2024 Studio Art 490: Art as Social Action course.

"People around the state are really paying attention to what's happening on your campus, and we want you to also hear what's happening on other campuses," Boggs said to the crowd of attendees. "We're trying very hard to respond to any violations of academic freedom and free speech,



DTH/MARIAH TEMPLE

Artist Marin Carr-Quimet helps students screen print pro-Palestine mural designs onto shirts on Sept. 3.

including students' freedom to hear, students' freedom to learn."

Community members had the option to screen print Jordan's quote and a student-created design — featuring two flowers, one wilting and one budding — in black or white ink. With help from student and faculty artists, attendees printed on shirts, tote bags, handkerchiefs and paper.

Marin Carr-Quimet, who worked on the mural as a student last year, said the quote was the

artwork's most prominent feature and re-printing it is a way to revive its message.

"I think this is a great way to combat the censorship of it," Carr-Quimet said. "And I think it's really interesting to be like, 'You've censored this and instead of it just going away, it's coming back so much stronger.' So many people are gonna have this print and this message from the mural on their T-shirts. I think that's resilience."

Elyse Crystall, an English and Comparative Literature teaching

professor, said the event's goal was to educate attendees about the pro-Palestine movement and the University's reaction to its presence on campus. Crystall said she herself has been involved in pro-Palestinian activism for over a decade.

"Because I'm a professor here, I think about education and I think about: how do you let people know that something happened if they didn't read The Daily Tar Heel?" Crystall said. "Or, if they haven't been here in the last two years and

they don't know anything about the activities that have happened around Palestine on this campus earlier?"

Michael Palm, president of UNC's AAUP chapter and an associate professor in the Department of Communication was also present at the event.

"The AAUP of North Carolina and of UNC-Chapel Hill call on Chancellor Lee Roberts and Interim Provost Jim Dean to restore the mural — which we've since learned is impossible — and to publicly explain how the decision to remove it was made and by whom," he said in his speech at the event.

The only public comment from an administrative figure around the mural's removal came from Jim White, the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, in the form of an open letter claiming the mural could be interpreted as antisemitic. White also wrote that the administration decided to take the artwork down to allow for the expression of alternative viewpoints.

Palm said he hopes the screenprinting event can help foster a campus where students and faculty make decisions about their artwork displays — not the administration.

"I think the message that I want our administrators, as well as UNC students, to take away is that the free speech and academic freedom of UNC students and faculty is sacrosanct, and that we will not tolerate violations of it by administrators who are bending to the will of politicians and lobbyists — in this case, in support of Israel," Palm said.

X: @dailytarheel

IN PROTEST

# Polk Place vandalized with anti-genocide messages

Spray paint echoes quotes from removed pro-Palestine mural

By Regan Butler  
University Editor  
and Alice Scott  
Assistant University Editor  
and Caleb Herrera  
Assistant University Editor

At around 3 a.m. on Monday morning, multiple areas and building exteriors on Polk Place were vandalized with red and black paint displaying anti-genocide messages and symbols.

Red paint was splattered across the stairs of South Building and marked with handprints, and the phrase "I TOLD YOU I LOVE YOU" was painted in black on the bricks in front of the steps. The brick path in front of Wilson Library displayed another message in black paint, reading "I WANTED GENOCIDE TO END."

The phrases are reminiscent of the central quote in a student-created mural depicting Palestinian resilience the University removed from Hanes Art Center earlier this semester. On top of various prints, the artwork read "I TOLD YOU I LOVED YOU AND I WANTED GENOCIDE TO STOP" — a quote inspired by June Jordan's pro-Palestinian poem, "Intifada Incantation: Poem #8 for b.b.L."

The steps of Wilson Library read "NOW I NEED FREEDOM," and a black symbol that appears to resemble a clenched fist was also spray painted on the bottommost stair. Spray painted messages continued further along on a brick path on the Quad, where

the phrase "YOU TOLD ME" was painted in black.

The Polk Place flagpole was also covered with painted red handprints and the word "LIAR" in black, with the surrounding bricks at its base reading "LIFE LIBERTY JUSTICE 4 ALL."

The word 'sumud,' meaning steadfastness or perseverance in Arabic, was also spray painted in black on a brick path in the Quad. The word is recognized as a reference to nonviolent Palestinian resilience to Israeli occupation.

According to the public copy of the UNC Police incident report obtained by The Daily Tar Heel, the vandalism occurred at 3:16 a.m. and was reported to the authorities at 7:38 a.m.

In a statement to The DTH, UNC Media Relations wrote that UNC Police is investigating the vandalism. Those who damaged University property or violated state law could potentially face criminal action or referrals for discipline through other applicable University processes, they wrote.

"Free expression and peaceful demonstration are part of what makes ours a vibrant academic community, however, vandalism of public property is not permitted and will not be tolerated," Media Relations wrote.

The UNC Student Code of Conduct states that the vandalism of property belonging to the University falls under nonacademic misconduct.

## Past demonstrations, symbolic vandalism

In July 2024, The DTH reported that UNC Police obtained a search warrant for the UNC Students for Justice In Palestine Instagram



DTH/ETHAN HARRELL

Red paint and the phrase "I TOLD YOU I LOVE YOU" display in front of South Building on Monday, Sept. 8.

account's basic subscriber information as part of an ongoing vandalism investigation. Two months prior, pro-Palestine protestors placed oil-based paint and graffiti onto South Building as a commemoration of graduating seniors and community members who were suspended for their participation in the Triangle Gaza Solidarity Encampment.

In September 2024, 200 students and staff participated in a pro-Palestine walkout led by UNC SJP in which protestors walked in and out of various UNC buildings, hanging papers outlining demands and spray painting pro-Palestine messaging.

In a statement from UNC SJP to The DTH about the recent vandalism, they wrote that it supports the action to spill fake blood on the steps of South building and spray paint the property. They added that the action was "completely warranted."

The statement also cited the damage to the mural and the unmet demand for UNC to divest from Israel.

"This act pales in comparison to Israel's destruction of every university in Gaza," the statement said. "Lee Roberts, Jim White, members of the Board of Trustees and members of the Board of Governors all have

blood on their hands and should be treated as such."

When asked about the spray paint messaging on Wilson Library and the flagpole, SJP referred The DTH to their original statement.

Monday evening, SJP then wrote in an Instagram post that the organization had no part in the vandalism, attributing the paint to a "group of autonomous activists."

The DTH is unable to confirm the identities or affiliations of the spray painters at this time.

X: @dailytarheel



SYSTEM POLICY

# Board of Trustees discusses past and future of DEI repeal implementations

Subcommittee worked to prepare 2025 compliance report

By Diana Lopez  
Staff Writer

The Equality Policy Certification Subcommittee of the Board of Trustees met on Aug. 26 to review past and future implementation of the UNC System’s DEI repeal at UNC, and discuss the proof of compliance document the University was required to submit to the UNC System on Sept. 1.

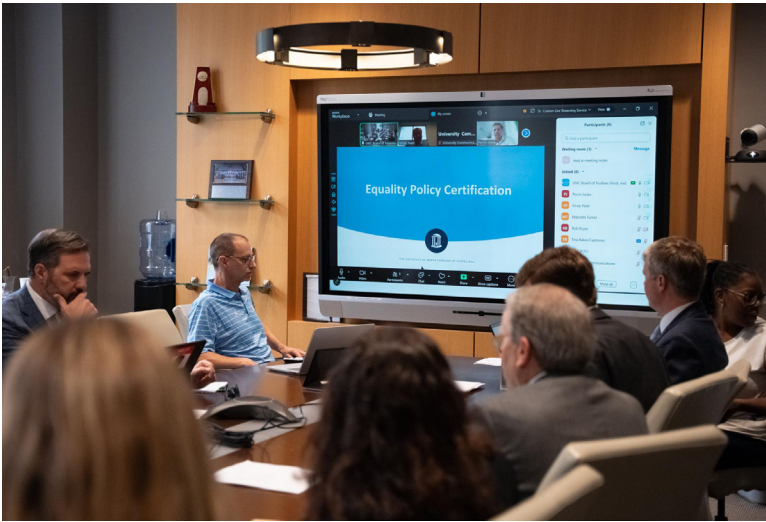
UNC-CH had to submit its initial compliance report after the policy on Equality Within the University of North Carolina replaced the policy on Diversity and Inclusion Within the University of North Carolina in May 2024. The policy shift led to the cutting and realignment of many DEI programs and positions.

Last year’s implementation

The subcommittee meeting started with Chancellor Lee Roberts saying the provost’s office was in charge of implementing the policy and did so by:

- Holding 14 individual meetings with unit and school leaders to discuss changes that needed to be made to “ensure compliance.”

- Holding 20 subsequent follow-up meetings to carefully work through the details of the Equality Policy and changes that needed to be made.
- Roberts then gave a general overview of what was done in 2024 to ensure the University complied with the policy, which included:
  - The elimination of 41 vacant positions and 20 filled positions last academic year.
  - The realignment of 27 positions to enable these positions to perform “policy-compliant work.”
  - The closure of the University’s central DEI office.
  - The elimination of DEI offices, programs and committees in all of UNC’s schools and divisions.
  - The review of training, programs and strategic plans to ensure they line up with the compliance requirements and necessary realignment.
  - The reorientation of programs and redirection of funds towards student success and employee well-being.
- Roberts said the savings from the personnel and programmatic changes amounted to \$5.39 million. The funds, he said, mostly went towards “realigning positions, student success programs and addressing the strategic needs of the individual units.”
- Additionally, Vice Provost Leah Cox and Senior University Counsel Kirsten Stevenson provided overviews of what was done over the past year to ensure



DTH/VIYADA SOUKTHAVONE

UNC Board of Trustees gather with its Equality Policy subcommittee on Aug. 26 at South Building.

that each school and department abided by the policy.

Trustee Marty Kotis voiced concerns about the Hussman School of Journalism and Media and its accreditation, which he said is driven by DEI standards and requires the school to abide by unofficial quotas, hiring practices and admissions to the school.

- “If you look at their accreditation self-reporting, it outlines how they will do certain things to be more inclusive, but that also could be

viewed through today’s lens as discriminatory,” Kotis said.

- Cox responded by saying that the Hussman School was not alone in this issue and that the schools of dentistry, education and social work were also having accreditation complications. She said they approached the issue by looking into what exactly the accreditation standards were to ensure schools weren’t abiding by nonexistent rules.

Certification draft overview

Katie Nolan, associate university counsel, gave an overview of what was done this year to prepare for the 2025 DEI Repeal Compliance Report, discussing the abolishment of an additional 41 vacant positions:

- Thirty five were assistant department chairs in the college.
- Three were diversity liaisons in the school of medicine.
- Three were administrative roles.
- Twenty seven roles were realigned

Web pages managed by the University were also updated to ensure compliance.

Looking ahead

- Kotis suggested implementing the use of artificial intelligence to look through internal files for websites of any indication of DEI principles, as well as using it to review syllabi, assuming they would be able to protect the intellectual property of professors.
- Nolan said that while each individual unit was responsible for reviewing its material, Kotis’s suggestion sounded like an “excellent idea.”

X: @dailytarheel

ACTIVISM

## Tar Heels historically used art and expression as a form of dissent

For decades, students have protested global issues with creativity

By Sarayu Thondapu  
Senior Writer

Early into the academic year, University facilities workers boarded up and subsequently removed a student-created mural depicting Palestinian resilience in the Hanes Arts Center. During this removal, the artwork was damaged beyond repair.

In response, students and faculty from the Hanes Art Center hosted a screen printing event in solidarity with Palestine and the artists who created the mural.

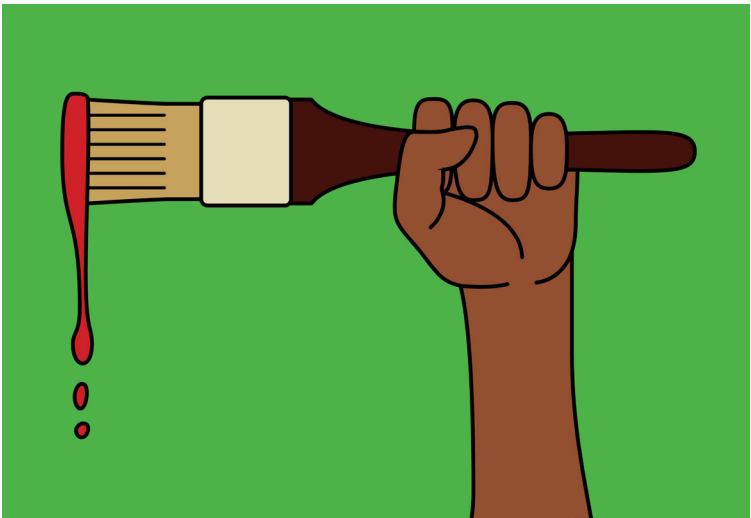
Fig Hendrick, a part-time UNC student and an artist behind the screen printing design — which, like the mural, read “I TOLD YOU I LOVED YOU AND I WANTED GENOCIDE TO STOP” — said that he appreciated the opportunity to have artists on and around campus coming together to organize an immediate response to the mural’s removal.

“There’s a really strong environment at UNC [for] political art and using art in various ways to bolster political movements,” Hendrick said.

Throughout University history, students have employed tactics like performance demonstrations, photography and guerrilla art — art that is publicly displayed without permission — to express advocacy for certain causes.

Between 1965 and 1970, UNC students led mass demonstrations against U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War. In addition to class attendance strikes, marches and teach-ins, students hosted events that elevated creative political expression and served as tools for education.

Around this time, students participated in a guerrilla theater demonstration, titled “GI Picnic,” which took place at the Coker Arboretum. Guerrilla theater, in a similar fashion to guerrilla art, is a spontaneous performance that dramatizes political and social issues. In 1970, the Carolina



DTH DESIGN/GRACE DAVIDSON

Liberation Brigade also organized an induction festival, “Work for Peace,” inviting folk musicians, academics, veterans and community members to speak and perform.

In the fall 1997 edition of the Southern Exposure magazine, Susan Suchman Simone, a documentary photographer, and Jeff Jones, then a doctoral candidate in history at UNC, published a photo essay titled “We Are All Housekeepers.” This served as a collective history of housekeepers and their families at UNC, chronicling their advocacy for better working conditions. The essay portion details notable shifts in the movement for workers’ rights, mentioning resistance dating back to the 1930s.

Kristen Dickerson, a UNC sophomore and vice president of the Carolina Association of Black Journalists, said journalism is a major tool for action because it’s everywhere.

“Even a post that is a call to action, or a PSA about something, can be so powerful and can lead people to want to do something about it,” she said.

More recently in 2017, professor Jina Valentine’s ARTS 391: Curatorial Practices class created “Footnotes (revisions),” an exhibit that explored the renaming of Carolina Hall from Saunders Hall, whose namesake was the head of the North Carolina Ku Klux Klan. The exhibit included zines made by Feminists Liberating Our Collective Knowledge that

labeled UNC as the “Historically White University,” highlighting the University’s history of discrimination against Black students.

Amid this climate of examining the past more critically, UNC MFA alumna Jeanine Tatlock created plaques advocating for the removal of the Silent Sam statue and name changes for academic buildings such as Carolina Hall — a nod to guerrilla art.

For one of the plaques, she was able to record reactions to it, noting both praise and criticism from its audience. Soon after the plaques were placed, the campus police took them down, and Tatlock didn’t know what had happened to them. She was willing for them to be thrown away, having used expendable materials with the knowledge that she had no control over what would happen after they were displayed.

“[Art activism] is a way of dissent, or not even dissent,” Yuthika Sathyanarayanan, a junior and the research director at the Campus Y, said. “Just like a way of expressing the way that you feel about the world around you; the way you’d like to see it improve or change.”

X: @sarayuuu\_t

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

## ‘Who Controls Your Education?’: TransparUNCy hosts teach-in

Event explored UNC’s political connections to state legislature

By Michael Singleton  
Staff Writer

On Sept. 2, members of the UNC community attended a teach-in hosted by the Affirmative Action Coalition at UNC-Chapel Hill and TransparUNCy. Titled “Who Controls Your Education?” the event explored topics including the University’s political connections to the state legislature, the appointment of Chancellor Lee Roberts, the School of Civic Life and Leadership and DEI repeal at UNC.

The presentation and discussion were led by TransparUNCy’s student organizers Emma Serrano and Drew Phaneuf. With around 40 students in attendance, many of them first-years, Phaneuf said that recent speeches they made have heard from UNC administrators can present a facade that doesn’t fully reflect the administration’s actions.

“The point of this teach-in is to tell you all that that narrative might not be the full case. It might not be the full story,” Phaneuf said.

To provide students with context of where North Carolina’s higher education environment fits into the national political landscape, Serrano discussed national policies and endeavors promoting conservative ideals such as fiscal austerity, or reducing government spending to reduce debt and deregulation, also known as reducing government oversight in industries.

In response to an attendee’s question, Serrano said conservatives see education as a way to shape the next generation and that their broader goal is to shift the ideological tilt.

While discussing the removal of the Gaza Solidarity Encampment at Polk Place in April 2024, Serrano said that the formerly student-led Undergraduate Honor Court was transitioned to a professional staff-led model arbitrarily after the administration disagreed with decisions being made following on-campus protests.

In a previous interview with The Daily Tar Heel, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Amy Johnson said that there was no relation between the system change and pro-Palestine demonstrations on campus.

TransparUNCy student organizer Toby Posel said that the Honor Court’s shift to a professional staff-led model has totally changed how disciplinary action is taken at the University. He said that this will be covered in-depth during another teach-in later this month.

TransparUNCy organizers presented various charts and graphics illustrating UNC’s organizational hierarchy and connections between conservative donor and businessman Art Pope and members of the UNC administration. Phaneuf said that Pope has a vested interest in promoting policies and individuals to further his business endeavors.

“[Pope] thinks that if you can control the present of UNC, you can control the future of all of North Carolina and really the country at that point, because UNC is the institution that is churning out North Carolina’s next lawyers, business people, politicians, doctors, scientists, researchers — and that is an incredibly important role to him,” he said.

While discussing SCiLL, Serrano said that appointed leaders such as Jed Atkins, the director and dean of SCiLL, can be seen as a proxy for what the goals of the organization as a whole are. Posel said that Atkins has “consolidated an immense amount of power” on UNC’s campus, partially due to what he called his “influence” over the Republican state legislature.

Posel said TransparUNCy’s continued teach-ins remain a productive format and that there is “always more history to learn.”

“Every year, a quarter of the student body turns over, and new people coming in need that same information,” Posel said. “They need to be vigilant. They need to understand that the institution they’re coming into isn’t a blank slate, but that it has history that they’re walking into.”

X: @dailytarheel



EDUCATION

State aims to make N.C. public schools best in the nation

NCDPI plans to increase test scores and graduation rates

By James O'Hara  
Staff Writer

In partnership with the State Board of Education, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction recently unveiled their new strategic plan, which aspires to make N.C. public schools the best in the United States by 2030.

Geoff Coltrane, the senior director of government affairs and strategy at NCDPI said the new strategic plan, entitled Achieving Educational Excellence, is about making sure N.C. students have great opportunities to learn while they're in school and once they graduate.

Some of the plan's initiatives include N.C. College Connect, which guarantees college admissions to high school students with a GPA of 2.8 and higher, a \$25 million investment into math instruction in rural areas, the development of an endowment to provide two years of tuition-free postsecondary

education and a goal to read 10 million books annually.

Coltrane said 63,000 high school seniors from public schools across North Carolina were admitted to college through N.C. College Connect this summer.

He also said that College Connect is an amazing opportunity to make it simpler for students to attend college without having to write essays and take the ACT, and that it is putting a lot of faith in the ability of public schools, educators and students.

The initiatives are accompanied by seven benchmarks for success by 2030 which include a 92

national leadership in reading and math scores.

"It's laid out a bold vision around achieving educational excellence, which is comprised of three key areas: the first is high academic achievement, the second is character development and the third is making North Carolina public schools the best in the country," Coltrane said.

The President of the North Carolina Association of Educators, Tamika Walker Kelly, said North Carolina continues to lag behind neighboring states in the southeast like Alabama, Mississippi and South Carolina in teacher recruitment and retention.

"In order to make sure that we are recruiting the best and making sure that our educators are highly compensated for the work that we

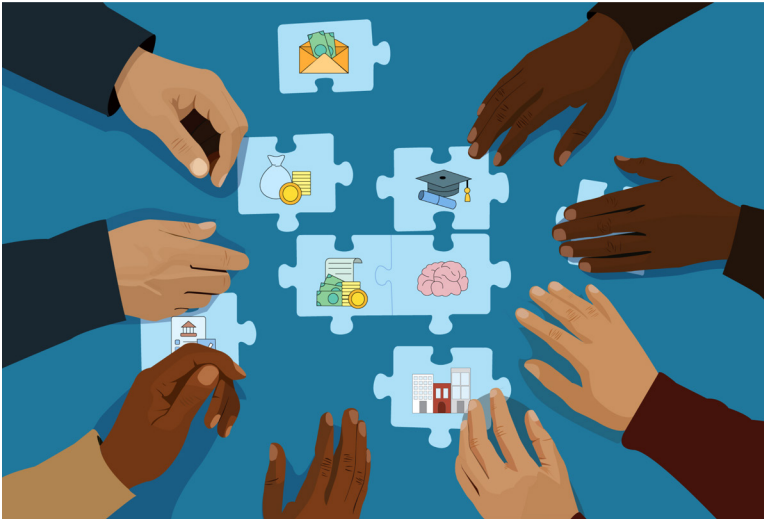
do, we need greater investments from our North Carolina General Assembly in making sure that we are paying educators," Walker Kelly said.

The plan is grounded in eight pillars: preparing students for their next phase of life, revering public school educators, enhancing

"I definitely believe that if we're not number one in the nation, I believe we'll be in the top 10."

Donnell McLean  
Executive Director of Professional Educators of North Carolina

percent high school graduation rate compared to the current 86.9 percent, 41 percent Career Technical Education participation, 89 percent enrollment in public school, an average ACT composite score of 20, thus leading the Southeast in educator compensation and



DTH DESIGN/AUBREY WORD

community support, ensuring healthy learning environments, optimizing operational excellence, leading transformative change, celebrating excellence in education and investing in public education.

Donell McLean, a former teacher and the Executive Director of Professional Educators of North Carolina said the pillars are exact and straight to the point.

McLean said the strategic plan will need to be a combined effort from the classroom, school administration, district administration and state

administration all working together on a more unified basis.

"I definitely believe that if we're not number one in the nation, I believe we'll be in the top 10," McLean said. "If we could get in the top 10, I would be very happy on my day of retirement, because as long as I've been in education, North Carolina has never been that close."

X: @dthcitystate

COMMUNITY

Carrboro celebrates Latino culture at local festival

Arts lined the streets at the 10th annual Fiestas en la Calle

By Ha Lien Gaskin  
Staff Writer

On Aug. 24, El Centro Hispano hosted Fiestas en la Calle, a festival celebrating Latin American culture, on West Weaver Street in Carrboro.

The festival was the tenth annual celebration and welcomed over 3,000 attendees. The afternoon featured live music, dance performances, Latin American food, craft vendors and resources related to health and education services.

Fiestas en la Calle began at noon, opening with a traditional Mexican ballet performed by Ballet Folklórico Orgullo y Alma Latina. Dancers fluttered their colorful folkloric dresses to the music, encouraged by their instructor, Fabián Vargas Camacho.

"Something that I really enjoy and that I express is the joy that people get when they see us dance," Camacho said. "Joy is something that motivates us to perform at every festival, every dance. We've experienced people that cry from the emotion of seeing the



PHOTO COURTESY OF SARA BARRERA

Ballet Folklórico "Orgullo y Alma Latino" captivates the audience with vibrant traditional Mexican dances on Aug. 24.

dances of their country or their state. And so that motivates us to be in these places, so that the whole world sees Mexican pride."

Five musical acts performed at the event. People laughed and danced as the band No Passport covered songs from KAROL G's "Si Antes Hubiera Conocido" to the Mexican folk song "La Bamba."

Laura Gonzqui, lead singer of No Passport, said that she enjoyed seeing people dancing and enjoying the music.

"For us, that is the greatest reward," Gonzqui said. "For someone who makes art, well, the fact that people enjoy it is the best feeling. It's rewarding."

Many different booths lined West

Weaver Street, which was blocked off exclusively for Fiestas en la Calle. Some booths sold wares like hats, art prints or decorative coasters. Other booths offered information geared towards the Latino community in Carrboro, with topics ranging from education and voting rights to childcare and insurance.

Patricia Obregon, a vendor at Fiestas en la Calle, sold handmade crochet trinkets such as keychains and stuffed animals. Obregon is part of a group of women who took part in one of El Centro Hispano's programs of economic development. The center offers classes in artisanal skills like embroidery and knitting. At Fiestas en la Calle, women who took part in the programs sell what they made in the classes.

"I think that now, as of late, they just label us as bad people," Obregon said. "And we — not just us, but everyone here — have many good things about us. These are some ancestral techniques that have been used since our ancestors. I think that it's good that people know that we can learn, and that we are making a business and making money from what we are doing too."

El Centro Hispano had several

information booths showcasing a variety of services and resources available throughout the Triangle. There was information about transportation in the Triangle, recycling programs and El Centro Hispano's Spanish Immersion Institute. A mobile health unit offered free health checkups for eventgoers, including checking blood pressure and glucose levels, administering flu vaccines and distributing food from a food bank.

"I'm very happy to see so many cultures from so many countries, and that moves me a lot, you know," Eric Mejía, who was tabling for Iglesia Encuentro, said.

Mejía said the event reminded him of his home country of Honduras, bringing back memories from 30 years ago.

"You know, I went around looking, and yes, everything I saw in my childhood, I saw it here," he said. "And the memories it brings back, they're very beautiful."

Editor's Note: All interviews were conducted in Spanish. Their quotes have been translated to English for this story.

X: @halienwg



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# Genre-agnostic dance party series NO VISA comes back to Chapel Hill

## BOOK BRIEFS

### Four new books with N.C. roots

#### “Touch ‘Em All”

Former Daily Tar Heel sports editor Larry Keith has released his second book, “Touch ‘Em All,” recounting his life and his career at Sports Illustrated. Keith graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill in 1969 and has also previously worked as the sports director of WCHL.

#### “The Youngest One in the Room”

UNC Hussman School of Journalism and Media graduate Dayna Adelman released her first memoir, “The Youngest One in the Room,” detailing a decade of developing her international communications career. Adelman graduated in 2010 and currently works as the senior vice president at LSG, a public affairs company.

#### “Oathbound”

UNC graduate and #1 New York Times bestselling author Tracy Deonn released her newest book, “Oathbound,” earlier this year. The book is the third in her contemporary fantasy series, “The Legendborn Cycle.” Deonn graduated from UNC with a master’s degree in communication and performance studies.

#### “The Tattered Cover”

North Carolinian author Ellery Adams is set to release her newest book, “The Tattered Cover,” on Oct. 28. It is the eighth book in her series, “The Secret, Book & Scone Society,” and is a mystery that follows residents of the fictional Miracle Springs, North Carolina.

— Lola Oliverio

Continued from Page 1

Lomami said that many traditional nightclubs have separate rooms for hip hop, house and pop, but NO VISA lineups avoid such segmentation.

“We kind of wanted something a little more chaotic and challenging, where you throw everything onto the dance floor,” Lomami said. “We had no idea if it would work — it was just something we wanted to do for ourselves.”

Drawing on their backgrounds as immigrants themselves, Lomami and Tamabashe also envision NO VISA as much more than a single night out. Their parties are a space where differences are celebrated and fuel a larger community-building project. A good time is accessible to anyone, so long as they have “the will to dance.”

#### Chapel Hill roots

The first NO VISA party took place in 2019 at Nightlight Bar, a now-shuttered DIY venue on Rosemary Street. Nightlight’s 18+ policy allowed a larger swath of undergraduates to attend and Lomami said UNC students were pivotal to NO VISA’s early success.

UNC alum and Durham resident Tajin Proctor began attending NO VISA in the Nightlight days with fellow DJ friends in the University’s chapter of the arts and literary fraternity, St. Anthony Hall.

Now, Proctor frequents NO VISA parties at PS37 and other local venues.

“NO VISA is really something to look forward to,” Proctor said. “Just because of the taste level.”

Their immersion into the Triangle dance music scene inspired Proctor to teach himself how to perform live music. They now hope



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALEC LOMAMI

People gather at a NO VISA dance party on July 12 in Durham.

to play at a NO VISA party under their moniker, ursomajor.

Proctor also said that attendees are always eager to hear new sounds and often stand behind the DJ, encouraging crowd engagement in the style of Boiler Room.

Reflecting on the Durham rave scene as a whole, Proctor said that NO VISA and other DJ collectives like Party Illegal and VEXXX are dedicated to centering DJs from marginalized backgrounds — particularly queer people of color.

Many of Proctor’s UNC friends have now moved to New York City to pursue their music careers, but, despite cultural biases and a comparative lack of independent

music infrastructure, Proctor is optimistic that Durham will continue to be a creative hotbed.

“People underestimate the South, in general, in terms of what creativity can be fostered here,” Proctor said.

Last July, Lomami and Tambashe honored NO VISA’s Chapel Hill roots with a smaller-scale party at The Cave, an intimate underground bar on West Franklin Street known for Monday jazz nights and its cavern-like interior.

“The show had a sweet, open-minded, energetic and unpretentious crowd,” Brooklyn-based producer and DJ, nextdimensional, wrote in a statement.

Kofi Buansi, a Durham Technical Community College student, went to the homecoming party at The Cave, and said it was one of the few times he has been out in the Triangle and heard club music that excited him, showing the appeal of NO VISA’s mission.

“Nowadays, you can go to a club that plays it safe and they’re playing nothing but nostalgic pop but when you’ve heard it 10,000 times, it loses authenticity,” Buansi said. “[At NO VISA], it’s remixed, but it feels original.”

X: @dthlifestyle

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POSERS

# ‘Performative male contest’ finds its way to UNC

Matcha lattes and wired earbuds attract crowd to the Pit

By Marion Rambler  
Staff Writer

On Friday evening, over one hundred students gathered in front of the Student Stores, eagerly awaiting the start of an event that’s been popping up at universities across the nation: a performative male contest.

The concept of the “performative male” has taken the online world by storm. While the term itself lies in modern trends, the idea is akin to the 1970s term, “posers.” In sum, the “performative male” is one who superficially adopts interests, aesthetics and beliefs in order to appeal to women. This could include listening to female artists, playing up a feminine persona or simply curating a style they believe a woman would be attracted to.

The contest was advertised by UNC Lookalike Events through YikYak and flyers posted around campus.

The contestants began by strutting in a circle around the Pit, showing off their best interpretation of a performative man. Key items and accessories included an iced matcha latte, a tote bag and wired earbuds. Additionally, some participants brought guitars to strum or books to read as they walked.

“I’ve obviously been a performative man all my life,”

contestant Tarun Rudrashetty said. “But after my friends told me [about the contest], I don’t know, I saw the competition to everybody and I feel like I needed to show my performative side.” Rudrashetty’s tote bag included vegan popcorn, a journal, “Pride and Prejudice” by Jane Austen and a receipt for the not one, but two matcha lattes he had purchased before the contest.

Just after 6 p.m., the contestants took a seat and awaited their turn to perform. One by one, they took to the middle of The Pit to announce their favorite woman — with answers ranging from Charli XCX to Mother Nature — and show off the contents of their bag.

The contest lasted over an hour and the audience remained interactive throughout. The judging was based on applause, so contestants did their best to add their own flair during their turn. Some empathized with the female experience while others played popular indie songs like “Riptide” by Vance Joy.

“I’ve never heard so many men talk about menstruation before,”

“I’ve obviously been a performative man all my life.”

Tarun Rudrashetty  
Performative male contest competitor

onlooker Lily Gray said.

One participant took another approach during their turn, holding a sign reading “My culture is not your costume,” feigning protest and emphasizing the real existence of performative men.



DTH/JOEY FORGIONE

A contestant carries props and accessories during the “performative male contest” in the Pit on Friday, Sept. 5.

Despite the contest’s goal of acting like a man, it was open to participants of all genders.

Gray attended the evening’s contest in support of her friend, Vivian, who was competing. She said she thought a girl should win the contest because only a woman would understand the true peak performative male, as the goal is to appease women.

“I guess you could be a performative male, but you can’t be a performative male as well as you can be a performative woman

pretending to be a performative male,” Gray said.

Contestant Esther Yu found out about the contest after seeing one of the posters on her walk back from class.

“I was really just going to watch, and then 10 minutes before, I was like, what if I just compete instead?” Yu said. “I feel like I have all the qualities of [a performative male].”

Yu came ready to compete in a t-shirt from an indie music festival and “Adam’s Curse: A Future Without Men” by Bryan Sykes, a book describing a scientific theory about the possible extinction of men.

Though the aim was to win the embroidered sash that would offer the highest honor of the best “performative male,” there was little animosity between contestants, as they offered each other high-fives and fist-bumps in between turns.

While the contest was meant to poke fun at an internet trend, the positive turnout suggested genuine interest in student-based events. Gray said she thinks it should be a yearly tradition.

“It’s fun when we have student-run, non-UNC events like this,” Yu said. “And it’s just purely word of mouth.”

X: @dthlifestyle

TAILGATE UPGRADES

# ‘Chapel Thrill Game Day’ experience rings in Belichick era with concert

Country singer Chase Rice headlines the free live performance

By Rebecca Savidge  
Assistant Lifestyle Editor

Bill Belichick’s introduction as the new head coach of the UNC football team has changed the entire landscape of Carolina football — and that includes the pregame festivities.

This year, UNC athletics introduced the new Chapel Thrill Game Day experience, which took place in the hours before kickoff. Events included the Coca-Cola Fan Zone in the Pit, a reintroduction of the Old Well Walk, a performance by UNC’s Marching Tar Heels, an admission-free concert and an upgraded version of the Modelo Kickoff Club, featuring food trucks and tailgating.

“I guess the inspiration for [it] was multifold,” Deputy Athletic Director Rick Barakat said. “But, one certainly driven by all the excitement, attention and awareness around Carolina football, and after the hiring of Coach Belichick, we wanted to capitalize on that momentum. So we just think there’s a void to fill there in terms of game day entertainment and pregame experience.”

Monday’s first headliner in the Chapel Thrill Concert Series was UNC alumnus and country singer Chase Rice.

Rice played football at UNC in the mid 2000s during which he learned how to play guitar at Ehringhaus Residence Hall as a first-year at the University, leaving him with strong ties to the school.

Rice was initially looking for tickets to the first game of the season until Rick Steinbacher, senior associate athletic director,



DTH/CONNOR RUESCH

People walk by Wilson Library during the Chapel Thrill pre-game events on Sept. 1.

reached out to ask Rice to play the first concert in the series — leading to his first visit to Chapel Hill in three years.

“I knew I was coming anyway,” Rice said. “So that was a perfect storm. It just came together, which allows me to come play. I love music. I love getting to do what I do.”

The decision of the organizers of the event to select Rice as the opener of the series was an easy one.

The team wanted to identify an artist they felt really understood UNC, the game day environment

and the need to lean into something new and different, which Rice immediately embraced.

“Because he is a former Tar Heel and football player, that

“I think mostly everyone’s really excited that it kind of brings more attention to the area of campus that we have traditionally been in on game days.”

AJ Schlemmer  
UNC marching band field conductor

connectivity just made even more sense,” Barakat said.

A few hours before kickoff, UNC’s campus was filled with seas of Carolina Blue from Franklin

Street to Kenan Stadium. Fans were tailgating at the Bell Tower, congregating by the Pit and covering every inch of Polk Place, anticipating both the arrival of Rice and the start

of a new era of Carolina football. While crowds were already gathering at 4 p.m., Rice took to the stage at 6 p.m. in front of Wilson Library and began his set.

He mentioned his ties to UNC as an alumnus and former football player, and said that this was the coolest thing he had ever seen UNC do.

Following Rice’s performance, which concluded with his ode to UNC, “Carolina Can,” the UNC marching band took to the stage to perform before the event officially ended.

To AJ Schlemmer, field conductor for the UNC marching band, the upgraded game day experience allows the band to be more involved and helps bring interesting people to the area.

“I think mostly everyone’s really excited that it kind of brings more attention to the area of campus that we have traditionally been in on game days,” he said. “It will allow us to share our school spirit with Tar Heel fans who might not have known about our traditions before this season.”

Around an hour before the game started, the concert series and major aspects of the Chapel Thrill Game Day experience concluded.

Before the event on Monday, Barakat was hoping to provide an environment for students to meet in one centralized area close to the stadium and perhaps develop a new game day routine.

“It’s an evolving process because this is new,” he said. “So, you know, we need to run a couple games and see what the traffic flow looks like, what fan behavior is, and I’m sure we’ll continue to iterate our approach.”

Though the organizers are still waiting to hear official feedback, at the very least, the turnout of the day’s festivities show that UNC fans are interested in the new-and-improved game day experience.

Staff writer Shreya Senthilkumar contributed reporting on this story.

X: @dthlifestyle



COLUMN

UNC shouldn't sacrifice its ethics for a roster

By Cooper Hall  
Columnist

One of the best parts of being a student at UNC is the sports. A night spent in the Dean E. Smith Center, Kenan Stadium or Carmichael Arena is a night well spent. Bellowing cheers among a mass of other students all clad in Carolina blue guarantees an experience of intoxicating fun.

But the experience of waving a pom-pom and twisting your arms to spell out Carolina while a UNC team plays in front of you is understandably tainted when a member of the team you're cheering for has a history of violence or abuse. Players who are connected to assault or sexual misconduct don't deserve a spot on any roster.

AJ Ferrari, a wrestler formerly charged with sexual battery, committed to UNC wrestling in April 2025. Although, Ferrari ended up flipping to the University of Nebraska in June; the change, according to various sports media outlets, seemed to come after the University denied him admission. The wrestling team, on the other hand, was seemingly ready to welcome him with open arms.

This year, Zayden High returned to the ready and waiting basketball roster. High didn't play in the 2024-25 season after facing a one-semester suspension in August 2024 for violating the University's policy on sexual misconduct. He will play for the team this season, despite a possible lawsuit over whether it was ensured that he followed the disciplinary actions outlined for him during his suspension.

These situations demonstrate that the athletic department continually prioritizes having the best possible starting line up over adhering to the ethics that UNC claims to uphold.



DTH DESIGN/GRACE DAVIDSON

This problem isn't unique to UNC. Louisiana State University recently settled a lawsuit with 10 women after the athletic department intentionally failed to properly

criminal allegations. In 70 percent of those incidents, athletes never faced charges or were not prosecuted.

Athletes, especially at a university like ours where sports are so vital to the culture, represent a school. With the responsibility to act for our University comes the obligation to embody the ideals that college is supposed to

represent our school, the athletic department is making a statement for UNC about its standards and to what extent the University is willing to compromise their morals. It's essential to be more stringent of who we are letting represent us.

From a fan perspective, the situation worsens. Not only is it embarrassing for players like this to represent your alma mater — it feels wrong, inappropriate and shameful to cheer them on. Students and fans alike put athletes on a pedestal. When athletes are also people with a history of sexual misconduct, we end up with an arena full of people rooting for their good plays and begging for pictures, instead of

speaking up against their misguided actions and demanding justice.

At UNC, sports are the be-all and end-all — but even here, some things must matter more. It's not far-fetched to say our moral code should weigh more than the chance to win a few extra games. Chanting "Go Heels!" in a crowded stadium shouldn't have to remind us of an underlying ethical problem. It's possible to sing "Hark the Sound" after a game without feeling guilty. The athletes we cheer on shouldn't be people we're ashamed to admit we support.

X: @dthopinion

"Not only is it embarrassing for players like this to represent your alma mater — it feels wrong, inappropriate and shameful to cheer them on."

Cooper Hall  
Columnist

report claims of sexual misconduct against student athletes. From 2009 to 2014, Florida State University had 66 student athletes involved in

stand for. By allowing athletes with these types of events in their past to compete on our teams, and therefore

KVETCH OF THE DAY

By Emily Gessner  
Kvetching Board Editor

**kvetch:** v. 1 (Yiddish) to complain

The DTH's Kvetching Board, a section in each print edition and online, opens up our publication to anyone who wants to voice their opinion, their complaints and their small wins. You can submit entries through an online form, with cycles running Tuesday to Monday each week to fit our print schedule.

If you're anything like me, you only made it two weeks into the semester before needing the Labor Day weekend break. Thank goodness for holiday weekends. Now we just need to hold out until fall break.

Last week, we saw our first student lottery ticket problems of the year. One Kvetching Board entry summed up the frustration anyone without a ticket will be feeling for the rest of the semester.

**"Stop being a jerk and trying to sell student tickets that are free. No one likes you"**

The Pit has also returned to its full capacity with students, and Pit preachers, everywhere.

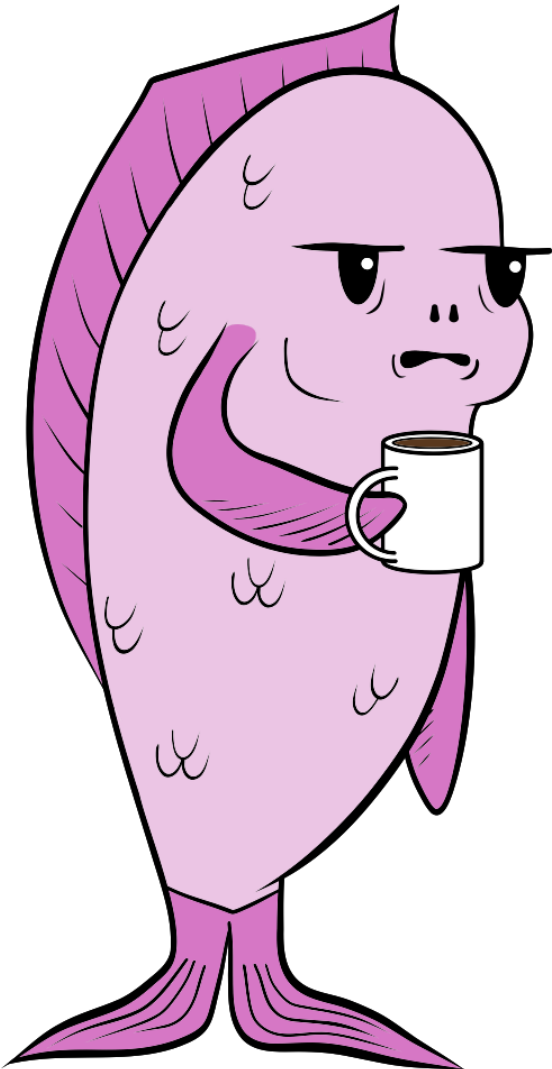
**"Howdy stranger, no I do not want your cartoon pamphlets that want to 'share the gospel.' I want to go to my 3:30 class"**

The Chapel Hill bar scene is back in full swing. Lines on Franklin Street outside Goodfellows and the sticky upstairs bar at He's Not Here remain full. A lot of people have different views on tipping, especially at bars, especially from broke college students, but this entry offers a take for consideration during your next night out.

**"How is it that every year students forget how tipping culture works? If you want your bartenders to like you, 20% is the BARE MINIMUM, people! Service industry folks make like \$5/hr most places to keep the cost of your drinks low, so please spare an extra dollar on your \$4 beer for them."**

Anyway, enjoy this last entry, and be sure to submit your own at our form online for a chance to have your kvetch in next week's column.

**"If I see 'kiosks has crashed, please wait for app to respond' one more time at my local subway I am going to fall into insanity. Please fix your god forsaken technology that is completely unnecessary, puts more stress on the workers and makes me wait almost an hour for my six-inch steak & cheese. If it ain't broke, don't fix it."**





COLUMN

# Roy Cooper must break the ‘Southern Democrat’ mold

By Owen Baxter  
Columnist

Back in July, after months of speculation, former Governor Roy Cooper launched his 2026 Senate campaign, vying for the seat currently held by Republican Senator Thom Tillis, who announced in June he wouldn't be seeking a third term.

Cooper, who has never lost an election — including four statewide ones — is seen by many as the only hope for Democrats to gain a North Carolina senator, which hasn't happened since 2008. Assuming he wins his party's nomination, Cooper will fight to help Democrats take back the Senate.

Cards on the table: I want Cooper to be elected. But I really don't want him to suck — that will require him to break out of the mold of the Southern Democrat that has had such a stranglehold on North Carolina.

For years, this state's politics have been dominated by boring, milquetoast, “centrist” Democrats who offer no real political change, only promising that they won't execute most of the worst ideas Republicans champion. The prevailing logic is that this appeals to right-leaning voters.

Obviously, it doesn't, as Cooper knows well. He had to spend most of his time as governor fighting the damage Republicans were inflicting, instead of putting forth his own agenda. This puts Cooper in a unique position: we know a lot of what he

doesn't support, but not much about what he does, especially on a national level. This gives his campaign the opportunity to define who he is.

There are two paths Roy Cooper could follow: the path of Dan Osborn and Andy Beshear, or the path of Joe Manchin. These politicians come from deep-red states — that Trump won in 2024 by 20, 30 and 41 points, respectively — but their politics are wildly different.

As governor of Kentucky, Beshear has leaned into progressive messaging. He's gone on the offense on controversial voter issues — producing one of the most effective abortion defenses I've ever seen, backing workers during strikes and vetoing anti-trans legislation. Not only did Beshear win twice, but he's also one of the most popular Democratic governors in the country.

Dan Osborn's 2024 Senate campaign in Nebraska reinforces the same lesson: running to the right in conservative states isn't the best strategy. Osborn, a union leader who ran as an Independent, built his campaign around economic populist policies like raising minimum wage and taxing the rich. Even though he lost, he outperformed Kamala Harris by 14 points and the previous Democratic Senate candidate by 12.

Manchin, on the other hand, is the worst-case scenario for a Southern Democrat. The West Virginia senator positioned himself as the most conservative Democrat in the



DTH FILE/GRACE RICHARDS

Former North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper speaks at a Joe Biden rally in Raleigh on June 28, 2024.

chamber and effectively derailed the Biden administration. Despite his claims, these actions weren't taken to placate a conservative voting base but to appease his wealthy donors. In fact, many of the policies he blocked are vastly popular across the political spectrum.

That's part of what's so frustrating about these Southern Democrats: they

completely misread the people they claim to represent. What's moderate on Capitol Hill is the opposite of what's moderate in the rest of the country: populism. Yet Southern Democrats run as far from it as possible.

As Cooper begins his campaign, I urge him to read the political moment. People want a fighter — someone who will protect the interests of the working

class. They want someone who will fundamentally change the status quo and oppose the corrupt system we've been suffering under. Roy Cooper has a real opportunity — not just to win an election, but to reshape our region's politics and redefine what a Southern Democrat can be, for the better.

X: @dthopinion

COLUMN

## Referencing the Bible in class? Contextualize it first.

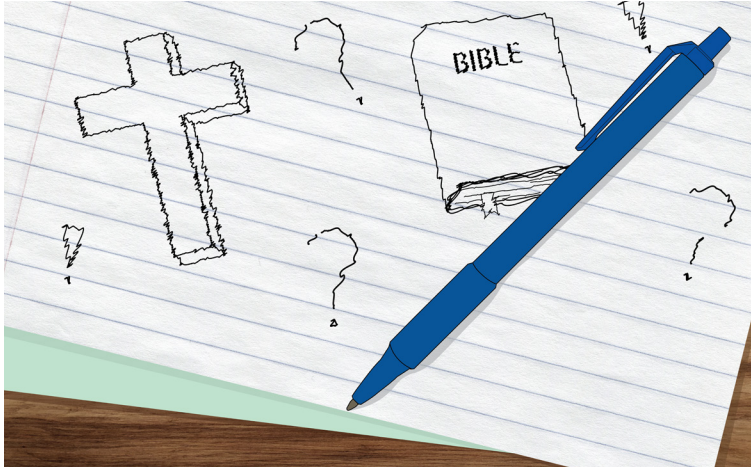
By Anna Gage  
Columnist

I was born and raised in Toronto, Canada — where the bacon is maple-flavored, the health care is free and the communities are secular. While there are certainly Canadians who believe in God, religion doesn't bring us together. In fact, a 2021 study from the Association for Canadian Studies reported that 67 percent of Canadians never attend church services.

For me, this meant I was rarely exposed to Christianity. While this did not cause issues at my high school, where I was surrounded by other similarly nonreligious individuals, it became a problem in my college life. At UNC, my humanities classes often assume all students are Christian, and frequently reference the Bible without providing context. Even though this might be an understandable phenomenon, it shouldn't be normalized in the classroom to ensure diverse perspectives can participate in the conversation. Professors should make a habit of briefing students on biblical content relating to a book, similar to how they brief on historical context.

Unlike Canada, North Carolina has some of the highest church attendance rates in the United States — 57 percent of North Carolinians attend church at least once per year. At UNC, 82 percent of students are residents of North Carolina. And even if these students are not religious, it's more likely they've been exposed to the Bible simply because their surrounding communities and neighborhoods are more religious. It makes statistical sense why professors assume at least a baseline exposure to Christian literature in their students, and thus do not explain biblical content.

Usually, discussions of biblical themes in class follow a similar pattern — the professor points out that a line in a novel we're reading contains important themes from



DTH DESIGN/AMANDA HESS

one of the Gospels, my classmates nod and then we move on. They've clearly learned something. But I'm left wondering: who is John, and why did he write such a long book?

Suddenly, on top of an existing course load, I have biblical background research to do, with no context of where to start and what the value of this background knowledge is. This is what humanities and social sciences classes look like for many atheist, agnostic and non-Christian students at UNC.

The challenges faced by non-Christians affect all students in the classroom. When we lack the same background knowledge as the rest of the class, we become unable to fully participate in class discussions, which means our peers miss out on a new perspective. Perhaps we relate the book we're reading to something other than the Bible. How successful can a humanities class be without the opportunity for thoughtful questions and meaningful conversation?

Of course, there are students in every class who have a leg up on others. Many undergraduates have an inherent knack for their major of choice, or spend their spare time learning about it. However, advantages in biblical knowledge are distinct from these other categories.

Unlike biology or American history, which residents of North Carolina are

required to take to graduate high school, Bible studies isn't mandatory — and it shouldn't be. This means that families' backgrounds are giving certain students an advantage in the classroom, and excluding others from discussions. The problem isn't the difference in religion, it's how it's handled in the classroom.

Some changes must be made to ensure all students are briefed on the biblical conversation at hand. These changes are just that: briefings.

When learning about a book in class, the professor typically does an introductory lecture that includes important historical context about the author and the contents of the novel. If the book includes references to Christianity, professors should include context on these during such briefings.

Then, all students gain the tools to actively engage in classroom discussion. Whether or not they choose to agree with the biblical connections the professor suggests becomes their choice. Ideally, under these modifications, we can hope to create a space where everyone, regardless of religious affiliation, can participate in intellectual discussion.

X: @dthopinion

GUEST ESSAY

## Our university must protect the freedom to disagree

During the first week of classes, the UNC administration ordered the concealment and subsequent removal of a mural from Hanes Art Center, which was created in support of the Palestinian people by some students enrolled in a faculty-led art course, as well as other community members.

Many students and faculty have viewed this action as a direct attack on academic freedom and free speech.

As student body president, I represent over 32,000 students in a time of uncertainty and division. Whether you agreed or disagreed with the mural's message, the issue with this action is not about the content but instead whether our university will uphold the same protections for all forms of expression.

The mural was destroyed beyond repair, and the artists will never be able to retrieve their work. We must insist that the administration treat this decision as a turning point for intervention in regulating speech. Instead of erasing expression, the University could have embraced the marketplace of ideas and opened space for more perspectives, such as encouraging an opposing mural to stand nearby.

As an academic institution built on liberal education principles, UNC should be a space where students meet new perspectives and learn to coexist with differences. The true purpose of a liberal education comes from its Latin origin, “liber,” meaning an education that frees the mind. That same spirit is reflected in art, which naturally makes us sit with discomfort and wrestle with new perspectives.

In *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District* (1969), the Supreme Court affirmed that, regardless

of anyone's specific viewpoints, educational institutions must respect and protect the rights to freedom of speech and expression. Legal standards stipulate that administrations cannot censor protected speech unless it incites violence, constitutes harassment or violates narrow “time, place, and manner” restrictions. This mural did not do that, according to a determination by the Office of University Council last fall. If we truly believe in America's commitment to “law and order,” then we must follow the law when it comes to free speech.

In our undeniably fractured society, respectful discourse has become increasingly difficult to achieve. Some argue that universities should “play it safe” and avoid expressions that might cause division altogether. However, administrators should not use “division” as a reason to set strict boundaries of free expression and academic freedom — doing so will only end opportunities for productive disagreement.

We should not allow free expression to justify intimidation or harassment, and we must acknowledge that art and words can make people feel uncomfortable and unsafe. However, universities can address safety concerns without silencing one group to appease another. We must defend ideas that make us uncomfortable if they remain within legally protected rights — if we only support the ideas that a select few agree with, we risk losing the essence of higher education.

This was an unfortunate and irreversible loss, but it should also be a chance for UNC to recommit itself to protecting the freedom to disagree. Not doing so would mean abandoning its very purpose as a university.

— Adolfo Alvarez, 2025-26 student body president



# Sports

## The Daily Tar Heel

### Despite win over Charlotte, Tar Heels fail to impress

Continued from Page 1

to junior wide receiver Chris Culliver to strike early. Just 59 seconds in, North Carolina led 7-0.

“Our staff does a great job preparing for the game, you know, preparing throughout the week for our openers,” Lopez said.

Against TCU, the Tar Heels scored on their initial drive but didn’t add on until the last minute of the third quarter, while allowing 41 unanswered points in that stretch.

And Saturday, a similar lull happened.

This time, a 49-yard field goal by senior kicker Rece Verhoff extended the lead on the second drive midway through the first quarter, but from there, UNC resorted back to stagnant habits that plagued them in the season opener.

UNCC answered with consecutive 11-play drives of 60 and 71 yards thanks to wide open receivers downfield. The first drive resulted in a field goal for the 49ers, but fortunately for the Tar Heels, a botched 26-yard attempt on the following one kept the touchdown lead intact. Still, UNC wasn’t in full control.

“We know that there’s still a lot of growing to do,” redshirt senior defensive back Gavin Gibson said. “We’re not trying to get too high [and] we don’t want to get too low.”

After three consecutive unproductive drives for the

offense, North Carolina drove 80 yards in just under three minutes to add another touchdown to the lead with 13 seconds left in the first half. Sophomore running back Davion Gause burst into the end zone to put the Tar Heels up 17-3 in his first score of the season.

“That was a big swing for us,” Belichick said.

Even following an inconsistent first half, UNC dominated the scoreboard. But it just didn’t feel that way.

Not much changed heading into the second half.

North Carolina punted on four of its five possessions while only putting up 64 total yards. Lopez tallied just 10 passing yards and five completions after the break.

Defensively, the Tar Heels continued to stifle the UNCC run game, holding them to 21 total rushing yards. On the flip side, UNC allowed 152 yards through the air and 12 total first downs in the second half.

All week, players said that Belichick and the staff preached improvement on fundamentals, tackling and competing. UNC experienced growth from last week’s tough loss, but recognized



DTH/HAYDON BODE  
UNC linebacker Khmori House (7) tries to recover a fumble during the game against Charlotte on Saturday, Sept. 6.

“Certainly a lot of room for improvement. We can do a better job in all the areas. Coaching, fundamentals, playing, [we] missed some opportunities.”

**Bill Belichick**  
UNC football head coach

to have the short week and get that taste out of our mouth [from last week],” Lopez said. “We still didn’t play our best ball at all.”

While UNCC’s drives in the second half were effective, North Carolina stood tall and kept

them out of the end zone. The Tar Heels forced a turnover on downs early in the third quarter and used late interceptions from redshirt first-year defensive back Greg Smith and sophomore defensive back Malcolm Ziglar to put the exclamation point on an impressive defensive output.

The result went to plan for UNC, and Belichick secured his first victory at North Carolina in his typical grind-it-out fashion.

“Certainly a lot of room for improvement,” Belichick said. “We can do a better job in all the areas. Coaching, fundamentals, playing, [we] missed some opportunities.”

X: @dthsports

#### VETERANS

### UNC women’s soccer records first Power Four win of the season

The Tar Heels beat Alabama, 4-0, behind Kate Faasse’s two goals

**By Harry Crowther**  
Senior Writer

Bella Devey has some serious bounce. The first-year midfielder proved it after scoring her third goal of the season on Thursday.

Devey cut inside on her right foot just outside the area and fired a shot toward the goal. The ball took a deflection off a defender and sailed into the back of the net. Devey then ran toward the UNC bench. She launched herself into a cartwheel, using the springs in her boots and contorting her body in mid-air to perform a backflip. She stuck the landing to the awe and delight of her teammates.

There were no judges present, but even professional soccer players Romelu Lukaku and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang might have been impressed.

“Sometimes you just got to let your young ones go out there and be who they are,” head coach Damon Nahas said. “That celebration was a product of that. They’ve been working on it for a while.”

Bella’s backflip put an exclamation point on a comprehensive and convincing 4-0 victory for the No. 23 North Carolina women’s soccer team against Alabama Thursday night at Dorrance Field. The win marked four straight for the Tar Heels and their first against a Power Four opponent this season.

Sophomore midfielder Linda Ullmark recorded three assists in the



DTH/AVA SHARON  
UNC senior forward/midfielder Kate Faasse (13) waves to the crowd before the game on Thursday, Sept. 4.

game, becoming the first UNC player to do that since Avery Patterson in 2022. 2024 Mac Hermann Trophy winner senior forward Kate Faasse scored twice — marking her second brace of the season. She now leads the team with five goals and 13 points in the first seven games.

“There was such a balance,” Nahas said. “We have such a young team that you just saw them go for it. They were brave. They did the defensive work. They had the creative moments. The

goals were phenomenal. Our core value for this month is selflessness. They were selfless today, and they were committed to win as a team.”

For Nahas and his squad, much of the preseason and opening run of fixtures has been about putting the pieces of a new team together, building confidence and relationships. The Tar Heels tested themselves early with road trips to Tennessee and Georgia, but failed to score a goal in those games, losing both 2-0. UNC

won four games at home against mid-major competition, but had yet to record a big win.

After a meeting on Wednesday, Nahas knew his three captains, Faasse, senior midfielder Tessa Dellarose and graduate goalkeeper Marisa Shorrock, were locked in and bought in. He also knew that would trickle down to the rest of the team because of their strong leadership.

“I felt that connection,” Ullmark said. “It’s been growing for a while.

We’ve had a couple of losses, so to find that connection and energy with the entire team, we brought our game to a whole new level.”

Ullmark was at the center of the action in the 22nd minute Thursday when she picked the ball up in the midfield and spotted a run from Faasse down the right flank. She slipped a through ball in between the lines right into Faasse’s stride. Junior forward Olivia Thomas darted into the six-yard box, and Faasse squared it to her right boot. Thomas made no mistake.

It was the first of three beautiful team goals that left Alabama’s defense in shambles. Connection and trust on full display.

For goals two and three, Ullmark linked up with Faasse twice more. On both occasions, Faasse made a perfectly-timed run in behind. Ullmark spotted it and put the ball on a platter. One pass knifed through the Alabama center backs, the other flew over them. Faasse dispatched them both.

“I always know Kate will get to the ball,” Ullmark said. “So I’m not afraid to try tricky passes to get it to her.”

On the same night that the Tar Heels celebrated their historic 2024 national championship in a pregame ceremony, this year’s squad took a large leap forward in building a title defense.

Like the backflip, they played with serious bounce.

“Every team’s a little different,” Nahas said. “You got to learn about them. They got to find belief. And today was a big step in that direction.”

X: @dthsports



WEEKEND WRAP-UP

# Lauren Schutter helps UNC volleyball stay undefeated

The middle blocker was key in wins over Bucknell, Oral Roberts

By Marvin Lee  
Staff Writer

Just 839 people live in Lauren Schutter's hometown of Alma, Kansas. It's a one-stoplight town. Her high school, Wabaunsee Senior High School, has 124 total students and her graduating class was just 29 seniors.

Her practices and competitions at her club team, the Kansas City Power, were a three-hour round trip drive away.

"We have pretty limited opportunities for what sports are there," Schutter said.

On Sunday, the redshirt junior middle blocker made her first career start. Schutter dominated in the 3-0 sweep of Oral Roberts, getting off to a thunderous start in the first set, recording five blocks.

She started the second set as well, with a kill for the first point of the set, and nabbing her career-high sixth block just minutes later. She finished with seven blocks and two kills, only playing two sets.

"She's a really good example of our focus on development in our program," head coach Mike Schall said. "She's worked hard; every year she gets a little bit better."

Coming from that small town and school, Schutter didn't let

anything stop her. She was a state champion in the long jump and the triple jump, all-state in basketball and three-time first team all-state in volleyball.

Her mom, Amy Schutter, was the head volleyball coach at Wabaunsee for two seasons before she passed away from the flu when Lauren was in first grade. Amy was also an English teacher, inspiring Lauren's creative side.

At Wabaunsee, in addition to being student council president, she was a sports beat writer and the social media manager for the WHS Chargers, making posts, videos and reels for the school's teams. It was there she discovered a passion for content creation, something she would rediscover at UNC's Hussman School of Media and Journalism.

As the No. 1 ranked player in Kansas, she started her career at Michigan State in 2022, but didn't see the floor the entire season. The 6-foot-2 middle blocker then transferred to UNC in 2023, becoming the second Kansan to play volleyball for North Carolina in program history.

But her watershed moment was late in the season against then No. 10 ranked SMU. The Tar Heels lost 3-1, but Schutter had a career-high six kills and five blocks.

This summer, Lauren embraced her creative side, landing a sports communications internship at the University of Hawai'i. When she



DTH/ALEX YANG

UNC redshirt junior middle blocker Lauren Schutter (3) celebrates a block kill during the game on Friday, Sept. 5.

returned to Chapel Hill in June, she interned with the athletic department, creating and editing content for the baseball and track and field teams.

"I really love seeing both sides of the game," Schutter said. "When you have an understanding of everything that goes on the court, it makes your experience off the court that much more

knowledgeable. You know how to picture things and how to put things together."

Last Friday, in a 3-1 win against Bucknell, Lauren made her first appearance of the season in the third set, recording six kills, a block, and a dig in just two sets, helping secure the win for the Tar Heels.

That momentum carried over to Sunday.

"This was my first career start, so it was a really big deal to me," Schutter said. "My teammates make me better every day, if I can block them, I can block anybody."

X: @dthsports

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RIVALRY

## Physicality fuels men's soccer in draw against No. 5 N.C. State

Tar Heels held strong defensive effort against the Wolfpack

By Connor Foote  
Senior Writer

During Friday night's rivalry matchup between UNC men's soccer and N.C. State, a long banner in the crowd read "Go to hell, Carolina."

And offensively, that's where North Carolina was all night.

The team recorded two shots on goal out of eight total and looked lost, seemingly without an offensive game plan. But a robust defensive display — including impressive saves from senior goalkeeper Andrew Cordes — kept the Wolfpack at bay for a 0-0 draw at Dail Soccer Field in UNC's first ACC matchup of the season.

North Carolina entered the day unranked after a loss to College of Charleston earlier in the week, dropping their record to 3-1. The Wolfpack, on the other hand, were hard-charging, tallying 10 goals and allowing none in each of the team's first three games of the year, enough to land them at No. 5 in the most recent United Soccer Coaches poll.

But the bravado didn't intimidate the Tar Heels.

"That's why we're here," graduate midfielder Andrew Czech said. "It's for stuff like this. Every game counts, but these are big, these are important."

N.C. State was a new test for the Tar Heels this season. Forward Donavan Phillip leads the ACC in shots and shots on goal, including a hat-trick in a six-goal win over Wofford on August 24. Yet, North Carolina held their ground against N.C. State's explosive offense.

"We kind of had a physicality problem at Charleston last week,



DTH/JOSEPH MOORE III

UNC graduate forward/midfielder Nacho Abeal (7) charges forward with the ball at the game against N.C. State on Friday, Sep. 5.

and we wanted to come into this game and say we're not going to let them bully us around," Czech said.

In the 26th minute, the Wolfpack thought they'd pulled ahead, but the play was called back for offside. From then on, it was a regular divisional slugfest.

"They'll all be something like that," head coach Carlos Somoano

"That's why we're here. It's for stuff like this. Every game counts, but these are big, these are important."

Andrew Czech  
UNC men's soccer goalkeeper

said. "Each game's gonna be its own individual — you can't tie them together. Every day's a new day for us and for our opponents."

The individual game was bruising. The two squads combined for 23 fouls and six yellow cards, including one presented to the Tar Heel bench in the 10th minute.

On the attack, North Carolina looked disjointed. A ten minute period in the first half revealed their offensive capabilities, but aside from a few scattered chances,

the rest of the game saw the team unable to consistently get the ball into the final third. UNC's best chance came in the 90th minute when late substitute junior midfielder Maclovio Swett's shot was deflected over the bar, putting to rest any ideas of a winner.

Thankfully for UNC, Cordes kept his cool. Although the senior goalkeeper hadn't recorded more than two saves in a game this season, that figure jumped to seven on Friday, more than tripling his season-high.

The performance Cordes put on is worthy of, he thinks, an elite team like North Carolina.

"I think we're one of the nation's top teams too," Cordes said. "Obviously, rankings or whatever they want to classify it as is a part of it, but I think we have a chance to go on and win the ACC. I think [today] was one step toward it."

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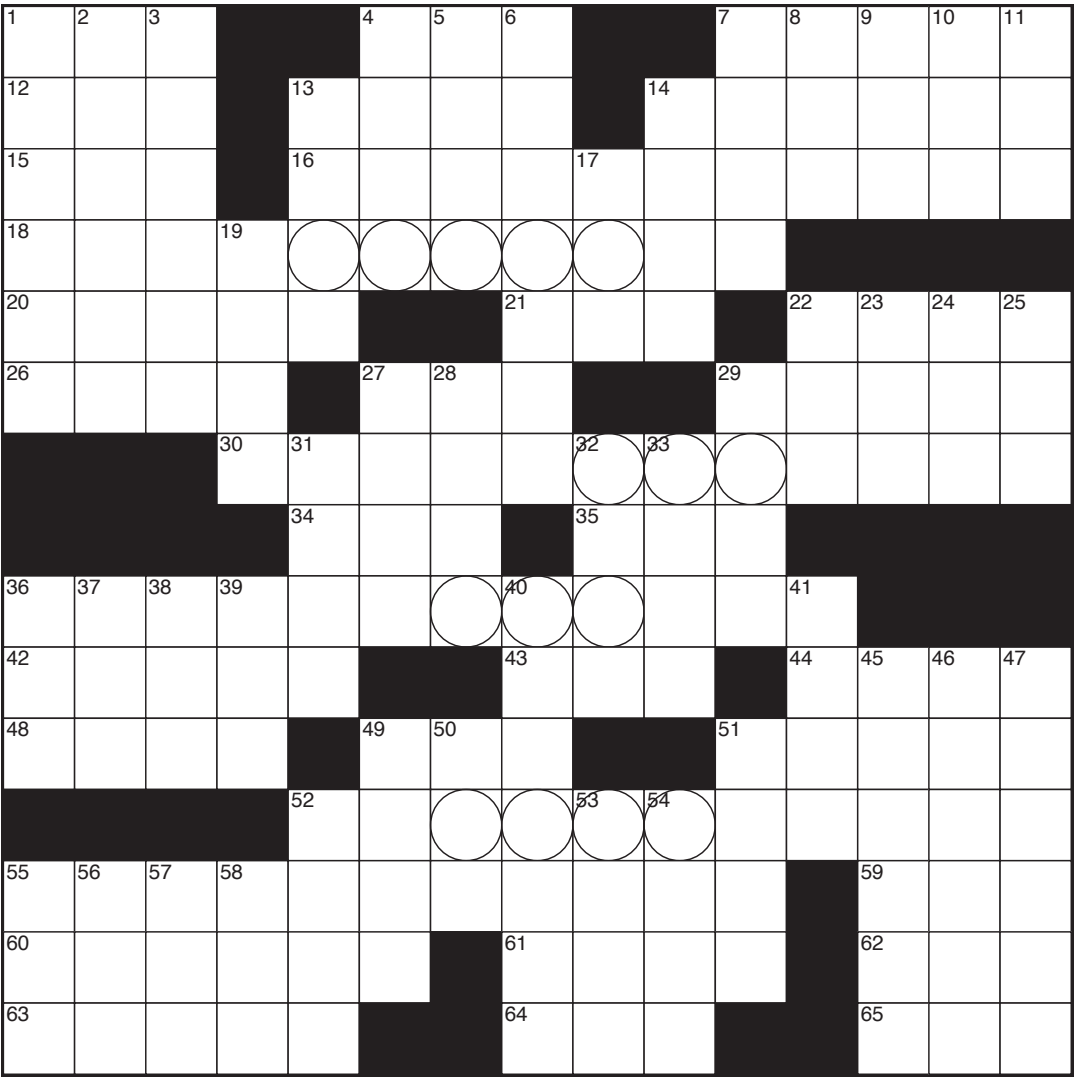


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“It’s All Greek to Me!”

This week’s puzzle was created by Brigit Pierce, The Daily Tar Heel Crossword Editor. Brigit is a junior studying Economics.

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ACROSS

- 1 Study at the last minute  
1 Flight approx.  
4 Org. where the lowest score wins the championship  
7 Left a review  
12 Brain scan letters  
13 “New” FDR legislation  
14 Run  
15 Governing body for UNC-CH, abbr.  
16 Perses’s forte, in Greek mythology  
18 Final days of the menstrual cycle  
20 Resin type  
21 Slayed, colloquially  
22 “Of course!”  
26 Flat-topped land formation  
27 Goodall and Fossey’s research subject  
29 Whitney Houston is every one of these, according to a 1992 song  
30 Mexican folk ensemble  
34 Drummond of “The Pioneer Woman”  
35 Cuckoo, across the pond  
36 Most basic accommodation  
42 Day of Pillow Talk  
43 Organic chemistry suffix  
44 Ninth letter of the Greek alphabet  
48 Site of the Fall  
49 Order to not perform CPR  
51 What one is likely to be doin’ after cookin’  
52 Dalai Lama, for example  
55 Scylla or Charybdis, for example  
59 Yearly car change  
60 Went before a judge, as a lawyer  
61 Iranian military gp.  
62 UNC Chancellor Roberts  
63 Like the circled letters in this puzzle

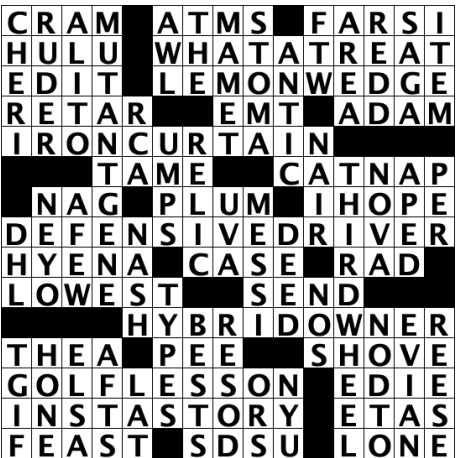
- 64 Money managing exec.  
65 “Ums” counterpart

DOWN

- 1 American seal  
2 Dance group  
3 Agrees  
4 Carrboro art gallery  
5 “How shocking!”  
6 Queen of Calydon, or a marshmallow plant  
7 Run a marathon, for example  
8 Classroom farm animal  
9 Mai \_\_\_\_  
10 Nwodim of SNL  
11 Bear’s living area  
13 June 6, 1944  
14 One of a Greek goddess nonet  
17 Spill the beans (on)  
19 Students’ end of year stressor  
22 Cry profusely  
23 The Bride in Kill Bill  
24 Participated in a 7-down  
25 Fairy tale closing  
27 Basic geometry calculation  
28 Raised beach structure  
29 Broad BRIGIT PIERCE  
31 UNC’s College of \_\_\_\_ and Sciences

- 32 “Let’s go!”  
33 Abhor  
36 Poetic praise  
37 Silent acknowledgement  
38 Before, in 36-down, perhaps  
39 Reciprocal of csc  
40 2024 A24 film about missionaries  
41 One half of Oasis  
45 Lead actor in Lawrence of Arabia  
46 More petite  
47 Often sprained joint  
49 Ran out of battery  
50 Celtic’s org.  
51 UNC ecology dept.  
52 Long journey  
53 Surf’s counterpart on a steakhouse menu  
54 Jason’s mythical ship  
55 Wear pants below the waist  
56 Inherently human action, according to Alexander Pope  
57 Get better, like fine wine  
58 Pool stick

Answers to  
“Aces of Clubs”



Classifieds

**SPORTS CHAUFFER NEEDED!:** Looking for an energetic individual to drive our 2 girls (ages 10 and 13) to their various sports practices on weekdays in the late afternoon/early evening in the Chapel Hill area. Weekly salary guaranteed. Reliable car and good references a must. Contact [ktrue72@gmail.com](mailto:ktrue72@gmail.com).

**NANNY/CHILD CARE:** Former school nurse available to assist with child care (part-time) beginning November 2025.

**LOCAL BAND ISO FEMALE SINGER:** Local indie rock band, Infinity City, in search of a female singer (songwriter/ instrumentalist a PLUS!). Listen: [infinitycity.hearnow.com](http://infinitycity.hearnow.com). Contact: [infinitycitymusic@gmail.com](mailto:infinitycitymusic@gmail.com)

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, LUCY!!!!!!:** From the fam <3

**PERSONAL ASSISTANT:** Chapel Hill artist, active senior with physical disabilities, seeks help around the apartment/studio. Flexible hours. 919 357 0289

**ARABIC TUTOR WANTED:** Looking for an Arabic tutor, 1-2 times a week, late afternoons. Student is 11 yo - must like kids! Writing & speaking. Text 919-607-0814 for more info.

Horoscopes



Today’s Birthday:  
September 10, 2025

This year, take the opportunity to learn as much as you possibly can about sharks. All your friends will think your fun shark facts are so cool, and everyone will want to be your friend. Here is one shark fact to get you started: hammerhead sharks have a 360 degree field of view. That’s why their heads are shaped like that.

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

ARIES

Today is a 5. The song Baby Shark will be stuck in your head for the remainder of the week.

TAURUS

Today is a 2. One of your ideas will be featured on the hit television program Shark Tank.

GEMINI

Today is a 1. You will live as long as a greenland shark. That’s a really long time. Like 200 years. The human body isn’t really meant to live that long so good luck with that.

CANCER

Today is a 3. Sometimes the best thing you can do is swim away from all your problems and eat plankton like the majestic whale shark.

LEO

Today is a 7. All your teeth will fall out, but they will luckily be replaced by other teeth. That’s how it goes sometimes.

VIRGO

Today is a 1. You will get bitten this week. Not necessarily by a shark, but definitely by something. Maybe a bug, maybe a small child. Be on the lookout.

LIBRA

Today is a 2. Shark attacks are actually extremely uncommon, so if it happens to you it’s lowkey your fault.

SCORPIO

Today is a 10. Discovery Channel is going to ask you to take over for Jason Momoa as the host of Shark Week. Be ready.

SAGITTARIUS

Today is an 8. Take some time out of your day to dive into the crystalline waters of the puddles left in the pit after it rains.

CAPRICORN

Today is a 9. Be mindful of single-use plastics. They are harmful to sea creatures, but also to you. Your blood is already like 80 percent microplastics. You can’t afford much more.

AQUARIUS

Today is a 1. Do something exciting. Try cage diving. It will probably not go horribly wrong. It’s not the sharks’ fault if you look delicious.

PISCES

Today is a 6. Did you know that there’s a kind of shark that can walk on land? Look it up.



FINANCIAL AID

## Students concerned with scholarship displacement

Federal and state policy impede prize money distribution

By Jessica Baugh  
Senior Writer

Hannah Zinn was thrilled to hear she had received a \$1,000 prize for winning a monthly competition for the Hearst Journalism Award Program. The program holds competitions throughout the year that reward college students for outstanding performance. The UNC Hussman School of Media and Journalism refers to the Hearst awards as the “Pulitzers of collegiate journalism.”

“I knew I wasn’t going to see that money, though,” Zinn said.

As a Carolina Covenant Scholar, she qualified for a financial aid package that aimed to help her graduate college debt-free. However, like multiple other students who spoke to The Daily Tar Heel, she said she didn’t know her prize would be automatically absorbed into her aid package.

She received \$1,000 less in financial assistance from the university to account for the award.

The Hearst program also holds a national championship with a much larger prize pool. Zinn won third place in that competition the summer after she graduated, winning a \$5,000 prize.

This time, she said she believed it would be different. Her tuition was paid. She was no longer a student and said she was counting on the award to help her transition into postgraduate life.

Zinn reached out to the University about her award following the competition in June. After persistent communication with multiple departments, Zinn said she received an email in August informing her that her \$5,000 award had been reallocated to her financial aid package from her senior year.

“Now, it’s been two months of me telling my dad and my sister, ‘Can I borrow more money? I’ll have my Hearst money soon, and I’ll be able to pay you back,’” she said in late August. “But I’ve been doing this for months now. I’m searching for jobs every day, but this was supposed to be my transition money.”

Zinn spoke with Jan Watten, the Hearst program director, who reached out directly to Raul Reis,



DTH DESIGN/HELAINA BALL

dean of Hussman, to ask about the status of Zinn’s award.

“As you know, this is an award and not a scholarship,” Watten wrote in the email to Reis.

Zinn was later told she would be given the \$5,000 from the competition directly. She received it on Sept. 4.

**‘They weren’t transparent’**

Zinn isn’t the only student who experienced difficulties after winning the Hearst award — multiple other students who spoke to The DTH said they didn’t know their money would be reallocated to their financial aid packages and expressed concerns about the process.

Marilee Combs, who won both a monthly and national Hearst award, said it was never communicated to her up front that she wouldn’t be receiving the money directly.

“I only found out after I reached out myself,” she said. “Even then, they weren’t transparent about what happened.”

Combs was not a Carolina Covenant Scholar, but was receiving outside financial aid to help pay for tuition and living expenses for her and her two-year-old daughter. She said she emailed persistently for two months, often

with no reply, before receiving \$1,700 of her \$3,000 award.

“It felt shady and disappointing, especially coming from a school that’s supposed to be focused on student success,” Combs said.

Lucas Pruitt, a Covenant Scholar who won \$10,000 and first place in the Hearst national competition in 2022, said his awards were displaced in the same way. Pruitt said he has seen this displacement impact Covenant scholars the most.

“Sadly, Covenant Scholars are already recognized by the school as having the highest level of financial hardship in the student body and yet they get a large portion of their award money taken,” Pruitt said.

Pruitt said it was “disheartening” to see how the journalism school proudly displayed his and other students’ awards while they weren’t receiving the money they had won.

A banner hanging from the ceiling in Carroll Hall — UNC’s media and journalism building — lists the years Hussman has won the National Collegiate Championship. The entryway to the building displays Hearst trophies.

“They are right to be proud of their students’ accomplishments, because Hearst Awards are a great achievement for the school and

students. But the winners deserve their award money,” Pruitt said.

**The reward process**

Hearst director Jan Watten said the program has no control over how universities award prize money to students once it is distributed.

“It’s an IRS regulation that we cannot provide any funds directly to the students,” Watten said. “Any awards are sent to the school for the student’s benefit. Every school has its own unique process.”

Watten said the way in which award money is distributed varies widely. She said that at smaller schools, the money is deposited into separate bank accounts and dispersed; bigger schools, she said, can take a bit longer to award money to students.

“It’s a big department, and it takes a while for the students to get their money,” Watten said.

She also noted that Hearst’s recent switch to bank transfers has sometimes caused additional confusion. Previously, checks were mailed and clearly stated which students the awards belonged to, but the new system delivers lump sums without a breakdown for each student.

“It’s never the intention of the school to not give the money to the student,” Watten said. “So many of

these schools are so big that it just takes time.”

In an email to The DTH, UNC Media Relations wrote that all outside awards, including Hearst prizes, must be considered part of a student’s financial aid package.

“Federal and state regulations state that all of a student’s aid combined — grants, loans, scholarships and more — cannot be more than the student’s financial need based upon their official Cost of Attendance (COA). The University is required to adjust aid when outside scholarships, departmental awards or other funding are added,” Media Relations wrote.

**A UNC-dominated award**

According to Media Relations, UNC Hussman has processed 17 Hearst awards for students and recent graduates over the past year. They said a range of individualized circumstances can be factors in the process for receiving awards.

“The process for UNC Hussman students who were among the most recent round of awardees notified by Hearst has been completed or is scheduled to be completed by Sept. 8,” Media Relations wrote in an email to The DTH.

Zinn said she has spoken with Hearst award-winning students at other universities who received their award money within weeks or days of the competition.

“UNC is consistently in the top two of these competitions, and they should have it figured out,” she said.

Pruitt said he has seen other Hearst winners use the money from their award to invest in camera gear or other equipment to advance their professional careers.

“Covenant Scholars and other students who have seen their award money taken without notice don’t get that same opportunity,” he said.

In May, Hussman won the Hearst National Championship for the seventh consecutive year. With help from students like Zinn, they won a \$15,000 award. The University receives an additional grant to match the amount each student earns.

“It feels like I’m just sort of working for Hussman,” Zinn said.

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BRAND STUDIO



# One of nine inaugural faculty members remain at SCiLL

Continued from Page 1

“If only Decosimo had put as much energy and imagination into his administrative work as he put into announcing his termination, there’s no telling what he might have accomplished,” he wrote in an email statement to The DTH.

These changes come months after multiple faculty members raised concerns about the integrity of SCiLL’s recent hiring search, which resulted in the hiring of seven new faculty members. This included Daniel DiSalvo, who is the only associate dean currently listed on SCiLL’s leadership page.

DiSalvo did not respond to The Daily Tar Heel’s request for comment by the time of publication.

“Schools devoted to leadership must model integrity, accountability, & openness to feedback,” Decosimo wrote in his thread on X. “They must not be led in authoritarian, tyrannical ways.”

for David’s utmost integrity and unyielding effort to pursue a hiring process that was entirely focused on merit and ability to contribute to SCiLL’s mission,” Williams said. “The state, UNC, and students are the biggest losers from the loss of David’s leadership.”

Williams said that Atkins “abuses discretion at every opportunity,” and that he did so throughout the hiring process. Katz said he worries about the future with Atkins in power at UNC.

Katz said he had an initial one-year agreement at SCiLL which he expected to be renewed. He said last August, he signed a “memorandum of understanding,” agreeing to become a research affiliate with SCiLL. He said that meant he would no longer teach, which was never made clear to him.

He resigned in September once he realized what his change in position entailed.

## ‘Unjust retaliation’: Decosimo’s firing, administrative changes

Decosimo’s dismissal is not the first instance of turnover within SCiLL’s leadership.

In March, English professor Inger Brodey resigned from her associate dean position. Brodey referred to the recent faculty search as being surrounded by “improprieties, slander, vindictiveness and manipulation” and said she had “lost faith” in Atkins’ leadership.

Jon Williams, a former member of the SCiLL advisory board, said he thinks Decosimo’s own concerns about the hiring search are what led to his dismissal.

Atkins’ summary of a Feb. 7 SCiLL faculty meeting obtained by The DTH show that Decosimo questioned the search process months before he was fired, asking “Are the higher ups at UNC confident in the propriety of the search?”

Atkins responded that he had spoken frequently with the “head of College HR” throughout the process and that he was confident in the integrity of the search, per the meeting summary.

An article by Inside Higher Ed revealed that Chris Clemens, UNC’s former provost, sent an email in January to Atkins in which he expressed concerns about the faculty search. Clemens wrote that there were financial limitations in continuing the search and that the school should initially focus on hiring teaching track professors instead of tenure-track faculty.

Brodey and Decosimo both resigned from the search committee in January.

“David’s firing appears to be an unjust retaliation by Dean Atkins

## Dwindling inaugural faculty

With the resignations of Worthen and Heitsch, communications professor Christian Lundberg is the last remaining member of the inaugural UNC faculty who signed on to spearhead SCiLL in October 2023.

Worthen wrote in her resignation email that she has felt “increasingly out of step with the school’s evolving culture, procedures, and mission.”

Heitsch confirmed in an email to The DTH that he stepped away from his adjunct position in August.

Lundberg said SCiLL only works if it is involved in, and responsive to, the broader UNC community and the mission of building democracy at a public university.

“It was sad to see my colleagues go,” he said. “I hope that we can figure out a way to return SCiLL to its missions of unifying the campus and advancing our public University’s crucial role of building democracy.”

Katz said most of the inaugural faculty were expected to remain at SCiLL as long as they wanted — not just to get things up and running.

Multiple UNC professors who left the school said that SCiLL’s narrowed focus on historical political thought and religion was their reason for leaving. As the number of inaugural faculty members is steadily decreasing, the school continues to hire an increasing number of faculty from outside UNC.

“It seems that SCiLL’s founding mission has shifted — or, it’s just the general mission of a School of Civic Life and Leadership has shifted — under Atkins,” Katz said.

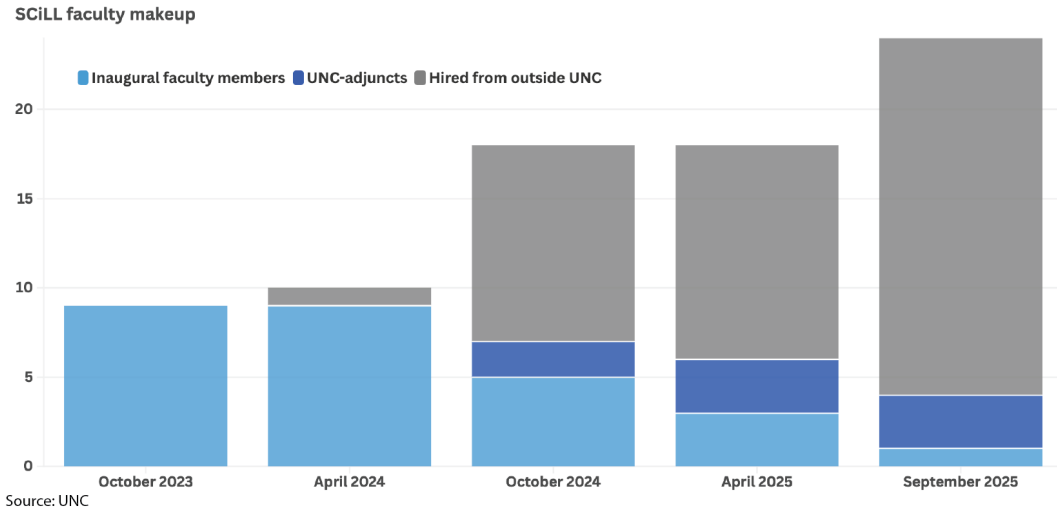
Katz said Atkins has repeatedly demonstrated a reluctance to thoughtfully consider advice from



DTH DESIGN/GRACE DAVIDSON

## The School of Civic Life and Leadership has one inaugural faculty member remaining

The SCiLL, which began with nine inaugural faculty members from UNC, has been losing faculty members from UNC and increasing the number of hires coming from outside UNC.



DTH DATA/KATHERINE MCRAE

faculty, even when unanimous, as exemplified in early hiring committee meetings.

“I don’t think anybody would expect this kind of leadership style from anyone, and if anyone made that style clear in an interview, they wouldn’t be hired,” he said.

Proposed legislation in the N.C. Senate, if ratified by the North Carolina General Assembly, could impose a requirement on the school to hire even more faculty from outside UNC.

Senate Bill 257, the N.C. Senate’s proposed 2025-2027 budget, includes a requirement for SCiLL to “employ at least 20 faculty members hired from outside the University of North Carolina.” These faculty

would be hired “with permanent tenure or be eligible to receive permanent tenure” during the 2025-2026 academic year.

Further, the budget would prohibit SCiLL from employing any additional faculty “by joint or courtesy appointment” from within UNC until the school has employed 20 members from outside the University.

“[SCiLL] was never a faculty-driven curriculum decision, and it eventually trampled over the principle of shared governance,” UNC history professor Erik Gellman said. “It was introduced as the Program for Public Discourse with promises it would not become a school, and I argued against it

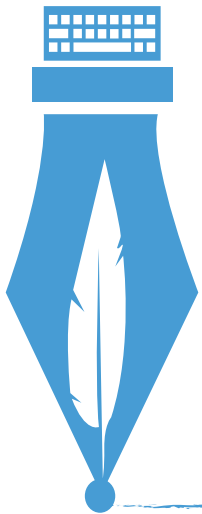
then. Once it got in as the [PPD], it was soon made into a school with increased funding and control coming from state legislators and private donors.”

Katz said that it is a challenge to have a school that is almost completely staffed by people who are so new.

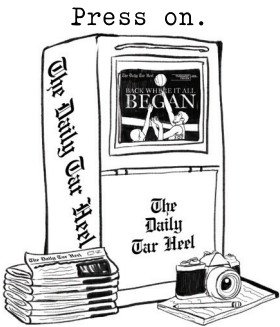
“It can certainly be overcome, but I think part of the reason for having a group of inaugural faculty, who already represented multiple departments, is that there would be a smoother integration into the University,” he said.

X: @aidan\_\_lockhart

X: @reganxbutler



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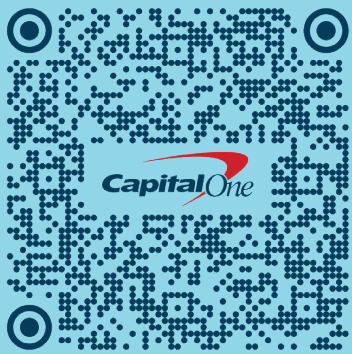
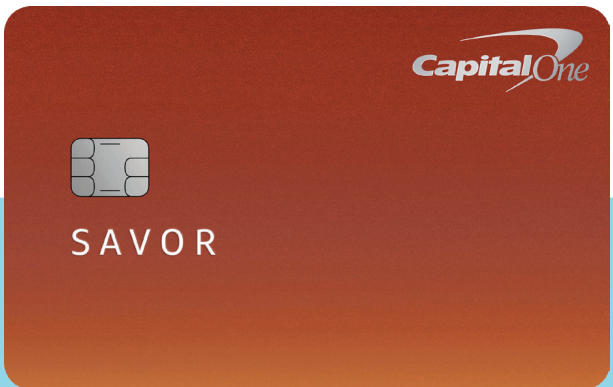
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OTW with coffee...and a plan.



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