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Niner Times • Uptown Audio
Sanskrit Literary-Arts Magazine
Media Marketing • Technical • Midas
Magazine

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Editor's Note: We apologize for the misuse of 'NORM' on the cover of last week's issue.

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Photo by Niyathi Sulkunte

PROVOST JOAN F. LORDEN IS RETIRING

After 18 years with UNC Charlotte, Provost Joan F. Lorden is stepping down beginning June 2022

by Jessica Ceballos
Asst. News Editor

Photo courtesy of the Office of the
Provost of UNC Charlotte

On Aug. 30, 2020, Provost Joan Lorden announced her decision to retire from her position in June of 2022. She has been with the university as the provost and the vice chancellor for academic affairs for 18 years. On Sept. 16, Chancellor Sharon Gaber announced a 20-member committee in place to oversee the hiring process for the new provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs.

According to the University Leadership website, Lorden serves “a role in which she provides leadership and oversight for academic and research programs, enrollment, academic support, and information technology.”

Her primary reason for retiring is to have more time to herself. However, she also felt it was the right time to make this shift, considering recent changes in administration and drafting of the university strategic plan. The strategic plan is a map of what the university sees as the future for the university as a whole. According to the Inside UNC Charlotte website, the plan was crafted in April 2021 and has been approved since Oct. 2020. Lorden was on the committee to create the strategic plan.

Before being hired as the provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, Lorden was the “associate provost for research, at the University of Alabama, Birmingham from 1995-2003,” according to an oral history interview with William Jeffers. Lorden was hired at UNC Charlotte in 2003 as the provost and vice chancellor of academic affairs. Since then, she increased graduation rates and created many new degree programs

for UNC Charlotte. According to the University Leadership website, Lorden has led many new initiatives for the university, including but not limited to the “the Institute for Social Capital, the Levine Scholars Program, and the School of Data Science.”

In an interview with the Niner Times, Lorden discussed her accomplishments over the course of her career. She is responsible for “creation of the Office of Undergraduate Education and University College, the development of the college of arts and architecture, the development of a lot of degree programs, a lot of focus on student success and improving graduation rates,” Lorden said. “I established the graduate student support plan that provides tuition support for graduate students. In addition, I make recommendations for the retention, promotion and tenure of faculty members.” According to the University Leadership website, “Lorden has championed community engagement, supporting the development of a Civic Action Plan for the university, establishing the Bonnie Cone Professorship in Civic Engagement, and reorganizing the Office of Metropolitan Studies into the Office of Urban Research and Community Engagement.”

When asked, of all of her accomplishments at UNC Charlotte, what she was most proud of, Lorden said, “I think it’s kind of a toss-up between the growth of the graduate programs because that’s been a really big story and the improvements in undergraduate student graduation rates.”

After retiring, Lorden wishes to take advantage of her time and decide to travel for fun, pending Covid-19 restrictions and protocols. During her time here at the university as the provost, she had the opportunity to work with many different people and travel to other colleges and universities. One is located in South Africa. “The programs that I visited while I was there were really, really fascinating because getting to see a country with a history like South Africa’s that is trying to emerge from this history of apartheid and seeing the consequences of that,” Lorden said. “I mean, it’s just so physically present. You know what the word apartheid means, but seeing the consequences of what is presumably a post-apartheid era is really kind of startling.”

Lorden recalls her time in South Africa as a learning experience.

“It’s an immensely beautiful place, but the struggle of the country is still pretty close to the surface. So listening to the people there talk about the country. You know we talk about race here, and people talk about race in different ways in different parts of the world. So it’s really intriguing to see that and I think for the students to go to a place like that and to have an opportunity to interact with other students and people in a very different country. Being able to see that through the eyes of the students was also really intriguing.”

“I think one of the things that has been a driving force for me here at this university is that the mission of the institution to be a place of access and

to be a place where so many students are first-generation college students or low-income college students,” Lorden said. “I mean, that’s been a mission that I resonate with because I was a first-generation college student. But my parents were very committed to education and so, to be able to look at this university and see the way we’ve been able to grow and the way we’ve been able to offer terrific opportunities to large numbers of students who, in some sense, were like me coming to college without a lot of resources and without a lot of family background in higher ed. That has really been motivating for me.”



UNC CHARLOTTE ENROLLMENT THIRD SETS RECORD FOR CONSECUTIVE YEAR

UNC Charlotte enrolls 30,448 students for fall 2021 semester

by Taylor Case
Staff Writer

UNC Charlotte sets an enrollment record for the third consecutive year with 30,448 students for the fall 2021 semester.

UNC Charlotte's Director of Undergraduate Admissions, Claire Kirby, describes the process of enticing new students to enroll at UNC Charlotte as being adaptable and consistently changing year to year. "Undergrad admissions have recruitment strategies that are refined each year based on what students are looking for and what they expect," said Kirby. The university offers numerous opportunities for prospective students to explore campus, accompanied by the involvement of active admissions counselors who are "trained to talk about a variety of academic programs and opportunities." Kirby describes the process of enrollment as a campus-wide effort.

In an attempt to align UNC Charlotte's efforts with the ongoing pandemic, opportunities to engage on campus have continued to include in-person and virtual options. As stated on the Inside UNC Charlotte website, "The university offered 435 virtual visits with high schools throughout the year—a 70% increase over typical years—in addition to countless virtual fairs." WCCB Charlotte said the admissions "reached out via text, phone and email to admitted students to make sure they had all the information they needed to register for summer orientation, enroll in fall courses and join the UNC Charlotte community."

In order to attract a diverse student population, Kirby says they "promote the most authentic version of Charlotte."

To emphasize UNC Charlotte's diversity and inclusion, Instagram live panels are hosted that showcase students and faculty from supporting units throughout the university. Personal experiences of diversity within UNC Charlotte shared by participating students and educators are incorporated to engage with a diverse group of students. Kirby says that "it is very possible for students to come and feel like UNC Charlotte is embracing."

Inside UNC Charlotte reported, "30% of new first-year students and 42% of new transfer students are first-generation college students." In addition, the university saw an increase in female freshmen students, with the percentage rising to 52%, alongside undergraduate students who identify as a part of the underrepresented minority coming in at 36%.

The Honors College population grew to 6%, students obtaining STEM majors account for 34% of the freshman population and the graduate enrollment currently sits at almost 6,000 students—this being the largest number in the history of UNC Charlotte.

Inside UNC Charlotte states that UNC Charlotte's first-year classes continue to prove larger than expected with just over 4,000 students. First-year students enrollment increased by 6% for the current fall semester, with the university enrolling roughly 200 more students than anticipated. When asked where Kirby believed the increase of students was directed towards, she stated there would be a growth "in areas where academic programs align with increasing

opportunities throughout certain industries." UNC Charlotte's education programs gain attention from upcoming college students, encouraging their decision to enroll at UNC Charlotte.

Kirby believes the student population of UNC Charlotte will continue to increase. "We want to continue to grow, and we certainly intend to," said Kirby. "There is an emphasis on meeting the demands of prospective and incoming

students. The growth of the university must be met with resources. These resources, including an increase in classroom size, a greater population of educators, etc., are essential in aligning the university with its expanding enrollment numbers. "UNC Charlotte has the capacity to continue to be the public university serving the greater public region," said Kirby.

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WRITING IN FULL COLOR

by Abena Atiemo
Staff Writer

Photo courtesy of
pixabay.com

Since its first edition in 1925, the New Yorker published over 40,000 features. Of those, Black editors have only edited .01% of them. For a century-old magazine, this statistic falls shockingly low. However, this is not a problem isolated to the New Yorker.

According to the Pew Research Center from 2012 to 2018, studies show that newsroom employees are more likely to be white and male than any other demographic. The American Society of News Editors conducted a study in 2012 observing similar results. They estimated that newspaper employees were 88% white and 64% male. The conversation on diversity in journalism has been mainstream discourse for many decades, but it begs the question: Why does it matter?

Authentic diversity in journalism is more important than mere representation for the sake of optics. While it is important to see yourself in the mainstream, it particularly matters to have an unbiased story. Being able to report from a balanced perspective is

imperative for maintaining journalistic integrity. Without diversity, newsrooms are left with something experts call an “us and them” reporting style. Under this style, current events are often discussed as if the audience is exclusively white. As a result, many non-white news consumers find themselves isolated from viewing their experiences genuinely.

Journalists drive the dominant social narratives that shape public perception. A tangible example is the Google images search engine. Googling the word “CEO” often brings up pictures of white men. This is not the fault of Google, in particular, but reveals the unconscious bias in flawed algorithms that our society holds when conjuring these images.

The most jarring example of this bias can be found in an August 2017 edition of the New York Times. The two front cover headlines read: “White Nationalist Protest Leads to Deadly Violence” (referring to the murder at the Charlottesville protests) and “Loving and Leaving America” (which was a profile piece on immigrants to the U.S. facing

deportation). The piece about the deadly racially-motivated incident was relegated to a six-inch square with no photograph, while the immigration piece took up most of the page—photographs included.

There was a stark difference in language as well. The author described the cruel treatment of migrants at the southern border in great detail with quotes and statistics. Meanwhile, the writer reduced the verbal and physical abuse endured by counter protests at Charlottesville to “taunts” and “skirmishes.”

Diversity captures the realness of the news through language. Although, a lack of diversity dilutes the severity and relatability of news reports because many white journalists tend to use language that censors the racial realities of their coverage. In turn, there is a lack of empathy created in public, and nothing gets done.

The hiring process in journalism also needs to change to bring underrepresented voices to the forefront. By keeping newsrooms homogenous, an

undercurrent of passive racism, sexism and xenophobia will go unchecked, which is how implicit bias operates. Unconsciously perpetuating antiquated ideas is the core of any bias.

This phenomenon is universal and affects everyone in our society in different ways. Therefore, it is important to analyze where assumptions fall flat and work toward dismantling harmful ideas. Journalism can either actively challenge the status quo or passively continue to protect it. However, one easy way to bring about change is to hire people from different backgrounds.

The power of language cannot be ignored. Those who shape our language into headlines and soundbites have the important responsibility of using as little bias as possible. However, as human beings, nobody is perfect, but everyone has room to grow. For journalists to write their best stories presented from a healthy viewpoint, the newsroom must reflect the nuances in our society’s ideals and its people.

WICKED

DEFIES GRAVITY IN CHARLOTTE

MY EXPERIENCE BEING ABLE TO SEE THIS ICONIC
PLAY WITH THE HELP OF UNC CHARLOTTE

by Jade Suszek
Intern

Graphic by Sunnya Hadavi
Asst. Layout



I have seen Wicked at the Gershwin Theater in New York City, New York. The experience of that night was awe-inspiring. It truly made my entire holiday break one to remember. The show tunes were stuck in my head for the following weeks.

I had debated buying tickets at the Oven Auditorium in downtown Charlotte a few weeks ago, but when I saw the Campus Activities Board (CAB) post on Instagram that UNC Charlotte students could purchase tickets for \$10, I knew I had to go. I was fortunate enough to secure my ticket before they sold out.

The tickets were available to pick up at the CAB office in the Union on Sept. 24. The whole process was pretty easy.

I waited outside for about a half-hour until I went into the venue. My first stop was the merchandise table. I purchased a t-shirt with the iconic image of Elphaba and Glenda. In the top right corner, it says North Carolina. I thought that was a neat way to commemorate the show rather than having generic merchandise for every stop they perform.

I then wandered around the theater's lobby before finding my seat. The venue showcased a few paintings of

Elphaba and Glenda, which gave the lobby the feel for the musical.

I found my seat, the fourth to last row of the mezzanine. Surprisingly, it still held a fantastic view. Thirty minutes before the show started, I marveled at the detailing of the stage—an aluminum dragon animatronic watching over the stage with a map of Oz as the backdrop. The glitter on the Emerald City kept catching my eye.

I watched as audience members stood and watched the orchestra warmup. The tremble of the drums continued to build the anticipation for the show.

The theater was filled with thousands of people masked up. It was nice to experience something normal in this weird time of the pandemic.

As it hit 8 pm, screams filled the theater as the announcer said “let’s bring Broadway back.” Then the show started. I had goosebumps as the show began.

The first song of the show was “No One Mourns The Wicked.” During the song, we are where the “Wizard of Oz” left off with the Wicked Witch of the West dead.

Glenda (Allison Bailey) was angelic, floating in the bubble during the song. Her dress was poofy with tons of sparkle.

I had the realization that her traveling in a bubble matched her bubbly personality.

Then we meet Elphaba (Natalia Vivino). She is just a kid with extraordinary power that is different from everyone else. Her green skin makes her feared by her classmates and those who cross her path.

Unknowningly, Elphaba and Glenda become roommates at school. They were total opposites but grew fond of each other.

Their relationship grows and prospers through each song. Specifically during, “Dancing Through Life,” you see them go from enemies to friends.

Each song moved swiftly to a different set. From the songs to the costumes, I felt transported to each location.

Even though I had seen the show before, I was still captivated by the twists and turns and animatronics.

When we met the wizard, the animatronic made me jump. I hadn’t expected it to be as scary and threatening as it was. Shortly after, Elphaba gave the monkeys wings. I was impressed by the core strength of the actors to pull off some of those stunts.

The first half of the show ended with “Defying Gravity.” The actress,

Natalia Vivino, (Elphaba) gave the performance of her life. It moved me to tears. It was magical.

The performance left the crowd in a standing ovation leading into the intermission.

All the nods to other songs gave the show even more of a magical touch. Instrumental portions of “Defying Gravity” were playing during Elphaba and Fiyero’s love ballad.

The connection between each song shows how Elphaba finally feels free from societal and personal boundaries that have been created for her.

From Elphaba’s powerful voice to Glenda’s out-of-pocket actions, each actor fully personified each character wonderfully. They pulled me and the rest of the audience into the story.

I also want to give a shout-out to the conductor of the orchestra. In the song, “The Wicked Witch of the East,” I could see his reflection in the armoire mirror, and I could tell he loved what he was doing.

At the end of the night, I was amazed and left smiling. It was one of my favorite nights I have experienced.

Ballin' and Fallin'

MAX YOUNG
COPY EDITOR



08:24

15:30



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RESTAURANT REVIEW

LOCATED IN CORNELIUS, NC A TASTY MEAL BY THE LAKE

by Michaela Broom
Intern

Photos of Hello, Sailor food and exterior
All photos courtesy of Michaela Broom

With an amazing view, great food and fantastic service, what more could you ask for?

Hello, Sailor opened in late 2017 by owners Joe and Katy Kindred. The restaurant is open Wednesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. The restaurant is located right on the shore of Lake Norman. There are many seating options, whether indoor, on the patio, or at the tiki bar. Hello, Sailor offers a retro and vibrant environment inside the restaurant with windows that provide a view of the lake. There is plenty of seating outside where you can soak up the sun and enjoy the nice breeze by the water. In addition, before or after a long day on the lake, there are docks where people can park their boats and enter the restaurant.

When I went to Hello, Sailor, I made reservations due to how popular the restaurant has been. I went on a Wednesday at 2 p.m., and a reservation was unnecessary. The restaurant was not super busy, which allowed for a peaceful lunch. I would recommend a reservation during peak hours on the weekends. Unfortunately, when making the reservations, you are unable to specify where you want to sit. Therefore, if you want to sit in a specific area and it is full, you may have an additional wait time even with a reservation.

As soon as I walked into Hello, Sailor, I was greeted and taken to my seat. Since the restaurant was not busy, I was able to ask to sit outside by the lake. As soon as I sat at the table, I was given iced water

right away, and the waitress explained what the restaurant had to offer on the menu and her recommendations.

When viewing the menu, there were not a ton of options. However, with the options on the menu, it was hard to decide what to get. The menu was broken into snacks, salads, sandwiches and plates. On the menu, most of the prices were \$15.00 and above, with the exception of a few items. With that being said, this is a more expensive restaurant, but for quality seafood, the prices are worth it.

I started the afternoon with a couple of starter options. I got the Blue Crab Claws (\$16.00), Peel n Eat Shrimp (\$19.00), and the Hushpuppies (\$5.00).

The Blue Crab Claws were served in a bowl soaked in a wasabi tobiko mayonnaise and green coriander dressing. I am not a wasabi fan. However, this dressing was every bit of perfection. The waitress shared that the dressing was excellent paired with their french fries. At first, I was unsure how to eat the Blue Crab Claws, but the crab meat fell right off the claw.

The second starter option I got was the Peel n Eat Shrimp. This was my favorite starter item out of the three starter dishes I got. This shrimp was served with cocktail sauce and Alabama white sauce, which is a mayonnaise-based sauce.

The Peel n Eat Shrimp was fresh and flavorful with the dipping sauces.

The last starter item I got was the Hushpuppies. The Hushpuppies were served with yuzukosho honey butter. The



Hushpuppies were crunchy on the outside but light and fluffy on the inside. The yuzukosho honey butter is what made these Hushpuppies even more mouthwatering. The yuzukosho offers a spicy and citrus flavor while the honey sweetens the butter! Such a perfect combination!

Lastly, for my main meal, I got the spicy chicken sandwich with fries (\$16.00). The sandwich was served on a sesame seed bun and included a spicy hot sauce, pickles, onions and mayonnaise. I am a huge fan of everything spicy, which is why I got the chicken tossed in the hot sauce. If you do not like spicy, you can get the hot sauce on the side. The fries were warm and crispy. Ultimately, this was an amazing meal!

In all, I give this restaurant 4.5/5 stars for the delicious food and the ambiance. If you are looking for a restaurant that offers fresh and delicious seafood, Hello, Sailor is the place for you. I will be returning to try other menu items such as the Shrimp Roll and have another relaxing afternoon by the lake.



REVIEW:

4.5/5



COLUMN:

CHARLOTTE OFFENSE EXPLODES BUT DEFENSE LEAVES QUESTIONS

In 42-39 win the 49ers show flash but questions remain

by Cameron Williams
Staff Writer

Photos of Charlotte Forty-Niners
by Chris Crews

There were two ever-present narratives oozing throughout Charlotte football's home game against Middle Tennessee on Friday, Sep. 24 .

Number one: the 49er offense was able to shake off the rust from Georgia State just a week ago. This is a good thing; the team is moving in the right direction offensively again. Number two: the defense is still not where it needs to be to compete for a C-USA crown.

Let's get the bad out of the way first and discuss the defensive side of the ball for the 49ers. They gave up 502 total yards to Middle Tennessee. This statistic alone says there is room for improvement. 379 of these yards were passing yards. Now, in all fairness, a lot of media personnel have been blasting this team because of their poor rush defense. The rush defense was a little bit better than in previous games. They still gave up 123 yards on the ground.

"I cannot say enough great things

about Rick Stockstill," head coach of the 49ers Will Healy said about the Middle Tennessee head coach. He feels like Stockstill's offense played extremely well against the Charlotte defense. It goes back to the old cliché of, "Sometimes good offense just beats good defense." This was the case tonight for both teams.

Middle Tennessee converted both of their fourth-down tries and they were able to score every time they were in the red zone. It was not the defensive performance that will get Charlotte to the top of the conference and Healy recognizes that reality.

"We've got tons to clean up on if we are going to do what we say we want to do," said Healy.

He believes his team is prepared to put the work to get the next step.

"When this football team plays well in all three phases, we will be scary," said Healy.

Shifting gears to what Charlotte did well

in this game. Well, just about everything on the offensive side of the ball.

Chris Reynolds was out to prove something in this game. He had a few games that were not the "Chris Reynolds standard" fans are getting accustomed to seeing the past two games against Gardner-Webb and Georgia State. He turned the tide in this game with 339 yards passing yards on 25 completions. He completed 69% of his passes and also had four touchdown passes as well. To put the icing on the cake, he snuck in for a one-yard touchdown rush towards the end of the game just to pad his stats.

Reynolds was selfless in his postgame interview and only wanted to credit his teammates for their hard work, which is just what you want from a leader.

"Throwing to Vic and now Grant and just throwing to guys that want to compete at all times really," Reynolds said about his teammate's mentality. "These are the

kinds of guys that if we were playing ping-pong, we would end up throwing paddles by the end of it," Reynolds added jokingly. "It is fun to play when you have guys like that on the sideline."

**"We have not even
seen the best of
what Grant can
do," - Coach Healy**

In this game, Reynolds moved into first place in passing touchdowns for Charlotte, surpassing Matt Johnson's previous record.

"I remember my first one, it was to Vic against Fordham," Reynolds recalled.

However, when his milestone appeared on the big screen above the Judy Rose center, Reynolds did not want to focus

on that, but rather on the task at hand and that was to keep putting points on the board and get the win.

All-in-all, Reynolds had an amazing game and he will look to continue performing at this level the rest of the season.

Reynolds had plenty of talented receivers to throw to.

Victor Tucker had five receptions on just seven targets going for 108 yards with a total of 68 yards after the catch. While he may have not gotten in the end zone for a score, his receptions came in crucial moments at times in big yardage situations where the 49ers needed 10 or 11 yards to go and Reynolds had the confidence to let his best receiver go up and make a play.

What can be said about the Miles College transfer Grant DuBose that probably hasn't been said already? DuBose had a top-tier game. Not just for Charlotte or C-USA, but a nationally great performance with 114 yards on nine catches and two touchdowns in a game. DuBose was the catalyst for the team's offense and kept his intensity up all game.

"We have not even seen the best of what Grant can do," coach

Healy said after the game.

One other receiver to mention is Elijah Spencer. Coach Healy was incredibly impressed with how he responded after fumbling the ball in the red zone with the team marching down the field. "What a great response," were Healy's four words about Spencer's bounce back after the fumble. He came back out and got a touchdown, and that is what Healy has been pushing so hard recently is what is going to be the response when your luck is down.

Spencer finished with 51 yards receiving and the one touchdown to go along with it. He is only 18 so there is still a lot of room for growth, but the strong mentality he showed in this game is what Healy likes to see.

Lastly, we get to the 49er rushing attack. Charlotte had a total of 40 rushes for 220 yards which is their second-best performance on the ground this season. Calvin Camp led the way for the 49ers on the ground totaling 103 yards. That was on just 12 carries for an average of 8.4 yards per carry. His long run of the night came on a 44-yard touchdown run in the third quarter.

To add to the rushing onslaught, running back Shadrick Byrd had a nice night as well adding in 72 yards on 14 carries for a solid 5.1 average. Byrd also had three kick returns for 60 total yards. He caught two passes for 41 yards and a touchdown as well.

Chris Reynolds did not just want to show off his arm. He rushed the ball nine times for 32 yards and a one-yard touchdown.

It was a total offensive performance that the team needs to continue to produce as they move into some of their toughest games of the season. It was shown in week one against Duke that they have talent. It is about how hard that talent is willing to work that will write the 49ers season story.

In a quick summary, offense equals explosive when in synch, the 49er defense equals unanswered questions still to be hammered out. It is still very early in the 2021 season for the 49ers. There is a lot to clean up, as Will Healy mentioned if they want to win the C-USA title, but it is a positive sign when the offense can produce a game as they did against Middle Tennessee.

Charlotte will face its second Power 5 opponent this Saturday, Oct. 2 at Illinois.

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GAME CHANGER

How Sydney Rowan has changed the 49er volleyball program

by Sam Perry
Staff Writer

Photo of Sydney Rowan
courtesy of Charlotte Athletics

Charlotte's volleyball has seen success in recent years. The 49ers are 7-7 in 2021 and went 13-5 in the 2020-21 spring season.

A large part of that success comes from fifth-year senior Sydney Rowan. However, Charlotte's academics played a major role in the 49ers developing the star outside hitter.

"Academics first and foremost, I wanted to go into engineering, and so that kinda limited the options down, so when I was looking at schools, I really wanted a good academic program, and then I wanted a big school, so I was kinda looking around. I ended up coming to camp here, and once I was on campus, I really fell in love with it," said Rowan on choosing the 49ers. "The coaches came up to me and were like, 'we really want you to consider Charlotte,' and that's kinda how it came to be."

Rowan holds an impressive 3.973 GPA while majoring in Charlotte's systems engineering program. When picking a college, she knew she wanted to go into a good engineering program, limiting school options for her. This put Charlotte high on her radar, and then they were able to add her to the roster when they recruited her at a camp.

The coaching staff has counted their blessing of landing Rowan here at Charlotte and building the program, with her being a major building block in that process.

"I would say [Sydney's] high character, incredible work ethic, massive competitiveness, and intelligence for the game.

That's the foundation that she started with and brought here," said Head Coach Karen Weatherington.

Leadership Role

Rowan always led during her time with the Niners starting when she first stepped out onto the court in 2017. But in her fifth year, she has to take on even more of the leadership responsibility, and she has embraced it, being a very vocal leader on and off the court willing to tell the team exactly what needs to be said to help them improve.

"I am the only fifth-year, so kinda naturally just age-wise, the leadership role is kinda upon me, but I think also having been here the longest that helps, and I feel like the girls really respect that I have been here also," said Rowan. "I think I've taken a leadership role since my freshman year, but definitely now, as the oldest, I have a larger one."

Accomplishments

In her five years in the Queen City, she has collected many accolades and has been very successful. This season, Rowan joined the elite 1,000 kills and 1,000 digs club. She got her 1,000th kill on Jan. 30, 2020, when the 49ers took on Clemson. She joined the club on Sep. 4 in the third set when she got her 1,000th dig against Chicago State. She became only the 8th Charlotte 49er to join this elite club.

"I'm honored it was a really big deal for me. I was pretty excited about it, just because it is pretty rare," said Rowan. "I'm just super thankful for this opportunity.

Even with Covid and everything to be able to come back and play, it's been a really big deal to me."

This is just one of the many accolades she has accomplished over the years at Charlotte.

In 2017, during her freshman year, Rowan made the Conference USA (C-USA) All-Freshman team. She was also named C-USA player of the week twice. In addition, she earned two all-tournament honors. The first was in her first collegiate week at the Charlotte Invitational, and the second was at the George Mason Classic.

After her successful rookie season, she had picked up right where she left off, getting 51 kills and 43 digs in the first four games played during the Charlotte Invitational in her sophomore season. But her season got derailed when she caught mono and had to spend significant time battling back from that during the 2018 season.

In 2019, she bounced back in stellar fashion from her illness-driven season. She was named to the C-USA Second Team and named to the NCCSIA All-State First Team. In that season, she was also named to the Charlotte Invitational and the Hokie Invitational All-Tournament teams.

Rowan was still named to the C-USA preseason in the 2020-21 season, having an extended offseason due to the coronavirus. After her spectacular play on the season, she was named to the C-USA All-Conference Second Team. But she shined not only on the court but also

in the classroom, getting her to put on the C-USA All-Academic

Team. Rowan also set history with her academic accomplishments being the first Charlotte volleyball player to be named C-USA Scholar Athlete of the Year for volleyball.

Due to the extra year of eligibility granted due to Covid-19 Rowan is already racking in accomplishments during her final season with the Niners. Having already been named to the All-Tournament team for the Charlotte Invitational, she also racked up an MVP award for her play in the Windy City Classic back in early September.

Legacy

Rowan has cemented herself a great legacy in Niners volleyball history.

"Sydney has meant the world to this program. She has been the cornerstone that we have built today's foundation of Charlotte volleyball," said Weatherington. "She came here and we felt we got lucky and blessed when she picked us for the engineering program. Because she had so many intangible talents she was bringing a lot to the table that you don't usually see as a freshman."

