

The Daily Tar Heel

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129 YEARS OF SERVING UNC STUDENTS AND THE UNIVERSITY

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University librarian reflects on UNC career



DTH/GRAPHIC BY CLAIRE AUDILET

Elaine Westbrooks set to depart in May

By Praveena Somasundaram
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Growing up, Elaine Westbrooks often walked through the doors of the red brick Carnegie Library building in her hometown of Homestead, Pa.

On her first day of college, she walked into the library at the University of Pittsburgh, where she would end up working for the entirety of her undergraduate career.

And since then, she hasn't looked back.

Westbrooks has worked in libraries for more than two decades, spanning from Ithaca, N.Y. to Lincoln, Neb., to Ann Arbor, Mich. and finally to Chapel Hill.

Since 2017, Westbrooks has served as UNC's University librarian and vice provost for University Libraries, leading a system of 10 libraries and a team of hundreds of employees. She has spearheaded University Libraries' work in diversity, equity and inclusion, working to make the library system a better, more accessible space for underrepresented communities.

Her last day at UNC will be May 31. Westbrooks is the first Black University librarian since

the position was created in 1901.

"I lean into that because it really changes the way I think about the world," she said. "And so I really think I've been the right leader for the right time."

'A dream appointment'

When the search for a new University librarian was underway years ago, William Ferris, a retired UNC professor of history and folklore, made it a point to attend every candidate presentation.

Ferris, a longtime supporter of University Libraries who has served on the Friends of the Library Board of Directors, was particularly impressed by Westbrooks' presentation — so much so that he personally appealed to then-Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Kevin Guskiewicz, who was the chairperson of the search committee.

"I just felt she would be a dream appointment," Ferris said. "And she has more than excelled my expectations for her."



DTH/ISAIAH DICKERSON

Elaine Westbrooks, vice provost for University Libraries and University librarian, will depart from her role on May 31.

At UNC, Westbrooks has focused on moving library resources toward initiatives that promote DEI and address the erasure of underrepresented communities from archives and other materials.

"This deep commitment and this understanding of what it means to be equitable — I get it," she said. "Not because I was born with the skills, but I have done the research, I have a lived experience, and I've talked to people and I know what it means to suffer the indignity of going places and not being treated like you belong."

'She's not replaceable'

After graduating from Pittsburgh, Westbrooks gained experience at several different libraries, including as a the head of metadata services at Cornell University, associate dean of libraries at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and associate university librarian for research at the University of Michigan.

During her five years at UNC, she and her team have launched projects that aim to document racial history at the University and in North Carolina.

Associate history professor William Sturkey, who has worked

SEE LEAVING PAGE 4

Women's basketball season ends with loss in Sweet 16

No. 5 North Carolina fell to No. 1 South Carolina Friday, 69-61

By Shelby Swanson
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GREENSBORO — Midway through UNC's postgame press conference following its season-ending loss to No. 1 South Carolina in the Sweet 16, a reporter in the crowd prefaced their question to head coach Courtney Banghart with an apology for bringing up a "bad subject."

"Aliyah Boston again?" Banghart replied, without missing a beat.

If you were North Carolina on Friday night, it was hard to escape the name — and relentless dominance — of South Carolina's season-long X factor. Despite UNC's best efforts, Boston recorded 28 points and 22 rebounds in her 27th straight double-double, carrying the Gamecocks to a 69-61 win.

"She was an absolute problem," Banghart said. "Aliyah Boston going for 20-20 isn't surprising anybody in this room."

Boston was virtually unstoppable in the late stretch of the game, with 19 of her points and 12 of her rebounds coming in the second half. She became the fourth player since 2000 to have a 20-20 performance in the Sweet 16 or later.

And it wasn't for a lack of effort on North Carolina's part, either.

UNC had given South Carolina multiple different defensive looks throughout the game. The Tar Heels tried denying the entry pass at first, but couldn't quite get around Boston's 6-foot-5 frame. By the second quarter, the team shifted to a pack line defense, which the Gamecocks' formidable outside shooters, Destanni Henderson and Zia Cooke, took full advantage of.

And by the third quarter? Boston had taken over.

"Our initial game plan in the beginning was really crowd the paint and really limit the bigs' touches," sophomore guard Deja Kelly said. "And then the guards kind of started going on their own little run. They were hitting outside shots, jumpers, which is something we were going to make them do, and they did."

As the game clock ticked down,

SEE TAR HEELS PAGE 16



CAROLINA ATHLETICS WEEKEND



BASEBALL
NORTH CAROLINA vs. VIRGINIA TECH
APRIL 1 - 6:00 P.M. | BOSHAMER STADIUM
APRIL FOOLS' DAY
+2 FEVER POINTS

MEN'S LACROSSE
NORTH CAROLINA vs. DUKE
APRIL 2 - 2:00 P.M. | DORRANCE FIELD
FREE FOOD FOR EARLY ARRIVING STUDENTS
+2 FEVER POINTS

SOFTBALL
NORTH CAROLINA vs. CLEMSON
APRIL 3 - 1:00 P.M. | ANDERSON STADIUM
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Racial equity report shows county's needs



DTH/KENNEDY COX

Habitat for Humanity of Orange County, as photographed on Monday, March 21, has invested almost \$600,000 in homes owned by Black community members, according to a recently released racial equity report.

Homeownership is a main driver of the racial wealth gap, per findings

By Samuel Long
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Habitat for Humanity of Orange County has assisted over 330 Black families through its homeownership and home preservation program over the past nearly 40 years, according to its recently released racial equity report. Since just 2010, Habitat has invested almost \$600,000 in homes owned by

Black community members, according to the report.

Mona L. Daniels is the owner of one of those homes.

A single mother of four, Daniels moved into a home in 1996 with Habitat's help and paid off her mortgage in 2016, according to the report.

"The thing I wanted most was for my kids to have a safe place to live and also with less stress," Daniels said in an interview with The Daily Tar Heel.

She said Habitat helped her stay on track with her mortgage and address certain repair needs with her home.

"Habitat is doing a lot of good

things, and there's a lot of ways to live safe, sound, feel comfortable and stress free," Daniels said.

The report, "Promoting Black Homeownership," presented findings on racial inequities in homeownership, recognized the racial wealth gap and offered policy solutions.

According to the report, 89 percent of the families it has served have been households of color since Orange County Habitat's founding in 1984.

Black communities historically and currently face systemic issues of housing discrimination and redlining. The report also addresses how the COVID-19 pandemic has presented

"Habitat is doing a lot of good things, and there's a lot of ways to live safe, sound, feel comfortable and stress-free."

Mona L. Daniels
Orange County homeowner

new challenges for Black households.

The report says homeownership is a main driver of the racial wealth gap because homeownership is often the largest source of wealth for individuals. The median net wealth of families by race in 2019 nationwide was \$188,200 for white families and \$24,100 for Black families.

Jennifer Player, president and CEO of Habitat for Humanity of Orange County, said the lack of access to down payments and banks willing to give loans often hinders Black homeownership. She said that most first homes are bought with support from one's family.

Historically Black neighborhoods in Orange County like Northside and Pine Knolls were focus communities with homes impacted by Habitat's work, according to the report.

"In that community (Northside), the families who were able to purchase homes there have been able to build wealth over their lifetime," Player said. "They now own an asset that they can pass down to other generations of their family."

Player said that Habitat is just one part of this movement and that many Black-led organizations have been spearheading efforts of organizing and advocating for Black homeownership.

Both Habitat and local nonprofit EMPOWERment, Inc. are members of the Orange County Affordable Housing Coalition.

Delores Bailey, the co-chairperson of the NAACP Housing Committee and

executive director of EMPOWERment Inc., said the Northside and Pine Knolls communities, among others, have also been a focus of her organization since the founding of EMPOWERment, Inc.

Bailey said EMPOWERment, Inc. helps facilitate rentals and serves as one of the largest nonprofit landlords in Orange County. She added that the organization works to find housing in traditionally African American neighborhoods across Orange County.

Daniels said she would encourage anyone interested to apply for a program with Habitat. She advised people not to get discouraged if they get turned down originally as she did.

"If you get turned down, go ahead and reapply," she said. "More than likely your situation has changed."

Cami Schupp, board chairperson for Habitat for Humanity of Orange County, announced at the breakfast that Habitat Humanity of Orange County plans to build 148 affordable housing units for homeownership in the next five years.

Kimberly Cameron, who serves as the executive director of N.C. A&T Real Estate Foundation, Inc. in Greensboro, said she thinks people often think that housing issues can be resolved at a high level through government policy.

But she believes that there are many factors involved with affordable housing for Black communities and a holistic approach must be taken to address solutions.

Twitter: @sam_long16

Orange, Durham branches receive \$9.5M

The funds from the gift will be split between the two affiliates

By Samuel Long
Senior Writer
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The Habitats for Humanity of Orange and Durham County are each the recipients of million-dollar gifts after author and philanthropist MacKenzie Scott — formerly married to Amazon founder Jeff Bezos — recently donated \$436 million in unrestricted funds to Habitat for Humanity International and 84 of the organization's U.S. affiliates.

Nearly \$9.5 million will go to the Orange County and Durham County branches. The latter received \$4.5 million in funds, while the Orange County affiliate received \$5 million, according to a March 22 press release.

The donation follows a recent Orange County report regarding racial equity in housing. Both affiliates will use the money to continue the expansion of affordable housing in their respective counties, according to the press release published by Habitat for Humanity.

"With \$4.5 million, that's the largest single contribution we've ever received," Jim Belanger, interim CEO of Habitat for Humanity of Durham said.

Belanger said the board for the Durham affiliate is in the process of strategic planning that will help determine how to distribute the funds in the upcoming fiscal year.

He said the organization should have a clearer idea of where the resources will be allocated in the next few months.

Dianne Pledger, vice president of development and communications at Habitat for Humanity of Orange County, said that her branch is unsure of exactly how the donation will be used, but that the Orange County affiliate is looking at options for long-term future expansion. She added that the donation is not an end-all solution.

While the contribution won't provide affordable housing to everybody, she said, it will help with different demands for the branch's services as well as community projects.

The Orange County branch's recent report, "Promoting Black Homeownership," found that racial disparities in housing often prevent Black residents from attaining stable homeownership throughout the county.

According to the report, 44 percent of Black households own their homes, in comparison to 67 percent of white households. The 2008 housing crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic have greatly affected disparities related to Black homeownership.

The report also highlighted a significant wealth gap between white and Black homeowners and said one challenge in maintaining homeownership is that Black-owned homes also require more home repairs than those of their white counterparts.

Orange County Commissioner Anna Richards said that, as in the rest of the country, there has been a history of



DTH/SAMUEL LONG

Weavers Grove, an Orange County Habitat for Humanity mixed-income community, undergoes construction on Sunrise Road on Monday, March 28.

redlining in Orange County. Redlining refers to the the discriminatory refusal of loans based on race or ethnicity, most targeting Black Americans, in areas often deemed high financial risk.

Richards said one of the impacts of this practice included lowering home values in redlined areas for Black residents, which created a gap in terms of resale and appreciation.

She said one initiative Orange County is taking to address disparities in homeownership is the Longtime Homeowner Assistance program, which was launched last October.

The program offers property tax

assistance to residents who have lived in their homes for at least a decade. The issue of increased property taxes has disproportionately impacted Black neighborhoods, like Chapel Hill's Northside community.

According to the press release, the donation will allow for more communities like Weavers Grove.

The Orange County affiliate included in its report that its role within the community "provides a platform and a duty in the racial equity movement" to contribute to overcoming obstacles.

Twitter: @sam_long16

BRIEFS

RHA to place free menstrual products across UNC residence halls

The Residence Hall Association recently implemented the Menstrual Product Initiative, which places free menstrual products within all residence halls on campus.

The products will be shipped to the University on a monthly basis, with each residential community governor in charge of managing the packages. Community governments will help distribute the products and monitor weekly usage, RHA President Elliana Alexander said.

The RHA has identified restrooms across residential communities where menstrual products will be implemented — including men's, women's and gender neutral bathrooms. This ensures all individuals who menstruate have equal accessibility to products.

The initiative has been in the works for two years, but had been delayed.

Fiona Hasanaj

ACADEMY AWARDS

UNC alumna lends her voice to the Oscars

Janora McDuffie
voiced all of the show's
announcements Sunday

By Valeria Cloës
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On her first day going to prerecord announcement tracks for the 94th Academy Awards, UNC class of 1999 alumna Janora McDuffie found a source of comfort in an unlikely place.

Down the mustard-colored hallway in Sunset Las Palmas Studios in Hollywood, in the sound production stage bathroom two doors down from her recording studio, hung a painting called “Eight Ball” by Durham native Ernie Barnes.

Though she had never seen that particular painting before, McDuffie said she recognized Barnes’ art style. Next, she noticed his signature in the bottom-right corner.

“So to have this artist, this artwork up from a Durham artist and I’m on this Hollywood studio lot,” McDuffie said. “I just felt like that was everybody from back home saying, ‘You got this girl! Go on and do this. We see you!’”

McDuffie was the voice behind all of the Oscars announcements on Sunday.

Early life and career

Originally from Durham, McDuffie attended the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics. She then graduated from UNC in 1999 with a bachelor’s degree in psychology and communications studies with a concentration in performance.

While at UNC, McDuffie was a Morehead-Cain scholar, an inductee of



Janora McDuffie, a Durham native and UNC alumna, was the voice behind the announcements at the 94th Academy Awards on Sunday, March 27.

“I am so excited to represent the African American community and specifically African American women in this space.”

Janora McDuffie
Actress, UNC class of 1999

the Order of the Golden Fleece and a member of Delta Sigma Theta sorority and the Black Student Movement.

She said that for her first yearlong professional job out of college, she moved to Atlanta to work as a consultant for Ernst & Young.

But in her heart, she wanted to pursue a career in performance.

McDuffie distinctly remembers standing up in a BSM meeting during her senior year at UNC and announcing

that she was going to move to Los Angeles after college, she said.

“All of a sudden, these dreams got replaced with corporate dreams (by getting offered the job in Atlanta),” she said. “But I was still super excited because, ‘Man, I’m not going to be a broke college student anymore!’”

In 2000, after talking with the recruiter who hired her and her counselor at EY, McDuffie decided moved to Los Angeles to pursue her

acting dreams.

‘Publicly authentic’

During her 22 years living in Los Angeles, Janora McDuffie has appeared on different shows — with performances as “Social Worker Janet” on two seasons of “Grey’s Anatomy” and appearances in “The Unit,” “24” and “Lie to Me” — and has done voice acting for commercials, video games

and other animations.

To McDuffie, acknowledging her identities and the communities she is a part of is important — a responsibility that comes with her platform.

In particular, she shares parts of her identity that people may not know or see because visibility and representation matter, she said.

“I am so excited to represent the African American community and specifically African American women in this space,” she said. “But just looking at me, you don’t know that I have a beautiful wife at home.”

By sharing these parts of her life, McDuffie said she hopes that someone is empowered or validated even more by seeing themselves in her.

Vydashon-Telese Coleman, a personal trainer and childhood friend of McDuffie, said in an email that she believes McDuffie represents both the Black community and the LGBTQ+ community well.

“And as proud of that as I am and she is,” Coleman said. “I would want her to be seen as not just ‘the LGBTQ+ actress’ or ‘the Black woman actress,’ but also as just ‘a great actress!’”

She said her identities inform who she is and how she looks at the world.

Leila Ryan, McDuffie’s wife and an officer for the Los Angeles Police Department, said she is proud of and beyond excited for McDuffie.

“This is her time,” Ryan said. “Now the world gets to see what I see.”

McDuffie said she enjoys work where she gets to be herself.

“So in that realm, also finding additional opportunities to be Janora,” McDuffie said. “To share some Chapel Hill flair, mixed with Black girl magic and a little bit of rainbow sprinkles.”

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DTH AT A GLANCE

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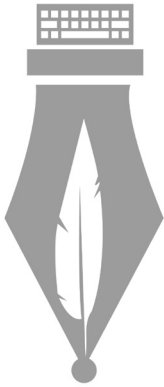
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Leaving ‘bittersweet’ for Westbrooks

Continued from Page 1

closely with Westbrooks on some of these projects, said she is the most important leader on campus for pushing UNC to deal with its history of race.

“We’re never going to have somebody again like Elaine Westbrooks,” he said. “She’s not replaceable, largely because the work that she’s put in and the contributions that she made at a time of crisis in the University’s history.”

Westbrooks and Sturkey have worked together on University Libraries’ Reckoning Initiative, which was a call to action to interrogate systems that perpetuate inequity following the murder of George Floyd in 2020, Westbrooks said.

Launched in May 2021, the initiative is a layered approach to advancing DEI and anti-racism work within the library system.

“It really was a response to what’s happening in our society,” Westbrooks said.

Ultimately, her work comes down to communities, Westbrooks said. She has been involved in the North Carolina Digital Heritage Center, a project that works with historical societies, museums and schools to digitize culture and history.

The project, which is housed in Wilson Library, has gone to 100 counties in the state. It has recently focused on historically Black schools and communities to preserve yearbooks and newspapers.

“You have to know who you are, where you’ve been,” Westbrooks said. “And that’s why this North Carolina Digital Heritage Center Project is



DTH/ISAIAH DICKERSON

Elaine Westbrooks will be the Carl A. Kroch University Librarian at Cornell University starting July 1.

really near and dear to my heart.”

‘Libraries are the glue’

Her hope for University Libraries moving forward is for it to continue being recognized and acknowledged for its work.

“I’ve felt supported for the five years I’ve been here,” Westbrooks said.

But recent years have not come without challenges for University Libraries. The buildings were closed at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

University Libraries is also facing significant budget cuts.

Through these challenges, Westbrooks said, the work of University Libraries and libraries across the country are important to sustain a healthy democracy.

“I don’t think it’s a stretch to say that democracies are under attack right now,” she said. “Libraries are the glue. We’re a social infrastructure that enables our democracy to thrive.”

This summer, Westbrooks will return to Ithaca to be the Carl A. Kroch

University Librarian at Cornell. It’s an opportunity to start over at another place she loves, Westbrooks said.

And she knows the team she’s leaving behind will continue to be the “intellectual home” of UNC, continue to be part of the glue the world needs.

“It’s very bittersweet, having to leave,” Westbrooks said. “And there’s so many things that have been planted, and I’m not going to be able to see them bloom.”

Twitter: @praveenavsoma

Second AAC Fellows cohort hosts lectures



DTH FILE/CYNTHIA LIU

The Asian American Center, photographed on Sunday, Aug. 27, hosts cohorts of fellows who host in-person visits to share their work.

Scholars lead events that highlight the Asian American experience

By Ryan Koluch
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The UNC Asian American Center’s second cohort of fellows — Theodore Gonzalves, Samah Choudhury and Sean Metzger — are bringing more opportunities for UNC students to learn about Asian American communities,

culture and history through new in-person fellowship visits.

AAC Director Heidi Kim said the center’s Fellows Program invites scholars and artists to lead events and workshops that highlight the Asian American experience on campus and beyond. The AAC was founded in 2020, and opened its first physical space in 2021, but there is currently no Asian American Studies department at UNC.

The AAC Fellows Program was announced in fall 2020.

“Nationwide, there’s no other

program like this,” Kim said. “I sort of can’t believe that there is no other program like this, and so as someone in the field, I saw this gap and I really wanted us to fill it.”

Theodore Gonzalves

Theodore Gonzalves hosted the first AAC Fellows talk in October. He researches Asian Pacific American history, with a focus on Asian American and Filipino American experiences.

During his event, he spoke about his role as curator of Asian Pacific American history at the National Museum of American History.

“I focused generally on the kind of work that I have been doing so far at the museum that focuses on exhibitions and research,” Gonzalves said. “So I kind of kept it narrowly focused on those two areas: The kinds of objects that I’ve been collecting and the reasons why I think the National Museum of American History should be those kind of museums in the area of Asian American and Pacific Island history.”

Gonzalves is also interim director of the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center in Washington, D.C.

He said the AAC Fellows Program has offered him the opportunity to discuss this research with other prominent scholars in the field.

“The most exciting aspect of it for me is to be able to be in conversation with other Asian American studies scholars and to help build the community around Asian American studies,” Gonzalves said.

Samah Choudhury

Samah Choudhury is an assistant professor in the Department of Philosophy and Religion at Ithaca College. Her research focuses on the Middle East, Islam and Muslim experiences, specifically looking at aspects of humor, race and gender.

Choudhury is currently writing a book about American Muslim comedy.

Her research, which follows three South Asian American comedians, Hasan Minhaj, Aziz Ansari and Kumail

Nanjiani, was the focus of an AAC Fellows event she hosted on March 21, called “Why Does Representation Matter? The Diversity Complex and American Muslim Comedy.”

“So these three men, I think, I take as an interesting point of departure to think about why is it that the most prominent American Muslims in pop culture today are all comedians? Why are they all men? And why are they all South Asian?” Choudhury said.

She said that the comedians included in her book use comedy as a way to provide legibility for Islam and Muslims but in doing so may also obscure possibilities for Muslims on stage as well.

Sean Metzger

Sean Metzger is a professor at the School of Theatre, Film and Television and the vice chairperson of undergraduate studies at the University of California, Los Angeles.

His research is on film, performance and sexuality studies, and the intersections of Asian American, Caribbean and Chinese identities.

He also has a background in Asian and Middle Eastern studies during his time as an assistant professor at Duke University.

“I taught at Duke for eight years and I used to work with the only Asian American with UNC at the time, before professor Kim was hired, so it was a nice opportunity to come back and see how things have transformed since I left,” Metzger said.

He is currently writing a book about Asian American theater and discussed his research on representations of refugees in theater during his fellows program event last month.

“I think the center is doing a good job of bringing people together for interdisciplinary conversations and exposing UNC students in particular to people doing work all over the country in different disciplines,” Metzger said.

Applications for the third cohort of AAC fellows are scheduled to open next month.

Twitter: @dthopinion

LIBRARIES | RESEARCH

UNC Libraries hosts climate collection

The sustainability-themed collection is available online

By Lauren Fichten
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Alongside resident advisers at Carolina Housing, University Libraries has created a book collection focused on environmentalism, sustainability and the climate crisis.

The virtual collection — titled “Sustainability Now!” — varies from nonfiction works like Greta Thunberg’s “No One is Too Small to Make a Difference” and Leah Thomas’ “The Intersectional Environmentalist,” to fiction novels like Barbara Kingsolver’s “Prodigal Summer.”

Books in the collection span topics like nature, politics, travel, sociology and technology. Some titles like Leah Thomas’ “Intersectional Environmentalist” examine how the climate crisis intersects with systemic racism, as well as justice and activism.

It is currently available on OverDrive, a digital platform that grants students access to e-books, audiobooks and videos.

Several RAs approached University Libraries looking to promote books related to sustainability. In response, Undergraduate Library staff compiled 35 titles from their existing OverDrive collection and bought an additional 15 for “Sustainability Now!,” according to an emailed statement from Director of Library Communications Judy Panitch.

The collection is inspired by Green

Games, a student-led competition that seeks to promote sustainability on campus through various programs, contests and events. Activities are hosted by residence hall community student leaders, according to the Green Games website.

For each event hosted, communities get a certain number of points, depending on the activity, as well as two points per resident in attendance.

Green Games events include “Bring Your Own” socials, where residents are encouraged to bring their own utensils to events where food is provided, as well as service programs that incorporate volunteer work or environmental education.

Panitch said a sustainability-themed book booth featuring 40 print works and a mobile check-out station were arranged outside Hinton James Residence Hall as part of Green Games on March 24. It was hosted by RAs and University Libraries staff.

Katelyn Ander, the Media Center manager and co-manager of the University Libraries’ OverDrive collection, said in a statement that she hopes to continue partnering with student groups to build more highlighted collections within OverDrive.

“Sharing both print and digital books as part of this year’s Green Games was a great way to connect students with information that really matters to them and to help them know more about collections like OverDrive,” Ander said.

Junior Adaeze Ibeanu, a Hinton James resident adviser and information science major, assisted with the booth.

For her, planning programs for



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNC LIBRARIES

Resident advisers operate a sustainability book booth in front of Hinton James Residence Hall on Thursday, March 24.

Green Games is about directing students toward on-campus resources.

“While I do care about promoting sustainability and environmentalism on campus, I think it just ties into this larger role of an RA leading residents to resources,” Ibeanu said.

She said one resident who came up to her at the booth did not realize that UNC Libraries carried non-academic

books, which allowed her to shed light on the variety of fiction books available through Undergraduate Library and Manning Library.

“It was just so great because students don’t even know that there are — I don’t want to use the term ‘regular books’ — but popular books on campus as well,” Ibeanu said.

The “Sustainability Now!” collection

contains a total of 62 items that can be filtered by subject and text difficulty, among other options.

OverDrive also houses several other collections, such as “Asian American Voices”, “Personal and Financial Wellness”, “Black Health & Wellness” and “Celebrating Indigenous Peoples.”

Twitter: @dailytarheel

RESEARCH

Alcohol culture impacts students of color

UNC research study focuses on impact on drinking habits

By Eileen Foster
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The Color of Drinking study — a collaboration between the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health and the Chapel Hill Downtown Partnership’s Campus & Community Coalition — focuses on how students of color are impacted by University alcohol culture.

The UNC study also focuses on the experiences of LGBTQ+ students.

“This is research that’s never been done before, and so we’re really contributing to a better understanding of the second-hand harms of alcohol amongst BIPOC and LGBTQ students,” Elinor Landess, director of the Campus & Community Coalition, said.

Prior to being applied at UNC, the study was conducted in 2017 at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The initial study, led by UW-Madison University’s Alcohol and Other Drugs Prevention Coordinator Reonda Washington, showed that alcohol use is tied to how students connect and belong. Alcohol culture disproportionately affects the physical and mental safety of students of color compared to white students, the UW-Madison study found.

Nora Emmott, a graduate student working on the UNC study, said the survey garnered over 1,400 student responses.



DTH FILE/CHICHI ZHU

The Color of Drinking study, conducted by the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health and the Chapel Hill Downtown Partnership’s Campus & Community Coalition, looks to examine the impacts of University alcohol on students of color and LGBTQ+ students.

“Individuals’ drinking behaviors can affect the wider community and second-hand harms of alcohol are really serious, and I think that’s not really seen as often,” Emmott said.

Data analysis

Alicia Freeman, mental health first aid coordinator at the UNC School of Social Work, said that the study has allowed her to better

understand the individual impacts of alcohol culture on students.

The goal of the study was to obtain data that provides both qualitative and quantitative evidence on the effects of alcohol, she said. The research team spent time formulating questions and meeting with student groups prior to the January survey.

The survey portion of the study closed in February, Freeman said.

Landess said the research team

plans to finalize data by late April.

“What we’re hoping for is that by putting hard numbers behind the very real lived experiences of students at UNC, we’ll be able to advocate for more resources, for better supports for students of color,” she said.

‘We want students to feel safe’

The study found that many social events at UNC revolve around drinking, Emmott said, and heavy drinking is often supported by peers, in particular among first-year and sophomore students.

She said that beyond unsafe drinking environments, alcohol is also used by students as a coping mechanism for things like academic and social stress.

Freeman said the initial study — which the UNC study was based on — found that many students of color experience more harm and feel unsafe in alcohol-related situations.

Initial results of the study conducted at UNC mirror the UW-Madison study.

A major trend seen in the UNC study is that many Black female-identifying students who participated in the study said they have considered leaving the University, Freeman said.

Sophomore Ahmi Aghedo, who participated in the survey, said they research a fraternity before attending a party to find out if it’s safe to attend.

“If I’m gonna go to a party, I’m not really thinking about how much alcohol or drugs are gonna be used, I’m more so thinking about is it safe for me to go,” they said. “Am I actually going to have

a good time?”

Aghedo said they need to keep their own safety in mind.

“If you want to just have fun and go out, but you have to talk to your other friends of color and figure out where it’s safe to go, you worry and then hear bad stories,” they said.

Next steps

Landess said the Campus & Community Coalition encourages implementing policies that can create a safer college environment by limiting access to common source alcohol at parties.

The team will share the data with participants first to ensure they are getting their story right, Kaitlyn Loefstedt, another graduate student working on the study, said.

“We want to make sure that we share the results with (student participants) first hand,” she said.

With the publication of the data, the team aims to expand awareness on these issues on UNC’s campus and direct more funding into alcohol-free initiatives.

“What needs to be acknowledged by the University is fear that a lot of people of color have, because that can impact your college experience,” Aghedo said.

UNC Student Wellness offers different programming and educational resources surrounding substance use, including Carolina After Dark, an initiative that hosts alcohol-free events for students Thursdays through Saturdays. More information can be found on Student Wellness’ website.

Twitter: @dailytarheel

NCAA TOURNAMENT | FINAL FOUR

‘I’m very proud of us’: Students react to Elite Eight win



DTH/CAROLINE BITTENBENDER

Sophomore public policy major Annabelle Fisher celebrates with her friends at Sup Dogs after the Tar Heels conquer Saint Peter’s in an Elite Eight matchup on Sunday, March 27.

Some will travel to New Orleans, while others will watch from home

By Natalie Varma
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For the first time since 2017, the UNC men’s basketball team advanced to the Final Four of the

NCAA Tournament on Sunday. And on Saturday, for the first time in tournament history, North Carolina will face Duke in a game that has become the focal point of campus conversation. During Sunday’s Elite Eight game against the St. Peter’s Peacocks, Franklin Street restaurants and bars saw eager fans searching for a TV and an open seat. Many students also watched

from their dorm rooms and off-campus apartments, setting up watch parties with friends. Sophomore Zoie Starling, an exercise and sports science major, said her bracket reflected her doubt in the Tar Heels. She didn’t expect the team to progress this far in the tournament. “I made a March Madness bracket and I had us getting out in the very first round,” Starling said. “So you know, I didn’t have a whole lot of faith. That’s hard to say, but I’m very proud of us.” Some students, like Anna Wong, a first-year business major, traveled to Philadelphia to cheer on the team in person for its Elite Eight game. “My lovely roommate took me to both the Sweet 16 and the Elite Eight game, so for the first one we were sitting on the lower level, closer to the back,” Wong said. “And then for the second one, against St. Peters, we were sitting literally behind the team’s bench.” The Final Four game will be held in New Orleans this Saturday. Some students are willing to find and buy tickets, while others submitted a request for a student ticket through the University’s lottery. First-year Noah Mills, a public policy and economics major, is heading down to Louisiana this weekend to experience the historic game in-person. This is the rival teams’ third matchup of the season, and the record stands at 1-1. “Me and my family are making the trek to New Orleans to go to the game,” Mills said. “Hopefully, they can pull out a win.” While the victories have kicked off a great start to the class of 2025’s basketball experience at UNC, upperclassmen are excited for a different reason. The pandemic put an abrupt halt to most campus activities beginning in March 2020. It also caused the cancellation of the 2020 NCAA Tournament. Senior Vivian Karamitros, a senior majoring in statistics and analytics, said that the pandemic made her feel like she didn’t get a complete college experience. “I think that we’ve been through a lot as a senior class, and this just makes it all worth it, seeing our team go so far,” Karamitros said. Starling said that her experience throughout the pandemic has made her to value campus traditions much more. She appreciates campus life more this year after losing many typical college experiences to COVID-19, she said.

Alongside the thrill of winning, some students have found the victory to be bittersweet. St. Peter’s was a No. 15 seed, and the team had made it further than any other No. 15 seed in history — making what many considered a Cinderella run in the tournament. “Of course, I am always rooting for UNC, but I am a sucker for the Cinderella story of St. Peter’s,” Alaina Shields, a first-year majoring in environmental studies, said. “So it just felt like UNC was stuck between a lose-lose situation.” Like many students, Shields said she will be thinking about the upcoming Duke game all week. Ahead of the Final Four game, campus will be buzzing with energy as community members anticipate which North Carolina team will compete in the national championship. If UNC wins on Saturday, it would also mean the end of Duke head coach Mike Krzyzewski’s coaching career. “It makes me feel some type of way that we’ve gotten this far,” Karamitros said. “I’m a senior and, like I said, we’ve been through so much. I couldn’t imagine it going any better, and go to hell Duke!”

Twitter: @natvarma

Some faculty adjust schedules to allow for celebration

Students petitioned for exams to be moved after UNC’s win on Sunday

By Hannah Rosenberger
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As junior Nadeen Atieh watched UNC men’s basketball defeat St. Peter’s in its Elite Eight matchup of the NCAA Tournament on Sunday, the channel kept switching over to highlights from the Kansas-UMiami game. She and her roommates booed at the TV, wanting to get back to the more important game. But they weren’t worried about the Tar Heels’ chances against the No. 15 seed St. Peter’s, a team that had been on a Cinderella run in this year’s tournament. UNC ended the Peacocks’ run with a 69-49 win. “Closer to the end of the first half, no one was really nervous anymore,” Atieh said. “And most people were nervous for the fact that we’re playing Duke on Saturday.” One thing Atieh wasn’t worried about was the International Relations

and Global Politics exam she was supposed to have the next day — because she no longer had it. Two hours before tip-off, after petitioning from classmates, she recieved an email that her political science professor had postponed the due date for the online midterm until Wednesday. “I go to all the lectures and I pay attention, but I do have to study, and I have to know the material, otherwise I don’t feel confident,” Atieh said. “And I just haven’t had time to do it. So, this was a good extra two days.” Political science professor Jeff Spinner-Halev said he had received a flurry of emails from students in his Ethics of Peace, War and Defense course over the weekend requesting that the midterm exam — which was scheduled for Monday — be moved to Wednesday. Spinner-Halev, who is also Atieh’s thesis adviser, initially said no. He wasn’t even thinking about the midterm during the game, he said. But after the Tar Heels won, he wanted to know how students were celebrating, so he reached out to a few of his former students, including Atieh, to find out. “I didn’t realize how much the students celebrated after the victory,” Spinner-Halev said, laughing. “I guess I underestimated the victory over a 15-seed. But it is getting into the Final Four, which is definitely a big deal.” Other UNC professors are even looking ahead to the impact of this weekend’s games on exams next week. The UNC-Duke Final Four matchup is scheduled for Saturday night, and whoever comes out on top will face the winner of the Kansas-Villanova game on Monday, April 1. Mathematics associate professor Mark McCombs moved his Aspects of Modern Mathematics exam from Monday, April 4 to Wednesday, April 6, according to Haley Gray, a first-year in the class. She said McCombs told the class a story about a time that he once got an email from a burner address the day after UNC lost to Duke in a regular season matchup. The email blamed him for the loss because he had scheduled a calculus test the next day, McCombs had said. And because he’s a huge Tar Heel fan — Gray said McCombs exclusively wears UNC T-shirts to class — if it ever happens that important games fall the



DTH/ABIGAIL PITTMAN

Graduate forward Brady Manek returns to the Dean E. Smith Center after the UNC men’s basketball team’s Elite Eight victory on Sunday, March 27.

day before an exam, he moves the date. “Ever since then, he won’t be the reason that we lose,” Gray said. She was celebrating on Franklin Street after the game clock ran out. She even made it on TV while waiting in line for her Final Four T-shirt. “So many students have had so much of their college experience scarred from the pandemic that just to have a night of just great celebration and fun and not worry about the next day seemed like something I could do,” Spinner-Halev said.

Twitter: @hannahgracerose

ON CAMPUS

A look at the history and mission of the Coker Arboretum



DTH/KENNEDY COX

Coker Arboretum, a 5-acre space for community members on UNC’s campus, as pictured on Sunday, March 27.

Community members can relax and learn in the 5-acre space

By Celia Funderburk
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At the corner of Cameron Avenue and Raleigh Street, UNC community members can walk on pathways through colorful wildflowers and plants. Benches are nestled underneath a canopy of green trees. Coker Arboretum — a five-acre space on UNC’s campus — is a place on campus where Chapel Hill community members can escape the feeling of being trapped in a city and just relax, Assistant Curator Geoffrey Neal said. “Those plants are part of a working ecosystem,” Neal said. “They support the entire range of life that lives with them, in them, on them and around them.”

History of the Arboretum Coker Arboretum was founded in 1903, when William Chambers Coker, the University’s first professor of botany, was delegated to do something with the land. Francis Preston Venable, UNC’s president at the time, gave Coker a small budget and one employee to get the area started. Neal said the land was originally just grazing pastures for cattle, but is now a fully developed five-acre plot with dozens of plant species. The Coker Arboretum is now a part of the North Carolina Botanical Garden, which focuses on conservation and building relationships between plants and people. Neal said NCBG preserves the habitats of native species because it is less work, and it protects the working ecosystem the plants are within. “If we don’t make the bees, the butterflies and the birds happy, then we’re not really fulfilling our

mission,” Neal said. **Focus on sustainability** Coker Arboretum also has a focus on conservation and sustainability, Dan Stern, NCBG director of horticulture, said. “Its health and well-being is kind of in the care of everybody who uses it,” he said. “It’s important that people be mindful about how they move through the space so that they’re not trampling flowers, which may or may not even be up. It’s important to treat the space thoughtfully.” NCBG Associate Director of Communications Jennifer Peterson said there were many ways to use the Arboretum, such as walking the paths, having a picnic in the wide grass areas or studying under the trees. “Things can be kind of stressful these past couple years,” Peterson said. “It’s nice to have a space to connect with nature and the community to

know that they’re very welcome to come and have a moment of respite in our spaces.” Neal said one of the most popular features of the Arboretum is the arbor. There are plans for the wooden walkway to be remodeled within the next 12 to 18 months, Neal said. Larger seating will be installed and the path will be raised to eliminate the need for stairs on one end, ensuring the arbor is handicapped accessible. Neal said he and Coker Arboretum Head Curator Margo MacIntyre are available Monday through Friday to answer any community questions. “This is very much a garden for everybody,” Neal said. “Not only folks who are here on campus, but everyone else. People are welcome to come here and I encourage them to come here and take some time, spend a little time.”

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SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND MEDIA

Next Hussman dean looks ahead to new role

Raul Reis aims to emphasize diversity, equity and inclusion

By Abby Pender
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On March 11, Raul Reis, dean of the Emerson College School of Communication, was appointed as the dean of the Hussman School of Journalism and Media, following a months-long search.

As he prepares to officially begin his role on July 1, Reis is looking to emphasize community, diversity, equity and inclusion and continue furthering the journalism school's legacy.

"I do want to make the school the best school in the country, the top school in the country," he said. "I want to have the top programs. I want to be able to attract the top faculty and really have the students graduate with a feeling that it really was worth it."

'A strong supporter of students'

Reis said his biggest accomplishment at Emerson was creating a better sense of community.

"I worked really intentionally with the faculty to build more of a sense of community, which is something that they wanted and something they felt was lacking in the school when I came in six years ago," he said.

Paul Mihailidis, assistant dean and graduate program director at Emerson, said Reis has overseen a process of creating stronger and more dynamic programs for the School of Communication.

"He's supported faculty research initiatives, he's helped faculty find

support and resources for their work," Mihailidis said. "He's very present in the pedagogy and the curriculum of the school, and that's — sometimes that's not very noticeable on the dean's level, but he's been really involved in program development."

Reis said he wants the curriculum at the journalism school to be driven by student learning.

'An ongoing process'

Reis, who is from Brazil, earned his bachelor's degree at the Universidade Federal do Pará. He later completed his master's degree in mass communication and media studies at Kansas State University and earned a doctorate degree at the University of Oregon in 1998.

Since then, he has gained experience in reporting and editing in both Brazil and the U.S. and has held professorships at several universities.

At UNC, Reis said he wants to focus in particular on diversity, equity and inclusion in the journalism school.

"Diversity, equity and inclusion are really important issues to me," Reis said. "And I think I want the students to know that too. I embrace people from diverse backgrounds and I want them to thrive, and I want them to really fulfill their aspirations and their expectations in the school. So I welcome that input."

Reis said he was able to hire 40 full-time faculty for the School of Communication. About two thirds of those new faculty are either women, people of color or people from international backgrounds.

Reis will begin his role as dean following the UNC Board of Trustees' initial failure to grant tenure to Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Nikole Hannah-Jones

last summer.

Reis said listening, learning, empathizing and building a sense of community are especially important to him following the tenure case.

"I hope that bringing the School together around these conversations will also be the first step toward moving into a more positive and constructive future," Reis said in an email statement to The Daily Tar Heel.

Hugh Morton Distinguished Professor Heidi Hennink-Kaminski, who is serving as interim dean of the journalism school, said she looks forward to the way that Reis will contribute to culture at Hussman.

"I think that Dr. Reis will be instrumental, in terms of continuing to make sure that we're creating a diverse and inclusive experience for our students and for our faculty," she said.

Trevy McDonald, the journalism school's director of diversity, equity and inclusion, said Reis' plans to foster belonging for students stood out to her.

Regarding Hannah-Jones' tenure case, she said healing the community is a process.

"It's not something that happens overnight," McDonald said. "And because when you try to heal something overnight, you're really just kind of sticking a Band-Aid on it. So it's going to be an ongoing process."

Looking forward

As he transitions to his role at UNC, Reis said he wants to hear ideas and feedback from the community.

He also said he wants community members to know that he is there to serve them.

"I'm here for you," he said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF EMERSON COLLEGE

Raul Reis is the incoming dean of the Hussman School of Journalism and Media.

Twitter: @dailytarheel

NOTICE OF ELECTION ORANGE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

A primary election will be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 in Orange County for qualified voters to vote in Federal, State, and County contests as well as an election for Orange County School Board and Town Council for the municipality of Carrboro.

Polls will be open from 6:30 am to 7:30 pm on the day of the election, Tuesday, May 17, 2022. Photo ID is not required.

One-stop early voting will be open from Thursday, April 28, 2022 and ends Saturday, May 14, 2022. One-stop early voting will be held:

Sites:

Orange Works at Hillsborough Commons (in lieu of BOE office): 113 Mayo St, Hillsborough
Carrboro Town Hall Complex: 108 Bim St, Carrboro
Chapel of the Cross: 304 E Franklin St, Chapel Hill
Efland Ruritan Club: 3009 Forrest Avenue, Efland
Seymour Senior Center: 2551 Homestead Rd, Chapel Hill
All sites are open the same dates and hours

Dates	Hours
Thursday – Friday, April 28 – 29	8 am – 7:30 pm
Saturday, April 30	CLOSED
Sunday, May 1	12 pm – 4 pm
Monday – Friday, May 2 – 6	8 am – 7:30 pm
Saturday, May 7	8 am – 3 pm
Sunday, May 8	CLOSED
Monday – Friday, May 9 – 13	8 am – 7:30 pm
Saturday, May 14	8 am – 3 pm

Absentee voting by-mail is available by March 28, 2022. Requests for an absentee ballot must be made on an absentee request form and must be received in the Orange County Board of Elections office by 5 pm on Tuesday, May 10, 2022. Completed request forms may only be returned in-person to the Orange County Board of Elections office by the voter, the voter's near relative or verifiable legal guardian, or by a Multipartisan Assistance Team, or delivered by the U.S. Postal Service or designated delivery service (DHL, FedEx, or UPS). Absentee voting requires the voter to complete an application on the return envelope that must be witnessed by two qualified persons or a notary public. Completed absentee ballots must be returned to the Orange County Board of Elections on or before 5 pm on Election Day (ballots received by mail after this time will be timely if received within three business days and postmarked by Election Day). Voters may receive assistance voting a mail-in absentee ballot from a qualified person of their choice. If the voter lives in a facility such as a nursing home, and the voter's near relative or legal guardian is not available, the voter or the facility can arrange to have the county board of elections schedule a visit by a Multipartisan Assistance Team to provide assistance and serve as witnesses.

Voters voting in person are entitled to assistance by an election official, or, if assistance is needed due to disability or illiteracy, by a qualified person of their choice. Voting sites are accessible to all voters. Curbside voting is available for voters who are not able to enter voting sites.

The Board will hold absentee meetings at 5pm on April 12, April 19, April 26, May 3, May 10, and May 16, 2022. The Board will begin the absentee count at 2 pm on May 17, 2022. A pre-canvass and supplemental absentee meeting will be held at 5pm on May 26, 2022. Canvass will be held at 11 am on May 27, 2022. All meetings will be held at the Orange County Board of Elections office at 208 S. Cameron St, Hillsborough.

In the primary election, voters will select nominees for a political party to move on to the November 8, 2022 general election. Contests on the ballot include U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, N.C. General Assembly, state judges, district attorney, and county offices. In primaries, voters affiliated with a political party will be given a ballot of candidates for their party. Unaffiliated voters may choose the ballot of candidates for any party primary.

Registered voters who live within the boundaries of the Orange County School district may vote in the Orange County School Board election. Registered voters who live within the boundaries of the Town of Carrboro may vote in the Special Election to fill a vacancy on Town Council. These nonpartisan contests will appear on the same ballot as the statewide primary contests above. Unaffiliated voters not wishing to vote in a party primary and those registered with the Libertarian Party may receive a nonpartisan ballot containing the race the voter is districted for.

All persons who live in Orange County Board of Elections may vote in this election. Persons who are not already registered to vote in the county must register by Friday, April 22, 2022 to vote in this election. Voters who wish to change party affiliation must do so by the April 22 deadline. Voters who are not registered in the county by that deadline may still register and vote during one-stop early voting only, and will be required to provide documentation of their identity and residence. Voters who fail to timely make a change in name or address in the county must update the information when presenting to vote, and may be required to vote a provisional ballot.

Persons with questions about registration, polling places, early voting, absentee ballots, a Multipartisan Assistance Team visit to a facility, or other election matters may call the Orange County Board of Elections Office at 919-245-2350.

Please be advised of the following precinct change:

The Lion's Club precinct has been merged with the surrounding Carrboro, Owasa, and Town Hall precincts.

Please be advised of the following Election Day voting location changes:

Hillsborough North: formerly known as Cameron Park (same location since Nov 2020)	Orange County Middle School Auditorium 308 Orange High School Rd, Hillsborough, NC 27278
Cedar Falls: (same location since Nov 2021)	Eastside: (same location since Nov 2020)
Glenwood: (same location since Nov 2021)	Hogan Farms: (same location since Nov 2020)
Town Hall: (same location since Nov 2021)	Weaver Dairy: (same location since Nov 2020)
East Chapel Hill High School 500 Weaver Dairy Rd. Chapel Hill, NC 27514	Ephesus Elementary School 1495 Ephesus Church Rd. Chapel Hill, NC 27517
Rashkis Elementary School 601 Meadowmont Ln. Chapel Hill, NC 27917	Morris Grove Elementary School 215 Eubanks Rd. Chapel Hill, NC 27516
Town Hall Complex (behind Town Hall) 108 Bim St, Carrboro, NC 27510	Seymour Senior Center 2551 Homestead Rd Chapel Hill, NC 27516

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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Honor your 2022
UNC graduate in
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**Keepsake
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Hurry, early bird deadline is
Friday, April 1st.

Orders must be received
no later than Friday, April 29th

dailytarheel.com/graduation



It's a global movement

Community gathers for climate strike

The event was part of a global movement advocating for action

By **Holly Adams**
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UNC students and community members gathered on campus Friday to advocate for environmental justice.

The event was part of the Fridays for Future Global Climate Strike to protest against the lack of action on the climate crisis.

Community members voiced their demands through megaphones in front of the office of Chancellor Kevin Guskiewicz in South Building. They called on University leadership to improve their sustainability efforts and divest from fossil fuels.

The climate strike was one of three held on Friday, organized by environmentally focused organizations — Climate Action NC, the Sunrise Movement in Durham, Capital Group NC Sierra Club and a coalition of UNC student groups.

The UNC Climate Strike's list of demands includes a variety of local and global-level changes, including:

- Increasing University transparency on initiatives labeled TBD in the UNC Climate Action Plan,
- Decreasing reliance on carbon offsets to meet emissions reductions goals and
- Hire and admit more faculty and students of color within the Environment, Ecology and Energy Program at the University.

Climate conversations at UNC

The University power plant — also known as the Cogeneration Facility — burns both coal and natural gas. The facility has long been a subject of concern for some community members and organizations, as well as a recent Clean Air Act lawsuit filed by the Center for Biological Diversity and the Sierra Club. The Middle District of North Carolina ruled in favor of the University in August.

As of last spring, the University plans to be carbon neutral by 2040. This is part of the Climate Action Plan, which is comprised of 25 strategies to lower UNC's greenhouse gas emissions.

The University had previously announced in 2010 a plan to be coal-free by 2020 but abandoned the deadline citing technological and financial restrictions.

'People Not Profits'

Attendees of the climate strike first gathered in the Pit, where organizers encouraged participants to "fill up the voicemail box" of the chancellor's office. Participants were asked to leave messages demanding that UNC leaders expedite the University's transition to renewable energy and set clear deadlines for their Climate Action Plan.

Nearly all participants in the demonstration pulled out their phones and called the chancellor's office, stated their name and read the provided script calling for action.

Attendees then marched from the Pit and gathered in front of South Building, where they chanted phrases like "No more coal, no more oil, keep that carbon in the soil" and "What do we want? 'Climate justice!' 'When do we want it?' Now!'"

Several students gave speeches about the urgency of the climate crisis.

After reading their list of demands in front of the building, organizers delivered the list to the office of the chancellor along with a large paper mache lump of coal with the words "People Not Profits" written on it.

Neil Doughty, a graduate student at UNC, said he helped organize the strike.

The lump of coal symbolized the "ugly image" of values that our society holds in capitalism, which prioritizes profits over people, Doughty said.

"The coal is there to say that if we generate enough pressure as students, with pressure, coal turns into a diamond," he said. "If we generate enough pressure as students, then maybe we can turn this kind of ugly value system that we have now into something beautiful."

Chapel Hill resident Amelia Covington also said she helped organize the event.

In terms of turnout, Covington said this was the most successful climate strike she has been a part of — after years of organizing professionally and as a student at American University.

Seeing students and members of the community come together at the event was really encouraging, she said.

"It's really up to the young people to guide this movement because we will be inheriting the Earth," Covington said. "Our generation and future generations are going to feel the effects of the climate crisis."

UNC junior Tariro Magarira spoke about the urgency of the climate crisis, highlighting how Black and Indigenous communities experience the brunt of climate issues.

He spoke about his own experiences, and the effects of climate change in the global south, including in his native country of Zimbabwe.

"Whenever we are advocating for environmental science to be equitable, we need to focus all of it on Black and Indigenous voices," Magarira said.

First-year Sarah Zhang attended the strike with a sign that read, "Change policies, not the climate."

Zhang said the message she was trying to spread was that corporations are responsible for the bulk of climate change, not individuals and their behaviors.

"As an institution, UNC is responsible for making those changes such as going more carbon neutral and switching to more renewable energy sources," she said. "Not having individual people focus on going vegan or telling students that they're the ones who are supposed to be responsible for making those changes."

Doughty said he hopes that the energy of the strike will carry beyond Friday's event.

"Protesting isn't about the single event, as much as it's about practicing standing up and practicing showing up," he said.



DTH/SARA JOHNSON

Students begin to gather outside South Building, which houses Chancellor Kevin Guskiewicz's office. Protesters then recited demands, including increasing University transparency on climate initiatives.



DTH/SARA JOHNSON

After reading their list of demands in front of the building, organizers delivered the list to the Office of the Chancellor along with a large paper mache lump of coal with the words "People Not Profits" written on it.



DTH/SARA JOHNSON

Students and community members gather in the Pit to advocate for urgent climate action, rather than by 2040 as proposed by UNC's Climate Action Plan.

Twitter: @dailytarheel



DTH/SARA JOHNSON

An organizer rallies participants in the Pit, declaring the strike's goals of concrete administrative action, before leading them to South Building.

North Carolina's solar energy rank falls



DTH/ISAIAH DICKERSON

Solar panels absorb light energy on the top of Morrison Residence Hall on Sunday, March 27. North Carolina ranked seventh in solar energy capacity in a recent report.

The state ranked seventh in 2021, after ranking as high as second in 2015

By **Maggie McIntyre**
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North Carolina ranked seventh in the country in solar energy capacity, according to a March 10 report from the Solar Energy Industries Association.

A state's installed solar energy capacity is the maximum output of solar electricity that can be generated under ideal conditions. The capacity

is calculated for the total number of solar panels installed in a year.

North Carolina has historically been a leader in solar energy. Lindsey Hallock, who serves as senior regional director for the Southeast region of Vote Solar, said,

"I think once you get momentum around something, it's a good idea to keep going with it," she said.

But N.C.'s dominance in the solar energy sector has been slipping in recent years. In the SEIAs 2015 report, the state ranked second in installed solar capacity.

Usman Noor, owner of local solar installer SMSolar, said large-scale solar panel installations — such as solar farms that supply energy to the power grid —

have decreased in recent years. He said this could account for why the state has fallen in rank for solar installations.

In 2019, federal tax incentives that encouraged solar installations were also lowered. Randy Wheelless, the communications manager at Duke Energy, said this could account for North Carolina's drop in rank since 2015.

Solar energy can provide many benefits for the state, Hallock said.

In addition to generating cleaner energy, she said, investing in solar energy in N.C. is important for generating jobs, supporting local businesses and diversifying the economy.

"I think that it's really something

"There's more the Town can do with regards to education about the opportunities for solar. Local governments could help make people more aware."

Anne Tazewell

Former SolSmart adviser for Chapel Hill

that can help every N.C. community really reduce their own emission and gain some power back in their own energy generation," Hallock said.

Tariro Magarira, a member of the UNC Renewable Energy Special Projects Committee, said there are ample opportunities for solar energy expansion across campus. One challenge, however, is that many buildings across campus are in older condition.

"There are a lot of roadblocks," he said.

But he also noted the process of net metering — which allows customers to sell excess energy back to the power grid — as worthy investment across campus.

Noor said solar energy is an investment for homeowners and businesses that is often paid back over time through net metering.

But Duke Energy's proposed changes to their net metering policy would make it more difficult for individuals to get a return on their investment, which could negatively affect residential solar installation rates in the area.

If Duke Energy moves forward with the plan, Noor said, the Chapel Hill area will see little if any increase in residential solar installations.

Noor said big energy companies are generally less likely to invest in large-scale solar farm projects because it takes away from their revenue.

However, Wheelless said Duke Energy connected more solar to the power grid in 2021 than in the two years prior.

"For the past few years, we've actually

done quite well," he said.

Noor noted that smaller-scale installations of solar panels are increasing in Chapel Hill, like those on houses or commercial buildings.

"Solar is something that is inherently good," he said. "There is just a lot of benefit to a lot of different people."

Hallock said she believes education about the benefits of solar is important. She wants people to be aware of the ways they can make the grid more resilient and lower their energy bills.

Anne Tazewell, the former SolSmart adviser for Chapel Hill, said it's important for local governments to keep the process for solar installations transparent so that people are not intimidated.

"There's more the Town can do with regards to education about the opportunities for solar," she said. "Local governments could help make people more aware."

And looking toward the future, N.C. has room to become a strong solar energy producer.

With 662 installed solar energy systems and 25.619 MW of installed solar capacity in Orange County, Noor expects the generation of energy to steadily increase — if Duke Energy's net metering policy remains the same.

"There's a lot of potential here, especially in Chapel Hill to rely more on solar," Ember Penney, a student climate activist at UNC, said.

Twitter: @MaggieM04248222

Town of Carrboro participates in Earth Hour

Residents turned off their lights as part of a larger effort to raise awareness

By **Eliza Benbow**
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The Town of Carrboro encouraged residents to go dark for an hour on March 26 to celebrate Earth Hour.

Residents who took part were asked to turn off any electric, nonessential lights — except for ones that affect public safety — in order to support awareness about climate action on a global and local scale.

This is Carrboro's 12th consecutive year participating in Earth Hour, a global effort organized through the World Wildlife Fund. Cities across the world join in at 8:30 p.m. local time to show that collective action can bring about positive change.

"It's a global movement just to unite folks on all these environmental issues and how we can continue to protect Mother Earth," Carrboro Town Council Member Barbara Foushee said.

This year's resolution to recognize Earth Hour was brought forth by Carrboro Town Council member Randee Haven-O'Donnell during a regular meeting on March 22. The matter passed unanimously.

They noted how Earth Hour has been historically practiced in individual homes but hope to see the event evolve to include more community-oriented action.

"It's more about how we're going to incorporate Earth Hour going forward to make it more robust," they said.

Earth Hour is part of larger efforts from Carrboro to educate residents on sustainable and healthy living.

Carrboro Town Council member Barbara Foushee said it can oftentimes be challenging to lead an environmentally conscious lifestyle due to financial and time constraints.

"Everybody doesn't have that same opportunity to focus on climate change everyday, because they're focusing on life stuff," Foushee said. "They're focusing on paying the rent, having enough food, having enough money to meet those everyday, basic needs."

Foushee said she wants to focus on education and conversations surrounding climate change for community members in these situations, noting that these discussions should be targeted on those who have less background in the subject.

"The education piece for the community outreach is huge," she said. "There's no need to talk to the people who already know about climate change and climate change mitigation and what the impact is going to be."

To provide educational resources, the Town of Carrboro plans to hold several events throughout April.

"Keep Carrboro Beautiful," which is set to take place on Earth Day on April 22, will encourage individuals to pick up trash across Carrboro.

"I think it's important anywhere you live to make sure the place is clean and nice for the community and the citizens who live in it," Galen Poythress, the recreation supervisor at Carrboro Recreation, Parks & Cultural Resources, said.

Carrboro will also celebrate Earth Day through an event at Town Commons, where tables from environmental advocacy groups will provide education resources to attendees. In addition,



DTH/ANNA CONNORS

In celebration of Earth Hour, Carrboro called for residents to turn off electric, nonessential lights for an hour on Saturday, March 26.

there will also be food trucks serving plant-based options.

"It's like a show and tell, so people don't feel alone," Haven-O'Donnell said. "So they see, 'Oh my goodness, all of this is going on in community and I can be a part of it or I can help others be a part of it.'"

O'Donnell said they look forward to increased participation in local events like Earth Hour.

"It just helps bring the focus back to the window that is closing for climate change and climate change mitigation, and every little thing that we do collectively helps," Foushee said.

With global-scale issues such as climate change, it is easy for individuals to feel like their choices don't make an impact, Haven-O'Donnell said. But events like Earth Hour help people feel

less alone. "Folks are feeling so overwhelmed and so powerless and helpless right now that bringing community together, knowing what other people are doing, even the smallest things, just to know that you are not alone in the smallest things you do," Haven-O'Donnell said.

Twitter: @eliza_benbow

"It's really up to the young people to guide this movement, because we will be inheriting the Earth."

Amelia Covington
Event organizer and Chapel Hill resident

ELECTIONS

Primary races less competitive than usual



DTH FILE/ALEX KORMANN

Former Chapel Hill Mayor Mark Kleinschmidt, pictured in 2016, is an unopposed incumbent running to remain clerk of Superior Court.

Nine incumbents in Orange County are running unopposed

By Ian Walniuk
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As the May 17 primary election approaches, nine Orange County elected officials are set to face no competition. Two incumbent candidates are currently running unopposed: Sheriff Charles Blackwood and Clerk of Superior Court Mark Kleinschmidt. In addition, four county commissioners will run unopposed

to keep their seats on the board: Sally Greene, Jamezetta R. Bedford, Earl McKee and Anna Richards. Two judges on the N.C. Superior Court, as well as one judge on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina, are also set to face no primary challengers.

Past races

Especially in recent times, primary elections in the area have historically seen more competition. The lone unopposed candidate during last year's election cycle was Hillsborough Mayor Jenn Weaver. The year prior, however, three

candidates ran for the two District 1 seats on the Board of County Commissioners: incumbents Penny Rich and Mark Dorosin, and newcomer Jean Hamilton. Rich ultimately lost her seat on the board after finishing last in the primary, with just seven votes separating her and Dorosin. Hamilton received more votes than both. In the Superior Court clerk race in 2018, Kleinschmidt defeated James Stanford with 54 percent of the vote. But, during this particular election cycle, the lack of challengers isn't limited to Orange County. In Durham, four incumbents are running unopposed for their respective seats on the N.C. District

Court Judge District 14: Doretta L. Walker, Dorothy Hairston Mitchell, Clayton Jones and Amanda L. Maris. In Raleigh, one member of the Wake County Board of Commissioners, as well as the Superior Court clerk, are running unopposed in the primary.

Why it's happening

Cora Martin, a former staffer at the UNC Institute of Politics and field director for Jonah Garson's N.C. House campaign, said the lack of competition in this election cycle is a problem for democracy. "I think that, in order for a democratic society to function, there needs to be participation from people of all backgrounds and all ideologies," they said. Martin also said they believe limited salaries and the high cost that come with running for office are two reasons why many people might not run. Michael Struett, an associate professor of political science at N.C. State University, added that incumbent candidates typically have the advantage of having more funds to campaign. "What's generally true about running for office is the candidate with the most money is going to win," he said. "If there's an incumbent running who's been fundraising for however long they've been in office, they're generally not an easy target to remove." Chapel Hill Mayor Pam Hemminger said she believes confusion surrounding the primary date has potentially deterred potential candidates from running. The date was postponed to May 17 last year due to the ongoing battle over the state's congressional maps. "No one knew when the primary would be, which made it difficult for people to know if they could work (running for office) into their

schedules," she said. Carrboro Mayor Damon Seils said people might be hesitant to run against incumbents who haven't been in office for a long time. "I've noticed that if somebody's been in a position for a relatively short period, there doesn't seem to be a lot of energy or drive in the community to put forward another candidate," he said. Rich, who is running for the Orange County register of deeds against incumbent Mark Chilton in the upcoming primary, said shifts at the statewide and federal levels — such as the retirements of U.S. Rep. David Price and N.C. Rep. Verla Insko — might be sapping attention from local politics. She said since potential candidates are more concerned with federal politics, they might not have the motivation to run at the local level. "There's a lot of action going on — it feels like there's a lot of moving pieces," Rich said. "So if you go down to the county level and the sheriff and the clerk, I think people are more interested in those House and Senate seats." Garson said he believes the COVID-19 pandemic has made campaigning more challenging than usual. Because Orange County has historically elected more Democratic candidates on average, the Democratic primary often determines who wins the general election. "Each of these folks have big pluralities of people who think they're doing a good job in those jobs, and so if you're another Democrat, you're not going to challenge them without a super compelling reason," he said.

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OUTDOOR CELEBRATIONS

Carrboro opens streets for bikers, runners

The Open Streets event is a celebration of community and activity

By Sarah Choi
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Sometimes, you have to close the streets to open them. At the Town of Carrboro's annual Open Streets event, people fill booth-lined streets with everything from biking to dancing to yoga. This year's Open Streets event will take place on April 3 from noon to 4 p.m. East and West Weaver Street will be closed to traffic to accommodate the event. Open Streets, first held in 2013, allows people to engage in outdoor activities without having to worry about cars. The event draws inspiration from Ciclovías, a similar practice that originated in Bogotá, Colombia, according to Galen Poythress, recreation supervisor for Carrboro's Recreation, Parks and Cultural Resources department. "It was meant for cyclists, so people can cycle and get from A to B and not have to worry about

cars," Poythress said. "It morphed into a really fun event with people doing Zumba, hula-hooping — you name it." The Carrboro Bicycle Coalition founded Open Streets after receiving a grant from Performance Bicycle. The event's debut saw more than 1,500 people in attendance, Carrboro Mayor Pro Tem Susan Romaine said. Upon seeing the event's popularity and success, the Carrboro Town Council approved making Open Streets an annual event. And throughout the years, attendance has only grown, Romaine said. Although the coalition hosts the event every year, Board member Heidi Perov said she wanted to make sure the Town is also actively involved in organizing the event. "The first one we did was hugely popular, so the next year, we slowly gave more and more of the responsibility to the Town," she said. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Open Streets was held virtually. In response, the Carrboro Open Streets Facebook page began posting resources for those attending remotely, such as tutorials on loading

bikes onto a Chapel Hill Transit bus. That makes this year's event — the first to be held in person since the pandemic began — all the more exciting, Romaine said. "Getting everybody back together in person for lots of recreational opportunities, but also the community building that goes along with it," Romaine said. Participants are encouraged to bike, run, dance, do yoga and use the space in the streets however they see fit. There will also be booths featuring a variety of attractions, such as a climbing wall and a bicycle blender. The bicycle blender booth is run by the Carrboro Bicycle Coalition that uses energy from the biker to power a smoothie blender. "So instead of propelling the bike, it's actually using the power of your body to blend up fruit for a smoothie," Poythress said. Although food trucks have been requested in the past, Poythress said bringing them in wouldn't fit into the vein of Ciclovías. Instead, attendees are encouraged to support local businesses while they are at the event. This year, The Animal Hospital, Dwell Real Estate and The Clean Machine are sponsors for Open Streets. Romaine said building community is an important aspect of the event. "We're all really excited to be spending more time fostering connections that make us feel so



DTH/ANNA CONNORS

Cars pass between Main and Weaver Streets in Carrboro on Tuesday, March 29. proud of where we live," she said. "We'll be enjoying some good weather, enjoying some good food and, again, being back. I think that's what's missing." Perov said because there aren't any cars, Open Streets allows people to see the roads in a different light. "There's no cars on the road, and you get to you get to look at a public space in a very different way," she said. "People are very used to thinking of public streets being for cars, but in fact we're all paying for the streets."

Twitter: @sarahchxi

"We're all really excited to be spending more time fostering connections that make us feel so proud of where we live."

Susan Romaine
Carrboro Mayor Pro Tem

Three advocates receive Pauli Murray Award

Adult, youth and business winners are chosen annually

By Lilly Behbehani
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The three recipients of the 32nd annual Pauli Murray Award were announced by the Orange County Human Relations Commission on Sunday.

Established over three decades ago, the award honors the late Rev. Pauli Murray who served the community in pursuit of equality, justice and human rights. Murray was the first African American to receive a doctorate degree in the science of law from the Yale Law School.

Throughout their life, Murray championed diversity and advocated in the civil rights and women's rights movements. They were a "distinguished and remarkable person who confronted discrimination, racism, and sexism," according to the award description.

Each year, there is an adult winner, youth winner and business winner of the Pauli Murray Award.

Laila Bradford, who works in the IT department at Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools, was this year's adult winner.

She is an advocate for youth and families in the community, fondly known as "Mommy Laila." On Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at her home, Bradford provides tutoring, mentoring, craft activities and technology resources for students.

She founded Creative S.W.A.G., an organization of elementary to high school-aged girls that focuses on



"Pauli Murray Roots and Soul" on West Chapel Hill Street is one of the five murals around Durham commemorating Pauli Murray. Murray was a political activist who dedicated their life to fighting for rights of women and Black people.

teaching them to pursue personal goals while creating a lasting sisterhood.

"I find the work enriching and loving," Bradford said. "The truth is I feel blessed because it's not only my family that has grown. It's not just my blood family, but my community is my family, and I feel incredibly blessed to have such a beautiful, amazing community."

After finding out that some her students didn't have the sanitary items they needed, Bradford helped

create safety bags for girls who asked for feminine hygiene products, lotions, deodorants and more.

"You don't have to have a whole lot to give," she said.

This year's youth winner of the Pauli Murray Award was Kendall Lytle, a senior at Middle College High School at Durham Technical Community College.

Lytle serves as president of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro NAACP Youth Council, and she has advocated for marginalized communities, working

to raise awareness in the community about the issues that people from underrepresented groups face.

"I believe wholeheartedly that social justice and civil rights and things of that topic are what I was put in place on this planet to do," she said. "What is most gratifying is just knowing that I'm contributing, even if it's just a little millimeter of progress to the community or to the state or the country."

Lytle said change doesn't occur without action, and people — especially the youth — must seek change in order to see change in the world.

In the fall, she will attend Elon University and expects to major in political science and minor in sociology. She plans to come back to work with the community while at school through mentoring future leaders of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro NAACP Youth Council.

Habitat for Humanity of Orange County was the business winner of the Pauli Murray Award. The organization has been in the county since 1984 and builds homes for families in need.

Laine Staton, vice president of homeowner services at the organization, said Habitat aims to build around 20 homes a year for families in the county.

Staton said hearing about Murray's activism and work for underrepresented communities from speakers at this year's award ceremony was inspiring.

"It also felt very aligned with the work that I do at Habitat or the work that Habitat does," she said. "Yes, we build houses that people will then move into, but for our work, it's so much bigger than just owning a home."

Staton said the power of community is what allows Habitat to be able to help families in need.

"We were really flattered to be nominated because we want to know that we're doing right by our county," she said.

Twitter: @dailytarheel

PET ADOPTIONS

Animal Services sees rise in dog surrenders



DTH/DYLAN THIESSEN

Donna Sneed, an office assistant at Orange County Animal Services, gives treats to a dog on Monday, March 21.

OCAS has offered incentives in an effort to increase adoptions

By Maddie Singleton
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Over the last few months, Orange County Animal Services has seen an increase in dog surrenders and a drop in adoptions, leaving more dogs without homes.

The shelter has not reached its maximum capacity and is trying to avoid doing so, Tenille Fox, OCAS communications specialist, said.

Now, OCAS is focusing its efforts on bringing more visitors

to the shelter.

"We want to make sure that we spread the word," Fox said. "We are seeing a drop in adoptions, and so if anybody is even thinking about it, we want to encourage them to come to the shelter."

OCAS began a spring adoption special Monday. During the special, community members can name their price for adult cats and dogs or adopt kittens and puppies for reduced fees.

Fox said the shelter had 12 dogs available to foster or adopt as of Monday. More will become available as soon as possible after the shelter has evaluated them and provided medical treatment.

One possible factor contributing

to the increase in dog surrenders, Fox said, is that many people who might have gotten dogs during the pandemic are now returning to in-person work.

Between March 2020 and May 2021, about one in five households in the U.S. got a dog or cat, according to data from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

"I think a lot of people are finding that they don't have time for their animals now," she said.

Professional dog trainer Ryan Thunder, the owner of Red Earth Thunder, said people are more willing to adopt a pet or be more affectionate toward their existing pets during times of financial hardship.

He said the rise in adoptions during the pandemic followed the same trend as the 2008 financial crisis, when the pet industry skyrocketed because animals provided comfort.

"During times of depression, we love our animals, and they help us feel better," Thunder said. "And it's not unconditional love for most people. Because if it was, they would never go back to the shelter."

But like when pet owners were recovering from the Great Recession, dogs are now being surrendered at a higher rate as communities attempt to return to normal after the height of the pandemic.

"Dogs are not convenient for people's lives anymore," Thunder said. "People see them as disposable, unfortunately."

Nicole Blanton-Clark, the founder of Charley's K-9 Rescue, said the pandemic has increased skepticism about aggression in rescue dogs — since quarantines have made it difficult to properly socialize dogs.

"Human aggression has escalated in dogs because they haven't been properly socialized in the past few years," Blanton-Clark said. "So I just think the dogs are getting left behind."

Thunder said that to help address these behavioral problems, he encourages anyone who is considering adopting to get in touch with a trainer.

In addition to surrendering animals that were acquired during earlier parts of the pandemic, the shelter crisis is escalated by fear of

the unknown, he said.

Thunder said people are feeling uncertain and unwilling to commit to the added expense of a pet.

"People are fearful," he said. "Because the world around us is a bit of a crazy place right now. It has been for the last few years."

People also may refrain from adoption because they are looking for a specific breed. However, Thunder said this should not deter potential adopters.

"I believe that 99 percent of the population can find what they're looking for in a rescue if they're willing to be patient, and if they're willing to be honest," Thunder said.

The county is offering several programs in addition to its spring special adoption special, including a pet food assistance program and a two-for-one deal on cats. There are also reduced adoption fees for anyone 65 and older, and senior citizens adopting a senior cat or dog can adopt for free.

Fox said anyone who wants to help but is unable to adopt can also volunteer with OCAS, cover adoption fees and tell other community members about the shelter's animals.

"Just spread the word that these animals are amazing," she said. "We have such great dogs there."

The spring adoption special ends on April 30.

For more information on adoption specials and programs, visit the Orange County Animal Services website.

Twitter: @msingleton42

"We are seeing a drop in adoptions, and so if anybody is even thinking about it, we want to encourage them to come to the shelter."

Tenille Fox

Orange County Animal Services communications specialist

EDITORIAL

We can’t ignore gaps in Black maternal health

The U.S. health care system is plagued with racial inequities that affect people of color and marginalized groups. In particular, maternal health care suffers from these flaws.

According to The Century Foundation, these inequalities include gaps in health insurance coverage, unequal access to health services and poor health outcomes in certain populations.

For example, Black women in the United States experience unacceptably poor maternal health outcomes, including exceptionally high rates of pregnancy-related death and childbearing issues. Black women are faced with structural racism, discrimination and sexism in a health care system not designed to support them.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Black women are three times more likely to experience a pregnancy-related death than white women. Moreover, Black women are more likely to die from pregnancy or childbirth than women of any other race.

From 2019 to 2020, the maternal mortality rate for Black women increased by just over 25 percent, while the rate for white women did not increase significantly, a February 2022 report from the National Center for Health Statistics found.

Most of the deaths among Black women who were seeking maternal health care were preventable and avoidable. For any woman who chooses to become a parent or wishes to increase the size of their family, proper health care is critical for both child and mother.

There are many ways to support Black health. But at its root, structural changes must be made to address disparities that exist within



PHOTO COURTESY OF Siner/Charlotte Observer/TNS

Rep. Alma Adams (D-N.C.) arrives at Mayfield Memorial Missionary Baptist Church on July 10, 2017, to discuss health care in Charlotte, N.C.

the health care system.

It is crucial to encourage and support Black and Latinx young adults in pursuing medical careers. The first step in improving Black health is to have medical providers that look like patient populations. This allows certain barriers to be broken and help patients relate to their medical teams. It also puts patient advocates in the system.

Additionally, medical providers must work to meet patients where they are. Physically meeting patients in their communities is imperative, as access to proper health care can be an obstacle for certain groups.

But as Black women’s mortality rates rise due to pregnancies and childbearing, legal action must also be taken.

In 2019, U.S. Representatives Lauren Underwood and Alma Adams formed a Black Maternal Health Caucus to assist in developing policies that combat the shockingly high Black maternal death rate. Underwood had said that the caucus will come up with “creative” and “strategic” solutions to elevate Black maternal health.

Since then, the caucus has grown to one of the largest bipartisan caucuses in Congress, with over 100 members in January 2020.

In 2021, Underwood and the caucus spearheaded the Black Maternal Health Omnibus Act, that increased research and data collection on maternal morbidity and mortality. The legislation required the Department of Health and Human Services to address the social determinants of maternal health and maternal health issues related to COVID-19.

This month, the caucus celebrated multiple priorities being included in the Fiscal Year 2022 omnibus appropriations package. This included funding for the CDC’s Safe Motherhood/Infant Health Programs, the NIH’s Maternal Health and Pregnancy Outcomes

Vision for Everyone program, and the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant, among others.

The total funding attributed to improved maternal health care reached almost \$1 billion. This is the type of legislation that can fuel outreach efforts, encourage personnel development and support the next generation of minority health care professionals — all things necessary for the reform of maternal health care.

In addition to politicians advocating for change, several independent organizations and groups have also paved the way for equity in health care.

Black Mamas Matter Alliance is an organization led by Black women that aims to “advocate, drive research, build power and shift culture for Black maternal health, rights, and justice.”

Since its founding in 2016, the alliance has been expanded to include over 18 Black women-led organizations, and has implemented the first Black Maternal Health Week National Campaign and the Black Maternal Health Conference and Training Institute.

BMMA has endorsed various legislation by political leaders, such as Underwood’s Helping MOMS Act in 2019. Introduced in the House in 2021, the act allows states to provide one year of postpartum coverage under Medicaid.

Legislation like this is only the beginning. Reform is necessary on every level of the health care system for maternal health. Change the conversation and do your part to help support Black mothers, whether through donations, volunteering or raising awareness on the maternal health crisis.

Equitable maternal health care across marginalized communities should be a right — not a privilege.

EDITORIAL

Addressing the inequitable faculty pay gap at UNC

We live in a disappointing, yet unsurprising reality where not even higher education is immune to salary inequities across the payment of faculty and staff — our university included.

To put it plainly in the words of Misha Becker, “male faculty earn more on average than female faculty,” and “white faculty earn more on average than faculty who identify as African American, Latinx, American Indian or another racial category.”

Disappointing, yet unsurprising.

Becker may have brought salary equity into the light during a Faculty Council meeting on March 11. Studies show this has been a consistent issue at our institution — one that has been building for years.

UNC ranks 45th in faculty average salary for professors, 62nd for associates and 39th for assistants.

Both UNC’s Committee on the Status of Women and the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment have composed thorough studies on salary equity. The results of both illuminate where UNC is lacking, and what the troubling outcomes of continued inequality would be.

COSOW found that from 2014 to 2017, men on UNC faculty earn 28 percent more than women. This is visible when compared to male faculty, we see female faculty are more likely to have a fixed term appointment, hold an academic rank of assistant professor or instructor, not hold a distinguished title, have spent fewer years in their current rank and specialize in a lower-paying disciplines.

Faculty members in other racial and ethnic groups are more likely to be on tenure track but not yet be tenured, hold an academic rank below full professor and also have spent fewer years in their current rank.

Following Nikole Hannah-Jones’ tenure case, many faculty of color at UNC expressed exhaustion, overburdened and left without support in their work. Salary inequity has exacerbated this issue.



DTH PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/CHASE COFIELD

Addressing salary inequity in academia would help recruit and retain diverse faculty, the Editorial Board writes.

Minorities in faculty and staff positions on our campus have significantly become underrepresented in specific fields

and discussion.

The truth is undeniable and disheartening, but the results of these studies put UNC in a position to become a change maker, locally and nationally.

COSOW partnered with the Fixed Term Faculty Committee and the Faculty Welfare Committee to come up with solutions focused on three areas: attention, analysis and accountability. This includes sustained

across all sectors, and higher education is not excluded. But now we have been made aware of the extent of salary inequity, change can be made. Along with attention, analysis and accountability, COSOW composed the four R’s: recognition, research and transparency, retain and review, and repair. In their words, the problem can only be addressed once we recognize that there is one.

What we can do now is ask for more from our university. COSOW proposed a “chancellor’s task force,” or a group that will continue to research salary equity and serve as a source of accountability. Further research studying gender, racial and pay inequity at UNC must be funded.

In addition, by creating policies of pay transparency and pay equity between various fields of research, disparities between race and gender can begin to be diminished. This is imperative, given that Black, Indigenous and other faculty of color are more likely to work and research in the humanities, which generally see lower salaries and less funding than STEM departments.

This, in turn, can help recruit and retain diverse people and groups in campus faculty and staff. Departments on our campus can only do so much, but if we join them in asking for recognition and support from those in power positions at our university, we might begin to see slow but steady change around us.

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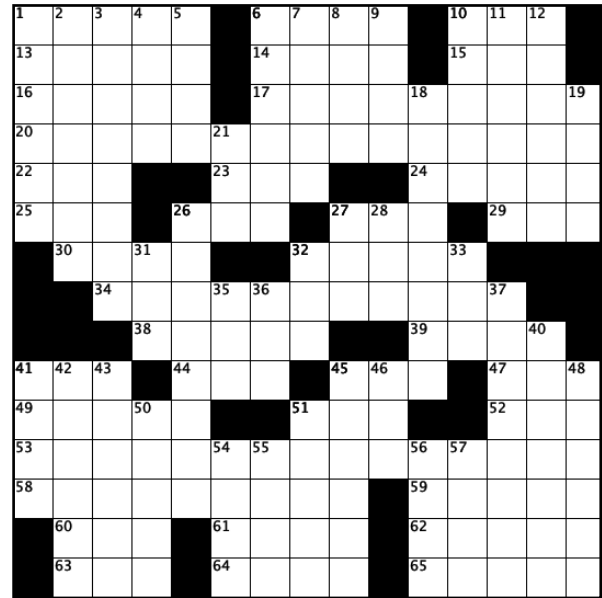
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Today's crossword was created by Liam Furlong. Liam is a first-year student majoring in business and comparative literature. He is from Wilmington, Delaware.

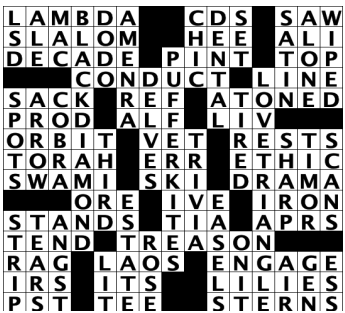
"007: THE MAN WITH THE GOLDEN GUN" CLUES

Across

- 1 Monotonous, colloquially
- 6 Use a Yankee Candle product
- 10 Deliverer of some Pixar DVDs
- 13 Like one from Kermanshah
- 14 Kermanshah location
- 15 When you are doing this puzzle
- 16 Nautical term that becomes a soda with an added letter
- 17 Vandalized
- 20 Carnival game with air rifles
- 22 Flotsam or Jetsam from "The Little Mermaid"
- 23 Submit by
- 24 "Make like a tree and ____"
- 25 Defective
- 26 Comic book punch line
- 27 American spy org.
- 29 Intellectual talk type
- 30 Construction zone
- 32 Victoria, Secret, and Angels
- 34 Capote's 1965 magnum opus
- 38 Loom over
- 39 One whose first language isn't English, abbr.
- 41 Org. that removes your shoes
- 44 Deli inside Lenoir
- 45 Withered old woman
- 47 Director Joseph McGinty Nichol, familiarly
- 49 Traditional Vietnamese dress
- 51 Little bit
- 52 Anger
- 53 Billy Joel ballad depicting Vietnamese combat
- 58 Last place runner, perhaps
- 59 One of six in Craige Hall
- 60 Adjust some pants
- 61 The Pointing Spidermen, for one
- 62 Cliffside
- 63 Gen ____ (foundational courses)
- 64 March Madness ranking
- 65 Desert watering holes

Down

- 1 Produced a serpentine noise
- 2 "Hadestown" protagonist
- 3 Last Anglo-Saxon king of England
- 4 Freshwater mollusc genus
- 5 Catcher's equipment
- 6 American ringmaster P.T.
- 7 Cell phone bill factor
- 8 Wrestlers' stage
- 9 Org. behind the Apollo
- 10 Rico's familial title in "Napoleon Dynamite"
- 11 Prod a stick into, perhaps
- 12 Avoid hitting that squirrel
- 18 From the beginning
- 19 Colored hair
- 21 Muckraker Tarbell
- 26 Developing into
- 27 NYC vehicle
- 28 "Still _ _ rise" - Maya Angelou
- 31 Wile E. Coyote's choice weapon
- 32 Giuseppe Zangara's intended target
- 33 ...of a gun? Of God?
- 35 Middle of IOU
- 36 Christmas light type
- 37 Loki and Thor
- 40 "Bah humbug" utterer
- 41 Graffiti signatures
- 42 Heal with some aloe vera
- 43 Loved immensely
- 45 Profound dislike
- 46 YouTube annoyances
- 48 Literary groupings
- 50 Smith, Levine, and Goldberg
- 51 This puzzle's is about James Bond
- 54 Vacation rentals software
- 55 Joy felt when singing a cappella
- 56 Motown hairstyle
- 57 Beauty line founded by Sasha Plavsic



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ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19)

Today is a 7 — Take time for yourself. Savor solitude and peaceful planning. Consider a situation from a wider view. Notice hidden opportunities. Advance a personal dream.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

Today is an 8 — Pull together and a team dream comes into focus. The odds are good for success. Take advantage of unexpected opportunities. Long-term benefits develop.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

Today is an 8 — Professional priorities have your attention. A lucky break deserves enthusiastic action. Drop or postpone what you can. Rising status and influence is available.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

Today is a 9 — Your adventure could take an unexpected twist. Stay flexible and it could get magical. Spontaneous deviations can develop into lasting rewards. Expand your exploration.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

Today is an 8 — Discover extra benefits with a shared venture. Unexpected perks or windfall fruit could appear, rope for the picking. Develop lucrative possibilities together.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

Today is a 9 — Explore a mutual attraction. Strategize and coordinate for greatest ease. Give and take. Share support, love and comfort. Acknowledge another's talents and skills.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

Today is a 9 — Maintain healthy practices like exercise, good food and rest. Equipment upgrades can increase performance levels. A pleasant surprise provides lasting benefit. Enjoy nature.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

Today is an 8 — Relax and enjoy the scenery. Someone nearby looks good. Take an unexpected opportunity for fun and romance. Talk about dreams, interests and your favorite games.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

Today is a 7 — Domestic dreams are within reach. Make a change you've been long wanting. Choose upgrades for lasting quality and value. Nurture family with delicious flavors.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

Today is an 8 — You're especially creative. Express your brilliant ideas. Grab an unscheduled opportunity to take your craft to the next level. Luck advances a long-held dream.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

Today is a 9 — Lucrative opportunities develop naturally. You can realize a dreamy possibility. Harvest a bountiful windfall. Conserve some for the future.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

Today is a 9 — Take charge of your own destiny. You can have the results you're willing to work for. Luck is on your side. A personal dream comes calling.

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephram Group

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

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

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

COLUMN

Free speech isn't in danger on campuses

By Caitlyn Yaede
Assistant Opinion Editor

Have you or anyone you know engaged in self-censorship? A glance at headlines related to the topic suggests yes.

An opinion piece by The Wall Street Journal poses the question: "Is Self-Censorship Taking Over Universities?" in its headline. Inside HigherEd raised similar arguments in an article titled "The Inevitable Problem of Self-Censorship."

Research backs up the worrisome headlines. A 2020 Heterodox Academy report found that 62 percent of surveyed students are reluctant to speak up about things they believe.

A guest essay published in The New York Times on March 7 attests to the discouraging climate of college campuses. Emma Camp, a student at the University of Virginia, spoke on her tendency to speak silently and behind closed doors on controversial issues, even as a self-declared liberal.

In her essay, she called for more rigorous debate in classrooms, citing how students may keep their opinions to themselves out of fear of rejection from their peers or a negative impact on grades. A letter to the editor in response to Camp agrees, arguing that colleges are teaching judgment and intolerance to youth.

These newfound claims that students are engaging in self-censorship are merely the newest mutation of a decades-long debate

about the status of free speech on college campuses. Higher education has most dramatically been a target for criticism from the political right since the 1980s, when Allan Bloom published his best-selling book, "The Closing of the American Mind."

Bloom frames academia as the biggest blight to young minds and to the advancement of free speech. Whether they are concerns related to uncurbed liberalism, post-Cold War fears of Marxist indoctrination or the use of campuses as a center for protest, First Amendment rights have been at the cornerstone of campus controversy.

But despite the rampant culture war and mainstream media coverage of the topic, these accusations are far from the truth. There is no evidence that freedom of speech, especially that of conservative students, is in jeopardy at universities.

Instead, what we see happening on our campuses is normal human behavior and the exchange of ideas, albeit some that are unpopular. The ability to assess what is appropriate to say in certain settings and to foresee disagreement isn't a new phenomenon of "self-censorship."

Furthermore, it's not unique to higher education.

Being called out for expressing problematic views, especially in public forums, is not "cancel culture," it is accountability. Insensitivity and a lack of social awareness being branded as "political incorrectness" is yet another example.

Giving a name to entirely normal behaviors allows such behaviors to be politicized and generalized to pertain to a certain group of people — in this case, it's overly wary college liberals.

College students are in a unique environment in which they are learning to engage with new ideas and, inevitably, encounter intolerant ones. To let intolerance persist is a disservice to the conversations we are having in higher education. But instead, the right has framed shutting down such views as a severe breach of constitutional rights (although they are happening in a forum of your peers rather than the law).

This is the ultimate hypocrisy of the right's fight against higher education — verbalizing disagreement is a violation of one's free speech, while marginalized students systemically get the short end of the stick when it comes to intellectual debates. We saw protests against the development of African American studies and more diverse humanities programs starting in the 1960s. We see social justice protests being shut down, often brutally. But these oppressive measures are excluded from the conversation.

The conservative right is not the victim in an archaic and privileged institution like higher education.

In "Political Correctness," an episode of the podcast "You're Wrong About," writers Michael Hobbes and Sarah Marshall said the timing of this propaganda is key. Negative ideas



DTH/SARA JOHNSON

Participants in the global climate strike gather on Friday, March 25, outside South Building, which houses Chancellor Kevin Guskiewicz's office.

about higher education are circulated as parents are particularly vulnerable, sending their kids into the world for the first time. The result is a culture of fear.

It should be no surprise that college campuses are at the forefront of this political debate. Their constituents are youth forming salient political opinions for the first time in their lives, simultaneously learning how to engage in difficult conversations.

Unsurprisingly, higher education is the hill that the political right has chosen to die on.

Like most conservative sentiments, those who propagate the idea that free speech is in danger on college campuses are appealing to the fears of those living in a rapidly changing world.

Like the exclusivity of college. The growing costs of tuition amidst diminishing acceptance rates. The increasingly mainstream nature of progressive thought within the social sciences. It's not shocking that higher education has become the target of politically-charged criticism as a way to cope with these institutional changes.

Colleges are no more detrimental to the idea of free speech than normal society. They are places of difficult conversations, intellectual debate and, consequently, disagreement.

To disagree or raise concern is not a sign of restricted freedoms, but rather the intended outcome of debate. And a fear of being held accountable doesn't mean you're being silenced.

FEATURED ONLINE COMMENT

“Sometimes Cinderella’s glass slipper gets crushed under her stepsister’s Tar Heel.”

@Eve Mountainsmith,
in response to a Daily Tar Heel Facebook post on UNC’s victory against St. Peter’s

QuickHits

Final Four

No. 8 seed UNC beat No. 15 seed St. Peter’s on Sunday, ending the Peacock’s Cinderella story and advancing to the Final Four. Here, Carolina will face off against Duke for the first time in NCAA Tournament history. Prepare for the most tense week in North Carolina history.

Course registration

Course registration kicks off this week as students anxiously await for their enrollment times on ConnectCarolina. The impossible process is further complicated by the outdated website infrastructure. It’s the most stressful part of any semester.

New Orleans trip

On Tuesday, UNC Athletics announced lottery winners for students who entered for \$40 tickets to the Final Four game. While these lucky students pay for reduced price tickets, they face long roadtrips, costly plane rides and the expenses involved with lodging in New Orleans.

COLUMN

Silent Sam still looms over Chapel Hill

By Nicholas Li-wen Hatcher
Editorial Board Member

Silent Sam — the confederate monument that once stood on McCorkle Place — plagued UNC’s campus for over a century. Erected as an icon of white supremacy — not as a memorial — the statue faced student protest for decades before finally being pulled down by a group of students.

The removal of Silent Sam was long overdue, but his departure mirrored its origins. Since that fateful protest, Black students have faced criminal charges, while white supremacist and neo-Confederate groups have found ways to use the statue to promote a lost cause.

The examples are insidious. First, the Board of Governors drafted a plan to spend \$5.3 million dollars on a museum specifically to house Silent Sam. The plan purported compromise by simultaneously removing Silent Sam from its original place of prominence, while also investing millions into giving it a brand-new place of prominence.

Then, the United Daughters of the Confederacy — the group that gifted the statue to the University back in 1913 — reportedly sold their property interest in the statue. While they didn’t actually have a legal claim to the statue because it was a gift, they still were able to use this moment to literally profit.

Most egregiously, the North Carolina Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans negotiated a \$2.5 million settlement with the University where they were to acquire

both the statue and a trust to cover the statue’s care and display. The University was going to pay millions to fund a neo-Confederate group’s usage of Silent Sam in perpetuity.

The agreement quickly came under scrutiny. Court documents revealed the settlement was filed minutes after the initial lawsuit, indicating that the University had negotiated the settlement before the lawsuit was even filed. Further, the lawsuit that was filed wasn’t even a legitimate lawsuit and had no backing to be in court.

The settlement was thankfully vacated when students and faculty members sued, pointing out this discrepancy. Settlements like these are used to bypass regulations and public scrutiny.

Since the settlement’s terms are approved by the court in a consent judgment, the University is obligated to fulfill them even though the terms were not approved in open meetings.

In effect, UNC settled a fictitious lawsuit in order to make a deal with the Sons of Confederate Veterans

and secure the future of Silent Sam while side-stepping public input.

Raleigh attorney Ripley Rand represented UNC in the fake lawsuit. Now, reports show that he is yet the latest white man to profit off of Silent Sam. According to IndyWeek, Rand was paid to the tune of nearly \$250,000 for his work representing UNC and the Board of Governors in the litigation.

While, presumably, Rand assisted the University in negotiations, there was no real litigation as the lawsuit was a mere pretense.

So, why did the offices of Gov. Roy Cooper and Attorney General Josh Stein both sign off on not just an initial payment cap of \$125,000, but also an increased payment cap of \$250,000 for Rand?

In this state, those in power protect and look after their own. After all these years, Silent Sam is still fulfilling his original purpose: to remind us that white supremacy is the University’s only constant.

These eerie echoes are seen in every aspect of Silent Sam’s legacy, even in how the protests surrounding him are remembered. While a group of students worked on a documentary about the Silent Sam protests, a pair of white filmmakers — Suki Hawley and Michael Galinsky — started shopping their own documentary on the topic on the festival circuit.

Hawley and Galinsky’s film followed student protestors who didn’t even know they were being filmed. After yet another protest, it was eventually pulled from festivals.

Even after the University is held accountable, Rand still walks away with a paycheck. Even when Hawley and Galinsky are held accountable, they are the ones continuing to sell their films. Even after Silent Sam is pulled down, he’s still used to support Confederate groups.

There has only been one appropriate end for Silent Sam — throw him away. He deserves to be melted down into sludge so that his legacy — and the burden he places on this campus — can finally come to an end.



DTH GRAPHIC/JODIE LONDONO

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Ortega nets 300th goal in win over Va. Tech



DTH/TAYLOR NOCK

UNC fifth-year attacker Jamie Ortega (3) carries the ball downfield on Saturday, March 26. UNC defeated Virginia Tech, 20-8.

The attacker is the third player in NCAA history to reach the milestone

By Evan Rogers
Senior Writer
sports@dailytarheel.com

If one were to search through the college women's lacrosse record books, they'd see a lot of Carolina Blue. Two national championships and

winner of 46 of its last 48 games just graze the surface of the historic accolades the Tar Heels have collected over the past decade. But, in order to reach such esteemed heights, it usually takes an elite player coupled with the right team chemistry to steer the ship. That player is Jamie Ortega. Ortega, the program's all-time scoring leader, entered Saturday morning's duel against Virginia Tech – which the No. 1 Tar Heels ultimately

won 20-8 – sitting just three goals shy of becoming the third player in NCAA history with 300 career goals. Yet, the potentially historic day started off anything, but memorable for the North Carolina offense. Wayward shots and the sound of unkind iron haunted the Tar Heels in the first quarter, helping Virginia Tech claw its way to a 2-2 tie. “That first quarter we were figuring out who we were playing and what was going to work,” head

“It’s always amazing to break records. At the end of the day, it’s because of my teammates.”

Jamie Ortega
Fifth-year attacker, UNC women's lacrosse

coach Jenny Levy said. The calm approach from the Tar Heel head coach rubbed off onto her team, as a rejuvenated offensive attack helped net seven goals in the proceeding quarter. The scoring burst was led by senior midfielder Brooklyn Neumen, whose two second-quarter goals came from almost identical areas – right of the goal about four steps inside the eight-meter line. Her second goal came after Sam Geiersbach's misdirection pass opened up a crease for Neumen, who easily found the back of the cage. While Neuman and company helped reignite the potent Tar Heel attack, a notable figure struggled. Ortega faced double, and even triple teams, for most of the game, to which the feisty Hokie defense seemed to rattle the four-time All-American as shot after shot sailed wide of the cage. One opportunity, late in the second quarter, looked promising for Ortega, but an uncharacteristic misfire rocketed her shot above the crossbar. By the end of the first half, the New York native was a frigid 0-6 on shot attempts, but she was determined to push through. “I’m a shooter, so I’m going to shoot, and that means sometimes things are going to fall,” she said. “But, that doesn’t mean to stop (shooting).” But nearly five minutes into the third quarter, Ortega’s relentless pursuit paid off. As she rounded the backside of the cage, an opening unlatched in the

middle of the Virginia Tech defense. Ortega slithered her way through and brushed off a Hokie foul to finish the point-blank opportunity: career goal 298. Moments later, Ortega found herself steps from the cage. The senior attacker spun to her right, leaving her defender in the rearview and zipped right past the Hokie goaltender. The late-quarter goal marked the 299th of Ortega’s career and catapulted her up to third all-time in NCAA history for career goals, and inched her one step closer to number 300. That inch was relinquished nearly two minutes later. Ortega again sliced her way through numerous defenders and darted her shot into the top left corner of the cage. Career goal 300. “It’s always amazing to break records,” Ortega said. “At the end of the day, it’s because of my teammates.” The career day didn’t end with Ortega, though. Neumen found herself in familiar territory late in the game, when she worked her way to the right side of the goal, which she again scored from, earning Neumen her first career hat trick. But through all achievements that has garnered UNC the top ranking in the country, Ortega understands every game will be a challenge. “Every team in the ACC wants to beat us, and it doesn’t matter about our ranking,” she said.

Twitter: @evanRogers



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UNC's NFL hopefuls show off at Pro Day

Scouts from all teams were present to see the 12 draft-eligible players

By Erik Haynes

Staff Writer
sports@dailytarheel.com

Personnel from all 32 NFL teams packed inside Bill Koman Practice Complex on Monday morning to catch a glimpse of Sam Howell, Ty Chandler and 10 other draft-eligible players from the UNC football team at Monday's Pro Day.

Howell, a top-five quarterback prospect in the 2022 NFL Draft, had scouts' eyes locked on him all day as he strived to be the eighth North Carolina quarterback drafted since 1960 and the first since Mitchell Trubisky in 2017.

After only participating in throwing drills at the NFL Scouting Combine in early March due to a calf injury, Howell recognized the need to show off those skills he wasn't able to at the beginning of the month.

"The main thing is being consistent with the footwork," Howell said. "Showing them I can do the footwork they are doing in the NFL, it's probably the main difference in what we did here in college and what they are doing in the NFL."

Still, the junior signal-caller impressed teams with his arm talent as he slung the ball from sideline to sideline on a variety of routes during

a 66-play throwing session.

Most notably, his deep ball accuracy was on full display as he showcased his ability to hit receivers in stride. Overall, just three of Howell's passes fell incomplete.

"Every chance I get to throw in front of people that are going to make a decision, it's super exciting," Howell said. "I like to throw every chance I get."

Helping Howell during his throwing session was Chandler, a projected Day 3 selection by NFL scouts. Chandler showcased his versatility in the passing game with his route-running abilities and consistent hands out of the backfield.

Aside from the air attack, Chandler upheld his reputation as a 1,000-yard rusher during the 2021 season with his quickness and power in running back drills led by NFL personnel.

With both the NFL Combine and his Pro Day behind him, Chandler is now focused on joining Michael Carter and Javonte Williams as the next members of the UNC backfield drafted to the league in the past two years.

"I've just been grinding, working hard on these drills, and now it's all about starting that transition to get more into football stuff," Chandler said.

On the other side of the ball, senior linebacker Jeremiah Gemmel got ready to shake the dust off after recovering from surgery on his left shoulder.

"I am 10 weeks out from surgery, so I really just got cleared two weeks ago to flip my hips and move around,"



DTH/JEROME IBRAHIM

Quarterback Sam Howell opens drills during NFL Pro Day on Monday, March 28, 2022, at the Bill Koman Practice Complex.

Gemmel said. "Going through the drills, it felt like I did a really good job."

The injury barely seemed to affect Gemmel, as he was able to participate in position, agility and 3-cone drills, only being kept out of the bench press.

Despite his on-field talent, it is off the field where the two-time team captain excels with his leadership and attention to tape. Known as "The General" by his teammates, Gemmel was the undisputed leader of

a defensive unit that struggled during the season, ranking 94th in total offense allowed per game.

Gemmel is projected as a versatile linebacker at the next level who can cover sideline-to-sideline with his lateral speed and instincts.

Although the Tar Heels will lose a defensive leader in Gemmel, as well as offensive captains Chandler and Howell and a plethora of key veterans, there is optimism about

head coach Mack Brown's new squad for the upcoming season.

"This past Saturday at the scrimmage, the defense looked like they are flying around," Gemmel said. "And one thing I noticed that we always bring but was on another level on Saturday was the energy."

Twitter: @dthsports

Tar Heels can't stop Gamecocks' Aliyah Boston



DTH/GILLIAN FASKI

Sophomore guard Deja Kelly (25) dribbles the ball down the court looking for an open pass during the regional semifinals of the NCAA Tournament. UNC lost to South Carolina, 69-61, in Greensboro on Friday, March 25.

Continued from Page 1

just one Tar Heel, at a mere 5 feet, 8 inches tall, stood in the way of the towering South Carolina forward and her team's path to the Elite Eight.

Midway through the third quarter, Boston caught the ball in the paint and found herself, as she did many times throughout Friday's game, in a sea of blue. Boston put the ball down, driving into Alexandra Zelaya as she inched towards the rim.

What she didn't see, flashing by her right shoulder, was Kelly, who reached in to swipe at the ball.

Just three seconds later, the San Antonio native converted the steal on the other end with a lightning-fast coast-to-coast layup to bring UNC within four points.

In the end, though, that's as close as the Tar Heels would come to regaining the lead.

While a casual glance at the stat sheet will note Boston's late-game takeover, fans in attendance Friday night will remember the fight that Kelly and the undersized Tar Heels put up in the final minutes of their season.

Kelly went down clawing in the final quarter, with seven points, two rebounds and two assists. With a transition pull-up three, mid-range jumper and then a

floater through traffic, Kelly brought her team within five points of the Gamecocks with a little over six minutes to play.

"I thought Deja Kelly did a great job at just putting us back on our heels and scoring," South Carolina head coach Dawn Staley said. "But then we had to take care of everybody else, and I thought we did a great job at taking care of everybody else."

Despite their fourth quarter effort — which saw the Tar Heels outscore the Gamecocks 16-13 — UNC came up short. The rest of their team, for the most part, was held in check. Beyond Kelly's 23 points, no one else on the North Carolina roster scored more than 10.

Less than four days before Friday night's loss, thousands of miles away from Chapel Hill in Tucson, North Carolina was rejoicing in the halls of the McKale Memorial Center after upsetting Arizona in their second-round game.

"We're a long way from home, but we're going back home," Banghart said after that win.

The Tar Heels had punched their ticket to Greensboro and the program's first Sweet 16 since 2015.

But little did they know, all roads would lead to Boston.

Twitter: @shelbyswanson

Gymnastics heading to NCAA regional championship

The Tar Heels will face Towson in round one on Wednesday in Raleigh

By Erin Singleton

Staff Writer
sports@dailytarheel.com

In her first season as North Carolina's head gymnastics coach, Danna Durante had high expectations for her athletes. After five seasons at the University of Georgia — making the NCAA Super Six in three of those seasons — she wanted to bring that winning ethos to Chapel Hill.

Eighteen meets and an East

Atlantic Gymnastics League regular season title later, it's clear that the success came fast and loud.

But heading into the conference championship as a No. 3 seed, the regular season success the Tar Heels experienced came back to bite them, as they finished in fifth out of eight teams.

"We all were wanting more than fifth and certainly capable of more than fifth," Durante said. "But what we took from that is — that moment was a little bigger in some of our minds than a regular season meet."

Because of the team's earlier success, UNC will have another chance at postseason glory. For the first time since 2017, the Tar Heels

advanced to compete in the NCAA Regional Championships.

They are set to compete in round one of the Raleigh Regional, held in Reynolds Coliseum on Wednesday at 3 p.m. The team will face Towson University in a one-on-one battle.

UNC competed against Towson a few times this season. In Carmichael Arena at the end of January, the Tar Heels defeated the Tigers by a score of 196.000-195.975.

More recently, the teams met at the EAGL conference championships last weekend, where Towson's 196.075 points earned them a second-place finish to the Tar Heels' fifth.

Following the meet, Durante and

staff have been working to help their athletes manage emotions as they prepare for regionals.

Despite a few missteps at the EAGL Championships, North Carolina remains energized after a strong regular season. As the team prepares for the first round of regionals on Wednesday, junior Elizabeth Culton explained how her team was able to take motivation from defeat.

"It almost gives us a fire going into this first round of regionals because we want to prove that we can do better and show what we've really been working for," Culton said.

In addition to the team qualification, three Tar Heels qualified as individual

event specialists: first-year Julia Knower as an all-around, first-year Lali Dekanoidze in the vault and Culton on the beam and the bars.

Though Knower and Culton have remained two of the strongest individual performers this season, they both emphasized the importance of team performance over their own.

Whatever the result may be on Wednesday, the experience itself will help shape the future of the program.

"I think it's going to be a really good learning experience and a good step for the future in terms of growing Carolina gymnastics," Culton said.

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