

POPULATION HEALTH

## Orange County has NC's highest life expectancy

Income level, housing and food security impact long-term wellness

By Walker Livingston  
Senior Writer  
city@dailytarheel.com

Orange County residents lead the state's average life expectancy by almost four years.

According to the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation's 2019 U.S. health map, the average life expectancy for a North Carolina resident is 78.2 years, while the average in Orange County is 82.1. The listed U.S. life expectancy for 2019 was just over 79 years.

Robeson County ranks the lowest in the state with a life expectancy of 73 years, which is about nine years behind Orange County. Rural areas like Robeson County have a notably lower life expectancy than the rest of the state.

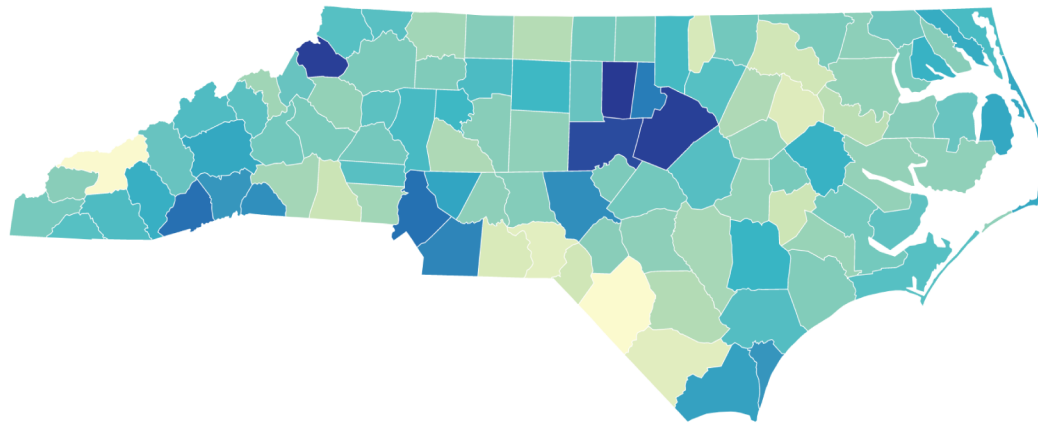
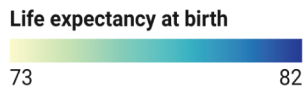
Jennifer Lund, an associate professor of epidemiology at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health, said structural racism, which has been prominent in the South, provides socioeconomic context for the differences in life expectancy.

Geographic and socioeconomic disparities in access to health care, as well as possible delays in accessing treatment, can lead to individuals being diagnosed with cancer at a later or untreatable stage, Lund said.

Her research areas focuses on geriatric oncology and pharmacoepidemiology, which is the study of the interactions between medicines and human populations in real life conditions. Lund said she has increased her research on aging because of the high median age of those who are diagnosed with cancer across the state.

### Orange County holds the longest life expectancy at birth among North Carolina counties

The county life expectancy of 82 years is four years longer than the state average of 78. It is also nine years longer than the state's shortest life expectancy of 73 years, held by Robeson County.

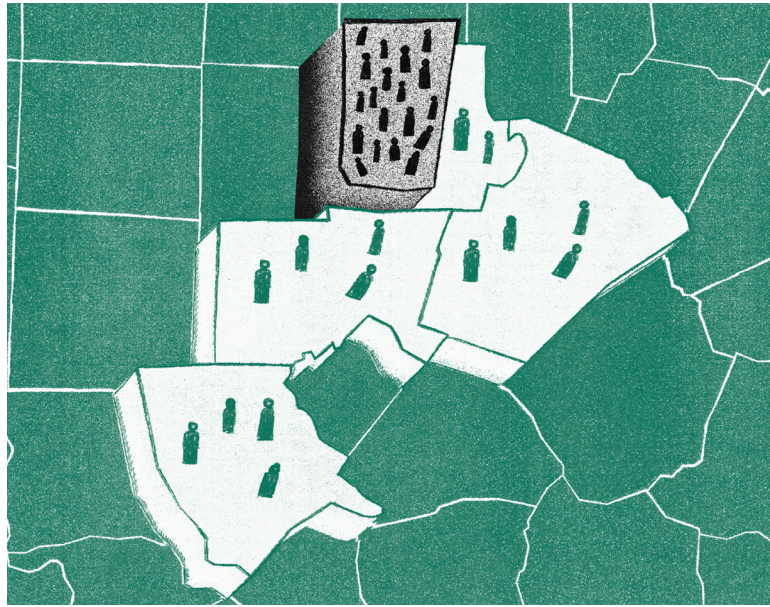


Source: Global Health Data Exchange | Data from 2019.

DTH DATA VISUALIZATION/KENAN BAUER

### A LOOK AT CENTRAL NORTH CAROLINA

- Orange, Wake, Chatham, Durham and Moore counties have some of the highest life expectancy averages in the state.
- The average life expectancy for Orange County is 82.11 years, the highest in North Carolina.
- Wake County's and Chatham County's average life expectancies are 81.78 and 81.49 years, respectively.
- The average life expectancy for Durham County approximately two years less than Orange County's average, at 80.27 years.
- The lowest of the five counties depicted, Moore County's average life expectancy is 79.72 years.



DTH GRAPHIC/CARSON ELM-PICARD

"North Carolina just recently expanded Medicaid, about 10 years after other states," Lund said. "So, that in itself is kind of a huge barrier to healthcare access for some people."

Orange County, though, is home to the UNC Health Care system and has resources, such as free transit, that make hospitals more accessible.

"You have enough density of people that you have social connectedness, but you don't have so much density that you're in a really competitive environment for resources," said Jenny Womack, the founding director of Appalachian State University's occupational therapy program.

Before assuming her current position, Womack worked as an occupational therapist with older individuals at the Orange County Department on Aging. She was also the associate director of UNC's Partnerships in Aging Program.

Higher life expectancy in Orange County is tied to the social determinants of health, Womack said. According to the World Health Organization, social determinants of health include income, education level, food insecurity, housing and health care access.

Amanda Holliday, associate professor of nutrition at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health, said rural North Carolina has a low usage rate of federal nutrition programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and food delivery programs for older adults.

She added that food deserts, areas where people have limited access to a variety of healthy and affordable food, contribute to the lower life expectancy found in rural North Carolina.

"In rural areas, federal money that is trickling down to help deal with food insecurity is hard to

SEE SOCIOECONOMIC FACTORS PAGE 6

MUSEUMS

## Ackland paper conservator preserves damaged artwork

Grace White uses solvents and chemicals to repair drawings, paintings and prints

By Zoe Sinclair  
Staff Writer  
university@dailytarheel.com

Painters paint. Drawers draw. Artists create. But who preserves art so it reaches future generations? At the Ackland Art Museum, Grace White is the woman behind it all – well, at least all things paper.

As a paper conservator, White works in a lab at the museum and uses chemicals and

solvents to repair damage on drawings, paintings, watercolors and prints. She also works to keep the artwork safe and free from future damage.

White said she is currently treating a 19th-century Japanese board game that was created on thin paper and became damaged by tape and tears. She is using solvents to remove the tape and watercolors to fill in the lost pigment from the tears.

For White, one of the most interesting parts of her job is studying art materials from various time periods and parts of the world.

"I love being able to touch all of the artwork – something that is usually forbidden to most people in museums,"

she said. "But I really love that hands-on connection to the artwork and to the history."

White's job is not only important for the physical preservation of art. She said conservation is important because art fosters global competence and gives viewers more compassion and appreciation for the world.

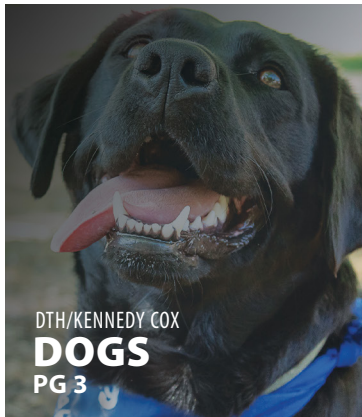
"I think loving artwork opens our hearts to loving each other and to learning more about each other and about other societies, other cultures, other nationalities, other races," she said. "I think it can be a holistic learning experience. Art can be a puzzle piece that fits in with the whole."

SEE WHITE PAGE 3



DTH/SARA JOHNSON

Grace White works at her lab in the Ackland Art Museum on Monday, April 10.



DTH/KENNEDY COX  
**DOGS**  
PG 3



DTH/DEREK PANG  
**ARTS**  
PG 6



DTH/SAMANTHA LEWIS  
**POLITICS**  
PG 7



DTH/JAY'LA EVANS  
**BASEBALL**  
PG 8

“ Among the many things that I like, I love Venn diagrams. ”  
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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
EDITOR@DAILYTARHEEL.COM

**ALLIE KELLY**  
MANAGING EDITOR  
MANAGING.EDITOR@DAILYTARHEEL.COM

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**ELISE TREXLER**  
AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT EDITOR  
ONLINE@DAILYTARHEEL.COM

**ANH NGUYEN**  
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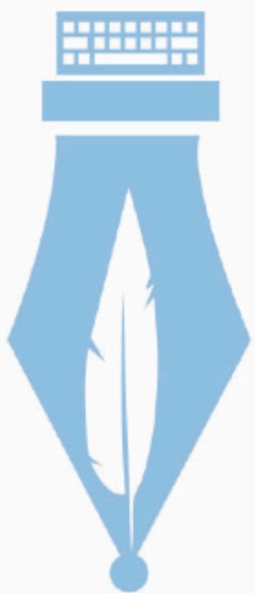
Mail and Office: 109 E. Franklin St.  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514  
Guillermo Molero, editor, 962-4086  
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## OUTREACH

## Reflecting on the DTH's community survey

By Anh Nguyen and Adam Horne

Data Editor and Data Staffer  
[records@dailytarheel.com](mailto:records@dailytarheel.com)

An anonymous survey of the greater Chapel Hill community revealed varying viewpoints regarding The Daily Tar Heel's representation of race, sexual orientation and gender identity.

The Daily Tar Heel collected 529 responses between March 6 and March 24 via QR codes posted in physical copies of the paper and around Chapel Hill, link distribution from University and DTH newsletters, and in-person surveys on Franklin Street and campus. Nearly 90 percent of respondents were University students, with the remaining percentage being community members.

Of these participants, 54 percent were people of color and 43 percent were non-Hispanic white individuals—with the remaining participants preferring not to say. Sixty-three percent identified as straight, while 37 percent identified as non-straight. Six percent identified as transgender, intersex or gender nonconforming.

The general public opinion of the paper was largely positive. However, separating respondents by race, gender and sexuality revealed disparities between subgroups for questions about representation.

## Identity

Respondents were asked to rate the following statement using the Likert scale — strongly disagree to strongly agree — "The Daily Tar Heel writes stories that represent my identity/identities." Sentiment toward this statement varied across different social identities. In general, white and cisgender individuals responded more positively to this statement than people from other races and gender identities.

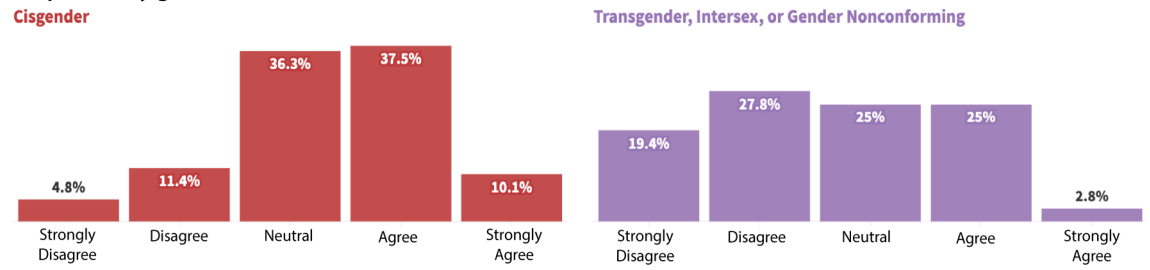
Transgender, intersex and gender-nonconforming (TIGNC) individuals expressed the most disappointment for the representation of their identity in the paper, as almost half of all respondents indicated disagreement with the above statement. Only 16 percent of their cisgender respondents expressed disagreement.

Responses about identity representation were rated from one

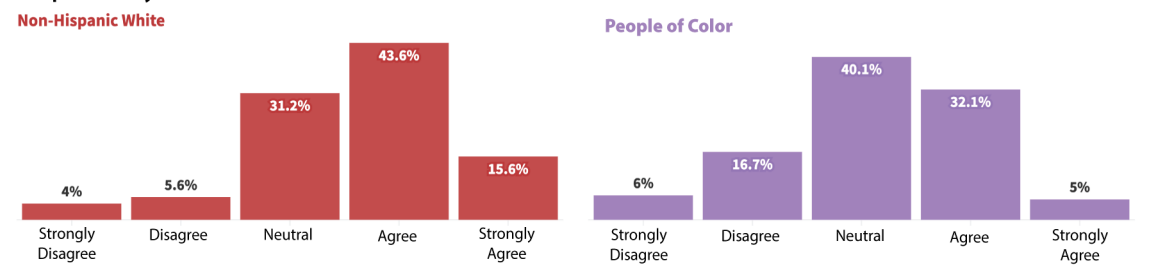
## "The Daily Tar Heel writes stories that represent my identity/identities."

Respondents were asked to rate their agreement with this statement using the Likert scale—strongly disagree to strongly agree. Response percentages by gender and race are displayed below. | Source: The Daily Tar Heel Data Desk

## Responses by gender



## Responses by race



DTH DATA VISUALIZATION/ADAM HORNE AND ANH NGUYEN

(strongly disagree) to five (strongly agree) and were tested for statistically significant differences between groups of interest. Our analysis provided evidence that people of color and TIGNC individuals feel significantly less represented by The Daily Tar Heel.

Statistical significance shows this is unlikely to occur due to coincidence, ensuring the ability to draw accurate conclusions based on the data. The most common responses for non-Hispanic white respondents and cisgender respondents were "agree," while TIGNC individuals and people of color often responded with "neutral" and "disagree."

Analysis was also conducted to find trends among respondent subgroups. Non-Hispanic white women were the most likely to answer "agree" or "strongly agree" — indicating they most strongly feel their identity is represented by The Daily Tar Heel. Straight Asian males, straight white males, TIGNC respondents and Middle Eastern, American Indian / Alaska Native and/or Pacific Islander respondents were among the least likely to agree.

## Misrepresentation

Seventy-eight respondents expressed concern about misrepresentation within The Daily Tar Heel's content and cited an incident that either occurred to them or someone they knew. Many raised the issue of misrepresentation alongside frustration with a lack of context in articles. An anonymous respondent communicated: "you've misrepresented numerous friends of mine as well as me. taken us out of context and refused to fix the issues. you do not care about the repercussions this has on your sources."

Gender identity and student affiliation had a statistically significant impact on an individual's likelihood of experiencing misrepresentation.

TIGNC individuals had the largest agreement percentage with the question "Has The Daily Tar Heel ever written a story that misrepresented you or someone you know?" at 32 percent. Compared to cisgender respondents, they are three times more likely to say they were misrepresented in a published story.

Non-student individuals came in second at 23 percent and are two times more likely to claim misrepresentation relative to students.

Specific concerns about the lack of coverage of queer individuals and people of color were communicated through the optional free-response sections. A lack of diversity in the paper's staff persists to this day, evident by the most recent audit that confirms our staff is disproportionately white compared to UNC's demographics.

One respondent wrote: "It feels weird to have articles about bi-poc people or bi-poc issues (written) by white people."

## Conclusion

This survey aimed to address community concerns about representation in our newsroom and coverage. These results serve as a reminder that this paper has a long way to go before becoming an organization that reflects the community it serves.

"A good student-run newspaper is essential to the University community. The DTH, as it currently exists, is very far from fulfilling this role."

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**Office and U.S. Mailing Address:** 109 E. Franklin St. Suite 210 Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514

ANIMAL RESCUE

## Puppies at Carolina serves canines, community

The organization combines campus life with dog socialization

By Elizabeth Pham

Staff Writer  
university@dailytarheel.com

UNC students are frequently graced with the sights and cuddles of puppies throughout campus. One of the organizations to thank for this is Puppies at Carolina, also known as CPUP.

This organization hosts numerous events each month to work with local shelters and service dog organizations to fundraise and increase interest in dog adoption. So far this semester, CPUP has raised nearly \$1,000.

The club often brings dogs to campus so that they can socialize with students. This is particularly helpful for service dogs, as they need socialization to help them remain calm in large groups of people, Ashley Behringer, a sophomore and CPUP's community outreach chair, said.

But the organization also hopes to benefit students with the visits.

"We try to focus on bringing puppies to campus to help out the organizations, but also to target our students because mental health is a severe problem and trying to bring these very cheerful pups to campus is super useful," Behringer said.

At a meeting last week, club member Elizabeth O'Melia, brought a puppy from Eyes, Ears, Nose and Paws, an organization in Chapel Hill and Carrboro that trains and supports mobility assistance and medical alert dogs. The puppy was able to show his skills, such as picking up a credit card.

O'Melia, who has worked closely with EENP as a dog trainer volunteer for seven years, said that she joined CPUP because she wanted to continue being involved in helping dogs when she got to college.

"I really understand the value of bringing the dogs to campus to interact with UNC students," she said.

CPUP collaborated with CrisisDogsNC, an organization that helps rescue and foster dogs in the Carolinas, to attend Kenan-Flagler Day, which was the business school's annual giving day late last month. The two organizations set up a table where attendees could meet the foster puppies and learn about CrisisDogsNC in hopes of finding students who were interested in fostering the dogs.

Judith Texier, the founder of CrisisDogsNC, said that she learned that North Carolina had one of the highest kill rates among dog shelters in the country when she first moved to the state. She founded CrisisDogsNC after a friend offered to fund her efforts to find homes for dogs in Robeson County.

Since then, her network has



DTH/KENNEDY COX

Pictured left to right: UNC junior Evan Johnson, senior Madeline Sussman, sophomore Abby Behringer, sophomore Caroline Smith and junior Kennadi Bernard, members of Carolina Puppies Unite People. The group poses with Lucia, one of the dogs that visits campus, at Polk Place on Tuesday, April 11.

expanded throughout shelters in the Carolinas. Last year, the nonprofit was able to save 534 dogs, and this year, it expects to save about 700 dogs.

Texier said that the kill rates have recently increased because shelters are overloaded with dogs after the

pandemic. Due to this urgent matter, CrisisDogsNC works at a very fast pace and needs all the help it can get to help dogs, she said.

Those interested in applying to foster dogs should visit CrisisDogNC's website. The organization provides all necessary

resources, such as food, medication and crates for those fostering.

CPUP will be hosting a "Movie Night with Pups and Popcorn" on April 26 at 6 p.m on Polk Place.

Twitter: @dailytarheel

ENVIRONMENT

## GPSG to highlight sustainability efforts at Climate Action Day

The event will feature educational booths from several organizations

By Samantha Nichols

Staff Writer  
university@dailytarheel.com

The Graduate and Professional Student Government's first Climate Action Day will be held this Thursday. The event will feature various sustainability organizations.

Climate Action Day is being organized by GPSG's Climate Crisis Committee, which was formed in September by newly-appointed Director of Environmental Affairs Jimmy Dögerl.

The committee worked with the Undergraduate Student Government to host the day.

"There's a lot that we can do at UNC, and I think it's hard to know how exactly to do that," graduate student and climate crisis committee member Sydney Rehder said.

The first segment of Climate Action Day will feature informational tables run by organizations working to bring awareness to the climate crisis. These include on-campus groups like Edible Campus, Carolina Dining Services and the Office of Waste Reduction and Recycling.



DTH FILE/SAMANTHA LEWIS

Edible Campus volunteers sift compost in the Davis Library garden on Feb. 28, 2022.

Off-campus organizations such as Sunrise Durham, a youth group dedicated to mitigating climate change, and PORCH, a local hunger relief program, will also participate in the project. Event organizers

have also set up a recycling station for batteries, light bulbs and other special waste items.

Later, two documentaries that address environmental issues will be screened in the

Student Union in the evening. The first film, "Pushed Up the Mountain," produced by UNC communications professor Julia Haslett, is about international botanical conservationist efforts.

The second film, "Into the Weeds," follows the legal battles ensued from a series of lymphoma diagnoses related to weed killer.

The GPSG Climate Crisis Committee members hope the event will spark student interest in campus organizations fighting climate change.

The committee also organized an Energy Transition Town Hall in January, which discussed reducing UNC's dependence on environmentally damaging energy sources.

Dögerl hopes Climate Action Day will pressure the University to take further steps to reduce its carbon footprint. Michael Piehler, UNC chief sustainability officer, acknowledged the University has room for improvement in its sustainability efforts.

"It's well known that we have a cogeneration plant — without which the University and hospital could not run — that is partially powered by coal," he said.

Sustainable Carolina hopes to release updates to the climate action plan soon, but Piehler said the document is under constant revision and welcomes input from student organizations.

While this is the first event of its kind, organizers hope to make Climate Action Day an annual occurrence.

Twitter: @dailytarheel

## White preserves history and culture through art

Continued from Page 1

Deputy Director for Curatorial Affairs Peter Nisbet said art at the Ackland and elsewhere has significance to history and the human experience.

"One thing that art is particularly good at is imagining an alternative to the reality of the time — that's not true of all art, but a lot of art really at its highest level — and brings a sort of utopian message of certain ideals that can transcend

the historical circumstance when it was made," Nisbet said.

He also said conservation is a powerful teaching tool for students because it emphasizes that physical art is real and often fragile. Much of the art that young people consume, Nisbet said, is constructed from pixels on a screen.

Dana Cowen, an art curator at Ackland, believes that art also fosters inspiration and reflection.

"So if you can understand something about what's mature or the time period,

and you can learn from that period, you might see something that you never realize," Cowen said.

While White now spends her work days repairing items like 17th-century Dutch drawings, her passion for art is long-standing.

After studying art and English during her undergraduate years, White said she knew she didn't want to be a studio artist or an art history professor. She looked for careers that blended her love for

art and art museums — and found art conservation.

In graduate school, White said she earned her Master's degree in conservation of works on paper. She later worked in conservation for Duke University's library.

White said she appreciates the creativity built into her current role at the Ackland.

"It really suits me well to be working at an art museum. And that was my childhood dream to work at

an art museum," White said.

In order for White to continue her work in conservation, she has a team at the museum. She works closely with Cowen and Nisbet who consult with her on what projects to undertake, and what types of treatments need to be applied to the artwork.

"I think art is a window into humanity, really," Cowen said. "Art preservation can change the future."

Twitter: @dailytarheel

UNIONS

# UNC hosting Labor Spring event Friday

The organizers hope to teach students about workers' rights

By Mary Mungai  
Staff Writer

university@dailytarheel.com

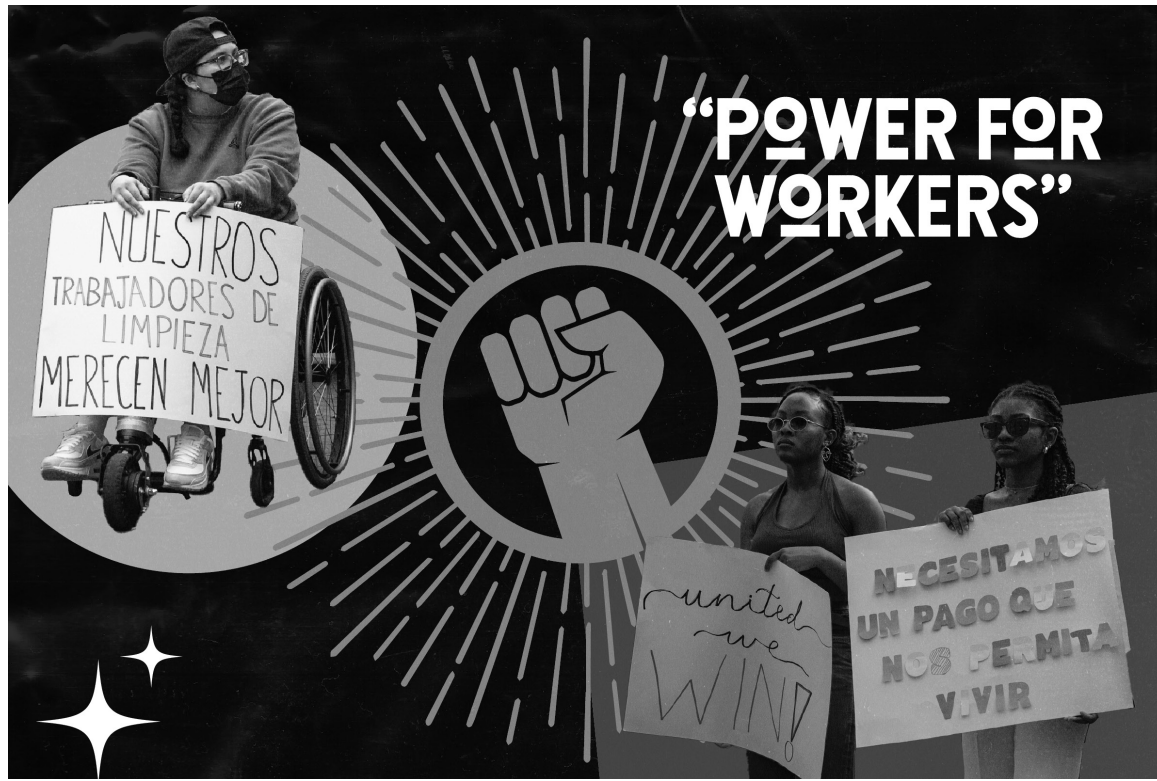
Five years ago, when UNC history professor Erik Gellman asked students in his HIST 365 course, The Worker and American Life, what words they associated with unions, the answers were "corrupt," "take your money" and "don't need them anymore."

Now, he said the responses from his students are "economic justice," "anti-racism," "equality" and "power for workers."

A recent nationwide spike in support for labor unions has pushed more than 70 universities to host teach-ins focused around labor unions, worker rights and power. UNC will host its own Labor Spring event this Friday.

The Labor Spring event will feature a variety of speakers from different labor unions and organizations. Gellman, a main organizer of the event, said these include the North Carolina Public Service Workers Union — also known as UE Local 150, National Nurses United, the Duke Graduate Students Union and the North Carolina chapter of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations.

This event will take place from 12 p.m. - 1 p.m. at Polk Place and again from 5 p.m. - 6 p.m. at the Love House on Franklin Street, with refreshments provided at both locations. The times are geared to be accessible for people who are



DTH PHOTO/AAYAS JOSHI, HEATHER DIEHL

DTH GRAPHIC/GABI ALLEN

working, Cristian Walk, a graduate student who helped organize the Labor Spring event, said.

Ellie Campbell, a member of UE Local 150, hopes the Labor Spring event can raise more awareness for the main goal of union members at UNC: living wages for housekeepers and graduate students.

"I hope we'll just continue to promote awareness of what we're doing on campus," Campbell said. "And then also maybe, hopefully get some more support for our campaigns."

Nationwide support for unions is at 71 percent, the highest it's been since 1965, according to a 2022 Gallup poll. Some organizers believe

the disruption of the pandemic largely contributed to this support, as national attention focused on the working conditions of individuals deemed essential or frontline.

"2020 is the start of the pandemic, and one of the things that happened was that it really showed the cracks in the American working system," Campbell said. "A lot of people lost their jobs with very little notice. A lot of other people had to work under unsafe conditions without any support, really."

Walk said the fight to preserve unions has been a "constant struggle" throughout history with many ups and downs. He said he admires

organizers who have been brave in the time of little support, and that moments of high support for unions are focusing windows for change.

Throughout this struggle, moments of support for unions can provide opportunities to educate the public on alternative business models that serve the needs of both employer and employee, Gellman said.

"There is a cooperative business and labor strategy that's not just about exploiting workers and trying to pay them the lowest wages by taking the low-road approach," he said. "And that strategy benefits everyone."

Gellman said a variety of factors

have shaped many business owners' perception of unions as inherently negative in North Carolina, a state with a historically low union density. He believes that unions benefit the economy by growing the middle class.

"In my class on the American worker, I use historical evidence to show how the greatest expansion of the middle class in American history was accompanied by the greatest expansion of union members in the country; the two developments were interrelated," Gellman said.

The intersection of labor movements and other parts of society, such as anti-racism, are also topics the event will cover.

A unique characteristic of the renewed support for labor unions is its multiracial diversity. Historically, labor unions have further fueled discrimination like racism and sexism, Walk said.

"Issues of sexual harassment in the workplace, issues of racial discrimination in the workplace, issues of transphobia in the workplace, those are all things that matter to all of us," he said.

Overall, this unionizing and organizing happens because students believe enough in the institutions they attend to want to improve them, Kristina Mensik, a member of the Duke Graduate Students Union, said.

"And I think that what gets missed sometimes in coverage of the DGSU and graduate worker campaigns nationally is that we're all doing this organizing because we fundamentally believe in the institutions that we have chosen to come and study at," she said.

Twitter: @dailytarheel

## Jesus Christ is Risen Indeed!

We, some of the faculty who are followers of Jesus Christ, are delighted that you're here with us in Chapel Hill. As we come to the end of the spring semester, we'd like to wish you a Happy Easter season! In the meantime, each of us would be glad to talk about adjustments, managing academic life, finding friends and fellowship, our own faith, local churches, or anything else. Reach out by email, anytime. For a wealth of resources including info on several campus ministries, please visit the North Carolina Study Center in person at 203 Battle Ln. or on the web at <https://www.ncstudycenter.org/>

Grace Aaron  
graceaaron@unc.edu  
Dept. of Romance Studies

Gregory J Cizek  
cizek@unc.edu  
School of Education

Jan Hannig  
Jan.hannig@unc.edu  
Dept. of Statistics

Edmund A Liles Jr  
Edmund\_liles@med.unc.edu  
School of Medicine

Allen D Samuelson  
as@unc.edu  
School of Dentistry

David Stotts  
stotts@cs.unc.edu  
Dept. of Computer Science

Sarah Adams  
sarah\_adams@med.unc.edu  
School of Medicine

Leon Coleman  
leon\_coleman@med.unc.edu  
School of Medicine

Heidi Hennink-Kaminski  
H2kamins@email.unc.edu  
School of Media & Journalism

Christian O Lundberg  
clundber@email.unc.edu  
Dept. of Communication

Kim Sanders  
kim.sanders@unc.edu  
School of Pharmacy

Rick Stouffer  
Rick\_stouffer@med.unc.edu  
School of Medicine

Martha Alexander  
malexand@email.unc.edu  
Dept. of Romance Studies

Jamie Crandell  
jcrandell@unc.edu  
Schools of Nursing and Global Public Health

Rick Hobbs  
hobbsr@gmail.com  
School of Medicine

Dianne Martin  
diannem@unc.edu  
School of Information & Library Science

Todd A Schwartz  
tschwartz@bios.unc.edu  
Schools of Nursing and Global Public Health

Russ Taylor  
russellmtaylorii@gmail.com  
Dept. of Computer Science

Paul Armistead  
Paul\_armistead@med.unc.edu  
School of Medicine

Pat Davison  
pdavison@email.unc.edu  
School of Media & Journalism

David Hofmann  
dhofmann@unc.edu  
School of Business

Mary McClurg  
mroth@unc.edu  
School of Pharmacy

Albert Segars  
Al\_segars@unc.edu  
School of Business

Gayle Thomas  
gayle\_thomas@med.unc.edu  
School of Medicine

Todd Austell  
taustell@unc.edu  
Dept. of Chemistry

Lynn Dikolli  
Lynn\_dikolli@kenan-flagler.unc.edu  
School of Business

Leaf Huang  
leafh@email.unc.edu  
School of Pharmacy & Dept. of Biomedical Engineering

Justin Myers  
justin\_myers@med.unc.edu  
School of Medicine

Brent A Senior  
Brent\_senior@med.unc.edu  
School of Medicine

Charlie Tuggle  
catuggle@unc.edu  
School of Media & Journalism

Sylvia Becker-Dreps  
sbd@unc.edu  
School of Medicine

Alex Doyal  
alexander\_doyal@med.unc.edu  
School of Medicine

Charles Scott Hultman  
Scott\_hultman@med.unc.edu  
School of Medicine

Terence Oliver  
olivert@email.unc.edu  
School of Media & Journalism

Tanja Snively  
Tanja\_Snively@kenan-flagler.unc.edu  
School of Business

Don Tyndall  
Don\_tyndall@dentistry.unc.edu  
School of Dentistry

Eugene M Bozymski  
emboz@med.unc.edu  
School of Medicine

Stephen F Eckel  
seckel@unc.edu  
School of Pharmacy

Timothy J Ives  
Timothy\_ives@med.unc.edu  
School of Pharmacy

Chad Pecot  
pecot@email.unc.edu  
School of Medicine

Jack Snoeyink  
snoeyink@cs.unc.edu  
Dept. of Computer Science

Benjamin Vincent  
Benjamin\_vincent@med.unc.edu  
School of Medicine

June Brickey  
jbrickey@med.unc.edu  
Dept. of Microbiology & Immunology

Valerie Fields  
vfields@email.unc.edu  
School of Media & Journalism

Caleb King  
caleb.king@unc.edu  
Institute of Convergent Science

Jeremy Purvis  
Jeremy\_purvis@med.unc.edu  
Dept. of Genetics

Don Spencer  
dspencer@unch.unc.edu  
School of Medicine

Sam Weir  
Sam.Weir@unchealth.unc.edu  
School of Medicine

Raul Brown  
raul@unc.edu  
Dept. of Romance Studies

Jimmy Ford  
hubert\_ford@med.unc.edu  
School of Medicine

Louise King  
louise\_king@med.unc.edu  
School of Medicine

Jana Smith Raedy  
Jana\_raedy@unc.edu  
School of Business

Jan-Benedict Steenkamp  
jbs@unc.edu  
School of Business

Young E Whang  
Young\_whang@med.unc.edu  
School of Medicine

Martha Carlough  
martha\_carlough@med.unc.edu  
School of Medicine

Paul Friga  
pmf@unc.edu  
School of Business

Steven King  
steven.king@unc.edu  
School of Media & Journalism

Emily Ray  
Emily\_ray@med.unc.edu  
School of Medicine

Valarie Zeithaml Steenkamp  
valariez@unc.edu  
School of Business

Herbert C Whinna  
whinna@med.unc.edu  
School of Medicine

Marshale Carter  
marshale@live.unc.edu  
School of Media & Journalism

Mario Giacomazzo  
mgiacoma@email.unc.edu  
Dept. of Statistics

Anastacia Kohl  
kohl@email.unc.edu  
Dept. of Romance Studies

Daniel Richardson  
daniel\_richardson@med.unc.edu  
School of Medicine

Jessie Stewart  
jessica\_stewart@med.unc.edu  
School of Medicine

Pew-Thian Yap  
ptyap@med.unc.edu  
Dept. of Radiology

Bhisham Chera  
cherabs@gmail.com  
School of Medicine

Donna Gilleskie  
Donna\_gilleskie@unc.edu  
Dept. of Economics

Kim I Leadon  
Kim\_leadon@unc.edu  
School of Pharmacy

Jo Ellen Rodgers  
jrodrgers@unc.edu  
School of Pharmacy

Laine K Stewart  
lstewart@med.unc.edu  
Allied Health Sciences

Alice Chuang  
achuang@med.unc.edu  
School of Medicine

John R M Hand  
hand@unc.edu  
School of Business

Heidi N. Anksorus Light  
heidi\_anksorus@unc.edu  
School of Pharmacy

Philip T Rodgers  
prodgers@unc.edu  
School of Pharmacy

Karyn Stitzenberg  
Karyn\_stitzenberg@med.unc.edu  
School of Medicine



ORANGE COUNTY

## Safe Homes addresses crisis housing shortage

The program provides apartments for domestic violence survivors

By Avery Baker

Staff Writer

city@dailytarheel.com

**Content warning:** This article contains mentions of violence and domestic abuse.

Since its campaign launched in 2019, the Compass Center's Safe Homes, New Lives program raised \$1 million to address Orange County's absence of emergency housing for survivors of domestic abuse. The Compass Center is still Orange County's sole provider of emergency housing for those escaping domestic violence situations.

There were 148 victims of domestic violence-related homicides in 2021, according to a report by the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation. This is a 10.4 percent increase from 134 reported victims in 2020.

Research shows that the most dangerous time for domestic violence survivors is when they are leaving their abuser. A report by the U.S. Department of Justice used interviews with men who killed their partners to find that threats of separation or actual separation were often a catalyst for violent behavior.

Marilyn Jacobs Preyer, co-chairperson of the Safe Homes program's fundraising campaign, said the program's scattered housing model provides safety and anonymity



DTH/KENNEDY COX

The Compass Center, Orange County's sole provider of emergency housing for domestic violence survivors, sits on Robinson Street on Monday, April 10, 2023.

for survivors. The program leases apartments to domestic violence survivors across Orange County. While abusers could find shelters, the addresses of the Compass Center's apartments are private and secure.

The Safe Homes program served six families in three apartments from July to December 2022, according to the Center's Executive Director Christian Adams.

Before the Safe Homes project, the only option besides placing survivors in hotels was traditional shelters, which Preyer said can be traumatizing or demeaning. Shelters often have drawbacks including poor accessibility.

Adams said most families stay in housing arranged by the Safe Homes program for three to six months. She said the program provides families with case management and support with

expenses such as food, clothing and gas. She said the Compass Center prepares survivors to thrive once they transition out of crisis housing.

Gary Bowen, a UNC professor and the former dean of the UNC School of Social Work, was an honorary co-chairperson of the program during fundraising. Bowen said he believes the field of social work helps people establish a better life.

"We want to do all that we can to support people who find themselves in the situation, from getting themselves out of that situation into a better situation where they can live their lives free of violence," he said.

Bowen said the amount of community support behind the Safe Homes program has helped it provide safe alternative housing.

However, Adams said the program does not have enough funding for more than one case manager to support survivors in the program. She said this issue is prominent now that the three apartments are all in use. Because of three apartments do not meet the county's needs, Adams said the Compass Center has sent survivors to other counties for crisis housing.

"So that means that we're actually having to often displace families in our counties and regions across North Carolina," she said.

Preyer said convincing landlords to partner with the Compass Center is challenging, as many want to do background checks even though the Compass Center would be paying rent. Preyer said it would be helpful for property managers to waive this process in order to help the Compass Center protect survivors' anonymity.

Adams said community members can support the Safe Homes program by donating online and bringing grocery gift cards to the Compass Center. These cards are given to survivors in need of emergency shelter.

Twitter: @DTHCityState

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## FLOOD PREVENTION

# Construction to end at Eastgate Crossing

Parking at shopping center likely to be easier after project completion

By Annika Duneja  
Staff Writer  
city@dailytarheel.com

About a third of the parking spaces in the Eastgate Crossing shopping center in Chapel Hill are currently unusable due to construction. But, work should be done within the next month.

The construction has put a strain on customers and businesses in a shopping center that is usually pressed for space, especially on weekends, said Elie Abou-Rjeileh, the co-owner of Olmaz Jewelers, a store in Eastgate Crossing.

"We already have issues with parking, especially after the pandemic, now that people are back out shopping, and with the construction and the construction crew taking almost a third of the parking over, so that kind of makes it harder to find parking spots," he said. "Sometimes even our employees can't find a parking spot when they go to lunch and come back."

However, Abou-Rjeileh said the construction is necessary.

The purpose of the project is to mitigate flooding problems in the area, as the shopping center was built over a section of Booker Creek. The project began on March 1 and is expected to take between 45 to 60 days to complete.

Chad Pickens, the manager of Great Outdoors Provision Co. in Eastgate Crossing, has been working at the store since 2011 and experienced major flooding events in his time there.

The last major flooding event was in 2018 when nearly 10 inches of water leaked into stores, causing damage to inventory and store interiors, he said. At one point, inventory even began to float out of the back of stores.

"A new stormwater feature like this can help control that level of flooding, and you never can stop Mother Nature, but this would be a step in the right direction," Pickens said.

At the time, stores used sandbags to block flooding. Now, many stores, including Olmaz Jewelers, use metal floodgates that can be installed at front and back entrances before storms.

Kite Realty, the owner of Eastgate Crossing, worked with Chapel Hill Stormwater Management Senior Engineer Ernest Odei-Larbi to develop a plan for construction, including showing how traffic would still be able to move around the construction zone.

A mechanism called a gate valve will be installed during the construction process. During rain storms, the valve will collect some of the water that falls and hold the water until Booker Creek subsides after the storm. Then, it will release the water slowly into the creek and prevent a larger "peak flow," when the creek floods into the shopping center, Pickens said.

There will also be a water quality treatment element added to help reduce water pollution from the runoff, Odei-Larbi said.



DTH/MATTHEW BREINER

A sign by Kite Realty Group assuring guests that all businesses are open despite the construction happening in the middle of the Eastgate Crossing parking lot.

He said while the valve will help with smaller storms, it will still not be fully effective in large storm events like the one in 2018.

The area is naturally a floodplain, he said, meaning that trying to contain a large amount of water instead of letting it follow its natural path to the creek will cause more environmental problems.

"I don't want you to get the impression that what they are doing

there is going to stop flooding," he said. "We cannot control the water flooding because that area is already in the creek's path."

Eastgate Crossing stores received a memo from Kite Realty Property Manager Emily Jorgensen alerting them of the project on Feb. 27.

In the memo, Jorgensen said the company had spoken to contractors to try to complete

the work as quickly as possible to minimize any effect on business.

"It's very affecting for customers, for staff and for businesses, but the communication part of it has been really good," Pickens said. "Construction folks have been really courteous and have done a good job of limiting its impact on the rest of the shopping center."

Twitter: @DTHCityState

## CAFE CULTURE

## Coffee shops offer unique settings for live music



DTH/DEREK PENG

Performer and Columbia University adjunct professor David Austell poses in Epilogue on Saturday, April 2, 2023.

Smaller venues let musicians perform in more intimate spaces

By Olivia Gschwind  
Staff Writer  
city@dailytarheel.com

Coffee shops in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro area are embracing a different way of bringing the community together — through live music.

Lanza's Cafe, Epilogue Books Chocolate Breads and 1922 by Carolina Coffee Shop have hosted live music events in their intimate settings, offering a different experience from concerts at more

traditional venues like Cat's Cradle or Local 506.

Christina Chiarolanza-Vad and Catherine Coley are the co-owners of Lanza's Cafe in Carrboro. Vad said the idea behind opening the cafe was to create a place in the community that felt comfortable and familiar.

"I think anytime there's music, it brings more people out," she said.

Lanza's Cafe hosts various evening events open to the community each week. Vad said the cafe's most popular events are the trivia and chess nights.

"It's just coming together with food and drink, to play games, to talk, to share," she said. "That's literally the motto — when people come in, we just want them to feel like they're coming to our house to hang out and have a drink."

Lanza's Cafe has featured a variety of different musicians of different genres — from folk to funk — and the performances are all part of the effort to bring the community closer together, Coley and Vad said.

David Austell writes original poetry and music. He has played at Epilogue, performing and reciting his songs and poetry.

Austell said his goal is to offer a calming experience in the coffee shops where he performs. He embeds his poetry in music to create something different, he said.

"What I'm trying to do is have a warm environment," Austell said. "So between the sets, I try to talk to the audience and thank them for coming and develop a relationship as much as possible with them while I'm playing."

Austell's next scheduled performance at Epilogue is on April 21 at 6 p.m.

Gaby Iori, the events coordinator at Epilogue, said the books and coffee store is a place to shop and take a breath.

"I think it is really nice to be able to provide the space for people who want to perform and for people who just want to listen and go somewhere to see something new," Iori said.

Iori described the typical live music at Epilogue as similar to lo-fi or acoustic.

"I feel like if you had to pick a vibe for what coffee shop music is, it's what we have," Iori said.

Across the street from Epilogue and next to Carolina Coffee Shop,

1922 hosted its first live music event in February.

Emmaus Holder, a drummer who plays for the band CSB, said he was surprised at the initial suggestion for them to play at 1922 because the venue isn't very large. He also said that he occasionally visits the shop to study.

However, Holder said 1922 closed early for the band to set up and, once it reopened, the room was filled close to capacity.

"It was a very intimate setting," Holder said. "We were probably three or four feet from the closest audience members."

He added that local musicians such as Austell perform at these venues so they can provide a different musical experience for listeners instead of busking on a street corner.

Coley and Vad said the sense of community is evident at the smaller, more intimate events.

"We've had people cry and give us hugs and thank us multiple times," Vad said. "It's awesome. That's why we're doing it."

Twitter: @OliviaGschwind

## Socioeconomic factors affect county life expectancies

Continued from Page 1

disperse to these in need just because of the rural nature," Holliday said.

In her work with the OCDOA and PiAP, Womack helped coordinate the development of the Crescent Magnolia project in Hillsborough. This is the first Habitat for Humanity development in North Carolina to provide older adults with homeownership opportunities.

Crescent Magnolia is a development of 24 single-story

townhomes designed for adults ages 55 and older. The community was developed to model Martin Luther King Jr.'s idea of a "Beloved Community" — a neighborhood designed to increase access, equality and opportunity.

The OCDOA provides resources for older individuals at county's senior centers, the Passmore Center in Hillsborough and the Seymour Center in Chapel Hill. It offers a congregate meal program that provides free lunches at its senior centers, services that help with life

transitions and health care access, and recreational activities for seniors.

"They are a very progressive group of people in terms of thinking about all the ways they can address the needs, wants and desires of people who are a certain age living in Orange County," Womack said.

Though Orange County has infrastructure that provides food access, transportation and housing needs for the aging population, Womack said there is work to be done in both the state and county to help marginalized communities age.

"We have a very privileged group of people in Orange County, in some way," Womack said. "And then there are those folks who are feeling like they are more at the margins. And how are they going to feel integrated into the services and resources that we can provide?"

"We have a very privileged group of people in Orange County, in some way. And then there are those folks who are feeling like they are more at the margins."

Jenny Womack  
Founding Director of Appalachian State University's occupational therapy program

Twitter: @wslivingston\_

# Opinion

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**GUILLERMO MOLERO**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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# The Daily Tar Heel

## EDITORIAL

# GTHTC – Go to hell, Tricia Cotham

North Carolina Rep. Tricia Cotham (R-Mecklenburg) formally switched her party affiliation from Democrat to Republican at a press conference last week. This move gives Republicans 60 percent of the seats in both chambers, creating a supermajority in the N.C. General Assembly.

Cotham won her seat in Eastern Mecklenburg County with 59 percent of the vote in 2022. With a lifetime rating of just 16 percent from the Conservative Political Action Committee’s legislative accountability center and a 78 percent rating in 2016 from the N.C. League of Conservation Voters, Cotham has been a fairly liberal representative from a Democrat-leaning suburban district.

The news comes after a wave of backlash from her former Democratic colleagues, who criticized Cotham and two others – Rep. Cecil Brockman (D-Guilford) and Rep. Michael Wray (D-Halifax, Northampton, Warren) – for missing a veto override vote.

Without Cotham and other Democrats present, N.C. Republicans repealed a law requiring residents to get a permit from the sheriff’s office to purchase a pistol. Cotham said she opposed the bill but missed the 9:30 a.m. vote because she was receiving treatment for long COVID-19.

Republicans already hold a supermajority in the state Senate

and, with Cotham’s vote, will be able to override any veto by Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper. This, along with a new conservative majority on the N.C. Supreme Court, essentially gives the GOP full control over North Carolina politics – despite being an alleged swing state.

If Cotham’s decision feels like a betrayal of the Mecklenburg voters that brought her into office, that’s because it is. If this feels like a betrayal of N.C. Democrats, that’s because it is.

To put our feelings in the simplest of words that any Tar Heel can understand, GTHTC.

Switching parties after being voted into office in November is not only disingenuous but also a harmful game of partisan charades that her constituents didn’t ask to be a part of. This move does not reflect the values Cotham ran on, violating the transparency that is supposed to exist between herself and her constituents.

Cotham told WSOC-TV that nothing has changed after this switch and that she will continue to fight for those in her district. She said that criticisms directed toward her and her family from Democrats prompted her realignment.

While this may be true, it’s far from meaningful. Cotham has handed the baton to N.C. Republicans without care or consideration for how this powerful supermajority can create dangerous conditions in our state.



DTH/SAMANTHA LEWIS

North Carolina Rep. Tricia Cotham (R-Mecklenburg) stands at the N.C. GOP Headquarters in Raleigh, N.C., backed by numerous N.C. Republicans after she officially announced her change in party affiliation. Cotham was previously a Democrat until her announcement on Wednesday, April 5.

It is clear that she has no interest in protecting progressive values in North Carolina. Instead, she put Republicans in a prime position to commandeer legislative policymaking and agenda-setting that would not have otherwise been possible.

This is bad for reproductive care, as N.C. Republicans have shown they have no interest in protecting the right to abortion. It’s bad for advancing regulations on firearms, an area of policy that Cotham has literally decided to sit

out. Further, it has the potential to be outright dangerous for LGBTQ+ individuals, especially transgender youth who face state-level prohibitions on gender-affirming care across the South.

It’s bigger than Cotham. And she knows that.

How are voters supposed to trust Cotham – or any moderate Democrat – to do the right thing when she has already screwed us over? We sure as hell don’t.

Twitter: @dthopinion

## Think you have COVID-19?

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# Sports

## The Daily Tar Heel

WELL-BEING

# Athlete anxiety — ‘just part of the sport’

UNC men's tennis team talks about how mental health affects play

By Ben McCormick

Staff Writer  
sports@dailytarheel.com

It can feel like the whole world is caving in when the nerves kick in and the knot in your stomach tightens, when you feel the piercing gaze of the crowd, when you start to shake, sweat and stumble, when your knees start to buckle and your heart begins to beat faster and faster.

But this experience is not unique.

An estimated 31 percent of U.S. adults struggle with anxiety disorder at some point in their lives, so why do athletes feel so alone? According to J.D. DeFreese, an exercise and sport science professor at UNC, this is because the experience of anxiety is individualized.

Ryan Seggerman, a graduate student on the UNC men's tennis team, said the first step in grappling with anxiety in sports is acknowledging that it can't be avoided.

"I think (anxiety) is just part of sport in general," Seggerman said. "You get nervous before matches, you get nervous before big moments. It's almost a fact. You have to be ready to deal with it."

Anxiety is a battle that is being fought inside the minds of many athletes. Thanks to a growing dialogue about mental health in athletics, athletes are becoming more comfortable sharing their stories and building one another up.



DTH FILE/TAYLOR NOCK

UNC graduate Brian Cernoch celebrates a point against Harvard on Sunday, January 29, at the Cone-Kenfield Tennis Center. UNC beat Harvard 4-1.

"If you come into a match and you just let the anxiety and fear of losing get to you, it's going to take over."

**Brian Cernoch**  
UNC men's tennis player

Brian Cernoch, Seggerman's teammate and a three-time All-American, said that the way in which he deals with anxiety on the court can make or break a match.

"If you come into a match and you just let the anxiety and fear of losing get to you, it's going to take over," Cernoch said. "If you can turn your mind to focusing on

something else, focusing on your game point by point, eventually it will go away and you're going to have a much clearer mind when you're playing."

For many, anxiety in athletics comes from within, but for others it comes from somewhere else — or perhaps, someone else. DeFreese said external factors like academics,

family or other personal issues can affect athletes' performances.

Anxiety can also stem from a coach.

"Coaches have a lot of actual power and a lot of perceived power over athletes," DeFreese said. "They get to decide who gets to play. They decide who plays what positions. How they make those

decisions, how they communicate those decisions, the degree to which they make the athlete feel meaningful and valued beyond just playing — coaches can do that in the most positive ways, and coaches can make an athlete not feel very valued outside what they do as a performer."

Sam Paul has been the head coach of UNC's men's tennis team for 30 years. He said he must always be mindful of how his words and actions affect the athletes he coaches.

"You, as a coach, can certainly increase anxiety if you're not aware of what's happening around you," Paul said. "But it's all about communication."

Communication — that is what it all boils down to.

The stigma around anxiety in athletics has made it difficult for athletes at all levels to come forward and communicate the fact that they are struggling.

Since 2020, the NCAA's student-athlete well-being studies continue to report that mental health concerns are prevalent among collegiate athletes.

"A lot of people with anxiety, and frankly with a lot of mental health concerns, they don't think anything will help them," DeFreese said. "And that's not true. Getting treatment for any kind of clinical mental health issue, whether it's anxiety or depression, could be one of the best things you ever do for yourself."

Twitter: @BenMcC33

BASEBALL

# Kevin Eaise making transition to bullpen

The graduate student is growing accustomed to his role as a reliever

By Matthew Maynard

Staff Writer  
sports@dailytarheel.com

For Kevin Eaise, making the transition to the North Carolina baseball team wasn't the only adjustment the graduate transfer pitcher had to make.

After spending the majority of his time at the University of Pennsylvania as a starter — where he unanimously won Ivy League Pitcher of the Year with a 7-1 record and 79 strikeouts in his senior year — Eaise has quickly emerged as one of the Diamond Heels' most dominant and reliable options out of the bullpen this season.

In 12 appearances so far, Eaise has pitched 30.1 innings and boasts a 2.76 ERA with 38 strikeouts. In his fourth outing of the year against then-No. 17 Virginia, Eaise matched his career high of nine strikeouts in just over three innings.

"It's almost like he's a fifth-year for us and he's been here four years," head coach Scott Forbes said. "He's just a special kid and you can tell how bad he wants to be out there."

After a rough outing against Seton Hall to start the season, in which Eaise pitched just a third of an inning while giving up three runs on as

many hits, he has since posted eight scoreless outings in 11 appearances.

At Penn, Eaise said got used to the starter's mindset of having nearly a week to reset after poor performances. At UNC, he quickly adjusted to the different mentality that relief pitchers need in order to succeed.

Eaise spent some time as a reliever during his first season at Penn, but since coming to Chapel Hill, he has looked forward to taking the mound more often in his new role.

"You kind of are living and dying with those starts cause you know you're going to have to wait a week if they're bad," Eaise said. "But with the relief role, you kind of get that where, obviously you want to do well every time, but you know you're gonna get sent back out there a little bit sooner."

Forbes pointed to Eaise's quick recovery ability as one of the main reasons he brings him out of the bullpen. He even compared Eaise to former UNC pitcher Cooper Criswell who, like Eaise, transferred to UNC as a starting pitcher and settled into the relief role. By the end of the 2018 season, Criswell became a starter for the team.

"If we can get our team to where he's our back end guy, he's in the game to the end would be ideal because he has everything that you need as a closer," he said. "I think the great thing for us is that he's starting to get acclimated to the bullpen."

While settling into his new role, Eaise also was transferring into a well-established and experienced

Tar Heel team, but both Forbes and junior starting pitcher Connor Bovair said that Eaise didn't seem to miss a beat. Over the past few months, he has fit right into the team dynamic while also displaying his experience on the mound.

"He's one of the funniest guys I know, but he kind of keeps a low profile, and when he goes out on the mound, you can't really tell when he is angry at something," Bovair said.

As the Tar Heels continue ACC play and look toward the postseason, Eaise will look to continue to provide a consistent and reliable option out of the bullpen, and a threat that Forbes can count on.

"We're the ones that are lucky to have him," Forbes said. "I'm thankful that he came to UNC."

Twitter: @mdmaynard74

### BY THE NUMBERS

<b>30.1</b> Innings pitched	<b>3</b> Saves
<b>2.76</b> ERA	<b>2-1</b> Record
<b>38</b> Strikeouts	<b>0.89</b> WHIP
<b>.176</b> Batting average against Eaise	<b>9</b> Strikeouts against UVa. (season high)

Statistics accurate going into Tuesday, April 11.



DTH FILE/JENNIFER TRAN

UNC graduate student Kevin Eaise (29) prepares to pitch during the baseball game against N.C. A&T on Tuesday, March 21, at Boshamer Stadium in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. UNC beat N.C. A&T 6-4.



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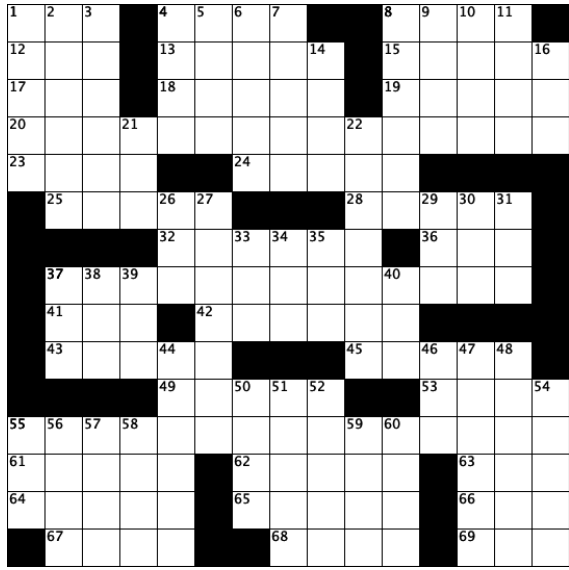
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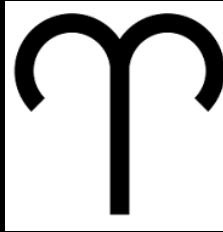
This week's crossword was created by **Liam Furlong**. Liam is a UNC sophomore majoring in comparative literature and education. He is from Wilmington, Delaware.

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## HOROSCOPES

If April 12th is Your Birthday...



Today's Birthday (04/12/23). Chalk up personal victories this year. Careful planning, consistent action and determination build satisfying results. Springtime brings glorious personal victories. Working with your partner to resolve tricky summer finances leads to blossoming autumn romance. Find new winter income in unlikely directions. Go for the gold.

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

**Across**

- 1 Critic's pride, like that in "Ratatouille"
- 4 Un poquito crazy
- 8 James Taylor tune "Fire and Rain"
- 12 Prefix for 'binary'
- 13 \_\_\_\_\_ the author (book section)
- 15 Famed immigration island
- 17 Supped at Sup Dogs, say
- 18 Numbered road
- 19 Movie, with slang
- 20 Monday's special \$6 sandwich at the on-campus Subway
- 23 Piece of flooring
- 24 Referring to pitch
- 25 Mask, obscure
- 28 Beg for
- 32 Move onto the pickup, say
- 36 Dripped out insect?
- 37 Quick wake-me-up
- 41 CARE, for one
- 42 North African desert
- 43 Papai Noel or Julenisse
- 45 "I am the Lorax, I speak for the \_\_\_\_\_"
- 49 Like Naval recruits, geographically
- 53 Place the initial poker bet
- 55 Taking photos of strong-jawed reptiles?
- 61 Prepare for a sting operation, say
- 62 Woke up from bed
- 63 W-2 recipient
- 64 Dropped an F-bomb, say
- 65 Simmons and Wilder, collectively
- 66 Caspian... Lake?
- 67 Hurried past the speed limit
- 68 Often 20%-25% of a course grade
- 69 Item modified by on-campus CATCH club

**Down**

- 1 Put into practice
- 2 Poe's literary style
- 3 American playwright Eugene O'Neill
- 4 Union's neighboring apartment complex
- 5 Double-reeded woodwind
- 6 Action performed by a "Sesame Street" character of the same name
- 7 "Come \_\_\_\_\_ dinner with me?"
- 8 Get another fountain drink
- 9 Britain, to WWII America
- 10 Canadian skin care brand
- 11 "Parks and Recreation" Offerman
- 14 Word before 'mom' and 'wolf'
- 16 Word before 'trip' or 'lodge'
- 21 Chief corporate exec.
- 22 Friendly relationship
- 26 'Rock' and 'right' prefix
- 27 Native American language with Muskogean origin
- 29 Sound made in place of an F-bomb
- 30 Goodfellows beverage
- 31 T-shirt coloring
- 33 "Knives Out" starlet de Armas
- 34 This very publication, abbr.
- 35 Global cheer org.
- 37 \_\_\_\_\_ and outs
- 38 U.S. Defense combat org.
- 39 "The Father, \_\_\_\_\_, and Holy Ghost"
- 40 "How \_\_\_\_\_ I'll Go" ("Moana" song)
- 44 Drained the maple tree?
- 46 Have an El Gigante at Bandido's
- 47 Sign up for the Army, say
- 48 Gym Class Heroes / Adam Levine song "\_\_\_\_\_ Hearts"
- 50 Fishing pole annoyance
- 51 Long-necked heron
- 52 Make amends
- 54 Lit class assignment
- 55 Snake's noise
- 56 Info conveyed in 34-down
- 57 Lying on
- 58 Untouched, virginal
- 59 Depletes, with 'up'
- 60 Sleep it off



## SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

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

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

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

ALUMNI

# Former UNC stars to host diversity clinic

The field hockey and soccer program will be held on April 16

By Kelly Baker

Staff Writer  
sports@dailytarheel.com

It hasn't been long since former field hockey captain Courtnie Williamson and former women's soccer player Brianna Pinto graduated from UNC. Still, they are already making an effort to make their respective sports more diverse.

During her playing career at North Carolina, Williamson became a three-time national champion and was the first Black captain in North Carolina field hockey history. Her experience inspired her to create Beyond Our Game, an organization that empowers athletes of color, while pursuing her MBA in 2020.

Similarly, Pinto founded the Pinto Futbol Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to making soccer more accessible, shortly after graduating from UNC. The midfielder has played for the North Carolina Courage of the National Women's Soccer League since 2022.

During their college careers, Williamson and Pinto bonded over their experiences as Black athletes playing their respective sports. Their similar experiences compelled them to create something that will help younger athletes of color get into field hockey and soccer.

On April 16, Beyond Our Game and the Pinto Futbol Foundation will host a Diversity Field Hockey & Soccer Clinic at the Bill Koman Practice Complex on UNC's campus. The free clinic aims to

provide access and resources to young girls and families of color and help minimize the various barriers to participation in sports.

The immersive, full-day experience includes field hockey and soccer training sessions, free lunch, facility tours, an autograph session and a panel on diversity, equity and inclusion. Williamson and Pinto said the event will mark the largest diversity youth event UNC has ever hosted on campus, with over 110 girls of color from the third to eighth grades registered to attend.

"We wanted to use our platforms to create positive change," Williamson said. "It just made sense for us to come together as women of color with organizations meant to uplift the communities we care about."

The clinic's training sessions will be coached by former UNC teammates of Pinto and Williamson, including UNC women's soccer players Maycee Bell and Sam Meza and former UNC field hockey players Meredith Sholder and Bryn Boylan. Pinto also said some of her NC Courage teammates will also serve as coaches during the soccer session.

"The support from all these teams has been instrumental in the planning of our event," Pinto said. "We want to give (the girls) teams they can support in their own community."

The clinic has partnered with sponsors to give participants opportunities to take home equipment to help them continue playing their sport. Adidas will provide t-shirts and soccer balls to all campers, while Longstreth Sporting Goods, a top field hockey equipment provider, has



DTH FILE/SAMANTHA LEWIS

Courtnie Williamson, a former UNC field hockey player, speaking at the Evenin' Out The Playing Field event on Saturday, Nov. 5, 2022.

donated field hockey sticks and other equipment.

Williamson and Pinto also said they plan to offer a few scholarships to families to help cover the cost of their daughters playing on a club team for a season.

"My parents spent thousands of dollars between my brothers and I over the years to get us to soccer," Pinto said. "If we could play a small role in eliminating those barriers, that's a win."

Pinto said she is most looking forward to holding valuable conversations on DEI and talk about her experiences with the

clinic participants. Williamson, who said she did not have diverse opportunities to participate in sports when she was younger, said she's looking forward to seeing attendees be able to compete with other girls who look like them.

"These little girls of color get to come on campus and see what it could be," UNC Senior Associate Athletic Director Cricket Lane, who serves on the event's planning team, said. "Without this, they probably wouldn't have that opportunity. They wouldn't know what the game was about and they wouldn't see it from players who look like them."

Williamson and Pinto said they hope clinics like this will have a generational impact on their sports in years to come. Planning team member Jules Micchia said their goal is not just to open a door of opportunity but bring young players through it.

"Our hope is that this will be replicated across the country," Pinto said. "We don't want to just do this and be done with it. We hope other people pick up on this and make the game accessible in their communities."

Twitter: @dthsports



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