2021 was a year of setbacks, progress, grief and joy

Story by University Editor Allie Kelly

2021 wasn’t a return to normal. At UNC, the year was marked by power tensions between University leadership bodies, ongoing COVID-19 concerns and the impact of vaccines. The community found focus in conversations about mental health and diversity, equity and inclusion in higher education. Through protests, petitions and actions, students were vocal about issues they cared about most.

Students lost the opportunity to learn from Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Nikole Hannah-Jones after the Board of Trustees initially failed to offer her a tenured position. The case shed light on inequities facing students and faculty of color across University departments.

Students and faculty returned in-person to the classroom after over a year of Zoom instruction. The UNC System advised campuses that under state law, the only group that can mandate a vaccine is the North Carolina Commission for Public Health.

In Orange County, residents voted in local elections for mayor, Town Council and School Board of Education. Local schools also transitioned back to the classroom. UNC’s return to campus also sparked conversations about a campus mental health crisis. Community need for mental health support isn’t new — but the fall semester brought increased student demand for Counseling and Psychological Services and other local and student-run mental health organizations.

University leadership and transparency was questioned. Some alumni, faculty, staff, students and other community members formed the Coalition for Carolina, a group dedicated to promoting open inquiry, equity and inclusion at UNC.

Progress was made on removing the names of known white supremacists from campus buildings. The James Cates Remembrance Coalition honored Cates’ legacy, and took steps to add his namesake to the UNC Student Stores.

The University also officially recognized Indigenous Peoples’ Day — but community members are still calling for an official land acknowledgement.

In community news, a suspect was arrested and charged in September in the murder of Faith Hedgepeth, who was found beaten to death on Sept. 7, 2012.

In this issue of The Daily Tar Heel, we look back at 2021.

The UNC community has felt loss. The continued loss of a traditional college experience. The loss of over 700,000 Americans from COVID-19. And the loss of fellow students. The community has also felt joy. The Asian American Center opened its first physical space this fall. The Carolina Latinx Center welcomed student organizations to the theme of ‘Pa’lante’ — a saying that means “moving forward.”

UNC sports again welcomed fans to the stadium — with Hubert Davis succeeding Roy Williams as the men’s basketball head coach.

2021 wasn’t “normal.” It wasn’t a classic college experience or a callback to life before the pandemic. Instead, it was a year of setbacks and progress, grief and joy.

Onward to the next.

Twitter: @alliemkelly
UNC resolved or settled four major lawsuits this year

The front entrance to the South Building is pictured on Nov. 17. UNC has faced many lawsuits throughout 2021. The University's motion to dismiss nine of the 10 allegations in the lawsuit. The claims alleged that UNC had air-permit violations regarding pollution control, pollution monitoring and noncompliance reporting requirements.

UNC Spokesperson Parag Sagester said in an email that UNC is pleased with the Aug. 30 ruling and believes the actions conducted in accordance with the Title V permit.

The University is committed to reducing our environmental footprint and advancing sustainability on campus and in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro community," Sagester said. Affirmative action

On Oct. 18, the United States District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina ruled in favor of UNC continuing to use affirmative action as a part of its admissions process. The suit was filed by Students for Fair Admissions, a nonprofit membership group.

SFSA federal lawsuit claimed that UNC had violated the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

On Nov. 11, SFSA filed a writ of certiorari in the U.S. Supreme Court. Beth Keith, associate vice chancellor of University Communications said in an email statement that the Nov. 18 decision made clear that UNC uses a holistic and lawful approach to admissions.

"We evaluate each student in a deliberate and thoughtful way, appreciating individual strengths, talents and contributions to a vibrant campus community where students from all backgrounds can excel and thrive," Keith said.

"We are glad to be back in the classroom together." keith said.

"The University is committed to providing additional telehealth therapy in coordination with Uvwell. This partnership has allowed CAPS to eliminate the waitlist for brief therapy, and also connects students with a therapist as quickly as possible. We'll continue this pilot program through the 2022 academic year.

In the past year as chancellor, what are some of the lessons you're taking with you into the next semester?

KEVIN GUSKEWICZ: When we last spoke, I said that I was cautiously optimistic. I felt we had a really good plan in place and I think our communities met this year with resilience, perseverance, commitment to each other. I'm glad to see that our community is built on a legacy of the compassion that surrounds us. We have people who worked tirelessly to help students who asked for help navigating the challenges. Faculty were incredible in stepping up as I met with groups of students who talked about their faculty providing the flexibility that was necessary.

We had some important conversations during the Mental Health Summit that we held a few weeks ago, and it’s one of several things that we did as a community to address the crisis.

Mental health has continued to be a big topic of conversation, especially with the pandemic. We have heard from many of them that we did as a community to address the crisis.

We have been aware of recent reports of student stress and anxiety. We have heard from many of them that we did as a community to address the crisis.

We also have been paying close attention to trends in student well-being and mental health. We have been aware of recent reports of student stress and anxiety. We have heard from many of them that we did as a community to address the crisis.

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What can students expect to see next semester in terms of COVID-19 protocols, class operations, etc.?

A lot of things that we have in this semester will likely be carried over to the spring semester. As of today, I anticipate we’re still going to be wearing masks indoors, certainly for the classroom experience. We are going to keep in place our testing program as it currently exists for the first three weeks of the semester and evaluate.

We think it’s important that as we enter the spring semester, we will have all those precautionary measures in place. And we will revitalize and see if adjustments can be made as we move further into February. Our infectious disease and public health experts are assessing the new variant that has many people concerned and are providing additional updates regarding that, as they have provided.

What are the goals you have for the upcoming semester?

I’m really looking forward to the spring semester. This year, we welcome the largest incoming class in Carolina’s history and while I have heard from many of them that we did as a community to address the crisis.

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UNC experienced an exodus of leaders

By Praveena Semaundaram 
UNC Media Hub

After 25 years on the faculty and nine years in senior leadership, Terry Rhodes, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, is retiring in June.

Including Rhodes, nine top leaders have announced their retirement, resignation from their position or departure from the University since last May, including Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Bob Blouin. Blouin, Barbara K. Rimer and Susan King will return to faculty positions.

The exodus comes as questions of transparency, academic freedom and political influence engulf UNC, causing concern among many about its future as North Carolina’s flagship public university.

“I have been in the middle of so many of our challenges here at Carolina,” Rhodes said. “And I will say, I do very much feel that this university has to face its past realistically — not paint-brush over it.”

Holden Thorp, who served as UNC’s chancellor from 2008 to 2013, has a rule of thumb for leadership change: When there’s a new executive, it’s a time of opportunity.

That forced a domino effect within UNC’s administration. Since then, Guskiewicz and Rhodes — whose titles became permanent — have announced their departure and others received an order to leave the University. For others, it was the intended time of retirement. Rhodes’ move to the deanship paralleled other leadership changes that followed controversy surrounding the administration’s handling of the Confederate monument Silent Sam, which was toppled by demonstrators at the start of the fall 2018 semester.

During a closed meeting in 2019, the day after then-Chancellor Carol Folt’s unexpected announcement of both her retirement and an order to remove the pedestal of the Silent Sam monument, the Board of Governors accepted her resignation — and moved her termination up to Jan. 31.

That forced a domino effect within University leadership.

One week after Folt’s time at UNC officially ended, Kevin Guskiewicz, then dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, was named interim chancellor. Rhodes was tapped to take over the dean role 20 days later.

We are in a difficult place, I think,” King said. “I believe that the BOT’s actions were reflective of the issues of structural racism, donor influence and chilled speech.

Like Rhodes, who’d known she would leave the University after 34 years, King chose to step down from her role as dean, she said, when she lived the moment to retire when she turned 66 in June 2022, Hussman Dean Susan King was always intended to be in the position for no more than 10 years, a span that ends in January. She plans to return to a teaching position on the faculty later. But her departure comes after a summer where UNC, again, made national headlines when the Board of Trustees delayed granting tenure to Nikole Hannah-Jones.

In May, it was revealed that the journalism school’s namesake, Arkansas newspaper magnate Walter Hussman, had expressed concerns about hiring Hannah-Jones, according to reporting from The Assembly.

While Hussman worried about the “controversy of tying the UNC journalism school to The 1619 project,” students, faculty and others worried that Hussman’s interference and the BOT’s actions were reflective of the issues of structural racism, donor influence and chilled speech.

King called the fight for tenure and eventual result a “difficult time” and a “disappointment,” as she had hoped to bring someone of Hannah-Jones’ caliber onto the faculty — and she’d wanted to bring Hannah-Jones in specifically — but was surprised by the BOT’s reaction.

As King is set to step down from her role as dean, she said, whoever assumes the post next should be cognizant of the hurt the community is feeling.

“We need a leader who sees the opportunities, but is aware that there’s been trauma by the school, that people were upset it was a long saga over Nikole and then she decided not to come,” King said. “And so there’s healing that needs to be done as well.”

Though some leaders predetermined their departure and others received offers from different institutions that they chose instead, King and Rhodes emphasized the time change UNC is in — and the work left to be done.

“We are in a difficult place, I think,” Rhodes said. “But I also think it’s a time of opportunity!”

Twitter: @praveenasema
A look at UNC’s vaccine response

The University reported 94 percent of students are fully vaccinated

By Guillermo Molero and Kelly Randall
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How did we get here?

In January, Campus Health gained approval to become a site for vaccination storage and distribution and began planning an on-campus vaccine clinic for students. However, with students falling into Group 5 of the vaccine rollout plan, University health officials said it was unlikely that most students would receive the first dose of the vaccine before late spring or early summer of 2021. By the end of the month, student healthcare workers were some of the first students able to receive their first dose of the vaccine.

In March, Chancellor Kevin Guskiewicz announced in a campus message that University employees and student employees with in-person roles were also able to receive the vaccine, but it remained unclear when the general student population would be able to get it. However, due to the rapid rollout of vaccines across the state, the process for eligibility was accelerated to include all North Carolina adults by April 17. Entering this semester, UNC required students to either attest that they were vaccinated or participate in twice-weekly testing to return to campus. But in the face of breakthrough cases and the delta variant, students and faculty felt uncertain about returning to in-person instruction.

In an Aug. 24 interview with The Daily Tar Heel, Guskiewicz said he is in favor of a vaccine mandate, but that the University does not have the authority to implement such a guideline. On Oct. 25, Guskiewicz announced in a campus message that, due to executive order from President Biden, all University employees would be required to be vaccinated by Jan. 18, 2022. But on Nov. 30, a federal judge issued a preliminary injunction to halt the national vaccine mandate for health care workers, which was set to begin next month.

At the end of October, the Carolina Vaccination Clinic began administering booster shots for all three of the COVID-19 vaccines to students 18 years of age and older.

Since August, the University has seen a 1.3 percent increase in the positivity rate (0.79% COVID-19 cases as of Tuesday). The University has not implemented a student vaccine mandate, but with the spring 2022 semester quickly approaching, it remains unknown whether another year of COVID-19 vaccine policies will look like.

Mental health challenges rose this fall

UNC pharmacists prepare a vaccine dose in the Student Union on March 31, 2021.

Students using Peer2Peer services.

A look at UNC’s vaccine response

UNC pharmacists prepare a vaccine dose in the Student Union on March 31, 2021.
Going forward,” she said. “The faculty has staff, and what it means for operations faculty governance conversations. Communications surrounding plans for Chancellor and Provost Bob Blouin that Kevin Guskiewicz and Executive Vice President have weighed has faced in 2021, faculty members shared their concerns with Chancellor for Finance and Operations Chief Financial Officer and Vice Chancellor for Finance and Operations Nate Knuffman presented a plan to balance the University budget to the Faculty Council in March. Knuffman announced UNC schools and departments will face a 1.5 percent cut to personnel funds and a 7.5 percent cut to operational funds in the 2021 and 2022 fiscal years. The Faculty Executive Committee held a meeting in October to discuss the University’s response to the mental health crisis on campus. "Our Faculty Council and Faculty Executive Committee is trying to urge our chancellor and the UNC leaders to have significant days in Spring 2022 when we could have mental health days," Deb Aikat said. The committee also discussed how the University could broaden and strengthen its mental health support. It considered solutions like increasing the number of counselors who are representative of the student body and training faculty, staff and teaching assistants to hear student distress and respond appropriately. Faculty governance also encountered issues related to academic freedom this year. In July, the Faculty Council held an emergency meeting to discuss fears that the Board of Trustees, Board of Governors and others were planning to remove Guskiewicz from his role as UNC’s chancellor. The council passed a resolution affirming their confidence in Guskiewicz and emphasizing the need for faculty to be considered in any discussion of leadership change. Aikat and 12 others abstained during that resolution vote. He said other matters concerning faculty of color — as well as Nikole Hannah-Jones’ tenure application — did not receive as much attention or swift response. In May, the UNC Board of Trustees initially failed to approve the tenure of Hamlin-Jones at the Knight Chair in Race and Investigative Journalism at Wilson Library, pictured on Monday, Nov. 29. UNC Libraries is facing $5 million in budget cuts over the next two fiscal years. Chairperson Mimi Chapman wrote a letter in June urging the UNC community members to speak up on the issue. "You only have to agree that the best thing that happened to me this semester was meeting all the people on my hall and making new friends." Dylan Melisaratos, senior business administration major “Quite honestly, the return to campus for classic football games and basketball games was the best thing that happened to me this semester. Being able to make new friends and see friends who I had not met over the past year made me really appreciate UNC for what it is and makes me a bit nostalgic as I enter my final semester here as a senior.” Arden Riddle, junior history major “I would say the best thing that happened this semester was when we won the Wake Forest game. Getting to storm the field was so fun!” Mike Hostutler, first-year public policy major

Governing, mental health dominate discussions

Reflecting on the return to campus after two years away

By Emily Orland and Claire Tynan

Senior Writers
university@dailytarheel.com

For every conflict the University has faced in 2021, faculty members on the Faculty Council and Faculty Executive Committee have weighed in on how UNC should navigate these challenges. Faculty governance has paid attention to the COVID-19 pandemic, money issues, community mental health and academic freedom. At an August meeting, the FEC also shared their concerns with Chancellor Kevin Guskiewicz and Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Bob Blouin that communications surrounding plans for reopening campus were unclear. Jill Moore, current secretary of the faculty, said she expects the pandemic to continue to be at the forefront of faculty governance conversations.

“We’re going to be continuing to look at the pandemic and how it’s affected our entire community: faculty, students and staff, and what it means for operations going forward,” she said. “The faculty has a keen interest in all of that and will want to continue to have a voice in it.” The University’s budget was a frequent topic of conversation among faculty governance. Chief Financial Officer and Vice Chancellor for Finance and Operations Nate Knuffman presented a plan to balance the University budget to the Faculty Council in March. Knuffman announced UNC schools and departments will face a 1.5 percent cut to personnel funds and a 7.5 percent cut to operational funds in the 2021 and 2022 fiscal years. The Faculty Executive Committee held a meeting in October to discuss the University’s response to the mental health crisis on campus. “Our Faculty Council and Faculty Executive Committee is trying to urge our chancellor and the UNC leaders to have significant days in Spring 2022 when we could have mental health days,” Deb Aikat said. The committee also discussed how the University could broaden and strengthen its mental health support. It considered solutions like increasing the number of counselors who are representative of the student body and training faculty, staff and teaching assistants to hear student distress and respond appropriately. Faculty governance also encountered issues related to academic freedom this year. In July, the Faculty Council held an emergency meeting to discuss fears that the Board of Trustees, Board of Governors and others were planning to remove Guskiewicz from his role as UNC’s chancellor. The council passed a resolution affirming their confidence in Guskiewicz and emphasizing the need for faculty to be considered in any discussion of leadership change. Aikat and 12 others abstained during that resolution vote. He said other matters concerning faculty of color — as well as Nikole Hannah-Jones’ tenure application — did not receive as much attention or swift response. In May, the UNC Board of Trustees initially failed to approve the tenure of Hamlin-Jones at the Knight Chair in Race and Investigative Journalism at Wilson Library, pictured on Monday, Nov. 29. UNC Libraries is facing $5 million in budget cuts over the next two fiscal years. Chairperson Mimi Chapman wrote a letter in June urging the UNC community members to speak up on the issue. "You only have to agree that the best thing that happened to me this semester was meeting all the people on my hall and making new friends." Dylan Melisaratos, senior business administration major “Quite honestly, the return to campus for classic football games and basketball games was the best thing that happened to me this semester. Being able to make new friends and see friends who I had not met over the past year made me really appreciate UNC for what it is and makes me a bit nostalgic as I enter my final semester here as a senior.” Arden Riddle, junior history major ‘I would say the best thing that happened this semester was when we won the Wake Forest game. Getting to storm the field was so fun!” Mike Hostutler, first-year public policy major

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Conference on Race and Investigative Journalism at Wilson Library, pictured on Monday, Nov. 29. UNC Libraries is facing $5 million in budget cuts over the next two fiscal years. Chairperson Mimi Chapman wrote a letter in June urging the UNC community members to speak up on the issue. "You only have to agree that the best thing that happened to me this semester was meeting all the people on my hall and making new friends.” Dylan Melisaratos, senior business administration major “Quite honestly, the return to campus for classic football games and basketball games was the best thing that happened to me this semester. Being able to make new friends and see friends who I had not met over the past year made me really appreciate UNC for what it is and makes me a bit nostalgic as I enter my final semester here as a senior.” Arden Riddle, junior history major ‘I would say the best thing that happened this semester was when we won the Wake Forest game. Getting to storm the field was so fun!” Mike Hostutler, first-year public policy major

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Difficult season dooms UNC's hopes for title

This year didn’t pan out as expected for football

Naturally, as the sports editor of Unc so accustomed to calling.

The Tar Heels didn’t play their cards right this season; in attempts to adjust to a normal season after COVID-19, the extra travel, cold weather, bad rankings and different defensive dynamics took a toll on the team.

With the offseason officially in place, the athletes got to experience a more typical spring that should help the team fully recover for 2022.

This period of recuperation — along with returning three of the four of its senior starters and adding recruits that pose offensive threats — leaves UNC with a full house.

As North Carolina field hockey head coach Karen Shelton calls herself "a bit of a poker player," and for her, every season is just like another year, they’re dealt, and for the past several years, the Tar Heels won the pot to the

N.C. State.

__IN-PERSON COVERAGE__

By PJ Morales

A few weeks ago, the UNC men's basketball team told members of the media some important news.

For the rest of the season, whenever a road venue was hosting in-person press conferences, the Tar Heels would do those instead of the postponed Zoom press calls that had become commonplace during the pandemic.

Naturally, as the sports editor of a college newspaper with limited resources who had spent most of the past two years adjusting to life through a Zoom gallery, I was upset. If anything, theTar Heels had made my and my writers' jobs easier. Instead of worrying about missing out on basketball coverages, we couldn't send our writers to L.A. or Connecticut on a busy Tuesday.

But that's changing now, and I'm scared because the new normal is all I know. Most of my time at both UNC and the DTH has been conducted through a monitor and a camera, not among other things students or journalists. I still haven't covered a football game in-person. What does that say about my time doing this thing I love? Does it make my journalism career any less real? Does it make this thing I love? Does it make this experience, or any other part of my life, any less real?

I'm excited to attend my first in-person press conference, but I'm still scared. I'm not the least bit comfortable with how things worked. I got used to the change, and now it's changing back on me.

But if this pandemic and this year have taught me anything, it's that the world and its calling to you — always has, and still has, never been to a live University, made a fairly seamless transition to fully online learning. In a matter of weeks, we were able to take our entire learning experience virtual, not by choice, but by necessity.

Classes are often better when students are in a learning environment, building a rapport with their professors and classmates. Press conferences are better when you can sense a room is feeling, especially when a dealing.

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The team plans to focus on their gameplay and strength in the offseason

By Kaitlyn Schmidt

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Graduate programs have started having classes going back to normal — and for good reason.

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Column: Here’s to moving past Zoom and into the real world of sports media

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How Hubert Davis is succeeding a legend

The former head coach retired in April of 2021, but his legacy remains

By Hunter Nelson
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When do you know it’s time?
Is it when, after nearly 30 years of dominance, a first-round win is no longer promised?
Is it when naysayers insist your once-impregnable formula is no longer effective — when two brute bigs on the low blocks can get played off the block by 6-foot-3 forwards that shoot the lights out?
Or, is it when transfer rules open the doors for roster volatility, potentially limiting your impact to develop high school kids into not only future All-Americans, but young men who prepare to tackle the challenges of the real world?

For Roy Williams, those questions were answered when the Hall of Fame basketball coach played a not-so-funny April Fools’ Day joke and retired as the head coach of the North Carolina men’s basketball team. When he sank into his seat at the podium, he admitted, with tears in his eyes, that he felt he was “no longer the right man for the job.”

Just five days after Williams sat — talking to you, Cam Johnson — the Tar Heels' focus of shifting toward new principles was undoubtedly pointed. The thought process didn’t last long, either.

With 903 wins — 485 during Williams’ tenure — three national championships and a sea of Carolina blue suits, ties and Jordans that became just as synonymous to his persona as his white hair and Asheville drawl, finding someone even more qualified than Williams for the UNC head coaching job became just as synonymous to the program as his UNC tenure — three national championships and a sea of Carolina blue suits, ties and Jordans.”

In addition to the play style changing to a more pace-and-space, perimeter-oriented game — Davis is probably grinning as the holder of the third-best three-point percentage in NBA history — college teams have begun trusting former NBA players to lead their alma maters, such as Penny Hardaway and Juwan Howard at Memphis and Michigan, respectively. Using his professional pedigree and ESPN affiliation, where his stint once helped him become Williams’ top recruiter, Davis has wasted little time retooling the North Carolina program.

In just a matter of months, Davis, brought in graduate forward Brady Manek, a near 1500-point scorer at Oklahoma, and sophomore forward Dawson Garcia, a former McDonald’s All-American. Both have been valuable contributors to the Tar Heels’ 4-2 start, averaging double figures in scoring and perimeter-oriented game — Davis

To explore accomplished external candidates and offer them a blank check to operate what many consider one of the premier coaching positions in college sports, UNC handed the reins to assistant coach Hubert Davis, who has been tied to the University since playing under Dean Smith from 1988-1992. The thought process didn’t last long, either.

Just five days after Williams sat at the table with sadness, Davis stepped in with a smile. While the hire clearly indicated the program wanted to stick to its traditional principles, it also reflected the Tar Heels’ focus of shifting toward the modern era of college basketball.

During his time at UNC, Williams was responsible for many different accomplishments which are pictured above.

One of the premier coaching positions in college sports, UNC handed the reins to assistant coach Hubert Davis, who has been tied to the University since playing under Dean Smith from 1988-1992. The thought process didn’t last long, either.

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Although some outliers exist — talking to you, Cam Johnson — Williams was never one to rely too heavily on the transfer portal. But in 2021, with restrictions eased and former blue-chippers moving from coast to coast, joining the brigade became a necessity to compete at a high level.

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Is it when naysayers insist your once-impregnable formula is no longer effective — when two brute bigs on the low blocks can get played off the block by 6-foot-3 forwards that shoot the lights out?

In the coming weeks, Davis will have several chances to put the first stamp on his resume, including against now-No. 2 Purdue and No. 13 Tennessee at the Hall of Fame Tipoff two weeks ago, they have allowed the likes of Brown and Charleston to carve them up and score at will.

In the coming weeks, Davis will have several chances to put the first stamp on his resume, including against now-No. 2 Purdue and No. 13 Tennessee at the Hall of Fame Tipoff. Following in the footsteps of a legend is never easy, and for someone with no previous head coaching experience, that task is harder than ever.

But Davis knows there is still room for his team to grow, and even more room for the fanbase to believe that Davis off the court will be the first to tell you he’s courteous and cordial. His personality often illuminates any room he steps into.

During his time at UNC, Williams was responsible for many different accomplishments which are pictured above.

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For Roy Williams, those questions were answered when the Hall of Fame basketball coach played a not-so-funny April Fools’ Day joke and retired as the head coach of the North Carolina men’s basketball team. When he sank into his seat at the podium, he admitted, with tears in his eyes, that he felt he was “no longer the right man for the job.”

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UNC senior running back British Brooks (24) catches a long pass during the game against N.C. State at Carter-Finley Stadium in Raleigh on Nov. 26.

By Hunter Nelson  
Assistant Sports Editor  
sports@dailytarheel.com

RALEIGH, N.C. — With 2:12 to play, the once-deafening crowd of Wolfpack faithful hung in silence as students began to file out of Carter-Finley Stadium.

For 58 minutes against No. 20 N.C. State on Friday night, the North Carolina football team slowly exorcised many of the demons that spiraled its season out of control before it even began. When kicker Grayson Atkins boomed a 30-yard field goal to extend the lead to nine in the fourth quarter, students that believed its team could possibly do wrong with two minutes 34-30 defeat.

After silencing stadium, UNC hears all the noise

After busted coverage allowed N.C. State’s Emeka Emezie to get loose for a 64-yard touchdown, the Wolfpack recovered an onside kick before Emegie caught another dagger to put his team ahead, leading to UNC’s stunning 34-30 defeat.

“We did everything you could possibly do wrong with two minutes left to not finish the game,” head coach Mack Brown said.

Despite the defense compiling a season-high six sacks, the Tar Heels’ victories couldn’t dodge the reality of a surefire win slipping away in front of their very eyes.

The defense will likely receive the brunt of the blame for Friday’s epic collapse, but at times, the offense didn’t do their part, either.

Howell and senior running back British Brooks paced the Tar Heels’ rushing attack that finished with 297 yards on the ground, but when UNC marched inside the Wolfpack five-yard line looking to build a double-digit lead with eight minutes left, three straight pass plays were called all resulting in incompletions — and the unit settled for a field goal.

“I thought on offense we had some chances to put the game away, and I didn’t make some plays there at the end,” Howell said.

Entering the season as the nation’s tenth-best team, UNC finishes year three of the Mack Brown era at 6-6 — the same position it inhabited year one. For a group that once aspired to compete for an ACC Championship, the Tar Heels’ mediocre record was always going to give them the scraps of whatever bowl game was left, regardless of Friday’s outcome.

“I’ve never seen anything like that,” Brown said. “I’ve got to do a better job – I’m really disappointed in me that our team doesn’t win that game.

Twitter: @Aunternelson_1

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Tar Heels win but struggle with control

North Carolina’s men’s basketball got back in the win column in Tuesday’s 72-63 win against UNC Asheville, but the team still showed much room for improvement.

Entering the game, the Tar Heels only led their opponents at the half one time this season: their season opener against Loyola Maryland. UNC never trailed Asheville, leading by as many as 22 at one point. By the game’s end, the team shot 49 percent from the field and made half of its 3-pointers en route to a 19-point victory.

Typically, these are indicators of cleanly-played basketball games, but that was not the case for North Carolina on Tuesday.

In their opening possession, the Tar Heels committed a shot clock violation, and the next time down, they threw it away on an errant pass out of bounds. For the remainder of the period, the team seemed to take better care of the ball, finishing the first 20 minutes with six giveaways to eight assists.

The second half, however, went south for UNC’s ball control. An assortment of misplayed fast breaks and offensive fouls played into many of the team’s errors, but the full-court trap that the Bulldogs brought out also made it difficult on North Carolina’s guards.

As a result of the trapping defense, the Tar Heels finished the game with 15 turnovers and Asheville scored 19 points on those giveaways.

The team’s usually high-scoring offense — averaging 85.4 points per game before Tuesday — scored 13 points under its mark. The scoring was highlighted by junior forward Armando Bacot’s game-high 22 points, though that was one of just two double-digit scorers for the team, the other being sophomore RJ Davis.

UNC did display its ability to control a game, getting out to an early lead and never looking back. While the early mistakes made it difficult for the Tar Heels to break away from the Bulldogs even further, the team did manage to stay on top from the get-go.

The team now averages 13.5 turnovers per game, as the team must cut back on heading into conference play — or sooner, with a matchup against the No. 24 Michigan Wolverines set for next Wednesday.

Twitter: @jerem11ah

Students that believed its team could possibly do wrong with two minutes
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CAROLINA PERFORMING ARTS
The Daily Tar Heel

2022
The good, the bad & the ugly.

The Editorial Board wraps up the year with our final thoughts on UNC handling COVID-19, sexual assault, mental health, racism and politics on campus.

Editorial

Campana says "the link between political and higher education is hard to ignore. Campus life—in and outside of the classroom—is threaded with political and social issues and these issues teethe on students. UNC is not only exercising responsibility in dealing with campus, but also the roles and laws that hold it accountable. Doing the bare minimum to comply with Title IX and other relevant laws isn’t enough. UNC is not a model school in its handling of student experiences. By its very nature, academia goes hand in hand with politics. Students are trained in critical thinking and analysis, and their major accomplishments are expected to be meaningful and impactful. This means preventing the spread of misinformation and preventing it from happening a second time. It is essential to work in a political world. Student involvement in politics should not always mirror that of their universities, creating a stark dichotomy between campus life and the realities of politics. While some students feel they are providing open and honest discussion and responsible and service-oriented solutions to the issues we face, others feel they are making political statements.

While we can assume UNC’s decision to alert students after reported instances of sexual assault involving the same accused person complies with the Clery Act, the timing of this notification comes across as overreaction to an issue that requires a nuanced approach. The routines and rubrics that student bodies and the conservative, private institutions they belong to.

“Handing sexual assault means being as transparent as possible, and just when it is locally required.

By Caitlyn Sude

Guthman says "the timely warning and emergency notification standards begin to explain why UNC sent this Alert Carolina message when it did. The Clery Act states that institutions and their employees are required to report crimes against students and, in a timely manner, and appropriate emergency notification. In 2019, UNC was fined $1.1 million by the U.S. Department of Education after being cited for multiple serious violations of the Clery Act. The DOJ concluded that UNC had mishandled sex abuse claims under Title IX for the last 10 years, according to reports published in 2020.

The DOJ and these violations led to the repeated failure to provide students and employees with information that can be based on accurate information and prevent what happened or prevent it from happening a second time. We are all engaged in a political world. Student involvement in politics should not always mirror that of their universities, creating a stark dichotomy between campus life and the realities of politics. While some students feel they are providing open and honest discussion and responsible and service-oriented solutions to the issues we face, others feel they are making political statements.

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“Handing sexual assault means being as transparent as possible, and just when it is locally required.
Franklin Street businesses are bouncing back

By Ethan Horton
city@dailytarheel.com

After staffing and supply chain issues that persisted once the pandemic began in spring 2020, businesses in downtown Chapel Hill are bouncing back.

Jeff Hortman, co-owner of Carolina Coffee Shop on Franklin Street, said in an email that his experienced staff helped the company adapt to changing regulations and safety standards. With the slow, cautioned reopening of restaurants in late February, Hortman said his business saw a surprising turnaround.

“We opened in a limited capacity according to local guidelines and focused on safety of employees and patrons,” Hortman said. “We were a bit surprised to find a decent amount of business during this time, but it was mostly from local residents rather than students.”

Now, with students and campus tours back, Hortman said the Carolina Coffee Shop has seen a return to pre-pandemic visitor levels.

In June 2020, Chapel Hill began encouraging sidewalk dining as a means to recover business downtown. Bret Oliverio, the owner of Sup Dogs, said creating outdoor seating as early as possible was key to his company’s success early in 2021.

“At that time, I think the community and the students that were in town were way more comfortable dining outdoors, so we added as much outdoor seating as possible,” Oliverio said. “But January 2021 was definitely a rough month.”

Four Corners owner Kristian Bawcom said the Town’s emphasis on outdoor seating has helped keep his company afloat this year.

“It was a game changer for us because people who weren’t comfortable going inside had a place to sit outside and watch a football game or listen to music on a nice day or in the evening grab dinner,” Bawcom said. “The Town of Chapel Hill really stepped up in helping assist businesses as part of the Carrboro and Chapel Hill business revitalization programs, which Oliverio said Sup Dogs has already benefitted from. The chamber also held Small Business Saturday on Nov. 27 and will hold small-business-centric events for the next several weeks.

“Every time we make a purchase at a local business, we support local jobs and help preserve the local character of our community,” Katie Loovis, vice president of external affairs for the chamber, said in a press release. “When we spend it here, we keep it here, so let’s keep it local with our in-store and online holiday purchases.”

Additionally, Oliverio, Bawcom and Hortman all said they’ve experienced staffing issues in the past year, as fewer people are working across the country. Bawcom said he’s never seen anything like the current labor shortage. The Chamber For a Greater Chapel Hill-Carrboro announced earlier this month it will make over $20,000 available in grant opportunities to help assist businesses as part of the Carrboro and Chapel Hill business revitalization programs, which Oliverio said Sup Dogs has already benefitted from.

“This research study at Duke University Medical Center is looking for adults who currently smoke marijuana and would like to cut back. We’re interested in seeing if reducing marijuana use can change things like mood, sleep, attention and focus.

Scan the QR code or give us a call, (919) 684-9930, to learn more.

Payment available for study participation. (Protocol #00100100).
The 2021 elections could shape the local landscape for years to come

By Guillermo Molero
city@dailytarheel.com

Lying in the shadow of presidential and midterm races, odd-numbered years aren’t usually remembered for their elections. This year’s municipal elections could prove quite consequential for Carrboro and Chapel Hill.

There were five offices on the ballot in Chapel Hill and Carrboro — the mayor of Chapel Hill, the mayor of Carrboro, the Chapel Hill Town Council, the Carrboro Town Council and seats on Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Board of Education. Perhaps the most prominent of all these races was that for the mayoral seat in Chapel Hill, a campaign that saw incumbent Pam Hemminger win her fourth term in office after defeating challenger and Chapel Hill Town Council member Hongquin Gu and UNC graduate student Zachary Byor. She earned about 60.7 percent of the vote compared to Gu’s 36.6 percent and Byor’s 2.5 percent.

As the 2021 election season comes to a close, conversations surrounding the local, state and national landscapes are abundant, with many of these topics remaining in the forefront of the minds of North Carolinians.

**ELECTIONS | RECAP AND PREVIEW**

**Orange County selected mayors, council and school board members**

Chapel Hill Mayor

Pam Hemminger* 60.68%

Incumbent mayor Pam Hemminger has served as mayor of Chapel Hill since 2015, and will begin her fourth term at the end of 2021.

She previously served as a school board member and as a county commissioner, as well as having served on the boards of local nonprofits like the Triangle Land Conservancy and Orange County Habitat for Humanity.

Chapel Hill Town Council

Karen Stegman 20.15%

Camille Berry 20.07%

Paris Miller-Foushee 19.95%

Adam Searing 16.68%

Karen Stegman, Camille Berry, Paris Miller-Foushee and Adam Searing all won seats on the Chapel Hill Town Council. Stegman was the only incumbent running in this year’s election, while the rest of them making their debut on the council.

Key issues emphasized in the race for Town Council included affordable housing and parks and recreation. Miller-Foushee and Searing focused strongly on the opportunity among students within the community.

Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Board of Education

Damon Seils 90.28%

Damon Seils was first elected to the Carrboro Town Council in 2013, where he currently serves as a member. He said he decided he would run for the Town’s top job after the current mayor, Lydia Lavelle, announced she would not be running for reelection in late May.

Barbara Foushee and Haven-O’Donnell both currently serve on the Carrboro Town Council. Foushee and Haven-O’Donnell won the three seats up for grabs in 2022.

Barbara Foushee, Danny Nowell and Randee Haven-O’Donnell all won seats on the Chapel Hill Town Council. The race for the three seats open in Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Board of Education was far less of a contest. They said they would address the opportunity gap that students in the school district face and will aim to implement non-equitable policies upon taking their place on the board.

Though there may not have been big-ticket offices on the ballot, the 2021 election cycle will surely shape the local landscape in Chapel Hill and Carrboro for years to come.

Statewide local candidates launch 2022 campaigns

Allen Buansi, Craig Meyer and Nida Allam’s campaign websites for N.C. House, N.C. Senate, and U.S. Congress, respectively, are up on Nov. 29.


North Carolina’s 6th Congressional District

Since David Price announced his retirement, several contenders have announced their campaigns to represent Orange and Durham counties and the surrounding region in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Durham County Commissioner Nick Whitley, D-Chatham, Orange, Roby Smith, D-Carrboro, Orange County Board of Commissioners Chairperson Renee Price have entered the race.

Orange, currently represents District 50, but has been announced his run for state Sen. Saxby Chambliss’ seat. According to the state’s 6th District in the new map.

Barbara Foushee, Danny Nowell and Randee Haven-O’Donnell all won seats on the Carrboro Town Council. Foushee and Haven-O’Donnell both currently serve on the council.

Foushee said she has spent most of her time incorporating diverse viewpoints into the Town’s policies, something he believes will yield more sustainable solutions.

NC. Senate

Meyer and Jamie DeMent, an author of a newly created Carrboro City Board of Commissioners.

She also served in the N.C. House and Senate, where she focused on education jobs and advocating for underrepresented communities.

NC. House

Orange County is split into districts 50 and 56 in the state House, and both seats are up for grabs in 2022.

Rep. Graig Meyer, D-Carwell,

Orange, currently represents District 50, but has been announced his run for state Sen. Saxby Chambliss’ seat. According to the state’s 6th District in the new map.

Meredith Pruitt

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Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Board of Education

Riza Jenkins 29.61%

George Griffin 29.37%

Mike Sharp 27.47%

Riza Jenkins, George Griffin and Mike Sharp were elected to the three vacant spots on the Board of Education for Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools.

As seen as a progressive block, the three seats were considered a key test of addressing gaps in equity and opportunity among students within the school district.

Sharp has said he would like to allocate more funds to career training for teachers. Jenkins said she would like to...
The Daily Tar Heel

By Brian Rosenzweig
Senior Writer
city@dailytarheel.com

The bus driver shortage crisis has complex
director of Chapel Hill Transit, said the
demand for new drivers.
progress has been made in meeting the
in effect today, many wonder what
changes from late September still
for students on CHCCS buses. With
semester, Chapel Hill Transit and
lunch period has also been extended
seniors had before 2020. The seniors'
go off campus for lunch, a privilege
priority for seniors. This week,

A focus on socialization
Jenks said socialization is especially
a priority for seniors. This week,
A great focus on socialization

YEAR IN REVIEW

Dontae Sharpe receives pardon of innocence

After 24 years in prison, Sharpe's wrongful conviction was reversed

By Meagan Bergstrom
Staff Writer
city@dailytarheel.com

On Nov. 12, Gov. Roy Cooper granted a pardon of innocence for Montoya Dontae Sharpe after Sharpe was wrongfully convicted of murder in 1995 and spent 24 years in prison. “Mr. Sharpe and others who have been wrongfully convicted deserve to have that injustice fully and publicly acknowledged,” Cooper said in a Nov. 12 press release.

In 1994, George Radcliffe was found shot to death in a pickup truck in Greenville, according to the National Registry of Exonerations. During the investigation, police interviewed Charlene Johnson, who had turned 14 years old a month after the shooting. Johnson had also recently been discharged following a three-week voluntary commitment to a psychiatric ward.

Soon after Johnson’s statement to the police, 19-year-old Sharpe was arrested and charged with first-degree murder.

Sharpe’s arrest and charge occurred despite there being no forensics evidence tying Sharpe to the crime scene and Sharpe having two alibi witnesses: his aunt and the aunt’s neighbor, who said Sharpe was visiting them during the time Radcliffe was shot.

Sharpe was offered plea deals but he continued to maintain his innocence. Sharpe was released from prison on Aug. 22, 2019. His charges were dropped, but he was not granted a pardon of innocence. This meant his record could not be cleared and he could not apply for restitution from the government.

A pardon of innocence is a

Brooke Johnson said that the
turned to the police, 19-year-old Sharpe
complaints to the police.

A great focus on socialization

Sharpe’s wrongful
crime scene and Sharpe having two alibi

Sharpe’s wrongful
in prison. Sharpe was offered plea deals

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HOROSCOPES

If December 1st is Your Birthday...

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Today is a 9 — Over three weeks, with Mercury in your sign, you have an intellectual advantage. Ask probing questions to learn from an expert. Improve skills and knowledge.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Today is a 7 — Inspiration awakens a vision quest. Enter a three-week philosophical and spiritual phase, with Mercury in Sagittarius. Contemplate beauty, goodness and natural wonders.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Today is a 9 — Social connections spark with Mercury in Sagittarius. Accomplish greatness together over the next three weeks. Pull a talent team.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)

Today is an 8 — Professional opportunities come as a conversation with Mercury in Sagittarius. Let others know what you want. What you say benefits your career. Wear your charms.

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Town of Chapel Hill on the mend after COVID-19 setbacks
Climate Action Plan implemented, businesses recuperating

GOVERNANCE

Incumbent Pam Hemminger was reelected as mayor of Chapel Hill on Nov. 2, 2021. This will be Hemminger’s fourth term.

By Madison Ward
Assistant City & State Editor
city@dailytarheel.com

 Affero a resolution passed, community members still have concerns

By Emmy Martin
Senior Writer
city@dailytarheel.com

Town of Chapel Hill

Allen Bnani, a Chapel Hill Town Council member who is now running for the N.C. House, said one of the biggest accomplishments of the year was becoming the first North Carolina municipality to pass an LGBTQ+ nondiscrimination ordinance, which was passed in January.

“The ordinance protects from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity,” Bnani said. “The ordinance was a great signal to folks around North Carolina that we are an inclusive place and that we embrace folks of all different backgrounds.”

Mayor Pam Hemminger said she believes the upcoming challenges posed by the pandemic. Hemminger was reelected to her fourth term as mayor of Chapel Hill this year.

“My goal is to ensure that we are working closely with our residents and keep people housed,” said Governor Pam T. Michael. “I think we worked really well together to keep us safe and feed our kids and keep people housed.”

Mayor Pro Tem Michael Parker said without community cooperation, the town would have experienced significantly more COVID-19 clusters. Over the last two weeks, Orange County has hit total cases per 100,000 residents, according to data from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services as of Tuesday.

“Our county and our town residents who follow mass mandates who went out and got vaccinations are now going out and getting boosters,” Parker said. “So, I think Orange County and Chapel Hill have been a really testament to what can happen when the government and our residents are working collaboratively for the greater good.”

Hemminger also said the Town of Chapel Hill is ending this year with a budget surplus, which is a major achievement despite the economic strain the pandemic placed on the community. She said this money should be used to fill the budget deficit and developing the community moving forward.

“We’ve had a lot of interest in a splash pad and a lot of interest in our inclusive playground,” Hemminger said. “We’ve also had a lot of interest in affordable housing. We could do some really good things with this money — it’s $10.4 million for us, and that’s going to be huge.”

Chapel Hill also passed a short-term rentals resolution this year to ensure safety for local property owners. The resolution covers units listed on websites such as Airbnb and Vrbo.

“A lot of folks in residential areas expressed concern that there would be investor-owned properties that would only be used for those kinds of purchases,” Bnani said. “And so we passed this ordinance in an effort to prevent that from happening, but then more importantly, it provided some structures and standards for folks to abide by who do operate short-term rentals.”

In 2022, local officials plan to utilize the money granted from the American Rescue Plan Act to continue to address difficulties presented by COVID-19 by supporting public health and replacing lost town revenue. We will help our residents and help our business continue to recover, both economically as well as in terms of health and mental health,” Parker said. “And we’ve got to work both in terms of our town government as well as our businesses to help bring back employing and help those folks who lost their jobs get jobs and employees so our businesses can fully recover.”

Hemminger said she excited to see what the Town will accomplish in the upcoming year.

“We need to consider how we look at the holistic community and stop just doing project by project,” Hemminger said. “That’s going to take a shift in thinking and it’s going to take a lot of energy to move us in that direction. But that can actually have results.”

The debate over the future of the Green Tract continues

Though a resolution was passed, community members still have concerns

By Emmy Martin
Senior Writer
city@dailytarheel.com

After three decades of discussion on the Green Tract, this year’s debates have centered around how the land will be used.

A new mid-November resolution allows development on the land parcel to provide room for affordable and mixed-income housing, and a future school and outdoor recreational site.

The Green Tract is a 164-acre parcel of land that is part of the Historic Rogers Road Neighborhood, a historically Black community. Orange County and the Towns of Carrboro and Chapel Hill jointly own 104 acres, and 60 acres were designated as the Headwaters Preserve by Orange County.

This year — 37 years after the purchase of the Green Tract — the Orange County, Chapel Hill and Carrboro governments have continued to debate the future of the land.

Craig Benedict, the planning and inspections director for Orange County, said deliberations on the future of the property have been ongoing since it is jointly-owned by different governments.

“When you’re dealing with three local governments, it’s a longer time frame to get a meeting of the minds,” Benedict said.

In April 2021, the three local governments adopted the Green Tract Interlocal Agreement/Memorandum of Understanding, which outlined how the three governments will work together and what they will do when they agree or disagree in the future.

The most recent action on the plan occurred in mid-November when the Orange County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), Carrboro Town Council and the Chapel Hill Town Council passed the Green Tract Approving the Draft Recombination Plan and Conceptual Plan.

This resolution reaffirms the acreage and land use designations that the governments agreed on in 2019, when they decided to merge the parcels into one jointly-owned preserve using 22 acres for preservation, 66 acres for housing and mixed-uses and finally a minimum of 16 acres for public school sites and public recreational facility sites.

While the BOCC voted to pass the resolution, some commissioners and community members voiced their displeasure.

In a board meeting on Nov. 16, Commissioner Jean Hamilton expressed concern over the timing of the decision and encouraged the other commissioners to postpone the decision until their December meeting. “I want about process,” Hamilton said. “I think the lack of trust in this process is probably because of our communication, of our timing. That in the long run, this lack of transparency, which is something I can say as a commissioner, hurts trust and hurts our ability to do these things in the long run.”

Nancy Oates, former Chapel Hill Town Council member, said the decision to vote on the resolution on Nov. 16 was made behind closed doors.

“Why doesn’t it have to be run through before the newly elected officials can vote on it?” Oates said. “If you are afraid that they are not going to support this, maybe it’s not a good decision.”

Adam Searing, a newly-elected Chapel Hill Town Council member, said in an interview that even though the conversation about the Greene Tract has been ongoing for years, he felt that the newest resolution on the plan was expedited.

“I don’t think it really reflects a lot of the discussion that has been had about the Greene Tract, and it was actually pretty rushed,” Searing said. “I think even the staff of the different government bodies were saying, ‘Well, we haven’t even put together the public comments that have been received. So do you think that’s the last word?’”

Some community members remain concerned that the land will be sold to commercial developers. However, Commissioner Earl McKee stated his firm belief that the three governments would not sell.

“I don’t believe for one moment that the three boards, the county and the towns, will just up and sell it to commercial development,” McKee said. “Some community members remaining concerned that the land will be sold to commercial developers. However, Commissioner Earl McKee stated his firm belief that the three governments would not sell.

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Minister Robert Campbell, president of the Rogers-Eubanks Neighborhood Association, encouraged the commissioners to move the resolution forward because it is just one step in the overall plan.

“We keep going back to yesterday, we want to go to tomorrow,” Campbell said. “We are looking toward the future.”

Deborah Bailey, an executive director for EmpowerEtwoEnt Inc., mirrored Campbell’s sentiment, and said the Greene Tract resolution is in line with all the work that the Rogers Road community has done. Bailey encouraged the community to be patient for the plan.

The debate over the future of the Green Tract is not over. According to Benedict, the next step for the Greene Tract will be to create a public information and communication plan to ensure the community remains informed and engaged throughout the process.

“I think the discussion on the land parcel moves forward, Searing said he hopes that there will be a large focus on affordable housing and land preservation.

“Sometimes in the heat of the moment — in the heat of all this back and forth — we get so focused on one issue, we forget that there is a broader issue here, which is really what kind of community we want to create,” Searing said.
Researchers developing Cherokee language-learning tool

We want to increase the exposure of the Cherokee language to the general public, so people can learn to know this language.

Shiyue Zhang
devops@dailytarheel.com

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Haday joins two more students from UNC in Rhodes scholars class
By Lia Salvaterra
Staff Writer
lsalvaterra@dailytarheel.com

Justin Hadad, a 2021 UNC graduate, will become the University’s 53rd Rhodes scholar and the second of three UNC scholars named as part of the class of 2022.

The scholarship will fund Hadad’s Master of Philosophy in economics at the University of Oxford, where he hopes to continue studying market design research in the context of organizational economics at the University of Zurich.

Hadad, whose parents emigrated from Trinidad and Tobago, grew up in Columbus, Ohio. His great-grandparents are refugees from Syria and Lebanon. His family background is of great importance to him, he said.

“It is a reason why I do everything,” Hadad said.

UNC alumnus Justin Hadad will become the University’s 53rd Rhodes scholar. Hadad is pictured in Zurich, Switzerland.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JUSTIN HADAD

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT | RHODES SCHOLARSHIP

Now, in Zurich, Hadad continues to apply his experiences and interests to explore more intricate questions concerning the global refugee crisis and labor force deficits.

Hadad will begin his studies as a 2022 Rhodes scholar at Oxford next fall, alongside UNC senior Takhomen Hichakalo, who will become the 54th Rhodes scholar at Oxford and the third of three UNC scholars named as part of the class of 2022.

The Daily Tar Heel
Wednesday, December 1, 2021

Elevate

COLUMN

The Kyle Rittenhouse court ruling shouldn’t surprise us

On Friday, after nearly 27 hours of deliberation over four days, the jury in the Kyle Rittenhouse case came back with a verdict. The 18-year-old, not guilty on all five counts he was charged with.

While it is staggering that none of the charges came back as the prosecutor asked, that is not surprising, since the jury refused to consider lesser versions of some of the counts, this verdict should not surprise us.

Rittenhouse was not held accountable for killing two people and injuring a third because the criminal justice system refuses to criminalize white men who act on behalf of the interests of white supremacy.

Rittenhouse was 17 years old in August of 2020 when he crossed state lines from his hometown in Antioch, Ill. to Kenosha, Wis., armed with an AR-15-style rifle. He traveled to Kenosha during a moment of protest following the shooting of Jacob Blake and testified that his intention was to help protect private property.

During his time at the protest, Rittenhouse shot and killed two people, Joseph Rosenbaum, 36, and Anthony Huber, 26, and wounded 27-year-old Gaige Grosskreutz.

The case appears clear. His acquittal highlights white supremacy, which is irrelevant, white people are more likely to be dealt a get-out-of-jail-free card by the legal system. The same criminal justice system used to protect white men. The same system that saw fit to acquit Kyle Rittenhouse.

For years, we have heard the same defense for white men. The same self-defense argument that white people are more likely to be dealt a get-out-of-jail-free card by the legal system.

The outrage on these decisions are partially colored by racial dynamics. It’s also clear that when white men break laws and inflict harm on others, there are little to no repercussions.

Additionally, the structure of the laws in some states allows deadly force to be used if a person believes they will be in danger of being harmed. These a priori conditions support the use of self-defense.

The outrage is not enough to block them from state and federal law enforcement, the death of five people, was not enough to block them from state and federal law enforcement.

A little over a year after killing two people, Kyle Rittenhouse will return to his normal life. It is no surprise then, that there is a racial divide over trust in the criminal justice system. The same laws don’t apply to everyone. The same system that saw fit to acquit Kyle Rittenhouse.

Rittenhouse will survive this moment unscathed. We know how this story ends. Perhaps he will become a lawyer, a congressman, or a senator, empowered to protect the next generation of young white men that remain free to harm whenever they wish with absolutely no repercussions or legal formalities to account for standing in their way.

Twitter: @_navalgon

PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBERT WILLETT/THE NEWS & OBSERVER

The Kyle Rittenhouse court ruling shouldn’t surprise us
NO SPACE in your spring schedule for a class you want or need?

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Faculty of color feel undervalued at UNC

Nikole Hannah-Jones’ tenure case highlighted the differences in treatment and retention of these professors compared to their white counterparts.

By Jennifer Tran
Senior Writer
ellevate@dailytarheel.com

Last summer, the UNC Board of Trustees initially failed to grant tenure to Nikole Hannah-Jones, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and creator of the 1619 Project, which reframes U.S. history and examines the legacy of slavery in the U.S. Hannah-Jones’ tenure application was eventually approved by the BOT in a 9-4 decision in June — but she declined the offer, instead accepting a tenured position at Howard University.

This is not a situation unfamiliar for many UNC faculty of color. Since 2010, the number of faculty of color at the University has increased gradually. But the retention of talent is waning, as prominent faculty of color in leadership positions choose to leave the University.

Hannah-Jones’ tenure situation highlights the differences in treatment and retention of faculty of color compared to their white counterparts at UNC. And some in the University community are looking toward solutions to the longstanding problem.

Leah Cox, UNC’s vice provost for equity and inclusion and chief diversity officer, said it is important to hire a critical mass of faculty of color who are the only people of color in their department, or are the only tenured people of color in their departments, often feel as though they are not welcome or at home, she said.

Cox also said that it is important that the University not overcommit faculty of color to committees.

“Especially if you’re on a tenure track, you have to do all your research, all your scholarships, still teach your classes, apply for grants — if you’re sitting on 20 different committees, you don’t have time to do all that,” Cox said.

Dr. Keisha Gibson, an associate professor of medicine and public health and vice chairperson of diversity and inclusion for the department of medicine, said UNC needs to work on helping faculty of color feel valued. She said this is important to address the invisible labor done by faculty of color that is not necessarily compensated or rewarded.

“We often get tasked with helping to diversify committees, for being a support for others — students of color, trainees of color,” Gibson said. “And then, as a woman of color, you will get overlooked more often than most folks.”

Gibson said she is fortunate to be in a division and department that is supportive and allows her to advance in her career. But she knows this is not everyone’s story.

“We’re hemorrhaging faculty of color,” Gibson said. “This institution — we are absolutely hemorrhaging the talent.”

Deb Aikat, an associate professor at the Hussman School of Journalism and Media, said there is a sense among faculty of color that they do not move up to leadership positions. He said if one were to look at the deans and chairs across UNC, it is predominantly white men.

In addition, he said faculty of color often feel as though they are not being recognized by the University.

“Last year, we had several faculty who left and, truth be told, they have gotten better positions at other universities,” Aikat said.

Many faculty of color have families or are starting families, so sometimes they have to uproot their lives to relocate after serving at UNC, he said. There is also the issue of salary inequities, where faculty of color — especially women — receive less pay and feel the need to get a job elsewhere, he said.

“You are losing institutional memory,” he said. “You are losing an institutional richness.”

To approach this issue, Aikat said the process needs to be fair. When looking at hiring new faculty members, he said there is an implicit bias where people of color do not get what they deserve.

“For example, when Nikole Hannah-Jones was being hired, we could have done a lot more, but didn’t,” Aikat said. “Why are we in the national headlines for all the wrong reasons?”

The Daily Tar Heel