

A photograph of a man carrying a young child on his shoulders. They are both looking towards a wall of colorful, out-of-focus bokeh lights in shades of blue, green, red, and white. The child is wearing a striped beanie and a dark puffer jacket. The man is wearing a dark jacket and a baseball cap.

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NINERTIMES

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PHOTOS:

CHARLOTTE PREPARES FOR THE HOLIDAYS

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COVER

Child and their parent at the annual Tree Lighting Festival in Uptown Charlotte.

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Jazz Ensemble and Combo
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Thanksgiving Eve Parade
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2022 World Cup stadium in Qatar
Courtesy of Bloomberg



Charlotte's Jackson Threadgill (12)
Photo by Chris Crews

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Letter from the Editor: Editor-in-Chief reflects on the fall semester and shares upcoming plans for the publication

Hello readers,

When this semester started, we had no idea what was in store for us. Looking back now, if I were to describe this semester in one word, it would be “hectic.” With everything that has happened, things have surely been fast and energetic.

On campus alone, we have had the overbooking of on-campus housing, the detainment of a Sikh student, a new head football coach, demonstrations of all kinds on campus grounds and much more. On a national and global scale, we have had the death of the Queen of England, the FIFA World Cup and Taylor Swift’s new album, to name a few.

At the Niner Times, we have been hard at work to improve our publication, and we are proud of the work we have done this semester. One of the biggest changes was our social media strategy. We

have gained over 600 new followers on Instagram and have increased our reach by over 800%. Our staff has covered a lot of breaking news and featured a variety of student organizations.

This issue that you are currently reading (Dec. 6) is also our last in-print issue of the year. Stories will continue to be published on our website throughout the break and we will be returning to the stands on Jan. 10, 2023.

We have much more in the works for the spring semester that we would like to share as well.

In addition to our writers, photographers and videographers, we are beginning to hire illustrators, designers and social media managers. We will also be making changes to the design of our website in hopes that it will be easier to navigate.

However, the biggest change we will make applies to our printing schedule. Starting in the spring semester, we will be printing every other Tuesday instead of every week. There are many reasons why we made this decision, but the biggest reason is that we want to shift our focus toward digital media. With our increased following on Instagram and the recent drop in print pick-up rates, we feel that this is the best decision for our staff as a whole. Our print paper will also see improvements to its design and content with this change.

Despite the changes we are making, our primary goal at the Niner Times will always be to deliver important news and information to the UNC Charlotte community. We will keep covering important topics to the student body and will find more ways to increase our reach.

If you would like to join the Niner Times or have any topic you would like to have covered, you can reach out to us by emailing editor@ninertimes.com or directly message us on social media. All are welcome to submit a letter to the editor as well through our website that can be published.

We hope that you will continue to support the Niner Times as we make these changes. Our staff is looking forward to the spring semester and hope you all are as well.

Good luck on finals, and have a good winter break!

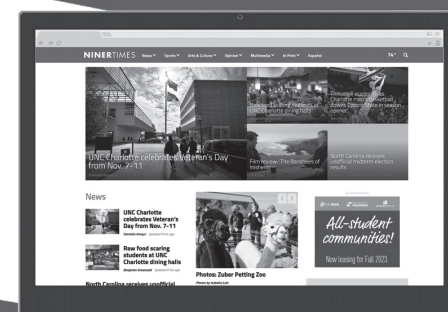
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Students form UNC Charlotte's Arab Student Organization

by Kathleen Cochrane
Asst. News Editor

UNC Charlotte Arab students created the Arab Student Organization in spring 2021 to create a space to explore and celebrate their culture.

Leanne Abdin, a third-year student and president, came up with the idea of creating the organization after she transferred to Charlotte in the spring of 2021.

Abdin transferred from a school that had an Arab Student Organization, so Abdin and her friends decided to start one here.

"We had to go through Niner Engage and fill out all the forms. We had to create a list of rules, which the board members

created, then we just had to get approved to have a couple of meetings with the Student Government. I went to a Student Government meeting and presented the club, talked about the values and then it got approved, and we started the club," said Abdin.

Anyone can join the club through Niner Engage, or students can attend any events the organization holds.

"Our first event was called Shei and Shenzu, which is an Arab term that means tea and cards. In Arab culture, it's a tradition to drink tea at night and then cards to play games. That was our first event that went well," said Abdin. "It was really fun. We usually play Arab

music, and then we do things regarding Arab culture. We did a Jeopardy night that talked about Arab history and entertainment. We did a karaoke night as well that was focused on Arabic music."

There are 50 official members of the organization, but popular events like the karaoke night usually have 80-100 people in attendance.

The board consists of a vice president, secretary, treasurer, education coordinator, communications coordinator and social media and event managers.

"Our main mission is to create a sense of culture for Arab students on campus, but it's also to spread the culture and

diversity to other students who are interested in learning about it or don't know what it is," said Abdin.

In spring 2023, the club is planning a Sahara night, which will be outside with food and music. It will also include a bonfire and then a repeat of their most popular events: karaoke night and a Shei and Shenzu night.

"Everybody is welcome to come to all the events. Even if they're not Arab, if they're from different cultures and backgrounds, we are a very welcoming club and organization," Abdin said.

Landscape meets art: The Colvard passageway mural construction

by Jessica Ceballos
News Editor

One of UNC Charlotte's art classes is transforming the Colvard passageway and plans to be completed it by spring 2023.

The transformation aims to transform the current static building with a lot of daily foot traffic to encourage conversation and interest from students and faculty.

"We want to utilize the space to think about how to connect to UNC Charlotte," said Erik Waterkotte, associate professor of print media and associate chair of the Department of Art & Art History.

The class, co-taught by Waterkotte and Maya Godlewski, painting professor and area coordinator, combines mixed media art, print and digital media for the mural projects. Throughout this semester, the class has developed art samples in various forms and shapes, from installation art to hanging different leveled banners.

The class had to agree on the choices made for the mural.

"It's a negotiation," said Godlewski. "There are some disagreements, but we are all trying to leave our egos behind

at the beginning of the semester for the project's goal. What we need to do sometimes is give up on certain preferences, and I think it's a process, and most students understand it, and you can see how they begin to look through a different lens."

The class and instructors considered hanging ropes at diagonal angles to hold banners on various passageway levels. The professors hope this particular construction will eliminate the vandalism of the banners.

The class will use several columns in the Colvard passageway to add various designs and colors to bring more light to the area.

On Oct. 4, 2022, the art students were outside in the Colvard passageway, testing their designs on the columns and walls. The students and instructors are working with a professional installation company to install the template art professionally, as the columns reach several feet high.

The class will also complete the traditional mural art on a flat surface

near the passageway entrances.

The instructors were also considering utilizing the space underneath the staircases. Currently, the staircase undercarriage is a dark green hue, and both Waterkotte and Godlewski said they should lighten up the space. Some ideas are using natural foliage in the area, rainbow colors or Charlotte colors.

The transformation of the space is also an environmental move. Waterkotte and Godlewski hope to help flying creatures, such as butterflies and birds, in the upper portion of Colvard. They also expect the colors will decrease dead bugs in the area.

There has been a conversation about color tinting the windows in upper Colvard to brighten the space up there. This transformation may help flying birds avoid crashing into the glass.

In addition to the physical artwork the professors and class are doing, the College of Arts + Architecture is debating the idea of adding collaborative furniture to the space to fully utilize the area and bring more students and faculty.

This art class has been co-taught for

the last several semesters. Every semester the class creates a mural.

Dean Brook Muller is part of the Steering team in the Campus Master Plan. Muller said adding the furniture would "open the space and be more inviting."

The color scheme has not been finalized, but the class is trying to decide what would work best for the space.

The fall 2022 class will not be the last to work on this mural and construction of the Colvard passageway. The spring 2023 class should ultimately complete the mural transformation.

"This class challenges teamwork and individuals rather than normal art classes," said Molly Glass, an art student.

The class has worked on the following steps: scanning the designs and enlarging them for installation on the surfaces.

This transformation of Colvard is the starting point for the Master Plan. The Niner Times will update with the rest of the Master Plan construction.

Event recap: UNC Charlotte's Department of Music concerts

by Cat Beck
Staff Writer

From Nov. 28-30, the Department of Music at UNC Charlotte held four days of concerts for its bands. The performing ensembles consisted of the Percussion Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble and Combo, Orchestra, Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble.

Percussion Ensemble

Concert week started with the Percussion Ensemble on Monday, Nov. 28. This concert was a delight; the music was excellent, and the overall attitude of the performers contributed to the experience. It was a small group, and the director spoke fondly of its members. There was good-natured laughter, like when one student struggled to plug in a microphone, and the performers appeared to enjoy themselves while they played.

Several pieces performed by the Percussion Ensemble stood out. The second piece, "Rancho Jubilee," was performed on three cajons. The cajon, an instrument originally from Peru, is essentially a wooden box the performer sits on that can produce various sounds depending on how it is struck. Watching the performers' carefully coordinated movements was almost as compelling as the piece itself, making it a visual experience as well as an auditory one. The prominent rhythms were passed from one performer to the next, and the result was captivating when the three converged into unison.

Another standout piece was "Minuano 6/8," originally by the jazz band Pat Metheny Group. Again, the vibraphone owned the spotlight in this one, while three marimbas and the rest of the accompaniment contributed a distinctly jazzy texture and harmony. "Minuano 6/8" was not originally written for a percussion ensemble, but this arrangement was a perfect fit. This piece was spellbinding from beginning to end.

One of the performers in the concert was John Pickett, a UNC Charlotte graduate

who now drums professionally. The final piece, "Suite for solo drum set and percussion ensemble," featured Pickett prominently. He was initially supposed to perform this piece while he was a student but was unable due to COVID-19. This year, Pickett returned and blew us away with a solo on the drum set.

Jazz Ensemble and Combo

The jazz concert opened with a combo featuring three saxophones and a trumpet backed up by piano, bass and drums. The small, woodwind-heavy group allowed the melodies to shine and gave ample opportunity for the soloists to flex their musical muscles. After three pieces by this group, the ensemble entered.

In stark contrast with what preceded it, the ensemble began by taking full advantage of its larger size in a "Recorda Me" arrangement by Joe Henderson. From then on, the full-bodied sound of the ensemble kept going strong, interspersed with solos. The rhythm section got its moment in "Baubles, Bangles and Beads," featuring delightful solos on the piano and drums. Vinny Vaccaro performed legendary jazz musician Miles Davis' famous solo in "If I Were a Bell." The Jazz Ensemble concert was a lovely homage to the legacy of jazz.

Orchestra

The Orchestra's first piece, Felix Mendelssohn's "String Symphony #10," opened the concert on a traditional note, but what followed was more contemporary. "The Love Adagio," by modern composer Daniel Mateos-Moreno, was not built around a melody. Instead, it was driven by "intensity, harmony, texture and sound quality," as the composer's note in the program says. This piece featured drawn-out, stirring chord movements demonstrating impressive unity among the performers. The overall subtlety of the

piece made the more conspicuous shifts in harmony more moving, and the cellos had particularly expressive moments.

Before the third and final piece, the director recognized Renzo Caceres, a student cellist who will soon graduate. Caceres expressed his gratitude for the time spent with his fellow musicians. The oboists and horn players joined the strings for the last piece, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's "Symphony #29." This piece allowed the musicians to display a wide range of expression due to its four contrasting movements and gave the violins and oboes a chance to shine.

Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble

The week's final concert featured two large bands. The Symphonic Band opened the concert with an Irish-influenced piece called "Kirkpatrick Fanfare." This set the

tone for the following diverse pieces. These consisted of a pair of Cajun folk songs to a suite by twentieth-century composer Gustav Holst. Between these two was "A Solemn Place," a contemporary piece performed beautifully by the band.

After a brief intermission, the Wind Ensemble began half of the concert with "Homage to Perotin," followed by a beautiful transcription of the solo organ piece "Adoration." A highlight of the Wind Ensemble's performance was Catherine Likhuta's "Home Away from Home," the title of which was the concert's theme. The piece was quirky and delightful, showcasing the performers' and conductor's expressive and coordinated talents. The final piece was "Children's March: Over the Hills and Far Away," an often-performed band piece with a lively melody.



UNC Charlotte Jazz Ensemble and Combo | Photo by Miguel Sanchez-Nuñez

TV review: ‘Wednesday’

by Bethany Ivan
Asst. Arts & Culture Editor



If you are not quite ready for Christmas, and are still reminiscing on Halloween, enjoy the “Addams Family” movies and are in the mood for a mystery, then the new Netflix series, “Wednesday,” is for you.

After finding out her brother Pugsley was bullied by a group of high school jocks, Wednesday Addams (Jenna Ortega) seeks revenge by attending their swim practice and releasing piranhas into the pool. This stunt results in her expulsion from the school. Her parents, Morticia (Catherine Zeta-Jones) and Gomez (Luis Guzmán), ship her off to a boarding school, Nevermore Academy, for supernatural beings and outcasts. Wednesday starts to have premonitions of multiple murders. She must find out who or what is behind them with the help of her new friends Enid, Xavier and Tyler.

As a fan of “The Addams Family” movies and the original 1964 TV show, I was excited yet a little skeptical that Netflix would be releasing a show based on the oldest and only daughter of the Addams Family. What got me more excited about the release was that Tim Burton, producer of “The Nightmare Before Christmas,” was producing and directing “Wednesday.” I figured I would not be disappointed since most of his films are creative and lightheartedly creepy. Still, I worried that Burton would succumb to the cheesiness of Netflix. However, after finishing the series, I was amazed.

Wednesday, in the Netflix series, is a young woman of many talents: she plays the cello, speaks many languages and is a writer. My only issue about this show is that it follows the typical murder mystery trope: a main character narrates the story, writing about the murders and tragedies of a small town. It resembles the CW’s “Riverdale,” where Jughead Jones, the show’s mysterious narrator, writes a story about what happens in their town.

It makes sense for Wednesday Addams to narrate since she is mysterious and the show’s namesake, but I hope it does not take the direction “Riverdale” did.

Ortega did a fantastic job portraying the solemn main character, and she continues to shed more of her Disney image. While staying true to the original outspoken and sullen Wednesday that we all know and love, she made the character into her own. For instance, she references the original “Addams Family” movies and TV shows with the double snap for the “Addams Family” theme song. Ortega choreographed a dance for one episode, which resembles the way Wednesday dances in the show.

The show also does a fantastic job showing Wednesday’s development as she allows herself to explore her vulnerability, which is rare for her character.

At first, she is a young woman who intends to escape Nevermore and disconnect from her mother by any

means possible. But then, she becomes very protective of those she is loyal to and eventually realizes that both she and Morticia are not so different after all.

The series also shows Wednesday’s interactions with other people besides her family. With the Addams family’s legacy at Nevermore, Enid’s constant confiding in Wednesday and Wednesday’s two cliché double potential love interests, it is refreshing to see that Wednesday is not the sadistic and selfish young woman she presents herself as.

“Wednesday” has the audience form theories about the characters and their backstories; at some point, you either quickly figure out who or what the murderer could be or end up second-guessing yourself only to discover if you were wrong or right about your suspicions.

The series is a refreshing, nostalgic take on a supernatural murder mystery. It kept me on the edge of my seat, as all good murder mysteries should.

Rating: 9/10

DEAR NINER TIMES,

How do I make the most of my winter break?

by Emily Kottak
Arts & Culture Editor

We have all heard that time flies, but somehow that never seems more accurate than at the end of the semester. Before we know it, exams are upon us, and the semester ends. And here we are; exams will have come and gone soon, and we will all have a nice, long break. For many of us, winter break sounds terrific, but it often goes by way too fast, and we feel like we have not done much by the time we are back in class. Try to change that up this year. Here is how you can make the most of your winter break.

Get organized

Winter break is a great time to organize your life (mentally and physically). So go through all of your notes and files from this past semester. Discard notes that are not needed, put the files on your computer into folders and put away notes that you want to keep for later. Another idea is to have a closet cleanout. First, take every single item out of your closet so you can see it. Then, decide what you want to keep, give away or sell. Not only is it the season for giving, but you will feel much better with a more manageable space.

Remember your hobbies

Love to paint, read, bake, craft or hike, but you have not had time for it all semester? Well, now is your chance to get back into those hobbies. Make sure to take time to do the things you enjoy intentionally. Yes, you can still watch Netflix if you want, but try to be creative and use your brain in a non-studious way through your hobbies.

Do something for someone else

Again, it is the season for giving. This holiday season is a great time to help and do something kind for someone else. This could be as simple as donating clothes and toys, volunteering at the local food pantry, baking something for your neighbors or writing letters to friends or relatives. Regardless, doing something kind and unique for someone else over break can be very rewarding.

Prepare

While you are getting organized, having fun and helping others, do not forget to stay on top of things and stay prepared. Check out the Canvas pages for your classes next semester. Print out syllabi, purchase your notebooks and supplies and complete any other necessary steps to prepare for the coming semester.

Make sure you are taking care of yourself over break. Your health and well-being are the ultimate priority. Rest up, have fun and get ready for 2023.

Charlotte prepares for the holidays

Photos by Miguel Sanchez-Nuñez

As the holidays approach, the city of Charlotte prepares through a variety of events in Uptown Charlotte.

The Carolina Panthers and Charlotte FC hosted this year's annual Tree Lighting Festival. The event was sponsored by Atrium Health and was held on Tuesday, Nov. 22.

The 76th annual Novant Health Thanksgiving Eve Parade took place on Wednesday, Nov. 23, on Tryon St. in Uptown Charlotte. The parade featured a variety of groups and performers.



RateMyProfessor should be used with other sources to be most effective

by Jesse Morris
Staff Writer

Since its founding in May 1999, RateMyProfessor.com (RateMyProfessor) has become a memorable part of the college experience. Students across the country rely on it every semester to find the right professors.

However, RateMyProfessor can often be just as flawed as the professors reviewed. From biased ratings to disgruntled students, one can find more reliable sources and valuable metrics to find success in the search for classes.

Rating the ratings

RateMyProfessor is only as good as the ratings it uses. Unfortunately, when it comes to academics, this can amplify the disgruntled voices of those most motivated to leave their opinion.

In statistics, such a phenomenon is endemic with voluntary responses. If participation is optional, the people with the most significant interest in critiquing are most likely to do so. If a student feels maligned or the class is too hard for them, they may be more inclined to leave a bad review than the average student providing a good one.

A professor might be poorly reviewed due to a strict workload, even when offering help. Conversely, a highly-rated professor may be a better grader and a worse teacher. However, the ratings can be valuable. If specific sentiments are common among most reviews, they may be true. That said, one should not take them at face value.

Clashing classes

Using RateMyProfessor to select between different courses assumes that the professor is the sole important distinction. In many cases, time and distance are more critical factors.

Time is just as important when

creating a schedule as professor quality. Getting up at 6 a.m. to go to a 8 a.m. class could be problematic for one student and easy for another. For example, one might want time in their afternoons to relax, which can go a long way to improving performance.

The distance between classes is a hidden trouble that one should always consider. Running across campus in 15 minutes is unenjoyable for most. Relying on the punctuality of bus service works only some of the time. More likely, one will run late or rush to class.

When selecting classes, if a student has a choice due to scheduling conflicts, the supposed quality of a professor can often be the least valuable metric to examine.

Other options

When looking for ways to gauge professors, plenty of other options exist. The easiest

method is to ask upperclassmen about their experiences with certain professors. Random online responses may be biased, but students can counteract that by asking the right people who value professors similarly to themselves. As a result, the advice will be more reliable.

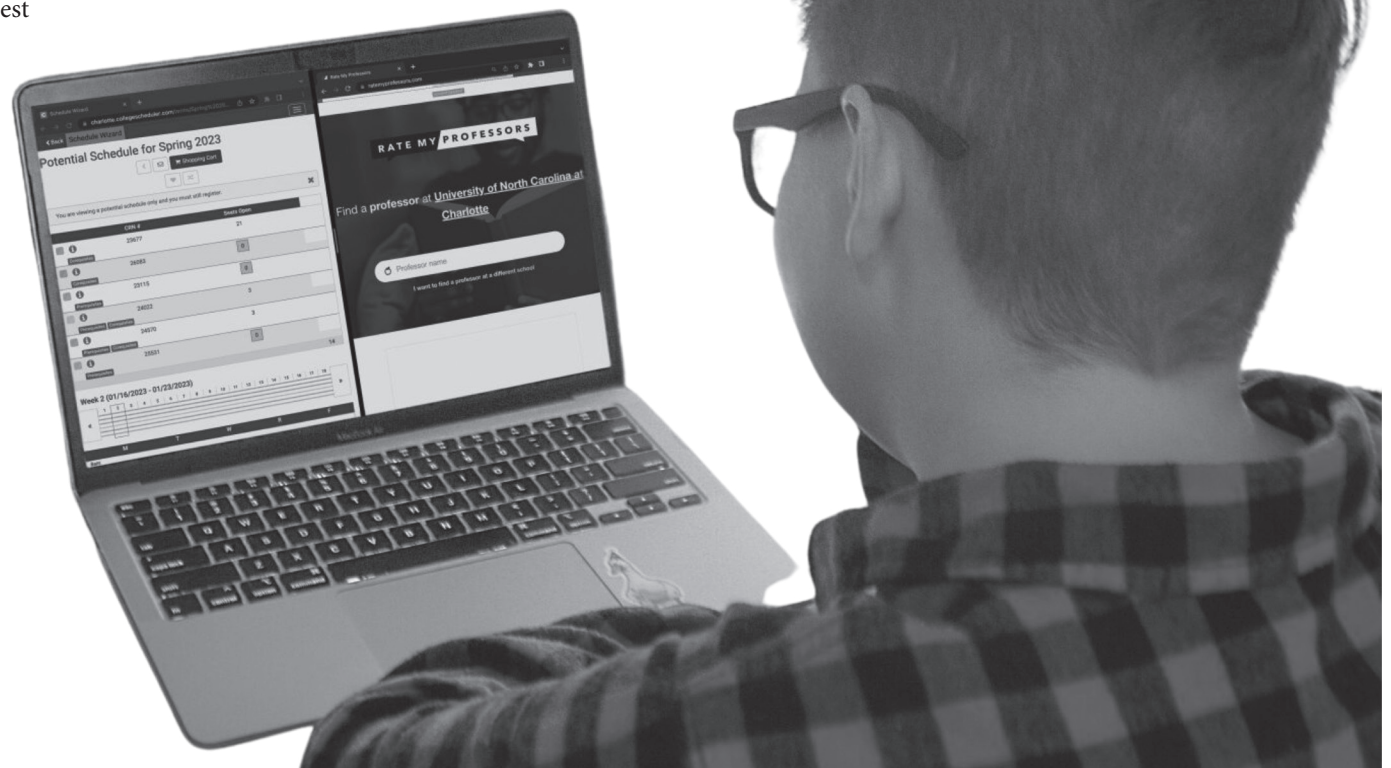
Social media offers a powerful means to connect with peers for students in any major. Though not as reliable as with known peers, speaking to others with first-hand experience on Charlotte's Reddit forum or through other media can provide an intermediate point between familiarity and total randomness offered by RateMyProfessor.

A flawed tool

RateMyProfessor has its uses and its flaws like any other tool.

However, when used in conjunction with others, it can provide an easy and efficient way to compare possible professors with available classes.

Even still, to use it alone is as much folly as not using it at all. To get the most out of one's money, finding the right professors and classes — even if it takes more time — can pay dividends far more than valuing one's education only, as the random reviews on RateMyProfessor decide.



Student views RateMyProfessor.com and a projected schedule | Photo by Emma Toney

Qatar should be held accountable for human rights violations

by Amna Noyal
Staff Writer

This year's World Cup's quadrennial game is hosted in Qatar, the first Middle Eastern country to hold the event. Many complained about the location due to controversies, which has driven many viewers away from the games.

The FIFA World Cup is an international competition between the senior men's national teams of the International Federation of Association Football. The event being held in Qatar is a big step for Middle Eastern countries, but the controversies should not be excused.

One of Qatar's controversies is the treatment of migrant workers who built the event's stadium. According to Amnesty International, there were several unreported work-related fatalities during and 37 off-site fatalities directly tied to the stadium construction. Additionally, there is evidence of the misuse of the Kafala system and contemporary slavery by South Asian migrants.

Moreover, there is misinformation regarding this matter. Qatar denies allegations of human rights violations and claims that its Kafala system has been unfairly attacked. More than 6,000 workers have perished in Qatar since it was awarded the right to host the World Cup 12 years ago, according to The Guardian. However, the Qatari government said only three of the 37 worker fatalities at World Cup stadium construction sites were "work-related."

Additionally, the social climate in Qatar has been another subject of debate. In the nation, women's rights are severely limited, and it is also a crime to be in a homosexual relationship. LGBTQ+ individuals risk fines, jail time or even the death penalty. The World Cup's organizers said that no one will be treated unfairly.

Chief Executive Nasser al Khater urged guests to "respect our culture." According

to him, kissing between couples, gay or straight, is socially unacceptable in Qatar. In support of the LGBTQ+ community, some captains of World Cup teams, including England's Harry Kane and Wales' Gareth Bale, wore a rainbow "OneLove" armband throughout the competition but withdrew once threatened by FIFA to refrain from doing so.

Additionally, due to stadiums, hotels, and air travel, World Cup events cause substantial pollution. Critics believe FIFA's claim that this year will be the first-ever carbon-neutral World Cup is misleading. When something is carbon-neutral, the amount of carbon dioxide added to the atmosphere equals the

amount removed. Carbon offsets and credits are meant to balance out the carbon created, making it appear that the World Cup had not produced any emissions. According to FIFA, 3.6 million tonnes of carbon will be produced during the World Cup in Qatar. More than half will be from travel-related emissions, which the group has committed to offsetting.

However, there is hypocrisy in the criticism of Qatar. Although we should condemn Qatar for its human rights violations, it is unsettling to see fingers being aggressively pointed by other nations, many of which are experiencing significant human rights crises themselves.

Demeaning Qatar has appeared to be somewhat of an Islamophobic issue. Other nations have hosted international sporting events during controversies. For instance, the 1936 Olympics were held in Nazi Germany despite serious human rights concerns. Additionally, the Winter Olympics went on as planned in Sochi, Russia, despite a string of political crises and the fallout from the country's illegitimate annexation of Crimea in 2014.

It seems a little unjust to blame Qatar for all of these wrongdoings. Qatar should be held accountable for all human rights violations, but politics should be kept out of sports.



The stadium of the 2022 World Cup in Qatar | Photo courtesy of Bloomberg

Charlotte men’s basketball overcomes 23 point deficit to down in-state rival Appalachian State

by Bradley Tepper
Staff Writer

The Charlotte men’s basketball defeated the Appalachian State (App State) Mountaineers 71-62 on Friday, Dec. 2, inside Halton Arena. With the win, the 49ers move to 7-2 on the year.

The game wrapped up rivalry week for Charlotte as they beat both in-state rivals Davidson and App State. This is the first time since the 2007-08 season that Charlotte has beaten both teams in the same season.

At one point in the first half, Charlotte was down by 23 as App State held a 30-7 lead.

The Mountaineers were killer from three in the first half knocking down nine behind the arc. Timely three-pointers near the end of the half allowed Charlotte to cut the deficit to 11 going into the break.

Head Coach Ron Sanchez said he was proud of the team for rallying during the comeback win.

“We asked them at halftime to give us 20 more and to lay it on the line, and to their credit, I think they played really hard in the second half to give themselves a chance to enjoy the victory,” said Sanchez.

First half

The game was evenly matched in the first two minutes as a layup by Aly Khalifa and a three by Igor Milicic Jr. gave Charlotte a three-point lead.

After that, App State scored 25

unanswered points, mainly from six threes giving the Mountaineers a 23-point lead.

Josh Aldrich regained momentum for Charlotte, nailing two back-to-back threes.

Charlotte hit three more behind the arc to close the half, trailing 42-31.

Second half

The game was a tail of two halves as Charlotte took complete control of the game out of the break.

Charlotte went on an 18-4 run that started with buckets from Khalifa and Jackson Threadgill. Montre’ Gipson’s three-pointer gave the 49ers a 47-46 lead with 13:14 remaining.

The Mountaineers regained the lead later in the contest, but a three-point shot by Isaiah Folkes gave Charlotte the advantage the rest of the way.

Charlotte closed out the game with free throws taking the win 71-62.

Top performers

Charlotte had three players break double digits in scoring: Gipson, Threadgill and Milicic.

Gipson did a little bit of everything for the team, recording 14 points, eight rebounds and seven assists. He made critical baskets in the second-half run, including two three-pointers and multiple layups.

Threadgill, who has been the leader on the team so far, had 10 points on the

evening, also bringing in two rebounds and two steals.

Milicic was a crucial player for the 49ers, recording 11 points on 4-of-6 field goal shots and seven boards. He continued to be deadly from three posting a 60% shooting percentage.

Another player to mention is Folkes, who was crucial off the bench. He had nine points on 4-of-5 shooting while helping Charlotte regain momentum in the 23-point comeback.

Defend Halton

After starting the game down 30-7, Charlotte outscored App State the rest of the way 64-32 due in part to Charlotte’s excellent scoring and defense.

After shooting 38% from the field and 47% from three in the first half, Charlotte improved to 64% from the field and 56%

from three after the half.

App State could not be stopped in the first half as they drained nine three-pointers, shooting 64%.

Charlotte adjusted at halftime, and their defense held App State to only one three-pointer in the second half. The Mountaineers shot only 24% from the field in the second.

Next up

The 49ers will be back in action on Saturday, Dec. 10, when they take on the Detroit Mercy Titans. This is the second matchup between the two squads this season. The Titans won the first game on Nov. 23, 70-49.

Tipoff is set for 2 p.m. inside Halton Arena, and the contest will be available to stream on ESPN+.



Igor Milicic Jr. (24) dribbles past a defender | Photo by Chris Crews

SCOREBOARD

MEN’S BASKETBALL

- Nov. 23: Detroit Mercy 80, Charlotte 49
- Nov. 26: Charlotte 69, Presbyterian 42
- Nov. 29: Charlotte 68, Davidson 66
- Dec. 2: Charlotte 71, Appalachian State 62

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

- Nov. 25: Illinois 70, Charlotte 43
- Nov. 26: Charlotte 59, Cincinnati 58

Charlotte athletics semester in review

by Joey Ellsworth
Asst. Sports Editor

As the 2022 fall semester comes to a close, here are some key moments and what to expect for the future of Charlotte Athletics.

Nick Scudder and Charlotte cross country's historic season

The 2022 season was one for the history books for Charlotte's cross-country (XC) teams. The most notable achievement for the 49ers is claiming the title of Conference Champions as they swept the XC titles.

The men's and women's teams celebrated their second C-USA Championship in the last five seasons, the men's coming in 2020 and the women's in 2017. In addition, they had the opportunity to participate in the NCAA Southeast Regional, where the men's team finished at No. 7 while the women's finished at No. 13.

Charlotte's achievements did not end with their team effort, marking several individual achievements. The most notable was the 49ers' Head Coach Joseph Lynn being recognized as the Coach of the Year for both the men and women, C-USA awarding Gavin Prior the Men's Outstanding Senior Award and Nick Scudder who was crowned the C-USA Individual Champion with a time of 23:58.5 and winning the NCAA southeast regional individual title.

The 49ers had 17 all-conference honorees in the 2022 season. The men's team had nine, with Scudder, Hunter White and Prior being selected to the first team. The women's team had eight selected, just one short of the men but had more first-team honorees with Sophia Ritter, Lauren Johnston, Alina Rovnak and Jenna Newman.

Emani' Foster's dominant season start

In the first half of the 2022 season, Foster put up some of the highest stats in the NCAA. Foster spent time at No. 1 in points and kills among all NCAA players and earned multiple C-USA Offensive

Player of the Week awards.

With the 2022 season in the books, Foster finished at No. 7 nationally in both points per set (5.49) and kills per set (4.92). She was also No. 17 in total points (560) and No. 15 in kills (502).

Among all C-USA players, Foster finished at No. 1 in all four aforementioned stats. These stats earned her All-Conference USA First Team and C-USA All-Academic Team.

As a junior, Foster will be able to return for the 2023 season and attempt to repeat the success she saw early in the season.

Men's soccer's flawless first seven games

Charlotte's men's team opened up the first four weeks of the season on a tear, winning all seven of their matches with a score differential of 31-2.

The 7-0 start for Charlotte was the best in program history. Thomas Wallis and the 49ers put up five clean sheets in those seven games.

Charlotte struggled come conference matches as they played their first season in the American Athletic Conference (AAC). The 49ers stumbled in adapting to the new conference, going 3-4-2 in AAC games.

Now that Charlotte has their first ACC season under their belt and has experience playing their new rivals, they may be able to formulate a strategy to repeat their early 2022 success throughout the 2023 season.

Football prepares for a fresh start

The 49ers did not have the season they hoped for in 2022, finishing 3-9. After a 1-7 start, Head Coach Will Healy was fired, and on Nov. 15, Michigan Associate Head Coach Francis "Biff" Poggi was hired as Healy's replacement.

With the new season comes another significant change for the 49ers as they move to the ACC for the 2023 season.

With the graduation of Chris Reynolds, Markees Watts, Victor Tucker, Grant

DuBose and Elijah Spencer entering the transfer portal, the 49ers will be losing several key players heading into the 2023 season.

With a new look team, new head coach and new conference, there are many question marks for what the football team will look like next season.

Basketball's strong start

Both men's and women's basketball are off to a strong start, combining for a record of 11-4.

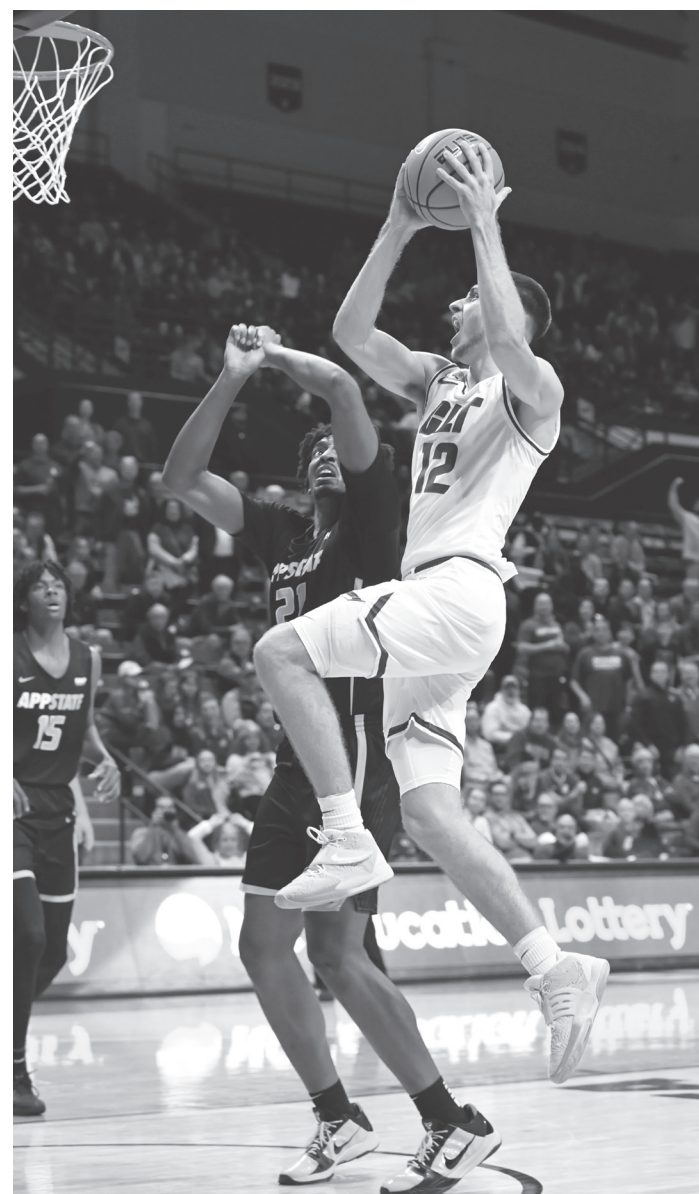
The women's squad is No. 6 in the conference at 6-2 but is last in scoring. They have allowed the fifth least amount of points from their opponent.

On Dec. 1, Mikayla Boykin announced the end of her college career following her fifth torn ACL injury, leaving a hole in the starting lineup. Boykin was No. 5 in the conference in scoring. She was also No. 5 in the conference for free throw percentage (.826) and No. 9 for field goal percentage (.333).

After a comeback victory over Appalachian State on Dec. 2, the men's team finds themselves on a three-game win streak. The team now sits 7-2, No. 4 in C-USA for the overall record. The 7-2 start for the men's team is their best start since the 2013-14 season, where they started 7-2 and reached round two of the C-USA championships.

The men's team's success this season can be seen in their defensive effort. While their offense is No. 10 in points per game (66.1) among C-USA teams, they have allowed the second least in the conference (57.0).

At the end of the men's overtime victory over Davidson on Nov. 29, Jackson Threadgill drained a game-winning three. The highlight was shared by ESPN and Sportscenter, providing national attention to Threadgill and the 49ers.



Charlotte's Jackson Threadgill (12) | Photo by Chris Crews

Five takeaways from Charlotte's comeback victory over Appalachian State

by Viktor Cunningham
Staff Writer

The Charlotte men's basketball team moved to 7-2 two on Friday, Dec. 2, when they defeated Appalachian State (App State) inside Halton Arena. The 49ers trailed by 23 in the first half before securing the comeback win.

Here are five takeaways from Charlotte's victory.

Double-digit scorers

Multiple players scored double-digits in the Battle of the Beards. Montre' Gipson, Jackson Threadgill and Igor Milicic Jr. led the 49ers.

Gipson recorded 14 points on 5-of-8 shooting. He had eight rebounds and a season-high seven assists with no turnovers.

Milicic followed behind Gipson with 11 points for the Niners, shooting 4-of-6 and sinking a trio of three-pointers. He secured seven rebounds and one assist in the contest.

Threadgill recorded 10 points with a pair of assists and steals to round up the game.

That's all Folkes

Sophomore Isaiah Folkes was a key offensive player with nine points in the game. Shooting 4-of-5 for the 49ers, Folkes also saw multiple season highs with 21 minutes and a high four field goals.

Folkes has continued to take strides this season for the 49ers and was crucial in swinging the momentum throughout the game. He hit a three and a floater in the second half, which was vital in Charlotte's victory over the Mountaineers.

Expect Folkes to continue to be an asset for the team down the season's stretch.

Outstanding offense and deferring defense

Charlotte trailed heading into the halftime break 42-31, with Charlotte struggling to defend the three.

Breaking into the second half of the game and down by 11, a more passionate Charlotte team emerged onto the court, sinking 12 three-point shots, marking their shooting average at 50% from three and 48% from the field.

Gipson nailed a three at the 8:28 minute mark, giving Charlotte its first lead since the

opening two minutes. The battle was on after this point, with the lead changing ten times.

Sophomore Lu'Cye Patterson concluded the scoring for the Niners as he made both of his free throw shots with less than a minute in the game, ultimately clenching a triumph for Charlotte and a win of the Battle of the Beards.

Perimeter defense must improve

The 49ers got behind early because the Mountaineers hit nine-three in the first half. App State guard Christopher Mantis couldn't miss recording three shots from distance in the game's first seven minutes.

The Mountaineers shot 64% from three in the first half, and the 49ers had to make an adjustment heading into the break. Charlotte played stellar in the second half, holding App State to one three and ultimately winning the game.

The 49ers must improve their perimeter defense, or it could be a long season ahead. The team showed flashes in the contest and will look to carry their performance into the rest of the season.

How far can this team go?

The 49ers are off to their best start since the 2013-14 season. The team is 7-2 and knocked off both in-state rival Davidson and App State in the same season since 2007-08.

Charlotte has six players averaging more than seven points per game. The team has a wealth of depth which has helped down the stretch.

The team made the Myrtle Beach Classic championship game while boasting wins against Boise State and Tulsa.

The 49ers overcame a 23-point deficit against the Mountaineers on Friday in front of a packed Halton Arena. The squad is firing on all cylinders and will be interesting to watch.

Next up

Charlotte will take an eight-day break between games before hosting Detroit Mercy Saturday, Dec. 17. Tipoff is set for 2 p.m. inside Halton Arena. It will be available to stream on ESPN+.

PLAYLIST OF THE WEEK

SONGS
THAT
MAKE
ME FEEL
LIKE A
PLANT



AJ SIEGEL
COPY EDITOR

