

The logo consists of the letters 'NT' in a bold, black, sans-serif font, enclosed within a black rectangular border.

**NINERTIMES**

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A large, solid black silhouette of a man and a woman in profile, facing each other. The man is on the left, and the woman is on the right. They are positioned in the foreground, with their heads and shoulders visible. The background is a collage of news articles and images related to Kanye West's antisemitism controversy.

# OPINION: KANYE WEST'S ANTISEMITISM

## SHOWS THE DANGERS OF HATE SPEECH

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David Ravin at the campus ceremony  
Photo by Jacob Scannell



Andrew Bowman with his banjo  
Courtesy of Andrew Bowman



Photo by Emma Toney



Charlotte's Ashton Gist (57)  
Courtesy of Charlotte Athletics

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# PaTS offers new shuttle for fall 2022 holiday breaks

by Jackson Martin  
Asst. Copy Editor

**P**arking and Transportation Services (PaTS) is launching a new shuttle for students to reach the Charlotte Amtrak station and the Charlotte Douglas International Airport this holiday season. The shuttle is free for all UNC Charlotte students.

Sasha Sembur, secretary of business affairs for the Student Government Association (SGA), collaborated with PaTS to ensure students have access to return home safely for holiday breaks.

Students can ride the shuttle for Thanksgiving break from Nov. 21-23 and return from Nov. 27-28.

The shuttle will also run for winter break, where students can leave from Dec. 12-15 and return to campus Jan. 4-8, 2023.

The shuttle loop will stop at Levine

Hall, Hunt Hall, Light Rail East, Martin Hall, Charlotte Douglas International Airport and Amtrak's Charlotte station. Students can access the shuttle from any of these locations.

The shuttle will leave campus at 8 a.m., 11 a.m., 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. Shuttle tracking is available on the Passio GO! app.

SGA intends to expand the shuttle's use past the pilot program for future semesters.

"I'm happy we were able to create this service for students," said Sembur. "We're definitely going to expand this program after we see how successful it was after Thanksgiving and winter break."

Students must reserve seats 24 hours in advance while the shuttle is in its pilot program. Seats can be reserved on

SignUp Genius. There are only 15 slots available per trip.

All riders should have their Student IDs present when boarding the shuttle.



Sasha Sembur announces PaTS holiday transit plan at SGA general meeting | Photo by Jackson Martin

# UNC Charlotte updates weapons on campus policy following the September kirpan incident

by AJ Siegel  
Copy Editor

**U**NC Charlotte has updated their weapons on campus policies to allow the possession of a kirpan on campus. This change is in response to the Sept. 22 incident, in which a student was put in handcuffs after a kirpan was mistaken for a weapon.

According to the University's updated Weapons on Campus policy, "Edged instruments that are articles of faith (e.g., kirpans) and that might otherwise be considered Weapons under this Policy are permitted on campus provided that the blade length of the article is less than three inches and the blade is worn close to the body in a sheath at all times."

Additional religious accommodations can be made to the Office of Civil Rights and Title XI. These requests will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Chancellor Sharon L. Gaber and Chief Diversity Officer Brandon Wolfe released

a statement on Nov. 17 announcing the policy shift through the Niner Insider digital newsletter.

Gaber and Wolfe said that UNC Charlotte's revised the policy to be more inclusive of Sikhism. The changes come after several weeks of the University working with local and global Sikh communities, such as the Sikh Coalition and the Global Sikh Council, according to the statement.

Fourth-year student Amaan Warraich, the student from the Sept. 22 incident, said he was involved in early policy discussions but did not have an active role in crafting the updated policy.

"I'm more worried about my classes and catching up with school," Warraich said. "A couple of Sikh organizations have been working with the University so that I can focus on school."

In the weeks since the incident, Gaber

and Wolfe said that the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, along with Institutional Integrity, conducted awareness training with the campus police department following the policy change. They will also offer additional cultural education and training opportunities for the rest of campus.

"It's too little too late for me. But for other people coming in, it's good that there's a policy," said Warraich.

The updated policy and diversity training are in response to the September incident in the Popp Martin Student Union. A 911 call reported a student with a knife. In response to the report, Warraich was approached by a police officer who attempted to remove Warraich's kirpan from his body. The officer then asked Warraich to stand, put Warraich in handcuffs and explained that he was being detained. Warraich was detained in handcuffs for a few minutes

until other officers arrived and helped clarify that the kirpan is a religious article.

"They did this to my brother three years ago. And this happened again, and now it's like they're trying to clean up their mess," said Warraich. "You're doing the right thing, but you should have done this three years ago."

A video of Warraich's detainment went viral, amassing over 1.7 million views on Twitter in two days. Several Sikh organizations and Charlotte students expressed disappointment and outrage towards the University.

Gaber and Wolfe said they "will continue to use this incident as an opportunity for learning and growth for our community."



# UNC Charlotte School of Architecture renamed after a donation from alumnus David Ravin

by Sunnya Hadavi  
Editor-in-Chief

UNC Charlotte's School of Architecture has been renamed the David R. Ravin School of Architecture following a large donation from Charlotte alumnus David Ravin. A sign with the new name has been placed outside Storrs, the building housing the architecture school.

Ravin's naming donation will be used to support students, pay for their study abroad and boost university campaigns and initiatives. The amount of the donation has not been disclosed.

"We are very grateful to David Ravin for his generosity in supporting architecture students now and for generations to come," Chancellor Sharon Gaber said. "His gift will strengthen and expand the quality and significance of design education at UNC Charlotte. [It] will help us not only support students but also increase the visibility of our architecture program's work, which will only increase the value of the UNC Charlotte degree."

Ravin graduated from Charlotte in 1994 with a bachelor's of art degree in architecture and later attended the University of Michigan and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is the president and CEO of Northwood Ravin, his Charlotte-based full-service development, construction



(Left to right) Blaine Brownell, David Ravin, Brook Muller, & Chancellor Sharon Gaber | Photo by Jacob Scannell

and property management firm.

A campus ceremony announcing the naming and thanking Ravin took place at Storrs on Nov. 18. At the ceremony, Ravin reflected on his time at Charlotte and the skills he learned.

"There is no right answer in architecture. Every time we would come on a project and present, you were basically trying to convince that group that what you came up with

was the right answer. And so over many, many years of doing that, you got a thick skin because sometimes they would disagree with you. It started to teach you a really good skill set that I think the students here probably don't even recognize they all end up with," Ravin said.

Members of Ravin's family, students and members of the UNC Charlotte Board of Trustees were some of those in attendance at the ceremony.

Blaine Brownell, director of the Ravin School of Architecture, presented Ravin with a head of a pickaxe, a commemorative gift created with the help of the fabrication lab staff at the architecture school.

"We share a commitment to the types of design and construction that David has pursued in his successful career, namely innovations in housing, real

estate and urban design that enhance the human experience and community well-being as we continue to build productive partnerships in Charlotte and beyond. These are fundamental aspects of city shaping that we hope to influence positively," Brownell said.

The David R. Ravin School of Architecture joins a short list of locations at UNC Charlotte named after alumni. The school is also a part of the larger College of Arts + Architecture.

"Thank you to David from all of us in the School of Architecture and the College of Arts + Architecture for supporting this enterprise so generously and helping the next generation of students learn how to think and thrive in the exciting world that is design," said Brook Muller, dean of the College of Arts + Architecture.



Ceremony for the new name of the Charlotte architecture school | Photo by Jacob Scannell



# Andrew Bowman brings bluegrass to South Village

by Cat Beck  
Staff Writer

Walking through South Village on a nice day, there may be bluegrass music played by a man with his banjo. Walk toward Holshouser, and a student will be playing the banjo and singing. That is Andrew Bowman, a fairly common sight on campus.

Bowman is a second-year student at UNC Charlotte from Winston-Salem. He is majoring in computer engineering but has played music since childhood, starting with the guitar.

"I was learning a more classical style from the time I was in kindergarten until seventh or eighth grade. With banjo, I am fully self-taught," said Bowman.

Bowman also plays the mandolin and is learning the fiddle. His background may be in classical guitar, but his passion lies elsewhere.

"I play a lot of bluegrass – a lot of older stuff," said Bowman. "Currently, my favorite song is 'Train That Carried My Girl From Town.'"

The song is a classic heartbreak ballad, attributed initially to folk musician Doc Watson, but numerous artists have since covered it. Bluegrass originated in the Appalachian region and was influenced by other traditional "mountain music." However, it reached a broader audience in the 1940s.

It is refreshing to see someone express genuine love for a musical tradition that is relatively uncommon today. It seems fitting that this kind of music would be played outside by a solo musician who plays it simply out of personal fondness.

Bowman has not always enjoyed playing in front of people, but he warmed up to it over time. This was partially out of necessity – the banjo is not a quiet instrument.

"I knew the banjo was loud. So when I wanted to play it loud, I would just come outside, and it just evolved from that," said Bowman.

When he first came to Charlotte,

Bowman left his banjo at home at his parent's insistence. When they relented and brought him the instrument, he started playing outside. Thus, the "banjo guy" was born.

Bowman is, of course, more than just "banjo guy." In addition to being a student, he works in IT part-time. He is a student ambassador, where he helps with the chancellor's events, and is the vice president of marketing for the Student Alumni Association. However, he still finds the time to sit outside and enjoy making music.

Bowman said that he sometimes gets

comments from passersby.

"People wave or come talk to me. I know of one or two others that say they have a banjo, but I've never heard them play it out, so I'm the only one who actually plays it out on campus."

Bowman's willingness to share his art is not something everyone is comfortable doing, but it can be worth it. Bowman, the "banjo guy," is a great example of art being celebrated on campus.



Andrew Bowman with his banjo | Courtesy of Andrew Bowman

## DEAR NINER TIMES, How do I pass finals?

by Annie Turk  
Staff Writer

Finals are right around the corner, and we must prepare to succeed. Here are a few things you can do to ensure you pass your finals and end the semester strong.

### 1. Start early

Starting early can give you enough time to figure out what you do and do not know. This allows you to study the materials you need to work on. Make sure to go back and check the syllabi for your classes. There is often helpful information like study guides and content that could be on the exam. Do not wait until the last minute to realize that you have a time conflict or a big project due the same day as your exam.

### 2. Use your resources

Utilizing the many resources UNC Charlotte offers is a great way to help you pass final exams. You can find study groups, attend review sessions and even get one-on-one peer tutoring at the University Center for Academic Excellence (UCAE). In addition, the J. Murrey Atkins Library is a great place to study as they offer study rooms, technology rentals and books.

### 3. Find a study method that works for you

While I do not recommend scrolling through TikTok while trying to study, some creators manage to share some helpful study tips. Some study methods include color-coding your notes, creating concept maps and self-quizzing.

### 4. Reach out to your professors and classmates

After you have done everything in your power to prepare and still need to be more confident in your knowledge abilities, try reaching out to those around you. Lots of times, we learn best from our fellow students around us. Of course, be respectful of their time but using your classmates to form study groups or share resources can be extremely helpful. Also, you can always reach out to your professor, who is there to help you do your best. If they cannot help you, they can put you in contact with someone who can.



# Game review: ‘God of War Ragnarök’



by Jack Hale  
Staff Writer

*Note: This is a spoiler-free review, but it includes spoilers for 2018's "God of War."*

Kratos, the former Greek god of war, and his son Atreus prepare themselves for Ragnarök, the ending of the Norse world. While I have not played all of the “God of War” games, 2018’s “God of War” is my favorite video game. The story and characters are vibrant with fascinating lore. So, I was thrilled about the sequel and am relieved that the game was everything I wanted it to be.

While this might seem obvious, the game feels like a sequel, as the story progresses very naturally from the previous installment.

Like in 2018’s “God of War,” the relationship between Kratos and Atreus is my favorite part of “Ragnarök.” It was incredible to see Kratos progress from a cold and distant father to a much more caring one. Their relationship carries a lot of emotional weight, and the game capitalizes on that every moment, leading to quite a few tear-jerking scenes. This is

largely due to Christopher Judge’s (Kratos) and Sunny Suljic’s (Atreus) performances. They completely embody the characters, and even their slightest movements are impactful.

I also cannot give enough credit to the writers at Santa Monica Studios. The game creators have made an unbelievable story that gives the characters such an emotional depth. There were twists and turns at every corner, with massive action set pieces that left my jaw dropping. The game has many themes, such as fate, trust and family. The phenomenal dialogue is filled with amazing lore, creates great dynamics between characters, and is thought-provoking. I often stopped playing just to listen to the characters talk. If that is not top-notch writing, then I do not know what is.

Kratos and Atreus do not get all the attention. Most side characters, such as Freya, Mimir, Brok, Sindri and Tyr, are given a lot of depth and growth throughout the game. The last we saw of Freya, she was mourning the death of her son, Baldur, who Kratos killed in 2018’s game. Seeing

her grief and hatred towards Kratos was heart-wrenching but made for lots of great conversations. Even Odin and Thor are fascinating characters compared to what we know from their MCU portrayals.

The game itself is gorgeous to look at. The nine realms are all beautiful, and I was blown away by the level of detail. There is so much to explore in each realm, like hidden bosses and long side adventures. It would be a shame not to delve deeper into the world after finishing the story, as there is so much more to be seen, and I cannot wait to explore every area the game offers.

The biggest complaint about the previous game was the enemy variety, big boss fights and combat gameplay. The studio made great efforts not to make the same mistake in “Ragnarök,” and it paid off. Plenty of giant creature boss fights make for an epic-level scale boss similar to the fights in the original games. The combat design is familiar to 2018’s game but stands out enough to stand independently.

Specifically, the Kratos’ Blades of Chaos are much more involved in this sequel, as

we now have an entire game to spend with them, rather than just the final third act in 2018. Not only did Santa Monica improve upon something in the game, but they also showed their care toward the game and the fans. There is also more blood and brutal takedowns, which is always a big plus.

If you cannot tell, I am absolutely in love with this game.

While the game slowed down in the second act, it was necessary to progress the story and characters, and I am sure that on my second playthrough, it will run much smoother. I am also slightly disappointed that some questions proposed in 2018’s “God of War” were not answered and that Jörmundandr was not very involved. However, those are minuscule complaints.

Every gamer should experience this nearly flawless game, as it will go down as one of the best games of this generation. The ending leaves many possibilities for the franchise’s future, and I have no reason to expect it will not be as good.

**Rating: 10/10**



# UNC Charlotte hosts international Culture Fest in collaboration with student organizations

Photos by Emma Toney

Cultural student organizations on campus gathered at the CHHS/COED Plaza for Culture Fest on Nov. 16. From paper lanterns from the Chinese Undergraduate Student Union to receiving henna from Hindu YUVA or buying Japanese snacks from

the Nihon Club, students of all backgrounds had the opportunity to try new foods, buy goods and learn about the different cultures represented at UNC Charlotte.





# Kanye West's antisemitism shows the dangers of hate speech

by Monique Delagey  
Managing Editor

Antisemitic speech and assault have increased over the past year, with a 34% rise from 2020. Celebrity Kanye West shares antisemitic hate speech across social media, further spreading neo-Nazi ideology.

Ye, a rapper and songwriter formerly known as Kanye West, has been restricted from his accounts on both Twitter and Instagram for violating its policies. On Oct. 9, Ye was locked from his Twitter account after posting a tweet where he stated, "I'm going death con 3 on JEWISH PEOPLE" referencing the U.S. military term "DEFCON," which stands for an "increase in force readiness."

This and other antisemitic remarks from Ye have instigated multiple acts in support of him, such as hanging a

banner on Oct. 22 that read, "Kanye is right about the Jews" over a Los Angeles freeway. Then, on Oct. 31, at a college football game in Florida, the same phrase was projected on multiple buildings.

Ye's social media posts are not the only places where he has shared his antisemitic views. Over the last five years, he has used antisemitic language toward multiple colleagues, one stating that he often spoke of anti-Jewish conspiracy theories. Ye even paid a settlement to an employee who claimed he expressed highly of Hitler and Nazis during business meetings. In a recent interview on the "Drink Champs" podcast, he said, "Paparazzi taking a photo of you; you ain't getting no money off of it. You're used to getting screwed by the Jewish media."

His hostile language and spread of misinformation have been prominent, along with his anti-Black statements over the past few years, saying in a TMZ interview he believed slavery was a "choice."

Ye's hate speech gives ground for individuals who believe in false narratives to inflict blame on marginalized groups. With millions of followers, Ye's language can be shared quickly across multiple platforms. Neo-Nazis are emboldened by Ye's rhetoric and have incited the spread of this hate to others. Forcing this language onto the perceptions of



Kanye West mural removed following antisemitic remarks | Courtesy of the Chicago Tribune

an entire group is dangerous. Antisemitic speech is becoming more prevalent due to a more profound symptom of sickness in our society.


"I think antisemitism finds more of an audience when there is a social and political crisis, fragmentation or extreme polarization, and people are looking for scapegoats," said Dr. John Cox, a UNC Charlotte professor and the director of the University's Center for Holocaust, Genocide & Human Rights Studies.

In times of fear and crisis, misinformation can reach extremes. Giving these theories a platform is dangerous, especially against a historically oppressed group. Hate speech should be stopped because it directly affects the lives of a people group and the minds of others. It can lead to acts of violence, instigating events such as the

Tree of Life Synagogue shooting in 2018. Eleven members of the Jewish faith were killed, making it the "deadliest attack on the Jewish community in the U.S.," according to the anti-hate organization Anti-Defamation League.

"There are small and large ways that we can all take a stand against bigotry," said Cox. "We can make more of a difference than we think by being uncompromising about bigotry and hatred. We should never make any compromises with it."


We must hold Ye and other public figures accountable for the hate speech they use on their platforms. Discriminatory language affects everyone, and we must oppose it to protect ourselves and others.



**Ahmed Baba**  
@AhmedBaba\_ · Follow

After his "White Lives Matter" stunt and going on Tucker Carlson's show—which is notorious for promoting the white supremacist Great Replacement theory—Kanye goes full antisemitic claiming he's "going death con 3 on Jewish people."

This is a full blown embrace of white supremacy



**ye**  
@kanyewest

I'm a bit sleepy tonight but when I wake up I'm going death con 3 On JEWISH PEOPLE The funny thing is I actually can't be Anti Semitic because black people are actually Jew also You guys have toyed with me and tried to black ball anyone whoever opposes your agenda

11:11 AM · Oct 9, 2022

Courtesy of Ahmed Baba (@AhmedBaba\_) via Twitter



# College athletes deserve privacy

by Jessica Danesi & Bryson Foster  
Opinion Editor & Sports Editor

After winning the National Women's Volleyball Championship in 2021, the Wisconsin Badgers celebrated their victory by taking photos and videos where all the athletes were nude from the waist up. Eight months later, the footage began circulating online and went viral.

Not only was it illegal for the perpetrators to share this footage, but it was also unethical. Although athletes are famous public figures, they are still entitled to privacy, and this footage should not have been distributed.

On Oct. 19, the Wisconsin Badgers issued a tweet addressing the situation, stating that the University of Wisconsin's police department would investigate the crime.

Even though athletes subject

themselves to publicity, they still deserve privacy. Many argue that public figures ask for attention, but they should have the ability to take a break from the spotlight if needed. The question is how far we will allow our curiosity to go surrounding public figures, even though it may ruin their public image.

Moreover, student-athletes should be held to a different standard than other, older public figures. Just like us, they are young adult students. They receive different media training, protection and legal decisions.

Furthermore, the media coverage that female athletes often receive is overwhelmingly negative. In addition to receiving less coverage overall, scandals follow female athletes for longer than their male counterparts. Women are

often subject to objectification in the media and criticized for being sexual in a way that men are typically not.

Sharing nude images is legal if both parties consent, but the athletes were not consenting individuals and did not ask for these photos to be shared. This can fall under two categories of illegal activity: nonconsensual pornography and its subgroup, revenge porn.

As the National Association of Attorneys General reported, revenge porn is the distribution of sexual images or videos sent between individuals without their consent in an intimate relationship. Since we do not know why this footage was shared, we cannot necessarily say it was to get back at someone.

All we know is that these 40 leaked

photos and videos come from a player's phone, but the player is not under suspicion from the police and does not know how they were published.

This crime will likely fall under nonconsensual pornography, which includes the distribution of sexually intimate images and videos without permission. It does not matter what the motive behind the crime is. Distributing nude photographs of a non-consenting party is unethical and poses a serious issue. Whoever is responsible for this leak should be punished.

All in all, the sharing of the Wisconsin Badgers' footage was illegal and immoral. The Badgers deserve to have their privacy respected regardless of their public status.

# Rumor has it that public safety rumors are dangerous

by Amna Noyal  
Staff Writer

“Did you hear about what happened at East Village?” “Rumor has it that there was a double homicide there!” “I heard it was a robbery...” “Nope, it was a masked armed robber, but no one died.” Rumors, rumors, rumors. They are claims or opinions spread from person to person without reliable proof, typically through word of mouth. However, when put in certain situations, these rumors can be harmful.

Not only are they misleading, but they can be dangerous, and they spread like wildfire around campus. Public safety is no joke at a campus as big as UNC Charlotte. For that reason, rumors can be even more disturbing, unreliable and easier to cause mass panic. Let's take the double-homicide rumor as an example. The speculations were not confirmed nor denied, yet everyone on campus was highly alert and scared. Many slept at their friends' places, and some even went home. Rumors like these, especially regarding public safety, are bizarre and can create havoc for students.

Ralph L. Rosnow explored the ideas

of distinguishing rumors and gossip to further why we, as humans, are so naturally inclined to do so. In his 1991 article “Inside rumor: A personal journey,” he said that rumors are public communications filled with personal theories about how the world functions. They are also strategies for making sense to help us deal with our worries and uncertainties.

Rumors have become a constant element of social and organizational environments. As a notion, rumor has synonyms like misinformation and disinformation, which stand for erroneous or inaccurate information. Rumors thrive when there is a lack of news. Social and mass media have spread rumors in modern society through methods such as yellow journalism. Rumors are unfounded but useful comments that circulate when there is uncertainty or threat and serve to inform and manage risk.

While some academics use the terms interchangeably, the line between rumor and misinformation is part of the debate surrounding rumors. Rumors are

false information, just like hoaxes and conspiracy theories. People's perceptions and behavior are influenced by expected values, which means a person would weigh the good and bad outcomes of the decision before choosing the optimal one. In the context of the East Village homicide rumor, this can be compared to how it was taken and circulated by many people, preventing many from sleeping soundly that night.

Despite how entertaining gossiping

may be, rumors about public safety should not be played with. It is entertaining to discuss conspiracy theories or gossip. Still, when it comes to someone's or a group of people's safety, it can cause a fearful and speculative frenzy. Additionally, it can result in individuals modifying one thing into something else that was never intended. So the next time someone tells you a rumor, do your research and inform yourself before passing it on.



Photo by Emma Toney

# Charlotte volleyball libero duo Sophie Whalen and Esten Clay have bond on and off court

by Sam Perry  
Staff Writer

Whether belting out a song from “The Greatest Showman” or setting up teammates on the volleyball floor, juniors Sophie Whalen and Esten Clay are doing it with a smile. “We were fast friends,” said Clay. “We met at camp the summer before our senior year of high school, and the other girls in our class we met all got along really well. It felt very natural. She and I came in early and roomed together, and within the first week, we were super close.”



Sophie Whalen (4) | Photo by Jacob Scannell

That friendship forged into a close bond that has not been broken. “We’ve been roommates since we moved here, so this will be our fourth year in the spring. We know practically everything about each other. We’ve gone through lots of tears, lots of laughs, everything we’ve been through has been together,” said Whalen.

### Favorite memory together

The best friends spent four years together and learned a lot about each other while creating memorable experiences on and off the court. Their best memories have been traditions. “We have a favorite song, ‘Never Enough,’ from ‘The Greatest Showman,’ and many times when we are in the car together, we blare that song,” said Whalen. “We love to sing. Even if it doesn’t sound great, it’s a core memory.”

On the court, memories are harder to come by as they are both liberos, which means they rarely play together. Clay said the spring season provides ample opportunity to be at each other’s side on the court. “Spring season was really fun,” said Clay. “I would say normally, spring gets a bad rep because we start early in the morning, and it’s not our competition season, but we still play a good bit. I feel like she and I both have a lot of fun in the spring. It flows nicely when we are on the court together.”

### Sharing a position

Sharing the libero position allows Whalen and Clay to help each other analyze other teams on the court. They give each other pointers from different perspectives. “We can talk about stuff that we see our opponents on the other side doing, whether it’s their serve or the way they are hitting something, and I think we normally think about things similarly,” said Whalen. Having your best friend play the same position means they have been in your situation. They know what can help you move forward if you are having a bad day. “It helps lighten the mood if one of us is having a bad day and the other has been there before,” said Clay.

### Rising program

Charlotte Athletics is growing as they prepare to move to the American Athletic Conference (AAC). That growth has been adopted into the culture of the volleyball team. “I’m proud to be a 49er. I think that this program is something that is up and coming for sure; it’s growing. Just knowing that we are a part of that is something we take pride in,” said Whalen.

### Final C-USA tournament

Before Saturday’s loss to North Texas,



Esten Clay (16) | Courtesy of Charlotte Athletics

Charlotte had gone on a three-game winning streak to secure a spot in the C-USA tournament as the No. 6 seed. Clay said she is ecstatic about the opportunity. “It feels so good. It’s long overdue, but it’s coming at the right time,” said Clay. Whalen said she is ready to compete in the tournament. “We decided to make a turning point at the best time possible. Everyone is hyped for the conference tournament,” said Whalen.

## SCOREBOARD

FOOTBALL	MEN’S BASKETBALL	WOMEN’S BASKETBALL	VOLLEYBALL
Nov. 19: Charlotte 26, Louisiana Tech 21	Nov. 14: Charlotte 80, Maryland Eastern Shore 47 Myrtle Beach Invitational Nov. 17: Charlotte 54, Boise State 42 Nov. 18: Charlotte 68, Tulsa 65 Nov. 20: UMASS 60, Charlotte 54	Nov. 16: NC State 96, Charlotte 48  Nov. 20: Charlotte 55, VCU 47	C-USA Championship tournament  Nov. 18: UTEP 3, Charlotte 0



# Getting to know redshirt senior offensive lineman Ashton Gist

by Joey Ellsworth  
Asst. Sports Editor

Offensive lineman Ashton Gist caps off his three-year career with the 49ers as the team finishes the 2022 season 3-9. In his time with Charlotte, he became a leader and star player for the offensive line.

Gist spoke with the Niner Times to reflect on his time at Charlotte and give a glimpse of the person under the helmet.

**Niner Times:** What has your time with the team been like?

**Gist:** I had a blast here. Coming to a close, I dapped up one of my best friends, Panda [Askew], and a couple of tears came up to my eyes. I was like, 'I'm going to miss these guys.' So it's a lot of joy. But it hurts that I'm leaving these boys.

**NT:** How would you describe this season?

**Gist:** This season hasn't been the best, but it's all about trying to stay positive. We didn't have the record we wanted to be or win the games we should have won but just staying positive. Knowing that you're getting better every day and trying to get better every day is like you're working. Make sure you work and have a reason to come back to work every day.

**NT:** What goes through your mind when you're out there protecting your teammates?

**Gist:** I know what my coaches told me to do, but when things start moving around, it's about surviving and trying to make sure I inflict a punch before I get punched, trying to be the first to contact always.

**NT:** What teammates do you think you're closest with?

**Gist:** Most definitely that group in our O-line, all of those boys. Some of those D-linemen too. I'm really cool with everybody. I hang out with them and talk to them here. But when we're outside of here, I hang out with them, I see them around and we all speak cordially. I really have a brotherhood within this team.

**NT:** Something that's been interesting for you lately is these question videos you

do where you go around campus asking people questions. How did that start?

**Gist:** The first one was when we did a video on my uniform. I was hesitant to do it, but I had a blast with it, and then marketing saw the video and wanted me to do some more videos.

**NT:** What is your favorite post-game meal?

**Gist:** Chick-fil-A really hits the spot and is quick and fresh after the game.

**NT:** What is your order? Are you a spicy chicken sandwich guy? Chicken nugget guy?

**Gist:** My order from Chick-fil-A most definitely is the chicken club with bacon on it and a large fry.

**NT:** On your bio, it says you're an avid video game player. What games are you currently playing, and what is your favorite game of all time?

**Gist:** My favorite game of all time is most definitely Black Ops III. I was a fanatic for that game. What I'm playing right now is the new Modern Warfare 2, a little bit of Madden 23 and every now and then, I hop on UFC 4.

**NT:** Who would you say your favorite music artist is, and what do you play to hype you up before a game?

**Gist:** I listen to Future all day on game day. My favorite artist right now is probably Gunna or Future, but the best for me all the time is most definitely Lil Wayne. He's just a lyrical genius. He was before my time; I shouldn't really know about him, but he has some old music that's really good, and the newer stuff is always good.

**NT:** What sports team do you care for the most outside of Charlotte?

**Gist:** In the NFL right now, I have to say the Chargers. My real team is the Texans, but we're not doing too well, so I can't claim them right now. I have to sit on the back burner with them and wait till they have a better year. I don't have an NBA team; I watch the NBA for the excitement. I watch KD's [Kevin Durant] games, and I watch the Nets and the



Ashton Gist (57) celebrates with the 49ers | Courtesy of Charlotte Athletics

Lakers all the time. Those two teams are pretty good to me.

**NT:** What's your favorite thing to do in the offseason?

**Gist:** For the last couple of years, whenever I have time to go on vacation, I go back home to see my family and to catch up with them because I go six months at a time without seeing them, sometimes more than that. I don't go on vacations unless we want to go down to see my other family. My family's split in Mississippi; it's about a five-hour drive to see the ones at the bottom of Mississippi. I'm a family guy when I'm outside of football.

**NT:** Reflecting on your career, what do you hope your legacy will be on the program and even on your teammates?

**Gist:** I hope people will remember me as a person who can have fun, a joy, but when it's time to get on that field, a hard worker. I hope I was a good leader and instilled leadership into someone else.

Hopefully, they have good leadership, and they will keep it going.

**NT:** What does it mean to be a Charlotte 49er?

**Gist:** To be a Charlotte 49er is to have fun and give it your all, regardless of what happens. Make sure you have fun with what you do, do it to the best of your ability and whatever happens is out of your control. You can give it your all because you want to know what you can do is successful, but don't give up.

**NT:** What's next after you?

**Gist:** Hopefully, I get a chance at the League [NFL]; that's a dream of mine. I'll look at my other options as far as leagues and stuff, but if I can't do that, I'd have to hang it up. Then I'll start looking into what I do in my field. So I probably will settle down and take a little break to relax, go fishing and do some stuff I like to do for a while. Then get back in the swing of things.



PLAYLIST OF THE WEEK

# UNWIND AFTER CLASS



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