

NINERTIMES
DAY OF REMEMBRANCE 2024

REMEMBERING

REED

AND

RILEY



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Sunnya Hadavi
editor@ninertimes.com

MANAGERIAL BOARD

Matthew De La Rosa WRITING MANAGING
Jordyn Phillips MULTIMEDIA MANAGING
Bryson Foster OUTREACH
AJ Siegel COPY

EDITORIAL

Sofia DiStefano NEWS
Ruhshona Soledjonova OPINION
Guadalupe Aguilar Sosa ARTS & CULTURE
Itza Ochoa SPORTS
Jordyn Phillips PHOTO
Hannah Dixon VIDEO
Sunnya Hadavi LAYOUT

ASSISTANT EDITORS

Dakota Currier ASST. OPINION
Davis Cuffe ASST. SPORTS
Clare Grealey ASST. COPY
Brendan Mullen ASST. COPY
Richard Nuzzo ASST. PHOTO
Dan Rice ASST. PHOTO
Ava Weaver ASST. LAYOUT
Denise Soriano ASST. LAYOUT
Everett Pohl ASST. VIDEO

LAYOUTS

Cover: A butterfly representing Ellis Reed Parlier and the Riley Howell Foundation Fund logo

Cover layout by Sunnya Hadavi
Interior layouts by Sunnya Hadavi

MARKETING STAFF

Megan Rice MARKETING DIRECTOR
Tabitha Adaya CREATIVE DIRECTOR
James Clyburn PROMOTIONS COORDINATOR
Reggie Matherson ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
Ava Gilmore ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
Osi Obasuyi ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
Madison Lewis ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

NINER MEDIA DEPARTMENTS

Niner Times
Uptown Audio
NOVA Literary-Arts Magazine
Media Marketing
Midas Magazine

NINER MEDIA STAFF

Kelly Merges MEDIA ADVISER
Justin Paprocki MEDIA ADVISER
Joshua Wood MEDIA ADVISER
Laurie Cuddy BUSINESS MANAGER
Bianca Fruscello MARKETING COORDINATOR

CONTENT WARNING:
THIS EDITION MENTIONS GUN VIOLENCE AND A PAST SHOOTING.

CONTENTS

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR	3
LETTER FROM THE CHANCELLOR	4
LETTER FROM THE STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT	4
PHOTOS: MAY 1, 2019, CAMPUS VIGIL	5
REMEMBERING ELLIS REED PARLIER	6
REMEMBERING RILEY HOWELL	8
THE REED PARLIER GOLF TOURNAMENT GIVES BACK TO THE COMMUNITY	10
THE RILEY HOWELL FOUNDATION FUND SUPPORTS GUN VIOLENCE VICTIMS	12
SAFETY AND SECURITY MEASURES FIVE YEARS LATER	14
EDITORIAL: IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO REMEMBER	15

RESOURCES AND INFORMATION

STUDENTS WHO ARE STRUGGLING OR NEED SOMEONE TO TALK TO CAN REFER TO CHARLOTTE’S CENTER FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES (CAPS.CHARLOTTE.EDU/).

CHARLOTTE CAMPUS POLICE CAN BE CONTACTED AT 704-687-2200 (EMERGENCY), 704-687-8300 (NON-EMERGENCY).

CAROLINAS MEDICAL CENTER:
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH/EMERGENCY: 704-444-2400
MOBILE CRISIS UNIT: 704-566-3410
SUICIDE HOTLINE: 1-800-273-8255

THE DAY OF REMEMBRANCE IS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 30, 2024, AT 8:30 A.M. TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE APRIL 30 MEMORIAL, VISIT NINERNATIONREMEMBERS.CHARLOTTE.EDU/.

THE DIGITAL REMEMBRANCE MEMORIAL, INCLUDING A PHOTO GALLERY, VIDEOS AND ORAL HISTORY, CAN BE REACHED EXHIBITS.CHARLOTTE.EDU/S/NINERSREMEMBERAPRIL30/.

Student-driven news since 1947

The Niner Times is UNC Charlotte’s student-run news publication founded in 1947 and has received both state and national recognition.

The Niner Times aims to provide accurate and fair news to the UNC Charlotte community. We cover campus happenings, news and events in the city of Charlotte and North Carolina and topics that are important to students. We publish written, photo and video content online (ninertimes.com), on social media and through our weekly email newsletter (sent every Wednesday at 9:30 am). We also produce a supplemental bi-weekly (every other week) in-print newspaper that hits stands on Wednesdays.

CONTACT INFORMATION

9201 University City Blvd. SU 042 Charlotte, NC 28223
Phone: 704-687-7148
Email: inquiry@ninertimes.com

Letter from the Editor

NINER TIMES EDITOR-IN-CHIEF REFLECTS 5 YEARS LATER

Year after year, we are further removed from the tragedy on Charlotte's campus on April 30, 2019. For the newer students, faculty and staff in our community, it is especially difficult to feel connected to the campus.

Five years later, it is even more important for our community to be reminded of what happened and come together. It is even more important for us to inform new Niners and encourage them to be involved.

On April 30, 2019, the last day of classes that semester, an armed individual went into the Kennedy Building and opened fire on a classroom. Ellis Reed Parlier and Riley Howell were fatally injured that day. Rami Alramadhan, Sean DeHart, Emily Houpt and Drew Pescaro were severely wounded but survived. The others in the classroom were able to run.

Since 2019, the University has done its part to support the Parlier and Howell families and all survivors who were present in Kennedy 236.

Each year, the University holds a Day of Remembrance with a wreath-laying and bell-ringing ceremony to honor Reed, Riley and the survivors. To honor them year-round, the University also has a Niner Nation Remembers webpage and an April 30 Memorial Digital Exhibit. Most recently, the University unveiled the Constellation Garden Memorial outside of Kennedy as a constant reminder about Reed and Riley for those who walk past it daily.

For the Parliers and Howells, the feelings of loss, pain and frustration are still just as strong and real as they were five years ago. Both families constantly do what they can to remember Reed and Riley and give back to the community.

From their efforts, we have The Riley Howell Foundation Fund that supports victims of gun violence and hosts the annual Mighty Four-Miler run to honor Riley and raise money. Directly aiding Charlotte students is the Ellis Reed Parlier Scholarship Fund, made possible by the contributions of the friends of the Parlier family and is supported through the annual Reed Parlier Golf Tournament.

While almost everyone on the Niner Times staff was not on campus on April 30, 2019, we all keep Reed, Riley, the survivors and their families in our minds and hearts. At the Niner Times, we feel that it is our responsibility to tell Reed and Riley's stories and highlight their families' efforts.

Student journalism is not only meant to inform but also serve as a historical record of our community. Covering April 30 and each year's Day of Remembrance is integral to fulfilling our mission to the community.

There are many details about what happened that day on campus and the following days. We hope that new members of our community engage with our coverage to learn about this part of Charlotte's history. However, they should also do further research and engage with other online content to learn even more.

Last year, the Niner Times produced the 2023 Day of Remembrance special edition. We were fortunate to speak with the Parliers, Howells, faculty and University administration to obtain the information we needed to tell Reed and Riley's story.

For our 2024 Day of Remembrance special edition, the Niner Times has reached out to the University and families once again. We wanted to tell Reed and Riley's story while highlighting how our community actively remembers them. We have also met with the University's Office of Safety and Security to highlight their previous and current efforts to keep our community safe.

We would like to thank the Parlier and Howell families for speaking with us again and letting us tell your stories. From the University, we also thank those who were willing to be interviewed or helped with organizing interviews and getting us the information we needed. Their guidance and support made this edition possible.

Copies of this edition will be available on stands across campus and distributed at this year's Day of Remembrance on April 30 at 8:30 a.m. at the Constellation Garden Memorial.

This year, we are also mailing copies of the Day of Remembrance edition to those not on campus or in Charlotte at no cost. We will also have copies of the 2023 Day of Remembrance Edition and the original edition from 2019 available. For those interested, please refer to ninertimes.com and fill out the required form. Copies will be available for mailing until we run out.

Charlotte Strong.

Sincerely,

Sunnya Hadavi

Niner Times editor-in-chief



2023 Day of Remembrance at the Constellation Garden Memorial | Jade Suszek/Niner Times File

Letter from the Chancellor

CHANCELLOR GABER’S MESSAGE TO NINER NATION

Dear Niner Nation,

This month marks five years since UNC Charlotte’s darkest day, the shooting on April 30, 2019. In the wake of this terrible tragedy, Niner Nation saw the very best in one another as our campus, the surrounding Charlotte community and the nation grieved together.

The legacies of Riley Howell and Reed Parlier live on in the hearts of Niner Nation and through the Constellation Garden Remembrance Memorial, which was dedicated last year as a place of peace and reflection for our community and visitors.

The University will honor the lives of Reed and Riley and recognize the strength of our survivors at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 30, 2024, with a wreath-laying and bell

ringing at the memorial.

Even for those of us who joined Niner Nation after April 30, 2019, remembering Reed and Riley and acknowledging the resilience of the survivors is a powerful responsibility and honor. Please join me on Tuesday, April 30, to engage in private reflection and remembrance. Niner Nation will never forget.

Sincerely,



Sharon L. Gaber
Chancellor



Students embrace outside the Kennedy Building following April 30, 2019. | Courtesy of UNC Charlotte

Letter from the Student Body President and Vice President

Niners,

Five years ago today, tragedy struck our community. Something we thought would not be possible became our reality. April 30, 2019, will forever be etched into our campus history. However, it is not the tragedy itself but the resilience and connection of our community that we should reflect on.

Reed Parlier and Riley Howell. We will

always remember those names. Words will never be enough to change what happened, and we know that. Rather, what becomes comforting is the idea that in our darkest hour, we came together. When times were at their lowest, our campus lifted each other up and supported each other like Reed and Riley would have wanted us to.

I wasn’t here in 2019, and the thought of what happened was a fear I think we

all faced when choosing to come to this University. What I’ve found, though, is that this school, and especially the people in it and who support it, are some of the strongest people I’ve ever met. This community is truly the greatest I’ve ever seen, and as we hold on to each other, we can mourn and cherish Reed and Riley.

To my fellow students, we are not defined by our tragedies but rather by our actions

in the face of tragedy. We will always remember and will always stand together as a community.

Together, we are at our strongest.

Sincerely,

Isaiah Grayson and James Citrin
2024-2025 student body president and vice president



PHOTOS: MAY 1, 2019, CAMPUS VIGIL

Niner Times File Photos

A. Students and members of the community gather outside of the Barnhardt Student Activity Center for the candlelight vigil.



B. The Kennedy Building as seen from the fountain and plaza across from its entrance. Kennedy was the site of the shooting on April 30, 2019, in which two students were killed and four were injured.



C. Student leaders hold hands and grieve during the portion of the vigil within Halton Arena.



D. A UNC Charlotte student holds a candle while in attendance at the candlelight portion of the vigil on May 1, 2019.



E. The American flag is flown at half-mast outside the J. Murrey Atkins Library on the day of the campus vigil.



F. Members of the Charlotte community place flowers and candles overlooking the site of the campus vigil.



G. The first portion of the campus vigil on May 1, 2019, was held within Halton Arena inside the Barnhardt Student Activity Center.



H. Members of the Charlotte community left flowers and candles in multiple locations around campus following the April 30 shooting.

REMEMBERING ELLIS REED PARLIER

THE PARLIERS, PROFESSORS AND STUDENTS DISCUSS REED PARLIER'S IMPACT AND LEGACY

Bryson Foster | Outreach Coordinator



Ellis Reed Parlier | Courtesy of the Parliers

On April 30, 2019, an avoidable tragedy claimed the lives of two, including Ellis Reed Parlier. Reed was 19 years old but left an unforgettable impact on others.

"Reed didn't have to boast about what he did because he just did it," said his father, Brian Parlier. "Just like he was naturally born with his hair, he was also naturally kind."

Reed was born in Charlotte on Oct. 2, 1999, to Julie and Brian Parlier. He has a younger sister, Mallory. He attended high school at the Central Academy for Technology and Arts (CATA) in Monroe, North Carolina. In 2019, Reed was a sophomore at Charlotte studying computer science.

Reed was fascinated with objects as a child, including a train set he put together at age two. Reed was active and engaged but, most importantly, was content. Parlier said his son was a trained thinker.

"We gave him a train set around two, and he was meticulous when putting it together," said Brian. "He was very smart, and when we met with his first-grade teacher at a parent-teacher conference, I started to ask him multiplication problems, and he got them all right."

His mother, Julie, said her son was silent until he had something to say.

"He had a dry sense of humor, and he would make us laugh out of nowhere," she said. "He never caused us issues, and he made being a parent easy."

Reed has been described as a giver who made others feel wanted. Julie said his giving nature was present from a young age.

"He helped special needs kids, tutored his fellow students and helped his grandmother who had Alzheimer's," said Julie. "Reed would save money when he went out with his friends, and if they needed something, he would pay for it without asking for it back."

As a high school student, Reed gave back to his classmates.

"He was tutoring a student at his high school

that had cancer, and Reed offered to help them catch up so they wouldn't be left behind," said Julie.

In the days after the tragedy, Julie, Brian and Mallory saw butterflies that reminded them of Reed. Julie said the family always sees Reed in those butterflies.

"We had a lot of people around our house right after the tragedy. Mallory went around the garage to get away from all the people, and a Monarch butterfly landed near her," said Julie. "Then, one of my friends took me to a park to escape everything, and we stood over a water bridge, and two butterflies kept flying around my face."

Brian said he had a similar experience.

"When I was walking through the yard, two butterflies landed on my shoulders," said Brian.

Impact on other students

At Charlotte, Reed's impact has been felt by students and professors.

Nathan Weisskopf was the first recipient of the Reed Parlier Memorial Scholarship. He received \$72,000 from the University in honor of Reed. Weisskopf, a graduate of Reed's high school, is a fourth-year student at Charlotte studying computer science.

Weisskopf was selected from 1,500 candidates for the scholarship and said being chosen was wonderful.

"It is an indescribable feeling having the scholarship. I was trying to quantify it when I received it, but I always wonder, 'Why me?'," said Weisskopf. "I hope I have been able to do right by it through my school and extracurriculars."

"I never knew Reed, but I had friends that knew him. I remember an acquaintance from high school breaking down and crying after the shooting because they knew him," said Weisskopf. "It was in my life from the day of his passing, but it isn't in the same ballpark as his family and friends."

Weisskopf works for Lenovo STARS Teams as

a brand representative. He said his new job has allowed him to give back something he learned from Reed.

“Reed is someone who has given more than me,” said Weisskopf. “My favorite aspect of my new job is that I feel I can improve someone else’s day through my work.”

Weisskopf said Reed has impacted him by giving him freedom.

“Not having that burden on my parents and the freedom has allowed me to find who I am as a person, which I wouldn’t have without this scholarship,” said Weisskopf. “I am blessed and glad, but it wasn’t worth what happened to Reed.”

Weisskopf shared what people should take away from the tragedy.

“Reed wasn’t here for long but had such a major impact on others, and that should be enough to make you wake up every day and give your all to help those around you,” said Weisskopf.

Relationship with professors

Dr. Nadia Najjar taught Reed in his final semester. In Najjar’s class, she built relationships with students as they had to check in with her during projects.

She became close with Reed over the semester and described him as a quiet student with comprehensive knowledge of topics.

“He was in a class of 100 plus students, but I knew him personally because of those touchpoints,” said Najjar. “He was a quiet student, and I knew that he had a lot of knowledge in the topic and had a lot of experience outside of the regular curriculum.”

Najjar first heard the news of the tragedy after she had left campus. She was teaching a class in the Kennedy Building just an hour before.

“I immediately contacted all my students, asking them to let me know if they were okay,” said Najjar. “The next morning, the names came out, and Reed’s name is Ellis Parlier. I got to know him as Reed, and as soon as I heard his name, I told my husband that he was my student. I checked my class roll, and it was him, which was really hard.”

Najjar said Reed was beloved by his fellow students because he made everyone feel important.

“When I asked a question, he wouldn’t jump to answer but instead waited to let his fellow students answer the question. If no one raised their hand, he would jump in and speak,” said Najjar.

“We did paired programming in that class, and since he had that extra experience, he

would take the time to help other students learn by answering their questions,” said Najjar. “I could see that the other students appreciated his patience, and he created a bond with all of them.”

Reed was an avid video game player who had become friends with fellow gamers nationwide. Najjar said Reed taught her a final lesson after meeting his friends.

“I was honored to be invited to be a part of the celebration of life, and when I went there, I got to know more about him,” said Najjar. “I have a son, and at that point, he was nine or 10 and was starting to get into gaming, and seeing Reed’s friends from gaming changed my perspective, as it allowed me to see how they connected. He taught me something even after he wasn’t with us anymore.”

Carrying on the legacy

Reed’s parents are carrying on his legacy by hosting the 2024 Reed Parlier Golf Tournament on Monday, April 29, at the Pine Lake Country Club. Since the event’s inception in 2019, more than \$1 million has been raised in honor of Reed.

Reed’s father said the event was created due to the abundance of people hoping to help.

“People want to give in those situations, and we didn’t want to benefit from Reed’s death. So we set up a scholarship for students and the golf tournament,” said Brian.

Reed’s mother said the event continues to add more people each year.

“Finally, we made the golf tournament an annual thing. And each year, it gets bigger and bigger by raising more money for students,” said Julie.

Reed was a giver, and his impact continues to live on. The pain of losing a son is something that the Parliers will never forget. Brian said people should continue to live their lives even when tragedy strikes.

“The world is a great place, but sadly, there are bad spots along the way,” said Brian. “You can’t stop these tragedies, but we can’t shelter our students because we want them to achieve great things.”

Julie shared one thing people should take away from this event: “Live your life like it is the last day.”

A tragedy occurred on Charlotte’s campus five years ago, taking Reed from us. Reed made a lasting impact on those he encountered in just a short amount of time. Reed’s legacy will live on and has created everlasting beauty that will continue to grow on the University’s campus.



Mallory Parlier, Reed’s sister, (left) and Ellis Reed Parlier (right) | Courtesy of WFAE



The plaque of a tree planted in honor of Ellis Reed Parlier in front of Woodward Hall. Woodward houses the College of Computing and Informatics that Parlier was a part of. | Sunnya Hadavi/Niner Times File

REMEMBERING RILEY HOWELL

TEDDY HOWELL DISCUSSES HIS MEMORIES OF HIS OLDER BROTHER AND HIS LASTING LEGACY

Bethany Ivan | Former Niner Times Staff



Riley Howell | Courtesy of the New York Post

In the fall of 2018, Riley Howell of Waynesville, North Carolina, enrolled at UNC Charlotte as an environmental studies major after transferring from Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College. Throughout his time at Charlotte, Riley was described as optimistic, joyful and selfless. Eventually, he was hailed a hero.

On April 30, 2019, a gunman opened fire on anthropology professor Adam Johnson's class presentations in the Kennedy Building. To prevent any more harm, Riley tackled the gunman and urged students to "go, go, go" for their safety, according to survivor Rami Alramadhan.

In the process, Howell died from his injuries along with his fellow student, Ellis Reed Parlier of Midland, North Carolina. Howell was 21 years old, and Parlier was 19.

After the shooting, both young men were hailed as heroes by their families, friends and communities for their sacrifice.

Riley was not only a student at Charlotte and a hero, but he was also a friend, son and loving brother. Riley's younger brother, Teddy Howell, now 18 years old, gives an in-depth glimpse of who his older brother was before he lost his life.

Before his death, Riley was like everyone else: He was a big fan of Star Wars; liked spending time outdoors, especially time spent with his family and friends; worked out and listened to music like The Rolling Stones. Their song "Jumping Jack Flash" was one of his favorites.

Teddy's memories of Riley

For Teddy Howell, Riley was a role model to his siblings and everyone he interacted with.

"He was definitely like a big brother, but to us in that nature, he'd pick on you sometimes, but it was always out of a good-natured spirit," said Teddy. "If you were ever in real trouble, he was right there. If you ever got hurt or anything, he'll dive right in head first to help you out."

Teddy described his brother as kind, caring and inspiring. Despite their seven-year age difference, it did not stop Riley from spending time with his younger brother.

"He would always put up with me because, of course, I wanted to hang out with him all the time. He and his friends, whenever they'd be over, I'd want to be right there," said Teddy. "They probably didn't wanna hang out with [his] nine-year-old little brother when he was 16. But he always did. I appreciated that. At the time, I didn't think anything of it because he would always hang out with me."

When Riley started college at Charlotte, Teddy described his relationship with Riley as "a big change" for him, as Riley and his sisters were closer in age.

Teddy recalled more memories of his older brother before his death, ones that he will always remember. Age and time never stopped the brothers from spending time with one another. Teddy explained their bond became stronger throughout his time in college.

"It wasn't until that first year he went to Charlotte that we became closer as not just brothers but as friends. He could be his true self, and I was growing into more of my true self," said Teddy.

Around the summer before Riley's death, another memory that stuck with Teddy was when Riley taught Teddy how to drive a boat.

"In the summer of 2018, we had this houseboat on a lake called Fontana near Bryson City. It's a floating house. It's pretty old and rundown, but it's fun. We always go there in the summer," said Teddy. "At the time, it was him, his girlfriend Lauren and I, and he taught me how to drive a boat. I was super nervous because I'd probably driven a car before, but a boat is sort of daunting because of the freedom you have to drive wherever. There aren't lanes or anything. You just sort of know to stay on the right side."

"That moment always stuck with me because

he taught me how to do a lot of things,” said Teddy. “But that was one of the biggest because I know for him, me and probably all of our family, that houseboat is like our favorite place in the world.”

Teddy was thankful that it was Riley who taught him how to drive a boat.

“I always knew I was gonna learn how to drive a boat, but to learn from him was such a special time with just us,” said Teddy.

Another memory Teddy recalled was Riley’s birthday. To him, Riley was “a big eater,” and their mother came across a certain dish that Riley would soon typically eat on his birthday.

“I don’t know how my mom found it. They’re called Kentucky Hot Browns. They’re open-face sandwiches, served on basically white bread. There’s gravy, tomatoes, bacon and thick-cut turkey breast on it. We’d always make those for his birthday,” said Teddy.

From the moment their mother made that one particular dish, Riley took a liking to it. Inevitably, it would become a tradition.

“I think originally, Mom just made them one day. My sisters didn’t like them because they had raw tomatoes on them, and at the time, they didn’t like tomatoes. It became a tradition because Riley ended up really liking them,” said Teddy.

Riley’s legacy

In the aftermath of the shooting, Riley is remembered for his sacrifice and legacy. He was posthumously awarded a Purple Heart and the Bronze Star for his actions.

His memory was not only awarded but was immortalized as a Star Wars character. Lucasfilm sent a letter to the Howell family, where they expressed their deepest condolences and informed the family of the tribute to their son’s memory. The first mention of Riley’s character, Ri-Lee Howell, was in the book “Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker: The Visual Dictionary.”

Teddy recalled the day he and his family received the letter.

“I remember when we got the letter from Lucasfilm. We didn’t really know what the extent of that was or what all it was going to mean, but it was super cool,” said Teddy.

The Howell siblings’ former professor at Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College even informed Riley’s girlfriend, Lauren Westmoreland, about Riley’s appearance in the book.

“Lauren, Iris and my other sisters all had Mr. Boyd, (Riley’s former teacher). He messaged Lauren because he had the book. We looked at the picture, and it’s literally Jedi Riley,” said Teddy.

“They used the last name Howell.

Everything just sort of went off the rails right there. I remember Mark Hamill retweeted it. It was just crazy,” said Teddy.

“I know Riley would feel humbled, like, ‘I probably didn’t deserve that’ because that’s the kind of guy he was. On the inside, he probably would’ve been ecstatic because he is an official character. Our initial reaction was just shock and wonderment. [Riley] would’ve been humbled but excited at the same time,” said Teddy.

In May 2019, the Riley Howell Foundation Fund was founded. The organization was formed to help and provide counseling and funeral expenses to the families of victims who were lost to gun violence. The foundation fund is run and is made up of Howell family and friends, including Riley’s mother, Natalie Henry-Howell, as the advisory board president.

Remembering Riley

To Teddy, Riley was not only his older brother but one of his best friends. He remembers his brother as someone who was always willing to go out of his way to help others.

“Watching him live as a person, he was always willing to lend a helping hand if needed. He was always willing to help anybody, really,” said Teddy. “He was not a judgmental person at all. I think that’s what made him such a wonderful person. He would help you if you needed it, and he’d probably go out of his way to help you if you needed it, no matter the situation.”

“Riley, as a person at his core, was willing to help. That especially showed on that day,” said Teddy.

Teddy admired Riley for his selflessness and how he has inspired others to improve and be a better version of themselves.

“It’s an amazing thing what he did. He definitely shouldn’t have had to, but it’s great that he did,” said Teddy. “I’m glad that people can take his story and find inspiration within themselves and appreciate nature in the way that he did, find a new hobby or do something to try and make themselves a better person.”

Teddy continues to live every day in Riley’s memory. His older brother continues to be a role model to others and himself.

“There are always ways people can improve; there are a billion ways I can improve. Riley is helping me every day because, now, moving forward, anything I do, I do it for him,” said Teddy.

“Because of him, even if it’s getting out of bed, which is sometimes the hardest thing to do in the entire day, I’d do it because he would want me to,” said Teddy.



Riley Howell (left) with family members | Courtesy of the Riley Howell Foundation Fund



Artist Shafi Adam created a piece of Jedi Master Ri-Lee Howell for the Riley Howell Foundation Fund. Lucasfilm added Ri-Lee Howell into the Star Wars canon as a tribute to Riley Howell. | Courtesy of Shafi Adam

The Reed Parlier Golf Tournament gives back to the community

Bryson Foster | Outreach Coordinator

Each year, the Parliers host the Reed Parlier Golf Tournament, which honors the legacy of their son, Ellis Reed Parlier, who was one of two students killed in a shooting on the campus of UNC Charlotte on April 30, 2019. This year's tournament will take place at the Pine Lake Country Club in Mint Hill, North Carolina, on April 29, 2024.

This is the tournament's fourth year, and the money raised goes to the Reed Parlier Memorial Gold Rush Grant Scholarship Endowment. The event raised \$46,000 last year.

The tournament

Reed's mother, Julie, said the tournament started with the Chipping In organization.

"The golf tournament started with an organization called Chipping In. They are members of our club. It was their inaugural year, and they met at the club," said Julie. "Their

The tournament is expected to have 120 golfers this year, and the University is one of its biggest supporters.

"We certainly want to support as best as we can ultimately; what that means is helping with a lot of the backend things to ensure that every dollar that is given, above and beyond the expenses that it takes to put on the golf tournament, goes directly to the scholarship, which is 100% of the proceeds," said Brian Peck, director of development of the College of Computing and Informatics.

Bojan Cukic, dean of the College of Computing and Informatics, said the scholarship fund has impacted many students.

"Over \$1 million has been raised for the scholarships in Reed's name to aid over twenty students and counting. More than \$425,000 has come directly from funds raised through the tournament. Now in its fourth year, we hope

“I had not thought about putting on a tournament ourselves. We didn't do the last one, but then we talked and said, 'Why not? Everybody's interested in this.'”

- Julie Parlier

goal is to help members of the community. They met on the night of April 30, when everything happened. They chose our family as their first tournament, and that's when we decided that the money would go towards Reed's scholarship at UNC Charlotte.”

Julie said that after the first year, the family started running the event due to high demand.

"The next year, friends and acquaintances kept saying, 'When is Reed's tournament?' I had not thought about putting on a tournament ourselves. We didn't do the last one, but then we talked and said, 'Why not? Everybody's interested in this,'" said Julie.

this event will continue to serve as a venue for us to honor Reed's legacy as a community," said Cukic.

The funds go directly to the endowment, which will pay for the college expenses of eight students. All of the recipients are currently enrolled UNC Charlotte students who are within three semesters of graduating.

Charlotte also provides the Reed Parlier Memorial Scholarship to a student from Reed's high school, Central Academy for Technology and Arts (CATA). The scholarship covers the four-year cost of tuition and will be announced at the event. Nathan Weisskopf, a fourth-year computer science student, was the first



Charlotte Strong flag at the Reed Parlier Golf Tournament. | Courtesy of Brian Peck

scholarship recipient and said it changed his life.

“It felt amazing. I literally cheered when it was announced to me, but quickly became reflective and solemn. It has blessed my life, and I am sure it will bless future recipients, but it doesn’t change the reason for which it exists,” said Weisskopf.

Julie said the hope is for the tournament to continue to expand.

“We want those funds to increase each year, and we want to be able to reach out to more people so it’s not just our friends playing in the tournament; we get to meet new people and spread awareness throughout the tournament,” said Julie.

Remembering Reed

Reed was born in Charlotte on October 2, 1999, to Julie and Brian Parlier. He has a younger sister, Mallory.

Reed attended high school at CATA in Monroe, North Carolina, and, in 2019, was a second-year student at Charlotte studying computer science.

His father, Brian, said Reed was attentive from a young age.

“He was very quiet and didn’t want to be the room’s focus. He left that to his sister. She’s always been the focus of the room, but he was very attentive to what was going on. He was silent, but he was aware,” said Brian. “You wouldn’t think he was paying attention, and then he would say some smart-aleck remark that showed he was paying attention to the whole thing.”

Julie described Reed as a caring individual.

“He was very kind. After his passing, we discovered he was helping students at CATA that we didn’t know anything about. He was just that kind of person, and he wasn’t one to boast about himself. He was very loving,” said Julie.

Reed gave to those around him and was never afraid to help his friends with whatever they needed.

“He would save all his money, so if they were playing some brand new game off the shelf and his friends couldn’t afford it, he would buy the game for them because he saved his money,” said Brian.

Leaving an impact

Reed left an impact on his fellow students and faculty at UNC Charlotte.

Weisskopf said the scholarship opened up new avenues for him.

“It not only motivated me to perform well academically to show how much the

scholarship meant to me but also opened up opportunities for me to explore different aspects of my life. I worked part-time for much of my student life, and I was able to invest that into savings or new hobbies to explore. Through one of these hobbies, I met my fiancé,” said Weisskopf.

Weisskopf said that even though he never knew Reed, he has taught him valuable lessons.

“One of the defining characteristics I have heard about Reed was his desire to help others. I have tried my best to find ways to help those around me, whether academically, financially or emotionally. I hope that whoever receives the scholarship next is able to learn about Reed as I have and find their own way to honor his memory,” said Weisskopf.

Cukic said Reed’s kindness has led to an outpouring of support.

“We will always remember Reed for his kind, thoughtful character and for being an inspiration to all of us. It has been heartwarming to see the outpouring of support for the Ellis Reed Parlier Scholarship Fund since its establishment. The memorial golf tournament is a key way through which we rally together in memory of Reed,” said Cukic.

Carrying on the legacy

The tragedy on Charlotte’s campus five years ago took Reed, and the Parliers live with the loss every day.

“It amazes me how many people are run into, and they say, ‘What shooting?’ They don’t even know about it, and not that that’s something that I want to wear on a shirt and talk about every day, obviously. It’s just like you said that people don’t know anymore, and unfortunately, it’s something that Brian and I deal with every single day,” said Julie.

Julie said events like the golf tournament are a way to carry on his legacy by making sure he is never forgotten.

“From the beginning, the goal was that we didn’t want Reed forgotten. We wanted to hold this tournament for the public and everyone to keep awareness of what happened to him and Riley [Howell],” said Julie.

The Reed Parlier Golf Tournament will occur at the Pine Lake Country Club in Mint Hill on April 29. The tournament will start with opening remarks at 9 a.m.



Ellis Reed Parlier | Courtesy of the Parliers



UNC Charlotte’s Women’s Golf team who participated in the 2022 Reed Parlier Golf Tournament. | Courtesy of Brian Peck

The Riley Howell Foundation Fund supports gun violence victims

Sofia DiStefano | News Editor

In honor of Riley, the Howell family created the Riley Howell Foundation Fund (RHFF) in 2020 to raise awareness and help those affected by gun violence. The RHFF hosts fundraising events every year in memory of Riley. Their main event is the Mighty Four Miler Run.

The RHFF was created to help make a difference in the lives of those affected by gun violence.

“We put together the Riley Howell Foundation Fund to help make a difference in the lives of individuals who are victims and survivors of gun violence and in hopes that we can help those who suffer from gun violence and are fractured and impacted by trauma or loss, just like our family,” said Iris Howell, Riley’s younger sister. “The foundation doesn’t fix the tragic reality that my family lives every day by any means. But I think it’s the most meaningful way for us to transform our grief and help victims and survivors of gun violence in Riley’s memory and honor.”

On April 30, 2019, a gunman opened fire in the Kennedy Building. Howell died from his injuries along with his fellow student, Ellis Reed Parlier. Howell was 21 years old, and Parlier was 19.

Riley’s display of bravery that day impacted not only his family and close friends but also the students of Charlotte and the community as a whole.

“Our lives were turned upside down that day he was killed, as I’m sure you all can imagine. My family was and is forever changed. In the wake of our loss, we chose to channel our grief and sorrow into activism,” said Iris.

The Howells play an active role in the operations of the RHFF. The foundation fund is managed and run by their advisory board, whose president is Natalie Henry-Howell, Riley and Iris’ mother. The rest of the board consists of close friends, and with their combined efforts, they host numerous events throughout the year, such as the Mighty Four Miler.

Iris is not yet on the board but currently handles much of the communications and social media work for the foundation fund. The other Howell siblings, Juliet and Teddy, also support the foundation fund.

Helping today’s victims

The RHFF’s long-term goal is to donate funds to organizations that help those who suffered from traumatic events such as gun violence. The funding helps cover immediate needs such as grief counseling, funeral expenses and costs related to missed work.

“The biggest impact we can make is working with organizations that help victims today, not tomorrow. Our fund benefits organizations that provide support to victims of gun violence and help them meet their immediate needs,” says the RHFF mission statement on their website.

The foundation fund supports Outward Bound, which has a grieving teen program, in addition to local counseling. The RHFF also supports UNC Charlotte’s Ellis Reed Parlier Scholarship Fund in honor of Reed.

Each year, the foundation fund provides donations to different organizations.

“As president of RHFF, I, along with the other four RHFF Board members and with the expertise of our Donor Relations Officer at the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina (CFWNC), determine what organizations that benefit victims and survivors of gun violence, we fund with quarterly, annual or single grants,” said Natalie.

In 2023, the foundation fund gave \$22,500 to three different groups. The Spartan Strong Fund of Michigan State University in support of those affected by the Feb. 13, 2023, campus shooting, The Onsite Foundation to help fund their Triumph over Tragedy program and the Newton Action Alliance Foundation to partner with them for the ninth annual National Vigil for All Victims of Gun Violence.

The RHFF also recently introduced its new storefront, which sells hats, shirts and mugs.

The Mighty Four Miler Run

The RHFF’s main annual fundraiser is the Mighty Four Miler Run, a road race that takes place in Howell’s hometown of Waynesville, North Carolina. The Glory Hound Events organization presents the run.

“Our goal is to help people suffering the way we have. But the race itself is a huge event for our family; it’s a day flooded with emotions.



The Mighty Four Miler participants go to Waynesville, North Carolina, for the run. | Courtesy of RHFF

Each race day, I'm surrounded by just enormous sorrow of loss. I miss my big brother every day. But it's also a day surrounded by the love and support of our community around us," said Iris.

The RHFF hosted its fourth annual Mighty Four Miler this year on April 6.

"The turnout for the Mighty Four Miler was 215 participants with 35 of those being virtual sign ups. In the four years we have had the race, we have averaged 208 participants, many whom are family, friends and members of our local community," said Natalie.

The Mighty Four Miler has an in-person and virtual race option so supporters can participate despite time or travel constraints.

"I would say the combination of our in-person [run] and then our virtual run ensures that foundation supporters can help victims of gun violence from near or from far. I think that's really important to us is trying to have our outreach go as far as it possibly can with that," said Iris.

The foundation fund works closely with the local Moms Demand Action group for gun safety in America. The local mom group participates in the run and also helps connect racers to resources that help fight for public safety measures to protect people from gun violence.

"Race day fills me with the pride of upholding Riley's legacy and with the hope of differences, we can make down the road for gun violence victims. It's not easy, but I have learned to hold space for each emotion in my heart," said Iris.

The group is holding an Advocacy Day in Raleigh on Thursday, April 25, where volunteers will urge lawmakers to support common-sense gun safety laws.

Honoring Riley and his passions

The RHFF chose to dedicate the Mighty Four-Miler in memory of Riley because of the bond he and Iris had through running.

"I think that's why we chose to instigate a run in his honor. So it would just feel right to do that in his honor as a fundraiser, and I think a lot of it, too, is just because he hated running so much, and then he really came around to liking it," said Iris.

Growing up, Riley played goalkeeper for his high school team. Iris convinced him to run cross-country with her.

"I think it was really special to me when he decided he would run cross country with me, and I convinced his girlfriend Lauren to do it as well. It was so fun the three of us would drive to cross-country practice and track practice. And it was just really nice to have them with me, their senior year. He ended up really liking running. He made really good friends on the cross-country team."

Natalie described her son as fun-loving

and strong who had an array of interests and hobbies.

"He liked to work and play outdoors; he liked to read, do puzzles, play video games and cook hearty meals. He had a way of making people feel seen and a built-in sense of protection for others," said Natalie. "His brain was full of zany facts and colorful trivia on the most random of subjects. His sense of wonder and curiosity he carried with him into young adulthood, and he had an array of interests from the Star Wars canon to physical fitness to car engines and so much in between. He was a gentle man and a gentleman and centered us with his good energy and infectious laugh."

While Iris will never forget what happened to her older brother, she chooses to try to see Riley around her every day and use it as strength.

"Losing a sibling, a family member tragically, is not something that I'm ever going to be able to move on from. My best friend, my big brother, is no longer with me," said Iris. "But what we can do is move forward. And I think what helps is trying to find his light every day, trying to find the places in my life where I get to see Riley's presence and spirit around me day to day."

In the wake of Riley's loss, the Howell family tries to spend as much time together as possible and honor Riley by doing things he loves.

"I miss him every day. But as time passes, I think it only gets more important for us to emphasize that no matter how much time goes on since we've lost Riley, he's always with us in our hearts. My family and I try to keep this in mind while spending time together and doing things that Riley loved," said Iris.

Riley's memory is honored in many ways. The RHFF upholds the motto "Fear Less, Do More," which represents how Riley lived his life.

"I think that really embodies the way that he would put his mind to something. It doesn't matter how much he didn't want to or how much he feared what was coming. He was gonna get it done, you know? He was just a great big brother and I try to find ways I can carry him with me every day," said Iris.

Natalie believes that people and students can remember and honor Riley by being resolute in advocating for the end of gun violence.

"On Remembrance Day, walk out the door with love and with altruism — make it a point to show up for others in a giving, meaningful and thoughtful way. Do an act of generosity and kindness however you can, with intention and purpose, for the victims and students in that Kennedy Hall classroom in the mind. Take action in support of gun safety or gun safety legislation like secure gun storage, or writing to your legislator, reach out to someone struggling with a hardship or let someone know you care about them. Be human and be real," said Natalie.



The RHFF motto, "Fear Less Do More" symbolizes the way Riley lived his life. | Courtesy of RHFF



Natalie Henry-Howell (far right) runs with friends at the 2024 Mighty Four Miler. | Courtesy of RHFF

Safety and security measures five years later

EXAMINING POLICIES AFTER THE APRIL 30 SHOOTING AND FEB. 1, 2024, FALSE ACTIVE SHOOTER THREAT

AJ Siegel & Clare Grealey | Copy Editor & Asst. Copy Editor

In the five years since the April 30, 2019, shooting, UNC Charlotte has made changes to its safety and security policies, such as door locks and timely warnings.

The University began making additional changes after a false active shooter threat on Feb. 1, 2024. The campus community was frustrated with how the University handled the falsely reported threat and pushed the University to adjust its safety and security protocols to be more prepared for an active shooter threat.

Timely warnings

Charlotte's emergency notification system consists of NinerAlerts and NinerNotices. NinerAlerts are sent when there is an active threat to campus.

Timely warnings have been part of the University's emergency response well before April 30, but they have taken different forms over the years.

"Prior to seven [or] eight years ago, it was not branded as a NinerAlert; it was just sort of an emergency notification," said Christopher Gonyar, director of emergency management. "We have transitioned to providing an action directive with any NinerAlert that we've sent. In the past, when we would send an emergency notification, we would provide what was going on but not necessarily what that meant for our community."

On April 30, the NinerAlert was sent a few minutes after gunshots were reported and told the campus to "Run, Hide, Fight. Secure yourself immediately." Two hours later, an all-clear notice was sent.

"I was at ground zero for [April 30]. From the very beginning, the things I saw [indicated a threat]," said Jeffrey Baker, campus police chief. "I've never seen so many shoes [from] people running out of them. In all my experiences, I really hadn't seen that. But there's no doubt the evidence was overwhelming."

On Feb. 1, the first NinerAlert was sent 21 minutes after the first 911 call and only mentioned "a heavy police presence." Baker delayed alerting the community then because, unlike on April 30, it was clear to him that there was no threat.

Even though there was no actual threat on Feb. 1, Charlotte is using the incident to improve its alert system.

"One of the things that we learned was that we didn't necessarily have the effective communication that we would have liked for an in-between situation," said Gonyar. "We have very effective communication when there is a threat to campus safety. We are comfortable, obviously, with communication when everything's all clear. What we learned was [that] when we were in that in-between, it's tough."

According to the Feb. 14 NinerNotice, Charlotte is revising its alert system so that NinerAlerts will contain more information for non-immediate emergencies.

"[We're working on] having that in-between [message] for 'We're working on this. We're looking at this. Be prepared for when we send out the next information as to whether it is a lockdown, run-hide-fight or all-clear.' We've done some stuff to improve that in between, but it is really difficult," said Gonyar.

Lockdown kits

Lockdown kits were added to classrooms after April 30, to prepare in the case of another shooting. According to the University, these kits are not permanent solutions.

"The lockdown kit was never intended to be a long-term solution following April 2019," said Gonyar. "COVID-19 pushed us into a longer term than they would have been because people were not in classrooms and because everybody's focus was on COVID-19."

A kit is meant to be present in every classroom that cannot otherwise be locked in the event of an active shooter. The contents included in the kits are customized to each room's door configuration.

Rooms with inward-opening doors should have a door wedge for each door. Rooms with outward-opening doors should have a fire hose for each door, which would be slid onto the metal actuator at the top of the door.

However, these lockdown kit materials are not sufficient for every classroom. During a prior investigation of lockdown kits, the Niner Times



Campus police at the 2023 Day of Remembrance wreath-laying | Jade Suszek/Niner Times File

found that the door wedges were ineffective on tile flooring.

"There are instances in which the lockdown kit items are going to be less effective," said Gonyar. "[There are] 700 classrooms across campus, and we estimate there's probably 1.5 doors per classroom. So you're looking at 1,400-1,500 doors, [and] some of the items are going to be more or less effective on some of those doors. [But] it is the very small percentage where they are less effective."

One of the concerns following Feb. 1 was rooms with incomplete or missing lockdown

kits. According to Gonyar, Emergency Management conducted several lockdown kit assessments since the false active shooter threat.

"We did a full assessment of the College of Education building and CHHS twice in the days and week or so that followed Feb. 1," said Gonyar. "And in the time since then, we have started the more formal 2024 assessment of the kits."

Their assessment addresses the presence and completeness of every lockdown kit and the effectiveness of materials in particular classrooms.

“We are doing some spot-checking to make sure that the items work in those spaces,” said Gonyar. We have gotten some reports from folks that the fire hoses are a little too thick to fit over the [door’s] actuator, so we’re making sure we’re actually testing those in those rooms.”

The Office of Emergency Management website has a form that anyone can fill out to report an incomplete or missing lockdown kit.

“If you see something, say something,” said Gonyar. “We need that feedback and that information from the community like, ‘Hey, I’m in Fretwell, and I think there’s supposed to be a lockdown kit in here, and I don’t see it.’ If we don’t know that, we can’t get in there and put the lockdown kit in there.”

Electronic locks

After April 30, Charlotte determined that approximately 700 interior doors could not be locked from the inside, making it difficult to block an intruder during an emergency. Classroom lockdown kits are meant to be a temporary solution. Charlotte’s long-term, permanent solution is to install electronic locks on all doors on campus.

To increase security, the University began a project to ensure that all exterior doors could be electronically locked. At the press of a button

in Safety and Security’s command center, every exterior door will simultaneously lock and cannot be opened from the outside. However, the University is currently undertaking a project that will allow all interior doors to be locked from the inside and equip them with electronic locks, similar to the exterior doors.

Transitioning from physically locking doors to electronic or card swipe access comprises three phases. Phases one and two address the most populated buildings and those with the highest percentage of doors that did not already lock electronically.

According to Gonyar, phase one concluded in fall 2023, and phase two is being completed, with a projected completion date by the end of summer 2024. By the end of phase two, 15 buildings will have been equipped with electronically locking doors, and seven will remain, costing around \$900,000.

Phase three will address the remaining seven buildings and is slated to begin July 1, 2024, after the start of the next fiscal year. This phase is still undergoing planning and securing funding, estimated to cost \$1 million. Phase three is projected to be completed by Dec. 12, 2024.

ALICE training

After April 30, the University began offering

ALICE training (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate). While there were a few training sessions in 2019, faculty and staff were responsible for seeking training as it was not mandatory.

However, beginning in fall 2024, the online component of the ALICE training will be required for all campus community members, according to the Feb. 14 NinerNotice.

The ALICE training was created in 2000 after the Columbine High School mass shooting and the creator’s personal experiences with gun violence. According to the ALICE website, “ALICE trainers instruct on practical techniques for how to better barricade a room, what to do with mobile and electronic devices, [and] how and when to communicate with police.”

At Charlotte, the University provides online training, onsite instructors and private classes using the ALICE training for students and faculty.

Gonyar and Baker are major proponents of the ALICE training. They said that after April 30 and Feb. 1, multiple members of the Charlotte community told them how the ALICE training affected them.

“It was scary. They were not comfortable in the situation, but they felt empowered and like they knew what they needed to do,” said Gonyar. “Folks that had not taken the ALICE training in

both situations were the ones that were the most scared and did not know what to do.”

According to Baker, the ALICE training was not required before Feb. 1 because of concerns that it would be tedious, especially for incoming students.

“No one [in Safety and Security] is ever going to say, ‘Oh, no, you shouldn’t [require the ALICE training]. But there are folks that will say, ‘Well, I don’t know, do we have to do that? Aren’t we asking them to do an awful lot already?’” said Baker. “We’re getting there. I’m happy about it; we are elated that we’re going to have this training mandatory.”

Moving forward

Even with these changes in place, Gonyar said that the University will continue to update its safety and security policies, and the Charlotte community should be involved as well.

“We do the best we can in getting out and about across campus, seeing what’s going on, seeing the different door configurations and finding classrooms where a lockdown kit might be missing. But we rely on the rest of the UNC Charlotte community to tell us when something is wrong or missing or you see something,” said Gonyar.

Editorial: It is our responsibility to remember

Niner Times Editorial Board

Five years have passed since the most difficult moment for the UNC Charlotte campus. As another year goes by, we remember and reflect on the tragedy of April 30, 2019.

It sparked unforgotten grief, trauma and fear in students and staff that were here during 2019 and the family and friends of the victims.

It is our responsibility to remember the stories of Reed, Riley and the survivors. Their impact, legacy and strength will live on with the Charlotte community forever.

Understanding our University’s past helps strengthen our community and reinforces our support systems. Everyone connected to Charlotte is part of this community, and in times of crisis, they are not alone. We are not alone.

Carrying on their legacies

The Parliers, Howells and the University

have worked tirelessly to preserve Reed and Riley’s legacies. It is time for new students, faculty and staff to do the same.

To remember their legacies, visit the Constellation Garden Memorial in front of the Kennedy Building. The memorial is meant to create a space for members of the Charlotte community to see Reed and Riley’s impact and serves as a permanent memorial for these two remarkable young men. The memorial was inspired by both Reed and Riley’s passions, combining nature and technology.

When people interact with the memorial by touching the six tubes, which represent each student directly affected by the shooting, they shine and brighten. This displays a powerful message, connecting the light that Reed and Riley bestowed on us so that we can carry their sacrifices with us.

Charlotte will host the annual wreath-

laying ceremony in honor of Reed, Riley and every other survivor from April 30. The Day of Remembrance ceremony helps the Charlotte community come together and reflect on the aftermath. This is not another tragedy that can be forgotten.

Not every student on campus remembers April 30, but they can still play their part in remembering. The responsibility of carrying Reed and Riley’s legacy falls onto the shoulders of new students, so continue to participate in The Day of Remembrance, read about those who were impacted and encourage others to do the same.

Today’s importance

The false active shooter threat on Feb. 1, 2024, highlighted the importance of consistency throughout campus safety. For many, it brought back memories from 2019. It also showed potential flaws in our campus safety systems.

The University needs to respond to feedback on safety, and continually update students about any dangerous situations on campus. They have made improvements for more efficient safety protocols since Feb. 1, but there is still much more to do.

While people may not have experienced the aftermath of April 30, its effects radiate through our entire campus. On Feb. 1, we saw the fear, and we were reminded of the acts of bravery and legacy of Reed and Riley.

To progress forward, Charlotte must never forget April 30. We must work to carry on by simultaneously preserving the legacy and memory of Reed and Riley, along with every other person affected by shootings day after day.

The only way to move forward is to acknowledge our reality and never forget the sacrifices made to protect so many more lives.



#CHARLOTTESTRONG

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE 2024