

The Daily Tar Heel

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130 YEARS OF SERVING UNC STUDENTS AND THE UNIVERSITY

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AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

Faculty and community leaders reflect on UNC's history with race

SCOTUS decision sparks discourse on race-conscious admissions

By Emma Geis
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"I've said for many years — when you fight, you may win, you may lose. But if you don't fight you can't win."

Theodore Shaw said that about the future of affirmative action after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled on *Students for Fair Admissions v. UNC* in June and struck down the practice in higher education.

Shaw is a Julius L. Chambers distinguished professor of law and the director of the UNC Center for Civil Rights, which works to dismantle structural racism through research and advocacy. For most of his life, he said he respected and honored the Court.

"While it didn't always get it right, there was a possibility of the Supreme Court of the United States to lay in ways that continued the work that was done during *Brown v. Board of Education* and to think about equality and to desegregate America," he said. "I don't feel that in this moment."



DTH GRAPHIC/OLIVIA GOODSON

In 2017, Shaw said, the center was stripped of its ability to represent individuals who experienced racial discrimination. He said the Board of Governors felt that type of work was "inappropriate" for any center on UNC's campus to conduct.

Impacts on the community

In the 18th and 19th centuries, Black

enslaved people built foundational buildings for the University, several of which are still in use today.

Danita Mason-Hogans, a local historian and seventh-generation Chapel Hill native, said her ancestors worked on the Mason plantation as farmers who grew food and raised animals to feed the University.

SEE **BLACK LEADERS** PAGE 3

ELECTIONS

Candidates announce run for Chapel Hill mayor spot

Two prominent Town Council members to campaign

By Walker Livingston
Summer City & State Editor
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Two current Chapel Hill Town Council members have announced and filed for candidacy in this fall's Chapel Hill mayoral election — Adam Searing and Jessica Anderson.

Jessica Anderson

Jessica Anderson announced her candidacy for Chapel Hill mayor on July 19.

Anderson — a public policy professor at UNC — has served two terms on the Chapel Hill Town Council and served as the Town's mayor pro tempore from 2017-19.

She received the most votes for any candidate in both the 2015 and 2019 council elections, and she voted in favor of the recent change to Chapel Hill's land use management ordinance.

She lists increasing walkability, building new, affordable housing and increasing downtown economic

development as top priorities on her campaign website.

Current Mayor Pam Hemminger has endorsed Anderson's candidacy for the mayoral seat, along with Current Chapel Hill Town Council members Karen Stegman, Paris Miller-Foushee, Michael Parker and Amy Ryan.

Adam Searing

Adam Searing announced his candidacy for Chapel Hill mayor on June 14.

Searing — a public interest lawyer — was elected to the Chapel Hill Town Council in 2021 and is still serving his first term.

Searing's campaign website lists zoning changes, the coal ash site on Martin Luther King Jr Blvd., affordable housing and the Town budget as priorities.

He openly opposed the recent change to Chapel Hill's land use management ordinance.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF BETH MANN/EARLY BIRD PHOTO



PHOTO COURTESY OF ADAM SEARING

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Elliot Cadeau reclasses to join Tar Heels a year early

By Ben McCormick
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"The timeline of players has sped up dramatically," UNC men's basketball head coach Hubert Davis said.

And perhaps no other Tar Heel has been sped up in the same way

as incoming first-year Elliot Cadeau. The intention was always for Cadeau to remain part of the 2024 class.

But then, at just 18 years old, he competed in the FIBA World Cup for the Swedish senior national team. He was three years younger than anyone else on the team, and over 23 years younger than the oldest player.

But then, he won the GEICO National Championship with Link Academy over AZ Compass Prep, 73-55. Over the course of the three games, he set the record for the most assists in tournament history with 29.

SEE **STAR** PAGE 13

U.S. SUPREME COURT

Scholars discuss athletics and affirmative action

Professors from UNC, VCU, others respond to SCOTUS decision

By Caroline Wills
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Richard Lapchick was invited to Nelson Mandela's inauguration in South Africa for his involvement in the anti-apartheid movement on May

10, 1994 — a day where he said he realized the power of athlete activism.

Following the inauguration, Lapchick said he and Mandela went to the Zambia vs. South Africa soccer match, instead of the diplomatic party held in Mandela's honor, because of the powerful sports boycott that assisted in ending apartheid in the country.

Lapchick, who is now the director of the Institute for Diversity & Ethics in Sports and professor emeritus at the University of Central Florida,

said stories like these give him hope that student-athlete activists can have an impact in a collegiate world post-affirmative action.

On July 19, scholars from UNC, University of Massachusetts Boston, Virginia Commonwealth University, Central Florida and Virginia State University held a Zoom discussion of the "High-Stakes Issue: College Sports Without Affirmative Action."

In response to the June 29 U.S. Supreme Court decision that struck

down affirmative action, the webinar's leaders examined how the ruling could impact college athletics and what athletes can do in the wake of this decision.

UNC Professor of Law and Wade Edwards Distinguished Scholar Erika Wilson said that if predominantly Black athletes are being admitted to schools with no race-conscious admissions practices, it sends a message about the role of Black students on campus: to labor as athletes, while not being

considered and valued as a full student.

"This is significant because athletics has long been a door for Black students to get into universities they otherwise may not have gotten into," she said. "The end of race-conscious admissions will certainly — at a place like UNC, depending on which direction the administration decides to go — influence the entire environment for African American students."

SEE **RULING** PAGE 15



DTH/CAITLYN YAEDE
LOCAL BUSINESS
PG 2



DTH/ADRIAN TILLMAN
RENOVATIONS
PG 4



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REDISTRICTING
PG 9



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MENTAL HEALTH
PG 13



We're going to do it all again.

JAMIL KADOURA



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LOCAL BUSINESS

Community rallies to help Med Deli recover from major fire

Business leaders and Town officials meet to discuss fundraisers, support for employees



DTH/CAITLYN YAEDE

The Chapel Hill Fire Department responds to a fire at Mediterranean Deli on Saturday, July 22, 2023.

By Walker Livingston
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The Chapel Hill Fire Department responded to a West Franklin Street fire at Mediterranean Deli on July 22 — which was contained to Mediterranean Deli, but smoke and water damage impacted nearby businesses DB Sutton, Moshi Moshi, Simply Audrey and Tropical Smoothie Cafe.

All other impacted businesses have either reopened, or have plans to reopen soon.

Authorities received a call from Jamil Kadoura, the owner of Mediterranean Deli, at 2:30 p.m. on the day of the fire. The Chapel Hill Fire Department, along with other local departments, got to the scene and the fire was contained by 6 p.m.

Alex Carrasquillo, the community safety public information officer for the Town of Chapel Hill, said that the Town’s biggest focus is to make sure the businesses impacted by the fire have support.

“We’ve talked with them every day to make sure that they have what they need,” he said.

Carrasquillo said that although no reopening timeline is concrete right now, community members and Town staff have come together to plan support for Mediterranean Deli’s reopening — through

things like the inspections and permitting process.

He also said, on a personal note, it was difficult to respond to the situation, considering the restaurant’s place in the Chapel Hill community.

“Jamil and his staff have always been really welcoming to police, firefighters and Town staff,” Carrasquillo said. “And so that makes it even harder to respond to something like that.”

Members of the Chapel Hill community — including small business owners, local government officials and organizations like the Chapel Hill Downtown Partnership have been meeting in the week after the fire to discuss support for the restaurant.

Jessica Anderson, a current Chapel Hill Town Council member and Chapel Hill mayoral candidate, has been attending these meetings. She said they have concerned meeting the immediate needs of Mediterranean Deli’s staff, along with detailing resources the community could provide the restaurant.

She said that in the aftermath of the fire, Kadoura has been focusing on his employees, and that they have financial support while the restaurant’s normal operations have been paused.

“We’re, of course, worried about the people and we can really rebuild



DTH/CAITLYN YAEDE

Chapel Hill Fire Department trucks line up on West Franklin Street during a fire at Mediterranean Deli on July 22, 2023.

a restaurant together but, you can’t replace people,” she said.

After the fire, a GoFundMe page was created for the financial support of Mediterranean Deli’s 81 employees. As of July 27, it has currently raised \$190,000 of its \$250,000 goal.

“That’s kind of the one bright spot and what is a really terrible situation is just getting to see people you know, show up and offer help,” Anderson said.

Mediterranean Deli began taking online and catering orders again as of July 26, despite the current loss of their restaurant space.

Alex Brandwein, the owner of the local bagel store Brandwein’s Bagels, said Kadoura has been a business mentor and a friend to him.

“I’ve never seen anything like that from another person, and he does it truly because he cares about this town and this community and wants to see people be happy,” he said.

Brandwein said he and other local business owners came together at the first community meeting after the fire and prepared to offered storage, freezer space and other support to Kadoura and the staff at Mediterranean Deli.

Caroline Spencer, who lives in downtown Chapel Hill and has a son who works at Mediterranean Deli, said she received a call from a friend that Saturday who told her to get to Franklin Street and look at the fire.

Spencer and her family have known Kadoura for years. She said that the first thing he said when she saw him at the fire was, “We’re going to do it all again.”

“Med Deli means so much to so many people — Chapel Hill residents, Carrboro residents, but also people who are alums from UNC people who lived in town, went to grad school and moved all over the world,” she said.



DTH/ADRIAN TILLMAN

People gather outside of Mediterranean Deli on Sunday, July 23, 2023, a day after the restaurant sustained damage from a fire.

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Black leaders respond to SCOTUS decision

Continued from Page 1

“If you look at the history of education, specifically in Chapel Hill, North Carolina — you look at families like mine who served and fed and cultured and nurtured and were locked out of this University until 1955 — to simply say that the affirmative action programs should be shut down is not enough,” she said.

After a federal court order, the UNC School of Law admitted the University’s first Black students in 1951. Black students were admitted to other schools within the University only after *Brown v. Board of Education* was decided in 1954.

Mason-Hogans said that, while conversations about equity in admissions are important, people should also focus on how students are set up for success before college.

“There has been a history of promise and a history of not living up to that promise in Chapel Hill,” she said. “Meanwhile, the achievement, and therefore opportunity gap, for Black students in Chapel Hill who

are generationally from here has been as wide as it ever was since schools desegregated in 1966.”

A 2018 Stanford study found Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools had the second-largest Black-white student achievement gap in the U.S.

Factors in admissions

Erika Wilson is a professor of law at UNC and director of the Critical Race Lawyering Civil Rights Clinic, where students merge critical race theory with the practice of civil rights law.

Wilson has worked in admissions for several law schools. She said there were factors other than affirmative action that could give applicants an advantage.

“There’s a false assumption that college admissions is 100 percent meritocratic and fair,” she said. “That colleges are just looking at tests and grade scores and picking the best candidates based on tests and grade scores. That is 1,000 percent false.”

One example, Wilson said, can

be found in legacy admissions.

Legacy preference applies to students whose parents, grandparents or great-grandparents attended the institution. Because UNC restricted admissions to white applicants until the early ‘60s and admitted very few Black students until the ‘80s, Wilson said, legacy admissions primarily benefit white students.

According to a letter sent by the vice provost for enrollment and undergraduate admissions in 2018, 48 percent of in-state applicants who were children of alumni were accepted the previous year, while 40 percent of those out-of-state applicants were accepted. UNC’s acceptance rate was about 23 percent for that application year.

When taking these factors into account, affirmative action measures end up being a conservative course correction, Wilson said. She said this is because people from racially marginalized groups have been disadvantaged historically by admissions markers and processes.

Visions for the future

The Court’s decision will change how and where applicants can address race-related topics in their applications to universities.

“I read the Supreme Court decision as a call to universities who are genuinely concerned about maintaining racial diversity to more carefully read the essays and to engage in more of an individualized assessment of individual applicants,” Wilson said.

She also said future litigation could push universities like UNC that have a documented history of racial discrimination to enact remedial admissions programs.

Mason-Hogans said the University and Town of Chapel Hill need bold leadership and targeted programs for the descendants of enslaved workers at UNC. She said the announcement from Chancellor Kevin Guskiewicz about free tuition for households who make under \$80,000 was a good start, but more work needs to be done.

Shaw said he wants the University to



DTH FILE/CALLI WESTRA
Danita Mason-Hogans stands at the Old Well on Tuesday, April 12, 2022.

continue to hold its value of inclusivity both in spirit and in lived experiences.

“I hope frankly that the University doesn’t embrace a legal regime in which people are excluded on the basis of race,” he said. “And I hope somehow, the University finds a way to continue to embrace inclusiveness — and it’s the University’s task to figure out how to do that.”

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Students react to new affirmative action reality

Guskiewicz announced free tuition for new students making under \$80,000

By Adele Morris

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In the wake of the June 29 U.S. Supreme Court decision overturning affirmative action, some groups at UNC are gearing up for change.

The Chancellor’s Office recently announced a plan to cover tuition and associated fees for students with household earnings under \$80,000 a year, starting with the 2024 incoming class. This effort will financially support an additional 150 to 200 students.

Additionally, the chancellor plans to plant outreach officers across the state in areas handpicked according to data from the N.C. Department of Public Instruction and existing partnerships with the Carolina Student Transfer Excellence Program.

“These accessibility efforts are designed to encourage an applicant



DTH FILE/IRA WILDER
UNC Chancellor Kevin Guskiewicz speaks outside of the Supreme Court of the United States after oral arguments in *Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. vs. the University of North Carolina* on Monday, Oct. 31, 2022.

pool that leaves no one out if their dream is to come to Carolina and ensures they can afford it if they earn admission to Carolina,” Chancellor Kevin Guskiewicz said in a July 19 statement to the Board of Governors.

President of UNC Young Democrats and rising senior TJ White supports Guskiewicz’s plan. He said it “addresses socioeconomic diversity, which is a huge underlying factor of racial diversity.”

White said he hopes other universities notice the chancellor’s

efforts and take similar action.

Rising junior and Affirmative Action Coalition outreach chair Joy Jiang echoed White’s sentiment. She said that, in her personal opinion, the chancellor is doing everything he can in light of what she perceives as pushback from the Board of Governors and Board of Trustees.

White said he acknowledges that the only method to reverse the recent affirmative action decision is to get liberal justices appointed to the Court. “But what we can do in

the meantime is advocate for other measures to increase socioeconomic diversity, geographical diversity and diversity of thought in universities,” he said.

For the UNC Young Democrats, this advocacy for diversity can occur via policy changes, such as raising the minimum wage and supporting paid family leave, White said.

The Affirmative Action Coalition also aims to promote diversity as well as unite students on UNC’s campus.

“If we create events, we want students to feel like it’s a safe place to be, speak their minds, what they want to demand,” Jiang said. “We want to bring these issues to administration, be like a path or some kind of communicative organization for students to faculty, or for students to outside organizations.”

She said the Affirmative Action Coalition wants to recreate its “Diversity at Carolina” event from this past spring with the goal of allowing students to connect with each other and voice their demands. They said they hope this event will include students from Duke

University, N.C. State University and UNC Charlotte.

“The inclusion of diverse racial and ethnic identities in institutions, in education — they help the experience of all students as we move forward in a multi-ethnic, multiracial democracy,” White said. “It’s important to have these different backgrounds and ideas in similar spaces.”

But not all groups see the Court’s decision as a step backward. Students for Fair Admissions issued a press release following the decision that said it “marks the beginning of the restoration of the colorblind legal covenant that binds together our multi-racial, multi-ethnic nation.”

The press release labeled affirmative action as polarizing, stigmatizing and unfair and said the practice undermined the integrity of civil rights laws. It deemed the admissions practice of favoring children of alumni and donors a much larger threat to the preservation of diversity.

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What does the affirmative action decision say?

Court focused on “core” of 14th Amendment in overturning precedent

By Ethan E. Horton

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Students for Fair Admissions v. UNC, a case decided by the U.S. Supreme Court in June that struck down affirmative action in higher education, could have wide-ranging impacts on admissions, athletics and employment for people of color.

But what was the majority’s legal reasoning behind the decision? How did the majority justify striking down affirmative action policies?

What is strict scrutiny?

UNC application readers and a secondary committee both considered race among other factors when reviewing applications, according to the opinion by Chief Justice John Roberts.

SFFA sued both universities in 2014 on the grounds that affirmative action violates the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment, which says that the government cannot deny equal protection under the law to any citizen.

Exceptions to the equal protection clause must pass what is known as strict scrutiny, meaning the policy must be a narrowly-tailored solution to a compelling government interest. A 2013 case on admissions policies determined that affirmative action was subject to strict scrutiny.

How did strict scrutiny and precedent apply in this case?

Roberts wrote about the “separate but equal” doctrine established in *Plessy v. Ferguson* and its overturning in *Brown v. Board of Education*. Brown, he wrote, got to the “core” of the 14th Amendment: eliminating “all governmentally imposed discrimination based on race.”

He then referenced the precedent set by Justice Lewis Powell in the

1978 case *Regents of University of California v. Bakke*. That decision — a contentious one that produced six different opinions — determined race could only be used as a “plus” as part of a comprehensive examination of the applicant. He also wrote the positives of diversity on campus constituted a compelling government interest, fulfilling the first half of strict scrutiny.

The Court upheld Powell’s ruling in the case *Grutter v. Bollinger* in 2003. Grutter set out two guidelines for future affirmative action policies: first, a university cannot stereotype people of a certain race or assume that they all think or act alike; and second, a university cannot use race as a “negative.” This meant, according to the Court, that race could not be used in a way that “unduly harmed nonminority applicants.”

Roberts wrote that UNC’s admissions policies did not meet any of these three criteria, nor did they meet strict scrutiny.

He wrote that because UNC’s argued compelling interest — the

benefits of a diverse campus — were not measurable by the Court, it could not be considered a compelling interest under strict scrutiny, nor were they conducive to an eventual end of affirmative action.

Because of the observed admission of fewer Asian American students under the affirmative action programs, Roberts wrote that the programs were used as a “negative.”

On stereotyping, he wrote that admitting students based on race was inherently assuming all or most students of a racial group think alike.

Roberts wrote that the policies lacked a constitutional endpoint. Using racial balancing at a university, he wrote, was “patently unconstitutional.” Second, the benefits of a diverse campus could not be used as an endpoint because the Court would not be able to measure them. Third, he wrote the Grutter timeline for 2028 was only a projection, not a mandate. And, on university review of their policies, he wrote, “Grutter never suggested that periodic review

can make unconstitutional conduct constitutional.”

What does the dissent say?

Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson wrote one of the two dissents in the case. She argued that nothing in the Constitution prohibits the use of race in admissions processes and that claiming the consideration of race in admissions is unfair ignores historic and systemic racism.

“With let-them-eat-cake obliviousness, today, the majority pulls the ripcord and announces ‘colorblindness for all’ by legal fiat,” Jackson wrote. “But deeming race irrelevant in law does not make it so in life. And having so detached itself from this country’s actual past and present experiences, the Court has now been lured into interfering with the crucial work that UNC and other institutions of higher learning are doing to solve America’s real-world problems.”

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RENOVATIONS

Old Well construction expected to be done by FDOC

Project to improve the structure’s accessibility began on May 30

By Eliza Benbow
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Construction to improve the accessibility of the Old Well will still be complete by the first day of class of the upcoming fall semester, according to UNC Media Relations. Construction began on May 30.

The project includes installing a permanent wheelchair-accessible ramp up to the Old Well and lowering the fountain by removing its stone base.

These changes will increase the accessibility of one of UNC’s traditions — drinking from the Old Well on FDOC to ensure a 4.0 GPA

for the semester.

“By making our academic symbol of the University accessible, it’s showing that we are embracing all abilities, all students and that we want them at our campus,” Jennifer Diliberto, a clinical associate professor at the School of Education, told The Daily Tar Heel. “I believe that without having that academic symbol accessible, it takes away from our sincerity of saying that we are welcoming to all.”

Akash Bhowmik contributed reporting to this story.

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DTH/ADRIAN TILLMAN

UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP

Campus leaders step into new roles at UNC

Four positions filled this summer, two to be filled in the coming months

By Eliza Benbow
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This summer, a range of leaders have stepped into new roles at UNC.

The Daily Tar Heel has reported on many of these positions, from faculty leaders to a center’s director to the vice chancellor for research.

Here’s an overview of who’s new at the University.

Beth Moracco

Beth Moracco officially began as the chair of the UNC faculty, succeeding Mimi Chapman, on July 1.

Moracco, an associate professor in the Department of Health Behavior at the Gillings School of Global Public Health, will serve a three-year term in the role, which includes updating the Faculty Council on the state of the faculty and representing the chancellor in academic matters.

She has been on the Faculty Council and various committees at the University in the past, and hopes to build an inclusive and

equitable environment and protect the faculty’s role in the University’s shared governance.

“I have a good sense of how faculty governance works,” she told The Daily Tar Heel. “I believe in shared governance. I believe that faculty has a role in shared decision-making at the University.”

Blair LM Kelley

On July 1, the Center for the Study of the American South welcomed Blair LM Kelley as its new director. The position includes being the co-director of the Southern Futures initiative, a program within the center.

Kelley is a historian and scholar of the African American experience who was previously the assistant dean of interdisciplinary studies and international programs of N.C. State University’s College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

The goal of CSAS — a research center for the study of Southern culture from the past, present and future — is to uplift diverse perspectives found in the South.

Kelley said she wants the center to be a space of innovation and collaboration for students and faculty.

“I want to make sure that CSAS is a welcoming and special place and

an inclusive place for all students,” she told The Daily Tar Heel. “I am excited about that aspect of it, the really public-facing front porch of the University that CSAS can be.”

Jocelyn Neal

The new chair of the UNC Department of Music, Jocelyn Neal, will continue her previous work expanding the department’s curriculum to incorporate various genres of popular music in her new role.

“Conventionally, music theory courses have focused on a very narrow slice of musical repertoire and we have opened up a menu of courses, all of which teach music theoretic concepts, but which engage with a bunch of different musical traditions and a bunch of different notation systems and a bunch of different ways of understanding form in music,” she told The Daily Tar Heel.

Neal, who began the UNC Bluegrass Initiative in 2016, has been interested in introducing alternatives to traditional Western tonal music to undergraduates in the music department since she was a student herself.

In addition to refining the music department’s curriculum,

which has been in effect since the fall 2022 semester, she plans to support department faculty in their individual interests as chair.

Penny Gordon-Larsen

Penny Gordon-Larsen became the vice chancellor for research at UNC on July 5 after having served as the interim for the position since March of last year.

Gordon-Larsen is a professor in the Department of Nutrition, which is in both the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health and the UNC School of Medicine.

Her new role includes overseeing 13 research centers and institutes at the University; developing strategic research priorities; and managing proposals, awards and funding opportunities.

Gordon-Larsen said she is focused on innovative research and helping discoveries become global knowledge.

“In our state, we’re at a very unprecedented moment, when technological and scientific advances create new areas of scientific inquiry that are happening at the same time that we’re getting major expansion of regional industries that directly draw on UNC research talents, and in our workforce pipeline,” she said.

Upcoming positions

Additionally, Dedric Carter and Mary Margaret Frank will be taking over new roles in the coming months.

Carter will join UNC’s administration as the vice chancellor for innovation, entrepreneurship and economic development and chief innovation officer. He is expected to assume this role on Oct. 30.

Frank will be the next dean of the UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School and will begin her position on Aug. 15.

Defne Önal, Madison Gagnon and Mary Mungai contributed reporting to this story.



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MAINTENANCE

Lead remediation timeline unclear

Less than 60 percent of campus fixtures with lead have been fixed

By Natalie Bradin

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The University has been working to remediate all water fixtures with detectable levels of lead since the discovery of lead in water fixtures in Wilson Library in September of 2022.

The University is currently unable to provide a timeline detailing when these repairs will be completed, according to UNC Media Relations.

At the end of March, UNC's Department of Environment, Health and Safety announced the beginning of the remediation process for all 435 fixtures that tested positive for lead. This includes repairing or replacing the lead-contaminated water sources and testing the fixtures before they are put back into service.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's required threshold for taking action is 15 parts per billion of lead, but the University is working to remediate any fixture with detectable levels of lead.

According to an email statement from UNC Media Relations, there is no definitive timeline or end date for the remediation phase because there are different repairs necessary for different water fixtures at UNC.

Various other details, like staffing considerations and supply availability from outside vendors, have contributed to the indefinite timeline.

Out of the 435 fixtures that needed remediation, 252 — 58 percent — have been fixed or replaced by the University thus far.

Although there is no timeline for repairs, members of the UNC community have witnessed the remediation process taking place.

Mark Crescenzi, the department chair of the Department of Political Science, said in an email statement that the UNC facilities crew replaced at least one water fixture per floor in Hamilton Hall, which had up to 402 ppb in water fixtures in the building. "They did that quickly," Crescenzi said in an email statement. "Providing a bottle-filler with filter on the third floor, for example. We are grateful for that effort."

Crescenzi said faculty and students in Hamilton Hall are still waiting on replacements for another water fountain and the kitchen sink — which tested positive for high levels of lead.

"In the meantime, we continue to purchase water for the department to use for drinking," Crescenzi said. Spencer Residence Hall is the only on-campus dorm where remediation was not complete as of the end of April. Some of the in-room sinks had as high as 34.6 ppb of lead detected.

"The in-room sinks have been turned off," UNC Media Relations said. "And residents have been informed that they are out of service for the upcoming year while future options are considered."

Biology professor Mark Peifer said in an email statement that at least one water fountain has been replaced in Fordham Hall. A water fountain on the third floor originally had 662 ppb of lead.

"Still don't quite understand how testing took so long," he said. "But they have been working in both Fordham and Coker to slowly replace things — it's a big job."

Twitter: @nataliebradin

FACULTY

UNC names new vice chancellor for research



DTH FILE/ DYLAN THIESSEN

Penny Gordon-Larsen accepted her new role in early July

By Mary Mungai

Staff Writer
university@dailytarheel.com

When UNC Research surveyed faculty members, the overwhelming response praised UNC's interdisciplinary collaboration.

Penny Gordon-Larsen, who accepted the permanent position of vice chancellor for research in early July, said strategic priorities are being developed to continue this culture of collaboration.

After joining UNC in 1998, Gordon-Larsen was the associate dean for research at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health, and then the interim vice chancellor for research since March of 2022.

Andy Johns, who has worked with her at the school since 2018, described Gordon-Larsen as a strategic and thoughtful person who is driven to solve problems efficiently and creatively.

"She's not one that gets worked up easily, but rather, when we're dealing with challenges, no matter what they are, always keeps a level head and again, works in a very collaborative fashion to try to find solutions that make sense, given the circumstances," Johns said.

Gordon-Larsen outlined three action items that will guide UNC Research's strategic priorities: innovate, transform and renew.

She said these principles can manifest as supporting pro-innovation research; taking research discoveries to the next level as general knowledge, products or policy; and expanding this culture of collaboration to a state or national level.

"In our state, we're at a very unprecedented moment, when technological and scientific advances create new areas of scientific inquiry that are happening at the same time that we're getting major expansion of regional industries that directly draw on UNC research talents, and in our workforce pipeline," she said.

One end goal of these new priorities is to collaborate with partners across the state and close the innovation gap.

Blossom Damania, who has worked with Gordon-Larsen since she was interim vice chancellor for

research, said Gordon-Larsen already has worked to push innovative technology within UNC Research.

"I enlisted Penny's help in enabling us to purchase a new cryo-electron microscope for UNC-Chapel Hill and Penny was very supportive of us bringing this new research technology to campus and also contributed funds towards the cost of the instrument," she said.

Among these new principles that are going to guide UNC Research's priorities in the upcoming years, new changes to rules about research are also going to affect how work is done.

Johns said that a focus toward science and security from the federal government has contributed to policies that affect who federally-funded research organizations can collaborate with.

"All of these restrictions that the U.S. government is pushing down to recipients of federal funding are really focused on what I would say protection of intellectual property and trade secrets, but also preventing exfiltration of sensitive data," he said.

Regardless, Johns said UNC Research is adapting to continue to support researchers and follow the new rules.

"I really think we have a bright future under her direction and leadership and look forward to really ramping up on the strategic plan," he said.

Twitter: @dailytarheel



PHOTO COURTESY OF MEGAN MENDENHALL / OFFICE OF RESEARCH COMMUNICATIONS

Penny Gordon-Larsen is the vice chancellor for research at UNC-Chapel Hill.

CURRICULUM

School of Civic Life hires faculty

First person onboarded to controversial new school at UNC

By Ashley Quincin

Staff Writer
university@dailytarheel.com

The School of Civic Life and Leadership has seen several developments in the last few months, including the hiring of its first faculty member and the meeting of a faculty committee to guide the planning of the proposed school.

College of Arts and Sciences Dean Jim White said in a college-wide statement in May that Provost Chris Clemens charged the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on the SCiLL, chaired by White, with discussing recommendations on the school's creation and providing a report to the provost by mid-June.

In the committee's report, they recommended the first step in forming the SCiLL is identifying the inaugural faculty. The faculty will be drawn from existing tenured faculty within the College, with tenure in their home departments remaining but term lengths at the SCiLL have not been determined yet.

The Dean's Office, in collaboration with members of the committee, College of Arts and Sciences leadership and Program for Public Discourse leadership within the College, is preparing to issue a call for initial faculty nominations in the coming weeks, Matthew Kotzen, chair of UNC's philosophy department and a member of the committee, said in an email statement to The Daily Tar Heel.

Once the initial faculty is chosen, Kotzen said in the statement that they are responsible for guiding the process of making curricular and appointment decisions in line with SCiLL's mission and goals, including developing the curriculum, refining the school's vision and recommending an interim director.

At the Board of Trustees meeting on May 18, Chancellor Kevin Guskiewicz announced the joint hiring of Rory Hanlon, the SCiLL's first faculty member appointed to both the PPD and the philosophy department. Hanlon is currently a teaching fellow in the philosophy department at the University of Chicago.

Guskiewicz also gave a timeline for the SCiLL's progress in the upcoming school year.

The Committee report will be presented to the Faculty Council and Board of Trustees in fall 2023, along with the appointment of an interim director. In spring 2024, a permanent director may be identified and first classes may be taught.

The SCiLL was publicly proposed by the Board of Trustees at its Jan. 26 meeting. Since then, \$2 million in continuing funds were specified in the University's budget for the next fiscal year to support the school.

In the N.C. General Assembly, both the House and Senate have allocated funds to the school in their proposed budgets — \$2 million each for two fiscal years.

For both years, the Senate's budget proposal includes a \$2.5 million cut to both the UNC School of Law and UNC School of Government.

The announcement of the SCiLL in January was met with opposition from both University faculty and students, many of whom believe the SCiLL is an effort to introduce conservatism to what some trustees consider left-leaning academia.

"Civil discourse is a commodity in short supply today, yet it is essential to a well-functioning democracy," White said in the statement. "Many universities and colleges are currently exploring how to address this problem. Let us lead the way."

In a statement to The Daily Tar Heel, the Coalition for Carolina, a non-profit organization concerned with partisan interference at UNC, expressed "serious" concerns with the school's purpose after BOT Chair David Boliek told Fox News that the University is short of faculty with right of center views.

The Coalition also said that UNC's accreditation, reputation and research funding is put at risk by not adequately involving professors, faculty and administrators in the SCiLL's planning.

"We don't know if the school is a good idea or not," the coalition said in the statement. "It isn't a good idea if its purpose is to promote a particular political agenda and viewpoint. It isn't a good idea if it isn't designed and implemented by the faculty and administration."

Twitter: @ashnqm



DTH FILE/SAMANTHA LEWIS

City & State

The Daily Tar Heel

POLITICS

Gov. Cooper vetoes anti-LGBTQ+ legislation

Legislative supermajority could override the vetoes, enact bills as law

By Walker Livingston
Summer City & State Editor
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Gov. Roy Cooper vetoed three bills concerning LGBTQ+ youth – House Bills 547 and 808 and Senate Bill 49 – earlier this month. These bills have not yet returned to the legislature for votes on a veto override.

Though these bills have been vetoed by Cooper, they are unlikely to be sustained because of the N.C. General Assembly's Republican

supermajority following N.C. Rep. Tricia Cotham's (R-Mecklenburg) party switch in April.

S.B. 49, titled the Parent's Bill of Rights, outlines guidelines and restraints for discussing matters of gender and sexual identity in classroom settings, while H.B. 547 and H.B. 808 limit transgender youth participation in school sports and ban gender-affirming healthcare for minors, respectively.

Cooper has vetoed multiple pieces of legislation this summer, like S.B. 20 – an abortion ban law that now restricts abortion in North Carolina after 20 weeks. His veto was overridden 72-48 in the House and 30-20 in the Senate.

"We are not successfully stopping legislation that

discriminates against North Carolinians," N.C. Rep. Allen Buansi (D-Orange) said. "And that's very frustrating."

Buansi, along with all other Democrat members of the N.C. House, voted against all three bills. "It's frustrating to see these kinds of legislation move forward," Buansi said. "The numbers are what they are."

He also said that it was specifically difficult to see how Republican members of the legislature pushed S.B. 49 through the NCGA with minimal public input or debate, specifically with making amendments to the bill.

"The Parent's Bill of Rights has some significant First Amendment implications," Ivy Johnson, a staff attorney for American Civil Liberties Union North Carolina, said.

Johnson also said that the censorship in schools that is present in S.B. 49 creates a battleground for civil rights issues, particularly for the LGBTQ+ community.

H.B. 547 – the Fairness in Women's Sports Act – would designate sex at birth and prohibit transgender female athletes from participating in school sports on a middle, high school or collegiate level.

Katie Jenifer, the policy director for Equality North Carolina, has a transgender daughter and said that many families, like their own, are making plans to seek resources outside North Carolina

if legislation like these bills continues to be pushed through the General Assembly.

"The conversation around whether or not your identity is valid is harmful," Jenifer said.

H.B. 808 bans gender-affirming healthcare for minors in North Carolina, including puberty blockers and hormone therapy. The bill started out as a ban on surgical gender-affirming care for minors, but was later amended to include hormone therapy and puberty blockers.

H.B. 808 includes provisions that would allow minors currently receiving gender-affirming healthcare as of Aug. 1 to continue their course of treatment.

With this rise in legislation concerning LGBTQ+ youth, organizations like Equality N.C., ACLU N.C. and the Campaign for Southern Equality are participating in community organizing that aims to connect young LGBTQ+ people in North Carolina with resources.

"It's just important that we don't just cross our fingers and hope that the vetoes are sustained," Adam Polaski, communications director for the Campaign for Southern Equality, said.

Though legislation like H.B. 547, 808 and S.B. 49 will likely go into law because of the Republican supermajority, Polaski said that North Carolinians should look toward future elections – especially the 2024 governor's race.

"We're heading into a primary and a really challenging election," Polaski said. "We're heading into primary for the governorship that has one of the most local anti-LGBT activists really, who is running and this is the front runner to become a candidate for governor."

The Campaign for Southern Equality recently launched the Southern Trans Youth Emergency Project, which provides transgender youth across the South with emergency funds and navigational resources.

"The project is designed to help folks who have trans kids to see that they have options despite the likely passage of an anti-transgender health care bill," Polaski said.

He said that he wants North Carolinians to know that this project exists – and know that people are working in the state to make sure LGBTQ+ youth can access care.

Johnson said that although the legislature has been set up a certain way, advocates for the LGBTQ+ community should continue to pursue both the political and interpersonal avenues of advocacy.

"This type of advocacy is really intersectional across the board, you can't really take just one approach," she said.

Twitter: @wslivingston_



PHOTO COURTESY OF TRAVIS LONG/THE NEWS & OBSERVER/TNS
Gov. Roy Cooper delivers his State of the State address to a joint session of the North Carolina General Assembly in Raleigh on March 6, 2023.



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HOUSING

Affordable, multi-family apartment complex to open in Pine Knolls

Construction of PEACH apartments is expected to begin in September or October

By Lucy Marques
Senior Writer
city@dailytarheel.com

In 2005, EmPOWERment, Inc., a local affordable housing nonprofit, owned 12 rental units. Now the organization owns 65 rental units — and has become one of the largest nonprofit landlords in Orange County.

EmPOWERment is currently building a multi-family apartment complex of 10 rental units for families earning 30 percent or less of the area median income (AMI). This development called the PEACH apartments — Pine Knolls, EmPOWERment, Affordable, Community, Housing — will be built in Pine Knolls, a historically Black neighborhood in Chapel Hill.

Delores Bailey, the executive director of EmPOWERment, said families that need housing the most in Orange County are those that live at 30 percent AMI and below. Chapel Hill’s household AMI is \$77,037, meaning those that will live in the PEACH apartments would be earning less than \$23,111.

“This housing is for people who work and happen to only make a certain amount of money,” she said. “They’re not making \$15, \$20, \$30, \$40 an hour. They’re still making \$7.50 an hour.”

Yvette Mathews, an office and community organizer for the Community Empowerment Fund, said she has been spreading the word about PEACH apartments. She said she is concerned about gentrification arising in Chapel Hill.

“I think that Delores and her building, PEACH, is one of the options that we have now,” Mathews said. “At least we have someone now who is supportive of this population, and I wanted to be a part of that.”

She said some community members earning a fixed income, no income or a low income do not have phones or computers, so she connects with them through the CEF to share affordable housing opportunities. She also said many people earning fixed and low



PHOTO COURTESY OF EMPOWERMENT, INC.
A satellite image shows where the PEACH apartments will be located.

incomes work 2-3 jobs, and live in cars, tent communities and cardboard boxes.

“I think it’s only fair that people recognize that this is just a first step, that there have to be more steps,” Mathews said. “And I think that PEACH would be the leader of that.”

Bailey said building for families that earn 30 percent AMI is expensive and the goal of PEACH apartments is not to charge market rate to renters, but to charge something more reasonable.

Still, PEACH apartments is a zero-debt financed project, according to its website.

“The creativeness and the uniqueness of the PEACH is that we had to raise the money so that we wouldn’t have to put any of that burden on rents,” Bailey said.

Sarah Viñas, the director of the affordable housing and community connections department for the Town of Chapel Hill, said many affordable housing projects have to take on debt in order to make them feasible.

“They’ve done a great job funding from a variety of sources,” she said. “They’re going to be serving the lowest income members of

our community through housing, which is really fantastic.”

Viñas said that, though there are affordable housing options in Chapel Hill, housing is one of the greatest challenges facing the town. Chapel Hill needs more than 5,000 affordable homes to fill its affordable housing gap, according to the most recent Chapel Hill Affordable Housing quarterly report.

Mathews said most of the people she has been in contact with about PEACH apartments have been appreciative that Bailey would consider creating this type of project.

Bailey said there will be 10 families positively affected by the PEACH apartments, which will be located near two bus lines, as well as schools and shopping areas.

“It is ideally located and I just believe in my heart that this is going to bless a lot of families, just being there,” she said.

Bailey said that PEACH apartments plans to break ground in September or October and she is anticipating that some community members will be in a brand new home by the winter holidays.

Twitter: @Lucymarques_

BUSINESS

Chapel Hill Downtown Partnership gets new exective director

UNC alumna Rebecca Mormino to join CHDP, effective Aug. 14

By Lola Oliverio
Staff Writer
city@dailytarheel.com

Longtime Chapel Hill resident and UNC alumna Rebecca Mormino will be the new executive director of the Chapel Hill Downtown Partnership, starting Aug. 14.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CHAPEL HILL DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP

Mormino has lived in the area for almost 25 years and attended UNC’s Kenan-Flagler Business School.

She currently works as the assistant director of external affairs for UNC’s Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise and has worked with local arts organizations like Full Frame Documentary Film Festival, Hopscotch Music Festival and Merge Records — an independent record label based out of Durham.

“We think her leadership, her being an active community member and longtime resident of Chapel Hill and her previous employment with art organizations and managing sponsorships and programming really makes her a great fit,” Stephanie Cobert, the partnership’s director of marketing, said. “She will bring all of this experience and hopefully, take us into the next phase of our partnership’s identity.”

The duties of executive director include leading activities and strategy, as well as guiding the partnership to make sure it is meeting its overall mission, Cobert said.

“This person will basically be the main advocate for downtown businesses and spaces on Franklin, Rosemary and side streets,”

Cobert said. “So she’ll have big responsibilities representing the downtown district and the community, spearheading all marketing and outreach efforts, planning events and attending meetings with the town, the county and other organizations to help better downtown.”

During her time at Merge Records, Mormino helped plan the label’s 25th birthday festival, which took place in July 2014 in the parking lot of Cat’s Cradle.

“We had a big outdoor stage and large sponsors, and it was a much larger event than we normally do, which is inside the Cradle,” Merge Records Label Manager Christina Rentz said. “She helped us with all of that, with finding sponsors and bringing a lot of attention to this area and also to the record label for everything.”

Mormino served as the festival director for Merge Records.

“I think she really loves this area and has a lot of energy and great ideas,” Rentz said. “I’m excited to see what she’s gonna do in the position.”

Mormino has an extensive history with the arts, having sold merchandise for and toured with bands such as Superchunk, a Chapel Hill-based indie rock band, and Sonic Youth.

“I am really embedded in the community in a lot of ways, and I think I have a good idea about what people want to see, and how to make that happen,” she said. “It’s not gonna happen overnight, these things take time. And we already have so many amazing things happening.”

In her new role as executive director, Mormino said she hopes to create more reasons for those who live in the area to visit downtown Chapel Hill.

“I think people want reasons to be together, and people want reasons to come downtown and be excited to do things. People were so excited about the (Wrexham vs. Chelsea) soccer game. People want more things like that,” she said. “And so I want to help create those reasons for people to just have a place to be and hang out and see all of the amazing things that are happening in the community.”

Twitter: @LolaOliverio



DTH FILE/EMMA PLUMLY

AUGUST in ORANGE COUNTY

Monday, Aug. 21

11 a.m.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE DEBT PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Virtual

4 p.m.

BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES MEETING

Hillsborough Commons

6:30 p.m.

ORANGE UNIFIED TRANSPORTATION BOARD MEETING

Call for location

Tuesday, Aug. 22

2 p.m.

SENIOR ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Covenant Place

5 p.m.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD

Virtual

Wednesday, Aug. 23

10:30 a.m.

LOLLIPOP SERIES FOR YOUNG CHILDREN – MAGIC THE FISH

Carrboro Century Center, Century Hall

6 p.m.

RACIAL EQUITY COMMISSION MEETING

Bim Street, Old Carrboro Civic Club

6:30 p.m.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

Bonnie B. Davis Environment & Agricultural Center

Check organizer websites for more information before attending.

PACKAGE | CHAPEL HILL MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

Opponents to zoning change announce run for Town Council

Change approved by council aimed at missing middle housing increase

By Zoe Werner
Staff Writer
city@dailytarheel.com

The filing period for local elections in Orange County — including the Chapel Hill Town Council — began on July 7.

The eight Town Council members serve staggered four-year terms, allowing residents to vote for positions every two years. The mayor's seat is up for election every two years and serves alongside the Town Council's eight members.

Michael Parker and Tai Huynh said they would not be seeking reelection, meaning at least two seats will be without an incumbent member. Jessica Anderson, another member of the council whose term is

up, is running for mayor.

Several candidates who oppose the Town's recent housing zoning change have announced their intent to run, including Breckany Eckhardt, Elizabeth Sharp, Renuka Soll and David Adams.

Breckany Eckhardt

Breckany Eckhardt, who has worked as a software trainer and project manager for over 24 healthcare systems in 13 states and Canada, formally filed for candidacy on July 7.

"I have the ability to structure information, organize ideas, listen to the public and truly find ways where we can create holistic processes and planned processes to move this community forward in the right direction where growth is possible," she said.

Eckhardt said the Town Council is considering draining the pond off of Legion Road — which she lives near — to build affordable

housing, while another site nearby has been redeveloped to have luxury apartments.

The Legion Road affordable housing and park site might include a reduction of the pond, but would not be fully drained, according to the Town's website. The Town also designated a third of the property to develop affordable housing.

"I'm not against affordable housing — I'm against affordable housing being razed for luxury apartments and then relocated to places that are not safe, are toxic and not just," she said.

The town council has not yet approved any affordable housing on the Legion Road site — it has just retained possession of the land and preserved it for potential future use. Another site Eckhardt opposes building affordable housing on — at 828 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. — has been discovered to have potentially harmful coal ash in the soil, but no redevelopment plans have been made.

She said she decided to run for town council because she feels that people have been ignored in conversations about rezoning and construction.

"It's not what is necessarily being done," Eckhardt said. "It's the way that it's being done without really good planning, thoughtful efficiency and environmental consideration."

Elizabeth Sharp

Elizabeth Sharp, the owner of Chapel Hill restaurants Hawthorne & Wood and Bluebird, announced that she will run for a seat on the Town Council and has officially filed her candidacy.

As a small business owner, Sharp said she is concerned about how real estate development can be less sustainable for small businesses.

"So much of it has become about bottom line profit for real estate investors and they have very little interest in whether housing is affordable, whether it fits the needs of the community, who in the community is using it, the interest is from so far outside the community," she said.

She said increasing affordable housing is achievable through nonprofit and government intervention, rather than relying on market influences.

Sharp opposed the recent housing zoning change the Town Council approved — which was aimed at increasing missing middle housing — for "economic reasons," she wrote in an Instagram post.

Sharp also said the community's reliance on car use has resulted in town divisions, which have negatively impacted small businesses, equity, housing and parks.

Sharp is PTA president and on the board of her children's schools. She said this experience sets her apart from other candidates.

"I always want to get in and get my hands dirty and be a part of the solution," she said.

Renuka Soll

Renuka Soll has also announced that she will run for a seat on Chapel Hill Town Council. She also ran in 2019, but lost by just 40 votes.

Soll has been on the Town's Parks and Recreation board for five years,

currently serving as chair. She is also a literacy tutor for New Hope Elementary in Orange County and is the treasurer on the Board of Directors for North Carolinians Against Gun Violence.

"I feel like a lot of people don't have voices and I feel like I have the skills and experience to stand up for that," she said.

Soll signed a petition against the housing amendment change, along with more than 900 other local residents.

Soll said she would like to see Chapel Hill become an environmental leader and implement its climate action plan. She advocates for connecting trails and greenways, carbon-neutral homes and utilizing renewable energy resources.

Soll said it is important to sustain local businesses, as they make Chapel Hill unique. She also wants the downtown area to stay cohesive.

She said because of her long history of volunteer work, she has experience advocating and listening to others.

David Adams

David Adams, a coordinator for the Chapel Hill Alliance for a Livable Town, also filed to run for Chapel Hill Town Council this fall.

Adams was an outspoken opponent of the housing zoning change, and signed onto the petition against rezoning.

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

Twitter: @ZoeWerner356



A sign stands in front of a home on Hillsborough Street in Chapel Hill on Tuesday, April 18, 2023.

DTH FILE/GAGE AUSTIN

Town Council seats up for grabs in November

Council members serve on boards, vote on developments and land use

By Lucy Marques
Senior Writer
city@dailytarheel.com

This November's municipal elections will have four seats on the Chapel Hill Town Council, along with the Chapel Hill mayoral seat, up for grabs.

The Chapel Hill Town Council is made up of nine members, including the mayor, who serves a two-year

term. The other eight members serve staggered four-year terms.

During meetings, the council often talks about land use, community safety and makes decisions about proposed developments, she said.

"On any given day we could be attending a Town board meeting — we have close to 20 different advisory community advisory boards, and council members serve as liaisons," she said. "So, we could be sitting in on affordable housing board or planning commission meeting or environmental or parks board meeting. We could be attending meetings with constituents or with downtown businesses, community groups."

Current Chapel Hill Mayor Pam Hemminger, who announced that she will not be seeking re-election on July 19, said Chapel Hill residents would be surprised at how much time council members commit to their roles.

"It's interesting because there's so many different categories of things that we do that I'm not sure people are aware of," she said. "Everything from stormwater to transit to affordable housing to parks and rec, library, arts and culture. There are just so many areas that you have to learn about when you're a council member."

Alexander Sahn, an assistant professor of political science at UNC, said local governments tend to receive

far less attention than the state and federal governments.

"People tend to think of local governments as an apolitical forum where people are just fixing potholes and running buses and delivering services to people," he said. "But there's actually quite a lot of ideological difference."

He also said a lot of people don't know about their local elected officials, and what they do day-to-day, which can make it difficult for voters to hold politicians accountable.

Sahn said local governments in the U.S. tend to oversee three main policy areas: housing and development, education and public safety.

He said concerns about homelessness, housing affordability and issues around policing flow from decisions that local governments make.

He said although students might only live in town for four years, policy still has a major impact on their lives.

Hemminger said municipal election turnout in Chapel Hill is typically 15-18 percent. She said the population voting does not fully represent the community.

"It's really skewed towards people who have time to vote, and who are older, and so we want to make sure we have more voices," she said.

Twitter: @Lucymarques_

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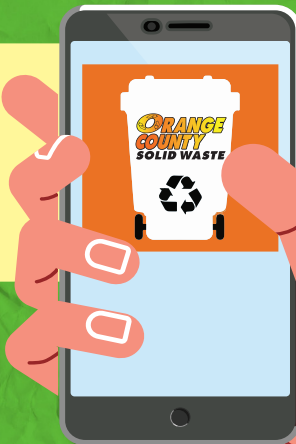
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EDUCATION

Mentorship program returns

CHCCS uses student-mentor collaboration to narrow achievement gap

By Olivia Gschwind
Staff Writer
city@dailytarheel.com

Editor's Note: This article was originally published on July 17, 2023.

Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools' Blue Ribbon Mentor-Advocate program — a mentorship opportunity that aims to improve the academic achievement of students of color — has returned to its previous strength following limitations during the COVID-19 pandemic and an administrative shift in priorities.

BRMA was founded in 1995 to address the racial achievement opportunity gap for Black students in the school district. Lorie Clark, coordinator of Student Leadership and Engagement for CHCCS, said the program experienced stagnation and lack of engagement from 2019 to 2021.

"Mentors weren't being recruited, which meant scholars weren't being nominated," she said. "There was no funding that was being raised, so it was just pretty stagnant for a couple of years."

BRMA recruits mentors from the community to commit to at least two years of mentoring a selected student from CHCCS, also referred to as a scholar. Mentors dedicate two hours per week or more of one-on-one time with their scholars.

Chapel Hill-Carrboro Public School Foundation Executive Director Madeline Blobe and her husband are both mentor-advocates



DTH FILE/LARA CROCHIK

in the BRMA program. She said she and her husband try to plan something with their scholars at least once a week.

"I think it's what the student needs from you," she said. "The goal is that you're going to be another resource for these young people."

BRMA also encourages mentor-advocates to extend relationships beyond the two-year requirement.

Mentor-advocates are screened through a home visit and essay and then trained on education, advocacy and mentoring, with interactive activities to prepare them for their new roles at orientation, according to the program website.

"There is a massive sense of community, at least when I was there, even more so now I think," graduate and current employee of the BRMA program Sahmoi Stout said.

Stout said the program exposed him to new experiences and learning that was valuable later in his life.

BRMA aims to increase engagement and enrichment

opportunities for students of color in CHCCS, while expanding leadership opportunities and academic confidence.

Chapel Hill Town Council member Camille Berry has been a mentor-advocate since the 2015-16 school year.

The wide racial achievement gap in CHCCS has fueled efforts such as BRMA to educate students on possibilities for their future, Berry said.

"It's hard to achieve something if you haven't seen it and conceived of it," she said.

Experiences facilitated by the mentor-advocates build a sense of community that can facilitate larger conversations and open up new opportunities, Stout said.

Stout also said closing the district's achievement gap takes time, dedication and a mindset to improve.

"When you are planting those seeds, when you are providing that enrichment and that exposure, I believe that helps to close the achievement gap," Clark said.

Twitter: @OliviaGschwind

N.C. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Senate bills could change election law

Legislation could impact mail-in votes, county boards of elections

By Grace Whittemore
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Editor's Note: This article was originally published on July 13, 2023.

Two bills currently in the N.C. General Assembly — Senate Bills 747 and 749 — have the potential to have major impacts on voting processes in North Carolina this fall and beyond.

S.B. 747 contains over 20 provisions that propose specific changes to the election processes for voters.

One of these provisions would eliminate the current three-day grace period for absentee mail-in ballots. This grace period currently allows absentee ballots postmarked and sent by Election Day to be counted as long as they arrive at each county's board of elections within three days following the election.

N.C. Rep. Allen Buansi (D-Orange) said the elimination of this grace period could have major effects on voters who have been

using mail-in ballots for many years.

"If someone mails the ballot by Election Day, or even a few days earlier than Election Day, and their ballot gets there one day after Election Day, even if it's been correctly filled out, it won't count," Buansi said. "This is a big change and unfortunately there hasn't been any money allocated in this bill to inform voters of the change."

Ann Webb, the policy director of Common Cause NC, said this provision could cause valid absentee ballots — many of which are cast by young voters — to be thrown out.

"Thousands of ballots will be thrown in the trash, even though they are valid ballots and were mailed by Election Day," she said.

Another provision proposed in S.B. 747 would affect same-day voter registration during the early voting period.

Right now, North Carolinians can visit an early voting location and both register to vote and cast a normal ballot. If this bill passes, voters who register to vote at an early voting site must cast a provisional ballot if they do not provide both a valid photo ID and a secondary proof of address.

Ben Neill, a development intern with Democracy North Carolina, said this could be problematic because of the low percentage of provisional ballots that are typically accepted. The bill would require the person casting a provisional ballot to return to their county board of elections and show a valid photo ID and secondary proof of address for the ballot to count.

"Provisional ballots are accepted at much lower levels, only about 40 percent were accepted in some of our last elections and that will particularly affect young, student voters," he said.

S.B. 749 — titled No Partisan Advantage in Elections — proposes changes to the makeup of both the county and state boards of elections.

Currently, the N.C. State Board of

Elections appoints four members to each county's board of elections — two Democrats and two Republicans, with one member appointed by the governor — usually of their own party — who serves as the county's Board of Elections Chair.

S.B. 749 proposes changing the total of individuals on each county's Board of Elections to four, with two Democrats and two Republicans.

The State Board of Elections is currently made up of five individuals appointed by the governor from candidate lists made by state party leaders. S.B. 749 proposes increasing the number of individuals on the board to eight, all of which are appointed by legislative leaders.

N.C. Rep. Renée Price (D-Orange, Caswell) said the change from an odd number to an even number of individuals could lead to deadlock.

She said the restrictions that both bills propose move the state backward in voting accessibility and will pose challenges, especially to those in the working class.

"We worked hard to expand opportunities to vote," Price said. "This would restrict times and the opportunities to vote. All of this is going to affect the working class — people that lack the luxury of being able to pick and chose when they can go to the polling site and jump through all these hoops."

Both of these bills, if passed, would bring great changes to the election system that Buansi said could hurt voters in the end.

"It's going to create barriers to voting, it's going to create confusion at the polls, it's going to create situations where voters get frustrated and they end up just not voting," he said.

As of now, both bills have passed the N.C. Senate and are in an N.C. House committee.

Twitter: @DTHCityState

REDISTRICTING

What is Moore v. Harper about?

SCOTUS struck down N.C. GOP's Independent State Legislature theory

By Ethan E. Horton
Summer Managing Editor
city@dailytarheel.com

In June, the U.S. Supreme Court decided in *Moore v. Harper* that the Independent State Legislature Theory did not hold constitutional muster. The case originated from North Carolina Republican leaders' redistricting maps that the N.C. Supreme Court struck down.

But what is the Independent State Legislature Theory; how did it get from the N.C. General Assembly all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court; and how does the General Assembly still have full power over redistricting?

Harper I

After the U.S. Census — which happens every ten years — states must redraw their state legislative and congressional districts.

In the most recent redistricting cycle, Republican legislative leaders drew maps that the N.C. Supreme Court found to be an "extreme partisan advantage" for the GOP "by diluting the power of certain people's votes."

That was back in February 2022, and the case was called *Harper v. Hall*, or *Harper I*. The trial court allowed the General Assembly to redraw the maps first and appointed three special masters to prepare maps because of the expedited timeline.

Soon afterward, the General Assembly submitted new maps. The remedial maps for the N.C. House and Senate were approved by the trial court, but the congressional maps were ruled unconstitutional based on the partisan gerrymandering metrics outlined in the Supreme Court's decision, and the one drawn by the special masters was adopted.

Republican lawmakers then appealed the case to both the N.C. Supreme Court and the U.S. Supreme Court, both of which agreed to hear the case.

Harper II

Harper I was heard in the N.C. Supreme Court on an expedited timeline, and the appeal was heard in October 2022.

The remedial congressional plan drawn by the special masters produced an even 7-7 Republican-Democrat split in the state's congressional delegation for the 2022 midterm elections, while the maps drawn by the state legislators produced a near-Republican supermajority in the General Assembly.

The N.C. Supreme Court also had an election — with two Democrat-held seats being flipped to Republicans, giving the GOP a 5-2 advantage on the court. But, just weeks before the court officially flipped, the 4-3 Democratic majority decided on the appeal in *Harper*

v. Hall — or, what would become *Harper II*.

The maps drawn for the N.C. Senate were ruled unconstitutional because they gave Republicans an unfair advantage largely based on the metrics provided in *Harper I*, and the special master's congressional map and remedial N.C. House map were upheld.

Associate Justice Robin Hudson wrote the opinion that the state can only live up to its ideals of foundational equality and popular sovereignty until voting is done on equal terms.

"It remains the sincere hope of this Court that our state's leaders will exercise their constitutional authority — in redistricting and all other realms — in a manner that upholds these fundamental rights and principles," Hudson wrote. "Until then, it remains the solemn constitutional duty of this Court and our state judiciary to stand in the breach."

Harper III

Republican lawmakers almost immediately appealed to rehear *Harper II*. Oral arguments were heard on March 14, and the court overturned *Harper v. Hall* on April 28.

The new majority said that the legislature should have full power over redistricting and that state courts could not overrule the legislature on map drawing.

Moore v. Harper

All the while, the U.S. Supreme Court was deciding on *Moore v. Harper*, which came from the same line of cases and was taken on by the Court before *Harper III* was decided.

Oral arguments were heard in December 2022. Republican lawmakers argued for the Independent State Legislature Theory — the idea that state legislatures, because of the wording of Article I, Section 4, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution, are not subject to judicial review in elections.

That section of the Constitution says, "The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof" — and Republican lawmakers said that, because it says "Legislature," the court can not override their decisions.

The U.S. Supreme Court rejected this theory, 6-3, and said state courts should still interpret state constitutions, just as federal courts will continue to interpret the federal constitution on election matters.

What now?

Despite the decision in *Moore v. Harper*, the N.C. General Assembly still has complete control over redistricting in the state because of the decision in *Harper III*. But, in other states where state courts still have power over redistricting, they may be able to oversee redistricting and prevent partisan gerrymandering in the future.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF DREW ANGERER/GETTY IMAGES/TNS

N.C. House Speaker Tim Moore (R-Cleveland, Rutherford) talks to reporters outside the U.S. Supreme Court after oral arguments in *Moore v. Harper* case on Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2022, in Washington, D.C.



DTH PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/PHILIP LE

Lifestyle

COLUMN

Arts and culture coverage finds new home at The Daily Tar Heel

Lifestyle section to center the arts community in Chapel Hill and Carrboro

By Eliza Benbow
Lifestyle Editor
lifestyle@dailytarheel.com

The Daily Tar Heel’s coverage of the arts is a bit like a story – it’s gone through various versions, passed into several hands and has an intricate plot. It’s a story that is full of details about our paper and its history in our community. It’s been Diversions, covering the arts in Chapel Hill in print editions and even hosting events in the early 2010s.

in the community by attending events, galleries, performances and readings. They’ll talk to local creators and businesses and highlight the impact of campus and Triangle-based creativity on our area. The Lifestyle section aims to reflect and uplift the everyday life of our readership, exploring the details that make their experiences unique and meaningful. A large part of this goal is ensuring that our content is inclusive, culturally sensitive and promotes

publications to find my friends’ work and constantly stop to take photos of brightly-colored posters on Franklin Street’s crowded telephone poles. I’ve learned more about what it means to be a writer and a lover of art from the community that I found living in Chapel Hill, and it is my sincerest hope that Lifestyle pays back the favor. In order to do so, we want your input. Fill out the survey below to let us know what coverage you’d like to see. We take your feedback seriously



It’s been Swerve, an online-focused platform in the late 2010s that covered topics of interest to our readers. It’s been the Arts & Culture desk, which was incorporated into City & State and University coverage three years ago. Starting in the 2023-24 academic year, it will become Lifestyle, returning the arts to its own section once again. But the Lifestyle desk is focused on more than arts coverage – we’ll be writing about life. Lifestyle’s coverage will be centered on the community, both on and off campus. The section will cover film, fashion, music, food and drink, literature and visual and performing arts in Chapel Hill and Carrboro. We will feature and include the creative spaces and people all around us. We will report on the trends and interests of local readership, connecting larger cultural movements and ideas to UNC and Orange County. We want to hear what readers are thinking and feeling, and we will reflect those diverse perspectives through columns and articles. Reporters will get involved

equity and justice. Featuring and uplifting the experiences of people of color, LGBTQ+ individuals and disabled members of the community is a necessity for our coverage, and we will seek such voices for all of our stories. Our world is better because of these communities and my own understanding of the world has been enriched by their perspectives and art. We are entering a new season of arts and culture coverage at The DTH, and I couldn’t be more excited and honored to be this desk’s editor for the 2023-24 school year. I have been dreaming of doing arts reporting full-time since I joined the paper’s staff as a City & State writer in the spring of my first year. As a reporter and editor since then, I have covered both City and University news at The DTH – affordable housing, affirmative action, state elections and student life. But as someone who loves and participates in the arts, I’ve attended concerts and festivals and book readings and art shows and launch parties. I page through student

and want Lifestyle to be the best service to our readers that it can be. The Lifestyle section is guaranteed to evolve into a better version of a larger story as the year goes on. As we begin our work, I am excited to see how the ideas we have about life in Chapel Hill and Carrboro expand.

LET US KNOW WHAT COVERAGE YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE WITH THIS SURVEY



Twitter: @eliza_benbow

ARTS PREVIEW

Student artists, on-campus venues host fall events

Students can visit art museums, see visual performances and sell their art

By Madison Gagnon
Staff Writer
lifestyle@dailytarheel.com

As students return to campus for the 2023-24 academic year, arts organizations and venues are in full swing with plans for the fall semester.

Venues on campus

The Ackland Art Museum will kick off the semester with the exhibition, “Reform to Restoration: French Drawings from Louis XVI to Louis XVIII (1770-1830),” which features French drawings on loan from the Horvitz Collection. “One of the things we really want, especially students to feel like, is that Ackland is their museum,” Allison Portnow Lathrop, head of public programs at the Ackland, said. “This collection was built with the idea that people on campus, especially, would find something to follow up with and build a relationship with and get an opportunity to really connect with the art and with their fellow viewers.” The collection will be on display through Oct. 8. Playmakers Repertory Company is a resident professional theatre on UNC’s campus and will be showcasing three plays this semester: “Clyde’s” by Lynn Nottage, Stephen King’s “Misery” adapted by William Goldman and “Much Ado About Nothing” by William Shakespeare. The company is hoping to introduce more students to the theater with this season’s shows, Jeffrey Meanza, associate artistic director at the theater, said. Carolina Performing Arts works with artists to present art with different perspectives to the community. “We do love to build long-term relationships with artists because we are on a research university campus, all the people here are really driven by their curiosity and their drive to learn and research and discover,” Amy Russell, director of programming at CPA, said. “And so we like to invite our audiences on that journey with the artists too.” Among the plethora of performances CPA has planned for the fall semester is “100% The Triangle” on Oct. 14-15. The performance enlists 100 community members to

tell stories about their experiences living in the Triangle.

Student art organizations

Sunset Serenade, an annual showcase of the various UNC a cappella groups, will be hosted on Aug. 21 at 7 p.m. in front of South Building. The event is an opportunity for the a cappella groups on campus to perform in their various music styles, Jack Wilson, publicity chair of the Tarpeggios, said. Logan Kaelin is president of the UNC Walk-Ons and said he has been able to find community within his passion for music since he first joined the group in the fall of his sophomore year. “We all care about doing our best and working to continue to improve as a group, but at the end of the day, it really is about having that community,” Kaelin said. Student-Made UNC is a branch of the national organization Student-Made that provides opportunities for students to sell their art through pop-ups on campus and in the community. Shreya Gundam, campus manager for Student-Made UNC, said they hope to continue these events in the fall semester. UNC Chalkaa, a Bollywood Fusion dance team, is hoping to bring more exposure to the group through various performances and workshops to introduce people to the types of dance and music production they do. Diya Bhatt is one of the co-captains for UNC Chalkaa and said she was able to find her community and express herself through her passion for dance. “In college, I wanted the bridge point between both my Indian dance styles that I’ve been training in and then also these new Western styles that I’m really passionate about,” Bhatt said. “And Chalkaa was the greatest opportunity for that.” Blank Canvas, a student-run dance company at UNC, will host its fall showcase on Dec. 3 at Memorial Hall. The company hopes to have more social events to help foster a larger dance and arts community on campus. “Blank Canvas was such an important part of my journey of finding my place at Chapel Hill,” Liz Aman, vice president of production for Blank Canvas, said. “And I think even if it’s not through dance or art or something, there’s a place for everyone at UNC.”

Twitter: @madisongagnon9

AUGUST don’t miss these arts and culture events

18 Paperhand Puppet’s “Where Our Spirits Reside,” The Forest Theatre 7 p.m.

20 Elijah Rosario w/ 3AM Sound, Kenny Wavinson, Local 506 8 p.m.

22 Poster Invasion, UNC Student Union 9 a.m.

19 Bookstore Romance Day Tea Party, Flyleaf Books 4 p.m.

21 Sunset Serenade, South Building 7 p.m.

23 AJJ, Cat’s Cradle 8 p.m.

Check organizer websites for more information before attending.

Opinion

FEATURED ONLINE READER COMMENT

“please don’t let *this* be the first/only appearance of the Daily Tar Heel in a Supreme Court opinion

Henry Gargan (@hgargan),
responding to a column by former DTH staffer Michael Beauregard being quoted in a U.S. Supreme Court decision.

OFFICE DJ

Sounds of summer at The Daily Tar Heel office



PHOTO COURTESY OF ADRIAN TILLMAN

By Adrian Tillman
Summer Photo Editor
photo@dailytarheel.com

How many playlists go unused? Think about it. All the playlists in your library, mine, the world’s — so many of them get listened to once, twice, then forgotten about. Sometimes they’re for really specific moods, or one-time occasions. Sometimes they’re made for people who just never listen. Sometimes, you just forget the playlist exists.

We had a playlist like that this summer in Chapel Hill.

A mashup of everyone’s “summer song picks” — we made a fun, genre-crossing, hours-long playlist that we were convinced we’d play at our background music. Every editor chose some songs they felt would bring a spark of life to our upstairs brick-walled office.

And then we immediately forgot it existed.

We didn’t forget about the playlist because we didn’t listen to music — the office had tunes playing off of someone’s desktop more days than not. It wasn’t that the playlist itself sucked — we each enjoyed a ton of the songs represented.

The reason that original playlist faded into the back of our minds was simple: we discovered the songs that actually soundtracked our summer.

At the beginning of the summer, there was no way we would have been able to predict where the next couple months would take us. If you told me in May that our summer would feature coverage of a national championship, grass in Kenan Stadium, multiple U.S. Supreme Court decisions, the burning of a beloved restaurant AND the presence of Martin Luther King III in Chapel Hill? I would have laughed at you.

Looking back, though, each one of those things fits right into the bizarre and beautiful time we have had covering the news for you all.

Each moment feels like a scene

from a movie — wildly unique, yet all tied together by our shared experiences between these Franklin Street walls.

Our end-of-summer playlist is, in a word, diverse: it contains songs by everyone from Noah Kahan to Tyga, from Queen to Redveil to Dolly Parton.

Each song is tied to a memory, something connecting the people working in this office to the time they’ve spent here: the familiar “womp-womp-waaa” of “Taste” was an office in-joke, the guitar strums of The Smiths’ “Bigmouth Strikes Again” were a constant presence in summer editor-in-chief Caitlyn Yaede’s headphones and Revenue and Growth Director Collin Pruitt and I had a lengthy music conversation all stemming from the lax beat of Aaron May’s “I’m Good Luv, Enjoy.”

Together, this playlist encapsulates a summer’s worth of muggy afternoons, walks around campus, rounds of Geoguessr and whiteboard drawings. Every time I get nostalgic about slideshow nights, beer cheese or arguments about Filet-o-Fishes, I know this playlist will bring me right back to summer at The Daily Tar Heel.

A ton of playlists go unused. This one, though? Not a chance.

LISTEN TO ADRIAN’S
OFFICE DJ HERE:



Twitter: @kidplaysmusic

COLUMN

Befriend your local student journalist

By Ethan E. Horton
Summer Managing Editor
digital@dailytarheel.com



DTH FILE/SAMANTHA LEWIS

Ethan E. Horton is the 2023-24 City & State Editor at The Daily Tar Heel. Before that, he served as the summer managing editor and Assistant City & State Editor.

My first story at The Daily Tar Heel was about the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Board of Education working out a way to evaluate its superintendent. I left class in Carolina Hall at 6:15 p.m. on a Thursday and sat down in the Student Union soon after for the virtual meeting at 6:30 — stressed out of my mind.

It was my very first story, and I was terrified I would miss something important or get things wrong. After all, I didn’t know Chapel Hill. I was a sophomore, but I was still new to the area — we were sent home just a few weeks into my first year because of COVID.

Okay, yes. It may not seem like a super important story, but we have readers who have children in CHCCS who really care about how the superintendent is evaluated. And, district leadership should be held accountable, even in the smallest ways. That’s journalism.

My second story was about North Carolina Oyster Week. I had a ton of fun with this one — I talked to restaurateurs and oyster farmers and scientists, and it was even in that week’s print edition. I was finally getting in the groove, and illuminating some of the state’s agricultural diversity.

One of my most recent bylines was on the U.S. Supreme Court overturning affirmative action. Sure, I didn’t pressure the Court to release the decision or have any big part in what the decision or dissent says, but we got that information out quickly to our readers — who deserve to know as soon as possible when breaking news happens.

We have writers at every Chapel Hill Town Council meeting. Every UNC Board of Trustees meeting. Every football game. We cover the N.C. General Assembly, student government and the courts.

Recently, student journalists have uncovered hazing and worse in Northwestern University’s athletics programs. One exposed Stanford’s president’s wrongdoings and the president resigned.

And guess what? We’re balancing being a student at one of the best public universities in the country

on top of it all. And the competing deadlines. And the stress.

And, importantly, student journalism happens at UNC and outside The Daily Tar Heel. The Hussman School has some of the most talented writers, reporters, designers and photographers I’ve ever seen.

The point is, we’re students.

We’re students who are learning how to do this journalism thing on the fly.

We’re students who get things wrong sometimes. We’re students who miss some things. We’re students who might not have the connections or experience that other, more seasoned journalists do.

Yet, still, we break the news on lead in campus water, the School of Civic Life and Leadership, University housekeeper pay, abuse at Chapel Hill Bible Church, business school discrimination allegations, the University’s maintenance backlog and accessibility issues, affirmative action, gerrymandering, abortion, elections and everything in between.

We’re students whose writing and editing and designing and photographing makes up one of the best student newspapers in the country, and the main print newspaper remaining in Orange County.

And we hope to lay the foundations for the next generation of news. So, yeah — support student journalism.

Twitter: @ethanehorton1

SPEAK OUT

Interested in writing a letter to the editor or submitting an op-ed?

- Students: Include your year, major and phone number.
- Faculty/staff: Include your department and phone number.
- Edit: The DTH edits for space, clarity, accuracy and vulgarity. Limit submissions to 500 words.

Email: opinion@dailytarheel.com

JOIN US: The Daily Tar Heel Opinion desk is hiring for the fall semester.

Apply for Fall 2023 to be a member of the DTH Editorial Board, a columnist or a cartoonist.

No experience is required.

Editorial Board members write unsigned editorials on behalf of the DTH and attend meetings on Monday and Thursday each week to brainstorm and pitch ideas. Each board member can expect to write a couple editorials a week.

Columnists and cartoonists produce content on a weekly basis, at the discretion of their editor.

Email Opinion Editor Le Ha at opinion@dailytarheel.com for an application and more information. Deadline is Sept. 1 at 11:59 p.m. ET.

What is the editorial board?

A group of student journalists who meet twice a week to discuss the latest news, seeking to comment on issues from an intersectional perspective. The Editorial Board is independent from The Daily Tar Heel’s newsroom.

Editorials are unsigned. They don’t reflect the opinion of any one person, but rather the consensus of the board as a whole, influenced by the values it has held for the past 130 years.

Just as The Daily Tar Heel itself values truth and transparency, the board values integrity, accountability, creativity and fairness. These values shape how we address questions of Carolina’s future, past and present.



QuickHits

Welcome back, Tar Heels

We’ve been waiting for you all summer and we’re so glad you’re finally here! (Extremely loud screaming ensues.) Welcome back to the land of Sutton’s hot dogs, football games and Caroline blue. Trade in your hometown blues for Friday nights on Franklin. However you spent your summer, we hope it was a hoot, but we know nothing compares to being in Chapel Hill.



Coming soon: FDOC

The sun is shining, the quad is full of picnicking students and FDOC is on... Monday? No, that can’t be right. Oh my gosh, it is right. If you are also struggling with this realization, we recommend savoring your first (and likely last) weekend in Chapel Hill without courses. Take in the summer sun and don’t forget to set an alarm for that 8 a.m.!



Move in... in this heat?

One thing about North Carolina is that it is hot. Pretty much all the time. You might have noticed this if you moved into a new residence hall, apartment or home this weekend. How are we expected to get a mini fridge to the tenth floor of HoJo while it’s nearly 100 degrees outside? Drink water and get plenty of rest this weekend, Tar Heels!



EDITOR’S NOTE: Columns, cartoons and letters do not necessarily represent the opinions of The Daily Tar Heel or its staff. Editorials reflect the opinions of The Daily Tar Heel Editorial Board, which comprises 16 board members, the opinion assistant editor and editor and the editor-in-chief.

FOOTBALL

Mack Brown expects improved running game

Second-stint head coach says “running game is our quarterback’s best friend,” expects passing game to benefit from ground presence

By Matthew Maynard
Summer Sports Editor
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CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Last season, the North Carolina football team boasted one of the best offenses in the country. UNC ranked 19th in total offense and averaged just over 462 yards per game.

This season, a new-look offense will aim to lead North Carolina back to the ACC Championship game. After the departure of offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach Phil Longo, along with star wide receivers Josh Downs and Antoine Green — who were both selected in the 2022 NFL Draft — head coach Mack Brown added key pieces to his coaching staff and roster.

Under Longo, UNC operated an air raid style offense, playing to the strengths of quarterback Drake Maye and utilizing his offensive threats. After Longo’s departure, Brown was looking for an offensive coordinator with experience in the air raid system, but also one who could enhance the running game. He landed on former UCF offensive coordinator Chip Lindsey.

“The running game is our quarterback’s best friend with pass protection, and Chip had been involved with Gus Malzahn at Auburn and at Central Florida, and they run the ball so well,” Brown said. “I think you’ll see us much better on offense in the running game and very similar to what we’ve been in the passing game.”

In Brown’s first two years in his

second stint at UNC, the running game was one of the strongest in the conference. For the last two years, however, the Tar Heels have heavily relied on the passing game and been “middle of the road” on the ground.

Last season saw an injury-riddled backfield, with British Brooks and Caleb Hood both suffering season-ending injuries.

With a healthy running back room, establishing a running game will take pressure off of the passing game and free up the offense.

“I think anytime you run the football it opens up play action, opens up doors for one-on-one matchups,” Maye said.

Other coaching additions on the offensive end are run game coordinator and tight

ends coach Freddie Kitchens and volunteer offensive analyst Clyde Christensen. Kitchens has a plethora of experience, most notably as head coach of the Cleveland Browns. Christensen is also well versed, coaching NFL stars such as Peyton Manning, Tom Brady and Andrew Luck.

“He’s a man full of knowledge, he’s a great coach,” tight end John

Copenhaver said. “I’m excited to have him coach us in the season as well. Just having that knowledge has really helped us grow as a tight end group.”

Aside from coaches, Brown has added Nate McCollum and Tez Walker to help fill the void left by Downs and Green. McCollum has experience in the ACC with Georgia Tech.

“He has great speed, he is tough,” Brown said. “He can run it as well as throw it, so he can make yards after catch, so he has some similarities to Josh that we lost.”

Walker has transferred twice during his college career, but Brown believes that’s one of the good parts about the transfer portal — a player can end up where they are meant to be.

With expectations high for the upcoming 2023 season — including Maye’s Heisman odds, where he may get selected in the NFL Draft or the pressure of getting back to the ACC Championship game — Maye and the Tar Heels are focused on winning.

“Just keeping the main thing the main thing — that’s winning games,” Maye said. “We try to win all the games. All those personal accolades come with winning football games and having North Carolina being up there in the conversation of the ACC Championship and bigger things.”



DTH/ADRIAN TILLMAN

Mack Brown answers questions from reporters at ACC Kickoff on Thursday, July 27, 2023.

Twitter: [@mdmaynard74](https://twitter.com/mdmaynard74)

WOMEN’S TENNIS

Energy spurs NCAA championship match win

‘This match was us,’ says head coach Brian Kalbas after win

By Caroline Wills
Senior Writer
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Editor’s Note: This article was originally published on May 21, 2023.

ORLANDO, Fla. — When sophomore Carson Tanguilig looked to the courts around her during her match-deciding third set, all she could see was her teammates playing every point like it was their last.

Beside her, junior Fiona Crawley launched a cross-

court return to an unreachable spot, fighting back from down 5-6 to force a set tie-break. To Tanguilig’s left, senior Elizabeth Scotty was leading in her second set after a closely-fought first set and intense tie-break.

“It’s a motivator,” Tanguilig said in the post-game press conference. “It’s like, ‘If she can do it, like, why can’t I do it?’”

The No. 1 North Carolina women’s tennis team won the program’s first-ever NCAA national championship with a 4-1 win against No. 3 N.C. State on Saturday. Crawley, Scotty and Tanguilig’s tie-break victories in singles contributed to clinching the match victory.

“This match was us,” head coach Brian Kalbas said at the press conference. “We were tough, we were determined, we were competitive, we were feisty and we were resilient.”

In a battle of sheer will, toughness and stamina, the Tar Heels played every point of the title match like it was the deciding one. The survivalist mentality was crucial to withstand long, physically-demanding rallies, deuce points and make-or-break tie-breakers.

Even though UNC grabbed the first team point behind an explosive doubles performance and ended N.C. State’s 11-game clinch streak, the Wolfpack did not back down. Five out of six singles matches went into a tie-break at some point in the match — including junior Reilly Tran

and senior Anika Yarlagadda, who both forced a third set after falling in the first.

“We knew the matches were going to get longer and they were going to get tougher,” Kalbas said. “And, as the match went along, you could see our team getting tougher.”

When the first set wins were split evenly 3-3 between the two teams, all eyes fell on Scotty’s match to determine who held the advantage. Thanks to the doubles point, the Tar Heels only needed to win three singles matches, while the Wolfpack needed to win four.

Scotty fought back from a 5-6 deficit to force a set tie-breaker. If her first set was to end in a loss, UNC’s momentum would be stunted and control of the match could quickly slip through their fingers. And, when she fell behind 3-6 in the first-to-seven game, devastation seemed imminent — the next point could have easily been the last.

Jumping on the ball early, dictating ball movement and a double fault at the serve allowed the North Carolina senior to chip away at the deficit until it was tied once again. When Scotty finally took the lead, she did not relinquish it, giving her team a much-needed boost in momentum. Winning that first set was “gigantic,” according to Kalbas.

“She has an incredible way of knowing when the team really needs her and stepping up,” he said.

The fate of the championship hung in the balance once again when Tanguilig struggled to put



DTH/ADRIAN TILLMAN

The UNC women’s tennis team poses with their trophy after winning the NCAA Tournament on May 20, 2023.

away her match after dominating in the first, 6-4. With Crawley surviving a second set tie-breaker and Scotty closing in on a match victory, it was up to Tanguilig to add the final point or all the pressure would fall on Tran and Yarlagadda to complete their comebacks.

After dropping 4-6, the UNC sophomore said she focused on her serve, playing disciplined and staying in every point going into the final set. Minimizing N.C. State junior Amelia Rajecki’s forehand and outlasting her in drawn-out rallies pushed Tanguilig over the edge at the 2-2 breakpoint and a

three-game winning streak carried her to the precipice of victory.

The teammates whose comebacks motivated her throughout her tie-breaker watched in anticipation on the sidelines through Tanguilig’s final game point — trusting that she would battle every point.

When she pounded her last forehand into the vacant side of the court and it bounced past Rajecki, the last point of the NCAA Tournament was finally won.

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DTH/ADRIAN TILLMAN

UNC women’s tennis Associate Head Coach Tyler Thomson celebrates UNC’s victory in the NCAA Tournament final with a player.

Star point guard's reclassification wasn't planned



PHOTO COURTESY OF TNS/TOM HORAK
Incoming first-year Elliot Cadeau makes a no-look pass in a game against Gill St. Bernard's School.

Continued from Page 1

But then, things changed. "It changed his thinking on wanting to come here early," Davis said. "He also had a desire to be here. He's such a team guy, he wants to win, wants to be a great teammate."

And those were important boxes for Davis to check. He is hesitant having the reclassification discussion with commits. Coach Davis understands the sacrifices a young man is making when he forgoes his final year of high school like Cadeau has.

"Out of all the years in high school, I can remember my senior year," Davis said. "It was a big deal getting my diploma in high school. It was a big deal my senior year for senior night. I remember that. So, I don't want guys to pass that up. It's an important part of growth."

That's why Davis made sure to ask

Cadeau why he wanted to reclass. It was only once he felt that this was the right fit that Davis agreed to endorse the decision, because it's a big step.

Part of the decision to bring Cadeau in early to strengthen next year's team. Cadeau is a 6-foot-1 point guard with a feel for the court and an ability to set his teammates up with keen passing. Even after reclassing, Cadeau is the No. 11 player in the class of 2023.

He brings a skill set that, placed alongside rising senior RJ Davis, makes for a dangerous backcourt.

Still, his inclusion on this year's team was never planned. The ultimate change in direction is a result of the modern nature of college basketball.

"In the past, you could predict what a team's gonna look like next year and the year after that," Davis said. "You could recruit in a way knowing that this person's going to be here, and this person's going to be gone. You can no

longer do that. You can 100 percent predict that you don't know what it's going to look like from year to year."

That unpredictability is what led Cadeau to UNC a year early. He'll miss senior prom. He'll miss his senior night. But that's what Cadeau decided.

"What's important for me is guys that want to be here," Davis said. "Guys that want to be part of a team, and understand the importance of the name on the front of your jersey, that it's an honor and a privilege to be a part of this program. It means something to run out of that tunnel and onto that floor."

Davis seems confident Cadeau is ready for that sacrifice. He will take another big step — onto Roy Williams Court for the first time this fall.

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MENTAL HEALTH

From rock bottom to ACC champion

CJ Saddler wins 400 meter competition just 10 days after his lowest point

By Twumasi Duah-Mensah

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Content Warning: This article contains mentions of suicide and eating disorders.

CJ Saddler could not stop his thoughts from racing as he walked past Dorrance Field a week and a half before the 2023 ACC Track and Field Championships.

Being outside was rare for him at this time — he had barely left his bed the whole week.

On the walk, his mind fizzled with how people told him he should feel. He had yet to consider how he felt. The weight of the world was crushing him.

He then collapsed on Dorrance Field in tears. Saddler had hit the lowest point of his life.

Ten days later, he became an ACC champion in the men's 400-meter hurdles. How Saddler escaped rock bottom took a village of support he didn't know he had.

The track and field staff were already aware something was not right with Saddler. Two days prior to his breaking point, he practiced without talking to anyone. Head down, hood up — and Saddler is usually far from quiet in practice. "People always gravitate around him," Madias Loper, a former

thrower on the team, said.

After speaking with his trainers and coaches, Saddler was granted time off. The first step for Saddler — after collapsing on Dorrance Field — was to call his athletic trainer Kelly Fleming.

"She's always someone we can talk to about anything," Saddler said. "She's open to hear anything that we're going through. As she's giving a massage or flushing out our hamstrings, she's also asking, 'How are you personally doing?'"

Fleming arranged for Saddler to stay with Loper for the night. Loper said Saddler is someone with whom he can be vulnerable. Both have cried in front of each other.

Loper also remembers one of his fraternity brothers committing suicide two years ago. Based on that tragedy, he had zero hesitation in letting Saddler stay for the night.

"I learned that it takes a friend to know how to save a friend," Loper said. "If someone tells you that they need you, it's important for you to be there how they need you to be there."

So the next step for Saddler: talking with his parents. Not something he wanted to do. Saddler thought he needed to project a perfect image for his parents.

Minutes into calling their son, Craig and Marsha Saddler looked

at each other, knowing CJ was suffering in a way they had never seen before. They booked the first flight they could find from Florida to North Carolina.

It was that call with his parents that CJ said was his critical breakthrough.

"It was an amazing moment of clarity," CJ said. "Our relationship got ten times stronger. Because now I can tell them anything and I know that they won't hate me."

Growing up, he always saw his father's unblemished transcript from his master's degree. He never saw the undergraduate transcript — that was for a reason. Craig struggled through undergrad, going through the same "a-ha moment" CJ was going through.

And Saddler's parents could trust him to learn from his mistakes.

"We just said, 'We're here to help you on the path you take,'" Craig said. "But ultimately the choice is yours. And for him to hear us say that, I think it went a long way."

CJ, after praying about finding more people to trust, went to teammate Troy Yearwood's house. It was a deeper conversation than they'd ever had before. Yearwood told CJ not to shy away from the past but to use it as motivation for who he wanted to be.

"Day one, he was receptive," Yearwood said. "He's had one of the fastest turnarounds I've ever seen."



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE
CJ Saddler celebrates after a first-place finish in the men's 400-meter hurdles at the ACC Track and Field Championships.

Putting a plan into action has never been the hard step for CJ. His dad remembers warning him when they moved from Iowa to Florida that the competition would be much tougher.

"And his response to me was classic," Craig said. "He said, 'Dad, all that may be true, but they haven't raced me yet.'"

So CJ put his mind to recovery. He stayed with his parents at a hotel until the ACC Championship. He struggled to eat before staying with his parents, and Saddler said he cried in front of food realizing how hard it was to eat.

His parents ate with him, and CJ got back to eating three meals a day. He got back into practice, warming

up with the team and working out on his own until the ACCs.

On the day of the men's 400-meter hurdles, Craig heard CJ tell someone he was going to win — how he would celebrate, what he would say in the interview. Like he read it in a book.

And it happened. CJ posted a time below 50 seconds for the first time in his career, winning the ACC Championship.

As Craig celebrated in the stands, he recalled how he told his boss he needed a week off to help his son.

"There's no way my boss is gonna believe this," Craig said.

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LOOKING AHEAD

Tar Heels seek redemption after disappointing season

UNC brings a mix of returning leaders and fresh faces to 2023-24

By Ben McCormick

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It's no secret that UNC men's basketball fell short of expectations last season. It's also widely known that the Tar Heels were the first preseason AP No. 1 team to miss the NCAA Tournament.

Last season's team was often unpredictable, but what followed was even more hectic.

Seven players transferred from the program, and seven new players have walked right back through the revolving door of faces that typifies modern college basketball. The changes and pivoting that have occurred this offseason have made it difficult to reflect on the end of last season — and something head coach Hubert Davis hadn't publicly

done until July 20.

"We were disappointed," Davis said. Ultimately, the end of one season marks the beginning of the next, and there are tangible things that can be improved that Davis feels will help the Tar Heels in the 2023-24 season.

The first two things are shooting and passing. UNC ranked dead last in the ACC in three-point shooting last season, and in the bottom three in assists per game. Now, Davis thinks the Tar Heels' roster is constructed to improve these struggles.

"I think the team we have now, we're a better shooting team," Davis said. "I think we have multiple playmakers now. I really like the mix and the combinations of this team."

The team was pieced together rapidly during the offseason. From transfers to first-years to retaining players, the roster was built on the fly. The puzzle pieces for this team were dumped into a melting pot, and have begun to stick together, forming bonds and forging an identity.

It all starts with the guys who



DTH FILE/KENNEDY COX
UNC men's basketball head coach Hubert Davis directs his team from the sidelines during the exhibition game against JCSU at the Dean Smith Center on Friday, Oct. 28, 2022. UNC beat JCSU 101-40.

have stuck around. Armando Bacot, UNC's all-time rebounding leader, is back for his fifth and final year. The Tar Heels' floor general, senior RJ Davis is back as well, and the pair of veterans form the backbone of this year's team.

"They have done an unbelievable job of creating team and getting the new guys — not just the freshmen but also the transfers — acclimated to what

this program is about and what our team is going to be about," Davis said.

The leadership of the team goes beyond Bacot and RJ Davis, though. The transfers coming into the program are bringing experience with them.

Cormac Ryan is a graduate transfer from intra-conference foe Notre Dame. Ryan can shoot, play off the bounce and compete defensively. He is best known for his prowess as a shooter,

but another quality stood out to Davis.

"Probably the biggest area I didn't know is what kind of a leader he is," Davis said.

That seems to be the commonality — leaders. Guys that have bought into UNC and are bringing their experience into this amalgamation of Tar Heels. Ryan, Harrison Ingram, James Okonkwo, Jae'Lyn Withers and Paxson Wojcik all transferred from different places, but they all share one thing: at least two years of experience.

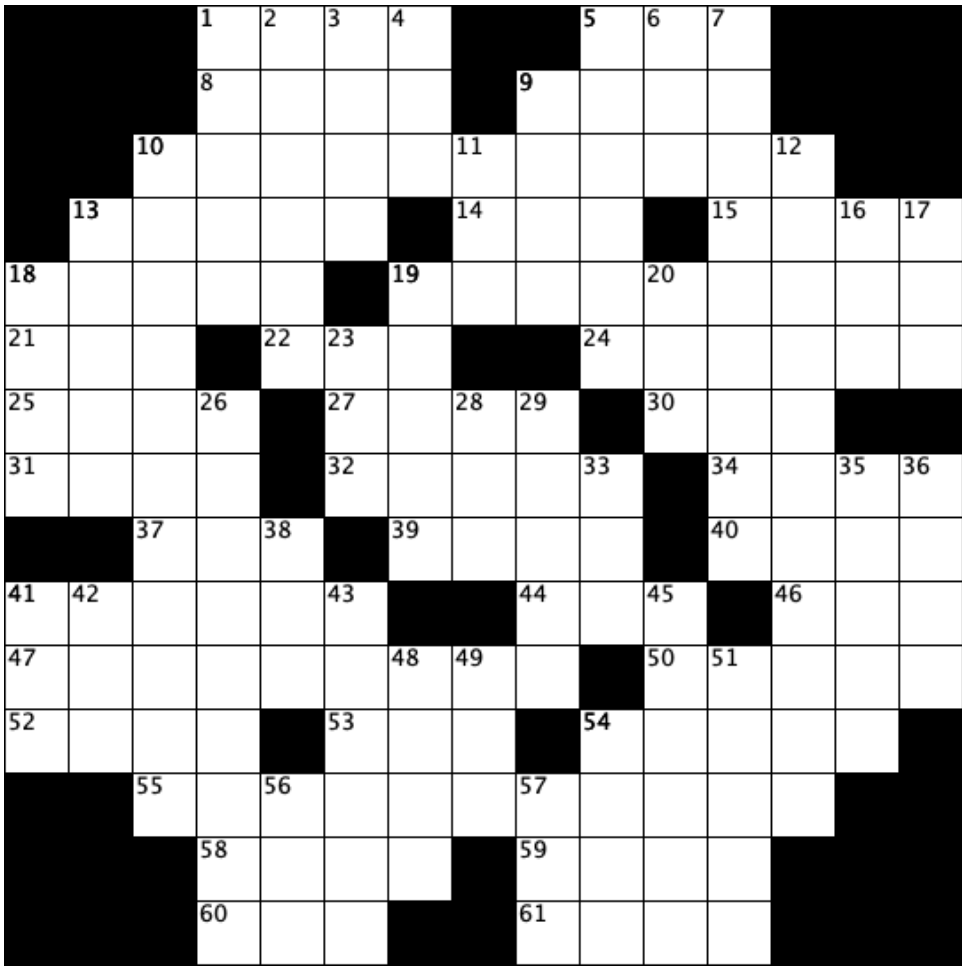
Package that with the talented skill sets of incoming first-years Elliot Cadeau and Zayden High and there's something to be excited about.

More than anyone, Bacot exemplifies the essence of this team. There are a lot of veterans, a lot of final chances in Chapel Hill this season, and none are more seasoned than Bacot.

"I'm really excited to see that type of, 'I only have one year left' mentality out there on the floor," Davis said.

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CROSSWORD



This crossword was made by Liam Furlong. Liam is a UNC junior majoring in comparative literature and education. He is from Wilmington, Del.

ACROSS

- 1 General location
- 5 Guided along
- 8 Rather boring
- 9 Stolen plate
- 10 Common garden pest or carpenter's necessity
- 13 Vegetable paste
- 14 Vanna's partner on "Wheel of Fortune"
- 15 Low-class worker, serf
- 18 Source of police car's wail
- 19 Provide incorrect data, say
- 21 Often gets a big tip
- 22 American novelist Grafton
- 24 Bethany Hamilton, for one
- 25 Ancient Peruvian empire
- 27 Cats and dogs
- 30 Internet image with debatable pronunciation
- 31 "____, Unfortunate Souls" (classic Disney villain song)
- 32 Obeys the red light, say
- 34 Lover of Narcissus, in myth
- 37 Certain hypothetical degree
- 39 Look for the really good hidere
- 40 Microphone action
- 41 Craze person
- 44 Part of Ida Tarbell and Ida the hurricane
- 46 Ackland Museum display
- 47 Bipedal
- 50 Not as it should be
- 52 'Will be' in Barcelona?
- 53 Aristotle's "social animal"
- 54 All the world, according to Shakespeare
- 55 1980 World Series winner along with Bowa, Larry and Maddox, Garry
- 58 Hammer or hacksaw
- 59 Orange traffic provision
- 60 Isaac, to Abraham
- 61 Green dish best paired with ham

DOWN

- 1 Love unconditionally
- 2 Influential Flemish painter Peter Paul ____
- 3 Large Central European river
- 4 For one? One horrible deal, really
- 5 "____ one in ____ a rotten egg!"
- 6 Psychic's gift
- 7 Like most state fair foods
- 9 Cupped clothing
- 10 Marvel's The Lizard's alter ego
- 11 Prefix to 'pen' and 'graph'
- 12 Australian politician and Minister of Roads and Ports
- 13 Glenn Gould's instrument
- 16 Valuable mining find
- 17 Medical resonance machine, abbr.
- 18 The Edmund Fitzgerald, for one
- 19 Track and field events
- 20 Bit of manicured marijuana, slangily
- 23 Increases company's shipping costs?
- 26 Indiana Jones' targets
- 28 A big baby in the middle?
- 29 Usain Bolt measurement
- 33 Deep blue... something
- 35 Seabiscuit or Mr. Ed
- 36 Chooses to participate
- 38 "Ni ____" (Mandarin greeting)
- 41 Fuji and Kilimanjaro, abbr.
- 42 Wonderment
- 43 Frequently found
- 45 Munching or lunching
- 48 Piece pinned on the donkey (poor ass)
- 49 This answer is nearer than you think (exactly four clues nearer)
- 51 Puts together
- 54 Polluted air mass
- 56 Yoo-____ (chocolatey beverage)
- 57 Common chemical in industrial solvents

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BASEBALL

Diamond Heel standouts play in the Cape

Two pitchers and an outfielder work to improve their game

By Grace Nugent

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Three Diamond Heels are spending their summer covered in sweat and sunburns, but not because of beach vacations or lake days. Instead, Casey Cook, Dalton Pence and Ben Peterson are spending their summer immersed in the world of baseball's premier summer league known as "the Cape."

Pitchers Pence and Peterson and outfielder Cook, have traveled to the over 100-year-old wood-bat Cape Cod Summer League to showcase their skills. The Cape boasts alumni such as Aaron Judge, Jeff Bagwell, Chris Sale and Adley Rutschman — along with former UNC standouts Zac Gallen and Matt Harvey — who all spent summers on one of the league's ten teams.

Both Peterson and Pence are using their time at the Cape to fine-tune their existing pitching arsenal.

It was an easy decision for the UNC arms, as Pence sees the Cape as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to learn from some of the best coaches and players in the country.

"Being around different coaches and different players from different

teams would be really helpful for me, just kind of picking their brain and learning more about what they see, what I'm doing wrong," Pence said. "And what I can fix, what improvements I can make. Just getting help from others."

The lefty, who worked as a long reliever and even started games for the Diamond Heels, is spending his summer focusing on off-speed pitches.

Mentally, the Cape has been a confidence builder for Pence and as he gets more appearances under his belt Pence said he feels a sense of self-satisfaction.

Peterson is taking his time at the Cape as a chance to get comfortable with two-pitch variations. The righty debuted a new two-seam fastball and cutter midseason after a couple of rough outings with a four-seam with subpar metrics and is looking to fine-tune those pitches.

After a rocky start to his time in the Cape with the Chatham Anglers, Peterson hit his stride in early July, recording his first save while allowing one hit and striking out four in three innings of relief.

His best outing may give head coach Scott Forbes hope for the rotation next season with the righty going 4.2 innings allowing only one hit, zero runs and striking out four.

"Throwing against some of the



DTH FILE/OLIVIA PAUL

Redshirt first-year infielder/outfielder Casey Cook (16) prepares to swing the bat during the baseball game against Boston College on Sunday, April 23, 2023, at Boshamer Stadium. UNC fell to Boston College 2-6.

best hitters in the country is always going to be a test," Peterson said. "But so far when I've executed them well, they've really worked."

Peterson's primary goal of the summer is to learn from the best in a pitcher-dominated league and to leave with a complete pitching set to bring back to UNC.

Cook, on the other hand, came to the Cape focused on power-hitting numbers.

Cook was the most consistent bat for the Tar Heels and had a breakout

year at the plate earning ACC All-Freshman honors, reached base safely in 44 consecutive games and ended the season with a .393 batting average.

He was unable to carry his momentum into the Cape, but believes the work he is putting in will be shown in time.

"You're seeing some of the best hitters so you can absorb some of the knowledge they know and you're talking to your teammates, you're talking to people on the other team," Cook said. "So you're just kind of

soaking up knowledge."

An additional pro of the Cape for Cook is the swinging of wood bats, which require more accuracy and precision, helping clean up mechanical flaws.

The three Diamond Heels may have a different goal for their summer, but they all see the Cape as a place to learn from the best and personally develop heading into fall ball and the 2024 season.

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ACC KICKOFF

UNC football looks to mend last season's defensive struggles

Unit gave up almost 40 points per game in out-of-conference play

By Ben McCormick

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CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Early last season, a negative feeling arose around UNC football's defense.

The defense looked bad, and ultimately — it was.

The Tar Heels gave up 61 points in a two-point win at Appalachian State in the second game of the season. They then allowed 45 points to Notre Dame in their first

loss of the season three weeks later. From that point on, the defense's struggles were well known.

By the end of the year, the Tar Heels still ranked last in the ACC in defense.

But as members of the team took to the podium at ACC Football Kickoff on July 27, senior linebacker and last season's ACC leader in tackles, Cedric Gray, pushed back on those narratives.

"It definitely leaves a bad taste in my mouth when people talk about our team and talk about how bad of a defense we've been sometimes," Gray said. "Especially being the leader of a defense, I kind of take that personally."

After giving up an average of

39.5 points in four non-conference games, the Tar Heels' defense saw a drastic improvement in conference play, improving by nearly 14 points to 25.8 points allowed per game.

Gray also said he thought UNC was playing its best defense late last season. Despite the fact that the Tar Heels lost their last four games of the season, there seems to be a belief that they can build off the positive foundation from the end of last season.

"I think we've done a lot of different things this offseason to improve," Gray said. "I think, first and foremost, our (defensive line) has improved tremendously. I think we've added some new

wrinkles to the pass rush game."

UNC ranked last in the ACC in passing defense and bottom three in rushing defense. But according to head coach Mack Brown, improving the defense all starts with stopping the run.

"We've got to be more aggressive up front and stop the run more on first down," Brown said.

He added that it will be easier for UNC to improve its passing defense once it can contain the rush, and the Tar Heels will have ample opportunity to show off their rushing defense in the first four games of the season.

"We've got a really tough schedule to start the season with some very physical teams," Brown said. "South Carolina is going to run the ball. App State will run the ball, Minnesota will run the ball and Pitt will run the ball. It will be a great four games to start out to see if we've improved like we think we have on defense."

With Gene Chizik, the assistant head coach for defense, back for his second year in Chapel Hill, Gray said the Tar Heels should begin to look more comfortable in their defensive system this season.

With potential Heisman award candidate Drake Maye at the helm of the offense once again, the Tar Heels should have few worries putting points on the board. That's why a lot of the pressure is on the shoulders of the defense. UNC may win as many games as its defense allows it to.

But there is an understanding that the rushing defense needs to improve, and there's a mindset within these Tar Heels to be physical and get better.

"You just have to be a savage," tight end John Copenhaver said. "You really have to stick your nose in there and be able to be physical and take hits and give hits."

Ruling to impact HBCUs

Continued from Page 1

Joseph Cooper, the chair of sport leadership and administration at the University of Massachusetts Boston, said at predominantly white universities, Black student-athletes are highly visible as the face of athletics, while simultaneously invisible and under-supported in mental health resources and representation in coaching and athletic departments.

"There's layers to the trauma that Black people experience," he said. "Just because you put a uniform on and you perform well and maybe you earn a little bit more money or a little bit more visibility and you might have more Twitter followers, it doesn't heal the wounds fully."

The ruling also has an impact on historically Black colleges and universities, chair of the educational leadership department at Virginia State University, Michael McIntosh, said. He said HBCUs will likely see an increase in enrollment, but these schools cannot stand in the gap because they are underfunded and lacking the same programs as predominantly white colleges, like study abroad programs.

For every \$1 a predominantly white university receives, HBCUs receive 59 cents, McIntosh said.

Cooper said that organization is critical to stand up for admissions equity. Student-athletes are in a unique position, he said, because they can strategically leverage their influence and economic impact. He suggested that Black college athletes from HBCUs and historically white colleges band together in activist efforts.

Tomika Ferguson is the assistant dean of student affairs and inclusive excellence at Virginia Commonwealth University and a former student-athlete. She said college presidents need to have courage to ensure universities remain equitable.

"If there is no courage at the top, there will be no resources at the bottom," she said.



DTH/ADRIAN TILLMAN

Senior linebacker Cedric Gray responds to a question from reporters at ACC Kickoff on Thursday, July 27, 2023.

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