by Praveena Somasundaram
Editor-in-Chief
elsa@dailytarheel.com

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, her hometown of Homestead, Pa. Through the doors of the red brick Carnegie Library building in her hometown of Homestead, Pa.

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.

“Racially and culturally competent, and for me, it’s really about opportunity — the opportunity that people are on the same page,” Westbrooks said.

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, her hometown of Homestead, Pa.

Through the doors of the red brick Carnegie Library building in her hometown of Homestead, Pa.

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.

“Just felt she would be a dream appointment,” Ferris said. “And she has more than excelled my expectations for her.”

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,” Westbrooks said. “Not because I was born underrepresented, but because I have done the work.”

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.

During her five years at UNC, she and her team have launched initiatives that focus on moving library resources toward initiatives that promote DEI and address the erasure of underrepresented communities from archives and other materials.

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.

“Just felt she would be a dream appointment,” Ferris said. “And she has more than excelled my expectations for her.”

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.

“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.

“Just felt she would be a dream appointment,” Ferris said. “And she has more than excelled my expectations for her.”

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,” Westbrooks said. “Not because I was born underrepresented, but because I have done the work.”

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 underrepresented communities.

“I really think I’ve been the right leader for the right time.”

By Praveena Somasundaram
Editor-in-Chief
elsa@dailytarheel.com

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, her hometown of Homestead, Pa.

Through the doors of the red brick Carnegie Library building in her hometown of Homestead, Pa.

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.

“Just felt she would be a dream appointment,” Ferris said. “And she has more than excelled my expectations for her.”

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,” Westbrooks said. “Not because I was born underrepresented, but because I have done the work.”

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 underrepresented communities.

“I really think I’ve been the right leader for the right time.”
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 the report.

Monique Daniels is the owner of one of those homes. A single mother of four, Daniels moved into a home in 1998 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, 69 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 new challenges for Black households.

"Homeownership is a main driver of the racial wealth gap, per findings..." -Mona L. Daniels, Orange County homeowner

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

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

The Habitats for Humanity of Orange and Durham County are each the recipients of million-dollar gifts from 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 fund 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 all-in 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 2005 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 housing discrimination and redlining in Orange County. Redlining refers to 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. "This 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.

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

Fiona Hasanaj

Twitter: @sam_long16

"Racial equity report shows county’s needs..." -By Samuel Long

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 statewide 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 must first homes are bought with support from family.

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

"In that community (Northside), the families that are 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 EMPOWERnet, Inc. are members of the Orange County Affordable Housing Coalition.

Dianne Bailey, the co-chairperson of the NAACP Housing Committee and executive-director of EMPOWERnet Inc., said the Northside and Pine Knoll communities, among others, have also been a focus of her organization since the founding of EMPOWERnet, Inc.

Bailey said EMPOWERnet, 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 you will get approved the second time around."

Cammi 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 an executive director of N.C. A&T Real Estate Development, Inc. in Greensboro, said she thinks people often think that homeownership is a high level through government policy.

But she believes that there is a need for affordable housing for Black communities and a holistic approach must be taken to address solutions.

Twitter: @sam_long16

BREIFS

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 Elianna Alexander said.

The RHA identified restrooms across residential communities where menstrual products will be implemented including common areas for 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

Twitter: @sam_long16
Janora McDuffie voiced all of the show’s announcements Sunday
By Valeria Cloës
seniorwriter@dailytarheel.com

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.

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

While at UNC, McDuffie was a Morehead-Cain scholar, an inductee of the Order of the Golden Fleece and a member of Delta Sigma Theta sorority and the Black Student Movement.

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.”

Wake up to breaking news, happening events and a bit of daily humor

Delivered right to your inbox every school day!

Sign up at dailytarheel.com

Keep Independent Student Journalism Alive.

The Daily Tar Heel has been a defining experience for thousands of journalists and has informed the UNC student body for 126 years. Help us invest in the future of journalism by investing in our student journalists of today.

Donate to The Daily Tar Heel at StartThePresses.org
Leaving ‘bittersweet’ for Westbrooks

Elevate
Welcome to Davis Library!

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

University Libraries is also facing significant budget cuts. This makes 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 University starting July 1.

The UNC Asian American Center’s Fellows Program was announced in fall 2020.

The Asian American Center, photographed on Sunday, Aug. 27, 2022, hosts cohorts of fellows who host in-person visits to share their work.

The Asian American Center's Fellows Program invites prominent scholars and to help build the community around Asian American studies, Gonzales said.

Theodore Gonzales

Theodore Gonzales hosted the first AAC Fellows talk in October. He researches Asian Pacific American history, with a focus on Asian American and Pacific Island 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,” Gonzales 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 kinds of museum in the area of Asian American and Pacific Island history.”

Gonzales 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.

“They are well-supported, having been given the opportunity to start over at another place,” Metzger 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.”

“If you’re bitter-sweet, 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: @pizzaremissoma

Second AAC Fellows cohort hosts lectures

Samanth Choudhury

Samanth 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.

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

Twitter: @dthopinion

The UNC Asian American Center's second cohort of fellows — Theodore Gonzales, 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 Gonzales

Theodore Gonzales hosted the first AAC Fellows talk in October. He researches Asian Pacific American history, with a focus on Asian American and Pacific Island 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,” Gonzales 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 kinds of museum in the area of Asian American and Pacific Island history.”

Gonzales 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,” Gonzales said.

Samah Choudhury

Samanth 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.

Applicants for the third cohort of AAC fellows are scheduled to open next month.
Alcohol culture impacts students of color

UNC research study focuses on impact of drinking habits
By Eileen Foster
Staff Writer
university@dailytarheel.com

The Color of Drinking study—collaboration between 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.

As part of the study, individuals were given an anonymous survey on their drinking habits and experiences. The study also focuses on the experiences of LGBTQ students.

The initial study, led by UW-Madison University’s Alcohol and Other Drugs Prevention Coordinator Reonica 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, as compared to white students, the UW-Madison study found.

Nora Emmott, a graduate student working on the UNC study, said the survey garnered over 1,600 student responses.

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, theorized 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 provided 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 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 UNC Program on Community Engagement.

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 go. They said, “I’m going to 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.

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 their college experience,” Aghedo said.

UNC Student Wellness offers different programming and educational resources surrounding substance issues, 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

The UNC study also focuses on the impacts of alcohol culture on students. Emmott 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 UNC Program on Community Engagement.

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 go. They said, “I’m going to 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.

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 their college experience,” Aghedo said.

UNC Student Wellness offers different programming and educational resources surrounding substance issues, 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

The UNC study also focuses on the impacts of alcohol culture on students. Emmott 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 UNC Program on Community Engagement.

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 go. They said, “I’m going to 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.

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 their college experience,” Aghedo said.

UNC Student Wellness offers different programming and educational resources surrounding substance issues, 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
Some will travel to New Orleans, while others will watch from home.

Graduate forward Brady Manek returns to the Dean E. Smith Center after the UNC men’s basketball team beat St. Peter’s in the 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 no team that had been on the first list," 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 during the 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 court,” Wong said. “And then for the second one, against St. Peters, we were sitting literally behind the team bench.”

The Final Four game will be held in Omaha on Sunday. Some students are willing to find and buy tickets, while others submitted a request for a ticket through the University’s lottery. First-year John Williams, a public policy and economics major, is heading down to Louisiana this weekend to experience the historic game in-person. This is the rival Tar Heels and Missouri Tigers have made it farther 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. Peters’, Alaina Shields, a first-year majoring in environmental studies, said. “So it just felt like UNC was back between a rock and a hard place situation.”

Like many students, Shields said she will be thinking about the upcoming Duke game all week. “I think that when you’re a student, campus will be buzzing with energy as community members anticipate which 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 we’ve got this far,” Karamittos said. “I’m a senior and, like I said, we’ve been through so much. I don’t think it’s going to be any better, and go to hell Duke!”
Raul Reis aims to emphasize diversity, equity and inclusion

By Abby Pender

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

Raul Reis, dean of the Emerson College School of Journalism and Media, 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 fostering 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 a more of a sense of community, which is something that they wanted and something they felt was lacking 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 Journalism and 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 really been 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 hopes in the school. So I like where 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.

Tara 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 those 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.

Hug Morton Distinguished Professor Heidi Hemink-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.

Trey 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.

“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.
The event was part of a global movement advocating for action.

By Holly Adams
Staff writer
hally@dailytarheel.com
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 chanted in solidarity to support their sustainability efforts and highlighted specific issues.

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

The UNC-Chapel Hill list of demands includes a variety of local and global-level changes, including:

- Increasing University transparency on initiatives:
  - Tracking the energy consumption of buildings
  - Developing a master plan for utilizing University resources
  - Making energy consumption data publicly available

- Media coverage:
  - The UNC Climate Strike's list of demands includes
  - Increasing University transparency on local and global-level changes, including:
    - Increase in energy efficiency
    - Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions
    - Implementation of renewable energy sources

- Legislative action:
  - Supporting local and state-level policies
  - Advocating for federal legislation
  - Encouraging international cooperation

- Community engagement:
  - Engaging with community leaders and organizations
  - Hosting community events and workshops
  - Collaborating with local governments and organizations

- Education and awareness:
  - Providing education and awareness on climate change
  - Developing curriculum on sustainable practices
  - Engaging students in advocacy and activism

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

A student-hosted climate change event 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 on a roof.

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

The state ranked seventh in 2019, after ranking as high as second in 2017.

By Maggie McIntyre
maggie@dailytarheel.com

Students and community members gather in the Pit to advocate for urgent climate action.

North Carolina’s solar energy rank falls

It’s a global movement

North Carolina’s solar energy rank falls

“The state ranked seventh in 2019, after ranking as high as second in 2017.”

By Maggie McIntyre
maggie@dailytarheel.com

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

A student-hosted climate change event 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 on a roof.

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

The state ranked seventh in 2019, after ranking as high as second in 2017.

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

A student-hosted climate change event 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 on a roof.

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

The state ranked seventh in 2019, after ranking as high as second in 2017.

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

A student-hosted climate change event 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 on a roof.

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

The state ranked seventh in 2019, after ranking as high as second in 2017.

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

A student-hosted climate change event 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 on a roof.

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

The state ranked seventh in 2019, after ranking as high as second in 2017.
Carrboro opens streets for bikers, runners

The Open Streets event is a celebration of community and activity

By Sarah Ooi
city@dailytarheel.com

Sometimes, you have to close the streets to open them.

At the Town of Carrboro’s annual Open Streets event, people fill block-lined streets with everything from hiking 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 Gailen 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 posted resources for those attending remotely, such as tutorials on loading bikes onto a Chapel Hill Transit bus.

“Just to make sure the event — the first to be held in person since the pandemic began — all the more exciting, Romaine said.

“Gettting 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, attendances 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 proud of where we live,” she said.

Susan Romaine
Carrboro Mayor Pro Tem

Carrboro Mayor Pro Tem

City & State

Primary races less competitive than usual

By Ian Walniuk
Staff Writer
city@dailytarheel.com

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.

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, Janesseta 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 Jess Weaver.

The year prior, however, candidates ran for the two District 1 seats on the Board of County Commissioners: incumbents Penny Rich and Mark Dorosin, and newcomer Jen 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 McKee and Anna Richards.

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 Martín, a former staffer at the UNC Institute of Politics and field director for Jonah Ganco 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 ideologies, they said. Martín 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 Streett, 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 don’t seem to be a lot of people ready or driven to run to try 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.

Gusano 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, they might not have the motivation to run without a super compelling reason,” he said.

Twitter: @ianwalniuk
Three advocates receive Pauli Murray Award

Adult, youth and business winners are chosen annually

By Lilly Behbehani
Staff Writer
city@dailytarheel.com

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. Paul 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.

"I have created Creative SWAG, an organization of elementary to high school-aged girls that focuses on 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 put in place on this planet to do," she said. "What I'm most gratifying is just knowing that I'm contributing, even if it's just a little bit of a footprint, to the community or to the state or the country."

The ceremony was inspiring. Bradford said, "I feel that we can do so much with the work that I do at Habitat or the work that Habitat does. So yes, we can go on and do big things that people will move into, but for our work, it's so much bigger than the housing home."

Staton said the power of community is what allows Habitat to succeed.

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

Twitter: @dailytarheel

OCAS has offered incentives in an effort to increase adoptions

By Maddie Singleton
Staff Writer
city@dailytarheel.com

Over the last few months, Orange County Animal Services has seen an increase in dog surrenders and a drop in adoptions, leaving more dogs waiting for their forever homes.

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

"Human aggression has escalated in dogs because they haven't been properly socialized in shelter's animals," 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 considering adopting to get in touch with a trainer.

"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.

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."
Opinion

We can’t ignore gaps in Black maternal health

Addressing the inequitable faculty pay gap at UNC

The U.S. health care system is plagued with racial inequities that affect people of color and marginalized communities. This is not just a problem of access; it is a problem of disparities in care. The inequities in maternal health care are particularly concerning, as Black women are more likely to experience pregnancy-related complications and have higher rates of maternal mortality compared to white women. This is unacceptable and must be addressed.

According to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Black women are 3.5 times more likely to experience pregnancy-related death than white women. Black women are also more likely to experience complications such as preterm birth, placenta previa, and placental abruption. These disparities are stark and must be addressed.

One way to address these disparities is through the implementation of policies that prioritize the health and well-being of Black and Latinx women. This includes ensuring equitable access to health care, addressing structural racism, and promoting health equity at all levels of society.

In addition, universities and institutions of higher education must also prioritize the health and well-being of their students and faculty. This includes creating policies that address the unique challenges faced by Black and Latinx faculty member. This includes paying them fairly, addressing gender and racial inequities in pay, and ensuring that their voices are heard.

In conclusion, we must prioritize the health and well-being of Black women and all marginalized communities. This includes addressing disparities in health care and ensuring equitable access to health care options. Only by doing so can we truly address the systemic issues that are present in our health care system.

Addressing the inequitable faculty pay gap at UNC

The U.S. health care system is plagued with racial inequities that affect people of color and marginalized communities. This is not just a problem of access; it is a problem of disparities in care. The inequities in maternal health care are particularly concerning, as Black women are more likely to experience pregnancy-related complications and have higher rates of maternal mortality compared to white women. This is unacceptable and must be addressed.

According to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Black women are 3.5 times more likely to experience pregnancy-related death than white women. Black women are also more likely to experience complications such as preterm birth, placenta previa, and placental abruption. These disparities are stark and must be addressed.

One way to address these disparities is through the implementation of policies that prioritize the health and well-being of Black and Latinx women. This includes ensuring equitable access to health care, addressing structural racism, and promoting health equity at all levels of society.

In addition, universities and institutions of higher education must also prioritize the health and well-being of their students and faculty. This includes creating policies that address the unique challenges faced by Black and Latinx faculty member. This includes paying them fairly, addressing gender and racial inequities in pay, and ensuring that their voices are heard.

In conclusion, we must prioritize the health and well-being of Black women and all marginalized communities. This includes addressing disparities in health care and ensuring equitable access to health care options. Only by doing so can we truly address the systemic issues that are present in our health care system.

Addressing the inequitable faculty pay gap at UNC

The U.S. health care system is plagued with racial inequities that affect people of color and marginalized communities. This is not just a problem of access; it is a problem of disparities in care. The inequities in maternal health care are particularly concerning, as Black women are more likely to experience pregnancy-related complications and have higher rates of maternal mortality compared to white women. This is unacceptable and must be addressed.

According to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Black women are 3.5 times more likely to experience pregnancy-related death than white women. Black women are also more likely to experience complications such as preterm birth, placenta previa, and placental abruption. These disparities are stark and must be addressed.

One way to address these disparities is through the implementation of policies that prioritize the health and well-being of Black and Latinx women. This includes ensuring equitable access to health care, addressing structural racism, and promoting health equity at all levels of society.

In addition, universities and institutions of higher education must also prioritize the health and well-being of their students and faculty. This includes creating policies that address the unique challenges faced by Black and Latinx faculty member. This includes paying them fairly, addressing gender and racial inequities in pay, and ensuring that their voices are heard.

In conclusion, we must prioritize the health and well-being of Black women and all marginalized communities. This includes addressing disparities in health care and ensuring equitable access to health care options. Only by doing so can we truly address the systemic issues that are present in our health care system.
**COLUMN**

*Free speech isn’t in danger on campuses*

By Caitlin Yaede
Assistant Opinion Editor

Have you or anyone you know engaged in self-censorship? A question at the heart of the topic the piece to follow suggests you.


Research backs up the worrisome headline. A guest essay published in The New York Times on March 7 attests to the discouraging climate of college campuses. Emma Campbell, a student at the University of Virginia, specified that her tendency to speak silently and become closed off on controversial issues, even as a self-declared liberal.

In her essay, she called for more rigorous higher education. That means students may keep their opinions to themselves concerning a professor from their peers or a negative impact on grades. A letter to the editor in response to Campbell proposes that professors are teaching judgment and free speech.

These newfound claims that students are engaging in self-censorship are the new 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 uncivilized liberalism, post-Cold War fruirs of Marxist indoctrination or the use of campus as a center for protest, First Amendment rights have been at the center of controversy at universities. But despite the rampant culture war and mainstream media coverage of these actions, there are far more from the truth. There is no evidence that freedom of speech, especially that of conservative students, is in jeopardy at universities.

Instead, what we are seeing 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 “canceled culture.” Insensitivity and a lack of social awareness being branded as “political incorrectness” is yet another example.

The settlement was thankfully vacated without further appeal. By 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 short, UNC settled a frivolous lawsuit in order to make a deal with the Sons of Confederate Veterans and secure the future of Silent Sam while stopping public input. Raleigh attorney Ripley Rand represented UNC in the 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 University 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.

No, 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 $500,000 for Rand? In this case, those in power protect and allow their profits over their own.

After all these years, Silent Sam is still full of 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 protecting 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 Silent Sam. They were eventually pulled from festivals.

Hawley and Galinsky’s film followed student protesters 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 shingle so that his legacy — and the Johnson monuments — finally come to an end.

---

**FEATURED ONLINE COMMENT**

**“Sometimes Cinderella's glass slipper gets crushed under her stepister's Tar Heel.”**

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

---

**QuickHits**

On Tuesday, UNC Athletics announced new tickets for students who entered for $40 to attend the Final Four game. While these lucky fans will get reduced price tickets, they face long lines and the expenses involved with lodging in New Orleans.
WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Ortega nets 300th goal in win over Va. Tech

“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

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 a player in NCAA history’s heights, it usually takes an elite player and 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 beat us, and it doesn’t matter about the country, Ortega understands every one 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. 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 fail,” she said. “But, that doesn’t mean to stop (shooting).” But nearly five minutes into the third quarter, Ortega’s relentless pass 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 299.

Moments later, Ortega found herself steps from the cage. The senior attacker spun to her right, leaving her defender in the rearview and ripped past the Hokie goaltender. The late-quarter goal marked the 300th of Ortega’s career and catapulted her up to third all-time in NCAA history for career goals, and indeed her one step closer to number 300. That inch was relinquished nearly two minutes later. Ortega again slid 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. Neumann 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 Neumann her first career hat trick. But through all achievements that have 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.

Honor your UNC graduate in The Daily Tar Heel’s Keepsake Graduation Guide

Hurry, early bird deadline is Friday, April 1st (no joke!)

dailytarheel.com/graduation

We are hiring students, entry level and experienced individuals!

ADDON

STUDENT BENEFITS
+ Gain experience related to your major
+ Great for Psychology, Sociology, Nursing, Pre-Med, and other Human Services majors/degrees
+ Paid Internship opportunities
+ Entry-level, paid training

$200 Hiring Bonus!! Positions available immediately! Start ASAP!

Our entry level jobs are a great way to gain hands-on health care and human services experience! We provide the training and have various shifts available - daytime, evening, overnight... We even pay employees to sleep!

For more information or to apply, visit jobs.rsi-nc.org

RSI provides living options and related supports to people of all ages with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We promote quality of life by maximizing self-determination, development of independent living skills, community involvement, meaningful social roles, and socially responsible behavior. RSI's vision is to help children and adults to live lives characterized by happiness, dignity, health, and the highest possible degree of social responsibility and productivity.

RSI: A Tradition of New Possibilities
- Established in 1974 -

For more information or to apply, visit jobs.rsi-nc.org
UNC's NFL hopefuls show off at Pro Day

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, 工visted to Chapel Hill.

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 1 selection by NFL scouts. Chandler showcased his versatility in the passing game with his route-running abilities and consistent hands out of the backfield.

"A flier on the air, Chandler upheld his reputation as a 1,000-yard rusher during the 2022 season with his quickness and power running back drills led by NFL personnel.

Chandler 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 1 selection by NFL scouts. Chandler showcased his versatility in the passing game with his route-running abilities and consistent hands out of the backfield.

"A flier on the air, Chandler upheld his reputation as a 1,000-yard rusher during the 2022 season with his quickness and power 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 Jawon 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 A.J. 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," 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-sideine 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, there is optimism about a head coach Mack Brown's new squad for the upcoming season.

"It almost gives us a fire going into the next round," said one senior on the North Carolina roster, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "We all were wanting more than this, so this is a huge win for us.

"We're a long way from home, but we're going to stay alive," said one senior on the North Carolina roster, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "We're a long way from home, but we're going to stay alive," said one senior on the North Carolina roster, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "The Tar Heels had their ticket to Greensboro and the program's first Sweet 16 since 2015.

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

"We're a long way from home, but we're going to stay alive," said one senior on the North Carolina roster, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "The Tar Heels had their ticket to Greensboro and the program's first Sweet 16 since 2015.

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

"We're a long way from home, but we're going to stay alive," said one senior on the North Carolina roster, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "The Tar Heels had their ticket to Greensboro and the program's first Sweet 16 since 2015.

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