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Contents

WELCOME BACK NINERS	4
COVID-19 GUIDELINES	5
LETTER FROM THE CHANCELLOR	6
ARCHITECTURE WINS NSF GRANT	8
GUIDE TO GOLD RUSH	11
FALL EVENTS IN CLT	12
A WALK IN THE PARK	14
LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO EAT?	19
QUIZ: WHICH EDITOR ARE YOU?	20
NOT OUT OF THE WOODS YET	22
HOTTEST SHOWS THIS FALL	24
URBAN PARKS	27
FALL BACK INTO THE CINEMA	28

WELCOME BACK NINERS

A letter of hope to Niner Nation

by April Carte
Editor-in-Chief

Photo by Chris Crews

Dear Niner Nation,

First things first welcome back! After a school year like last year, I was worried I might not get to say those words. But, here we are!

I know for most of us, last year was not our ideal school year. Between online classes, mask-wearing, social distancing and decreased campus events, it was the furthest thing from a normal college experience. However, we got through it, and Niner Nation stayed persistent and strong throughout—as we have done time and time again.

With that being said, it is hard for me to talk about how I think this year will be so much better and different than last year. The truth is, it may not be. With cases rising of the new Covid delta variant, I can't help but worry that things could change at any moment. However, I am challenging myself to stay hopeful and open-minded. Two things that I would encourage everyone else to do as well.

On a more positive note, campus life will be one thing that looks completely different than last year. With dorms and dining halls at full capacity, Gold Rush making its comeback, in-person classes, and all faculty and staff back on campus, I am slightly relieved that campus will look and feel less like a ghost town. I am sure most of us can agree that college doesn't feel like college without an active student body. Especially at UNC Charlotte, the people—the community—is what makes this school so special.

First-year students: I wish I could give you a normal first year with all the fun-filled activities that come along with it. But hopefully, I can give you the next best thing. All those activities—just with a mask. Enjoy this year as much as you can, find yourself and remember that



the next couple of years are going to be nothing but fast. My first year was full of the basics—new friends, new interests and new knowledge. It was a time I will hold on to forever.

Second-year students: I am sure your first year of college was not what you had imagined it to be, but you made it! Looking back at my second year, it was my most confusing year. After failing my intro-level course required for my major, I questioned the path that I had decided to take, but I kept going and trusted myself—and that's the best advice I can give you.

Third-year students: You are halfway there! Now that you are diving deeper into your actual degree, I hope you are content and happy with your major. I know your first two years of college were also likely not what you had expected them to be. With two years left, you still have a chance to make the most of your college experience. Start applying the things you have learned already towards what is to come.

Fourth-year students: We have had a weird three years of college, and it looks like we may never feel those first semester

2018 vibes again before we graduate. Somehow, amid all the chaos we have experienced, we still made it to the end. So enjoy the last tastes of college before you can't anymore. The real world is quickly creeping up on us, but these last couple of years of college have shown us that we can handle whatever comes our way.

There is no question that navigating college during a pandemic is not an easy task. In fact, it is foreign to everyone. I know that may not ease any of the frustration, confusion or loneliness that is attached (and still attached) to this pandemic, but hopefully, it can remind everyone to lean on one another. We heard it after April 30, and we still hear it today: we're all in this together. It's true, at the surface level, we are all college students getting our degree(s) during one of the strangest times we have witnessed in our lifetime.

The pandemic has taught me a lot about myself and my academics. For instance, I learn a lot better while wearing sweatpants and a hoodie. This school year, I am determined to keep learning about myself. After all, that's part of what college is for. So learn something new

about yourself this year too, even if that's something as simple as your preferred class attire.

Take advantage of what we do have this year after seeing all that we didn't have last year. It sucked missing out on some of the things from years prior that created the best college memories for some of us. So, go to a sporting event, eat lunch on campus, attend Gold Rush, see a movie in the union, most importantly, go to class and get that front row seat.

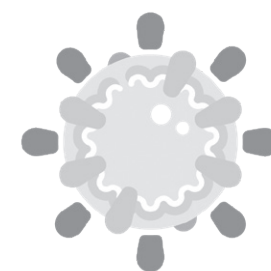
However, take all of my advice with a grain of salt. Remember, the pandemic is still here. Be safe and keep Niner Nation healthy. Do not attend a campus event if you are sick. No matter vaccination status, take any symptoms or exposure seriously. As I said, we're all in this together, so prove it. Wear your masks—until it is safe not to do so—and please get vaccinated if you are eligible. We all want a normal college experience, or at least the closest thing to it. These are the resources we must use to ensure that.

Again, welcome back from all of us here at the Niner Times. Here's to a new year filled with new opportunities, experiences and friendships. And here's to staying hopeful during unprecedented times. Go Niners!

Best,

April Carte
Editor-in-Chief

COVID-19 GUIDELINES



What to know about COVID-19 protocols this semester

by Madison Dobrzanski
News Editor

COVID-19 graphic courtesy of Davian
Ho, Maya Peters Kostman, and Philippa
Steinberg via Innovative Genomics

In March 2020, Covid-19 began to impact UNC Charlotte, the University moved many classes online and on-campus events and courses were postponed. As a result, the following academic year consisted of mostly virtual classes and in-person classes where possible and necessary.

The fall 2021 semester will be in-person, but there are still guidelines to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Below are the Covid-19 guidelines and procedures that students should know for the 2021-2022 academic year.

In-person versus Virtual:

According to the Niner Nation Cares website, classes will return to a mostly in-person format during fall 2021, and classrooms will be at full capacity.

Masks:

On July 29, after the rise of the Covid-19 delta variant cases and the CDC recommended masks to be worn indoors, a NinerNotice was sent announcing a change in face-covering requirements. Therefore, for the foreseeable future, face coverings will be required on campus in all indoor spaces, regardless of vaccination status. The only exceptions to this protocol are when students are in their residence hall rooms or when employees are in their personal offices.

Vaccination:

The NinerNotice sent on July 29 encourages students to get vaccinated. "Vaccination is the most effective way to protect yourself and others against Covid-19." The NinerNotice also directs students to the Niner Nation Cares website to find a vaccination site and asks vaccinated people to complete the Covid-19 Vaccine Reporting Form on the Niner Nation Cares website.

On-Campus Organizations and Events:

Campus events and student organizations will be able to resume on-campus meetings. These events will begin with University Convocation on Aug. 19, New Student Convocation on Aug. 22 and the Student Orgs Showcase on Aug. 22. These events were all virtual last year, but they will be held in person, according to the campus events website.

Testing:

The University will require all unvaccinated face-to-face students, face-to-face faculty and in-person staff to be tested. Providing proof of vaccination is the only way to be exempt from this requirement.

Re-entry to campus testing will be required of all unvaccinated residential students. The test must be completed within 72 hours (three days) before the student's move-in date, and the documentation of the negative result must be submitted before students arrive for move-in appointments. If you have had a positive test result between May 20, 2021 and Aug. 4, 2021, you will be exempt from testing, but you must submit documentation of the result. According to the Niner Nation Cares website, "if you are unable to provide a negative test result or proof of vaccination, you will not be allowed to move into your residence hall."

Housing and Residence Life (HRL) will provide more information via email.

Non-residential face-to-face students and all in-person employees/faculty must receive and submit a negative test result between Aug. 19 and Aug. 21. If you have had a positive test result between May 20, 2021 and Aug. 4, 2021, you will be exempt from testing, but you must submit documentation of the result.

The University will continue with its wastewater testing program, and the results

will be used to conduct targeted weekly testing of unvaccinated students and employees in residence halls.

Niner Health Checks:

Niner Health Checks will continue to be sent out to monitor Covid-19 cases at UNC Charlotte. However, they ask if you are fully vaccinated to complete the Covid-19 Vaccine Reporting Form, which will exempt you from Niner Health Checks.

For more information regarding COVID-19, visit both the Niner Nation Cares website or the Emergency

Management's Covid-19 Dashboard. The Niner Nation Cares site contains information about cleaning and disinfecting, rapid testing locations and "Covid-19 Fact vs. Fiction." The Covid-19 Dashboard is updated daily with data, including reported cases and on-campus testing. The Covid-19 Dashboard's accuracy relies on participation by community members through Niner Health Checks. The Niner Times will continue to publish updates regarding Covid-19 as necessary.

DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE HELPING YOU NAVIGATE THE NINER EXPERIENCE

College is a new adventure, full of fun and sometimes challenging encounters. It is our goal to be the compass for your University experience. Your journey may take you down many paths. No matter which direction you find yourself headed, know that we are here to guide you, educate you, and most importantly, support your Niner Experience.

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LETTER FROM THE CHANCELLOR



Welcome back!

On behalf of our trustees, faculty, staff and alumni, I am pleased to welcome you to the 2021-22 academic year! And what a year it will be! We are excited to be back on campus and able to gather (in safe ways) as a community.

Please remember that in order for us to stay open and on campus, (1) vaccinations are the best way to make this happen, and (2) it's important that we all continue to make good choices with mask-wearing. If we all do our part to keep ourselves and others safe, we hope that we will soon see a change in infection rates both locally and nationally.

As the fall semester begins, I urge you to stay committed to your academics. Take courses and engage in research projects that both excite and challenge you. Seek out opportunities to gain hands-on experience and customize your education to fit your interests. You are being taught by the best professors, mentors, researchers and advisors around. Interact with them, whether it's in class, during office hours, or by email. We all want you to succeed!

I also encourage you to immerse yourself in campus life. With more than 400 student organizations, including fraternities and sororities, sports clubs, religious and volunteer groups, find what interests you and get involved. You will meet new friends and get to know your new community even better.

We have 18 Division I athletic teams, so there will always be an opportunity to show off your 49er pride, cheering for your classmates. Don't forget, our first home football game is Sept. 3 against Duke University.

And, on Sept. 23, we will celebrate 75 years as an institution. UNC Charlotte has enjoyed an astounding trajectory over the past 75 years made possible by visionary leaders, extraordinary students, stellar faculty and staff, and dedicated alumni. Please plan to join us in this celebration of 75 years!

As we look forward to the next 75 years and as we launch our new brand, we affirm that UNC Charlotte is an inclusive, collaborative, creative and fearless university. We are at the forefront of innovation, and we use that to make a meaningful difference in our communities and in society as a whole. YOU are an important part of that!

It is truly a privilege to serve as your chancellor. Please know that I will do everything in my power to support and strengthen our academic enterprise, ensure a great college experience for you, and always place the highest priority on the safety and well-being of our students, faculty and staff.

I am excited to see the great work we will accomplish together.

Stay healthy, and Go Niners!

Chancellor Sharon L. Gaber

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UNC CHARLOTTE ARCHITECTURE WINS NSF GRANT

RESEARCHERS AIM TO CREATE NET-ZERO ARCHITECTURE

by Lorenza Medley
Staff Writer

Photo by
Andrew Cepelnik

The National Science Foundation (NSF) awarded Dr. Kyoung Hee Kim, associate professor of architecture at UNC Charlotte, and her team with a \$250,000 grant. Specifically, it was NSF's Partnerships for Innovation -Technology Translation (NSF PFI-TT) grant for a research project she led on high-solar-powered windows.

"The PFI-TT track offers the opportunity to translate prior NSF-funded research results in any field of science or engineering into technological innovations with promising commercial potential and societal impact," the NSF says. Kim hopes more people can appreciate and use solar cells on buildings.

This grant will help Kim and her team move on to the next phase of her project. "This NSF grant will allow the team to build the actual prototype and carry out experiments to see whether your hypothesis is correct or not," she said.

The NSF grant she received will allow her to move to the next phase of her project. According to Kim, the grant will provide the team with the funding to hire students, purchase material, build prototypes and carry out experiments to test the team's hypothesis on the solar cells.

The project focuses on using solar energy to create a more efficient building.

"My passion is to achieve net-zero architecture, meaning that the building doesn't, in the end, doesn't consume any energy to operate," she said.

"One of the very critical strategies is incorporating renewable energy production through the building," Kim said. Currently, buildings use a lot of energy to operate properly. Kim hopes to achieve net-zero architecture, which means the building does not consume energy to operate.

Kim's experience as a licensed architect

in North Carolina has helped her in this project. "Architects are good at creating new things," she said. This out-of-the-box thinking has allowed her to come up with the idea for solar cells in windows.

She has two goals for this project: integrate solar cells into buildings and make solar cells visually interesting so more people can appreciate and use them. "One of the very critical strategies is to incorporate renewable energy production through the building to offset building energy consumption," Kim said.

The solar cells are curved to enhance the visual appeal and follow the sun's natural path to "yield higher energy harvesting," she said.

The project utilizes solar energy for its lack of downsides. "I'm taking the easier route to incorporate renewable energy knowing that there are drawbacks associated with wind energy and also hydraulic based energy," she said. She hopes to move on to different forms of renewable energy in the future but will be sticking with solar energy for now.

Kim is working alongside a team of other researchers, including Dr. Chengde Wu, a lecturer in the School of Architecture, and Dr. Aba Ebong, a professor and the director of the graduate program in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. The team is composed of people of all different backgrounds to promote diversity in thought and perspective.

"At the educational and the university-wide impact, I would say, I'd like to strategically recruit females and underrepresented student body members and engage in hands-on experience, so they know how the clean technology works," she said.



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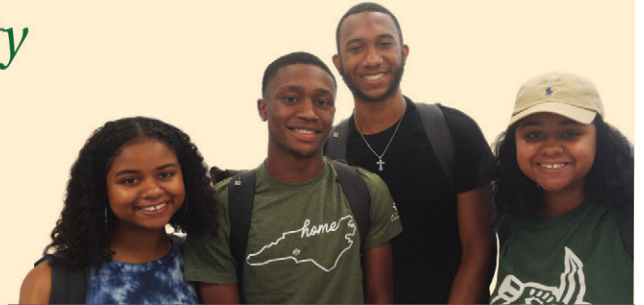
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- Enhance your leadership and career development skills through an identity-based lens.
- Attend or volunteer for one of our many programs, dialogues, and/or events.
- Become a mentor and be a mentee through SAFE.
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- Attend one of our experiential learning trips.
- Activate! your mind through our social justice training institute.

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Guide to Gold Rush

Check out what is in store for Gold Rush 2021

by Emily Kottak
Arts & Culture Editor

Photo by Chris Crews

In preparation for the fall semester, UNC Charlotte prepares an exciting week of welcome events. The culmination of these exciting events, which will take place from Friday, Aug. 20 to Sunday, Aug. 29, is called “Gold Rush.” This year is sure to offer excitement and preparation for a great year with the wonderful events lined up.

Events will start as early as 9 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 20, but the Union Takeover: Gold Rush Edition is a highlight to look for on Friday. This will take place from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Popp Martin Student Union. Carnival rides, food, games and personalized gifts will be provided.

Saturday festivities will begin at 11 a.m.

with Student Niner Media Jeopardy at Norm’s Loft in the Popp Martin Student Union. This event will last until 4 p.m. and will include both UNC Charlotte and Student Niner Media trivia. From 12 p.m. to 3 p.m., there is also an opportunity for the SGA Meet and Greet at the Star Quad. Be sure not to miss the Welcome Back Block Party from 7 p.m. to 12 a.m. in the Popp Martin Student Union Rotunda and Back Patio.

Sunday is a great opportunity for new students (and even returning students) to meet clubs and organizations and see how they can get involved this semester. The Student Orgs Showcase will be held from 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. and is a campus-wide event taking place at these locations:

BSAC Northeast Courtyard, Belk Plaza, CHHS & COED Plaza and surrounding areas. Another big event on Sunday is RecFest from 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m., where students can meet more student organizations and campus partners and try local cuisine. The first 1,500 students will get a free tee shirt! New students need to attend the New Student Convocation from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Student Activity Center, which officially commemorates new students’ inclusion as students of the new academic class at UNC Charlotte.

The rest of the week is packed with lots of fun events. On Monday, between 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., students can check out mini demos of the Group Fitness Classes

offered on campus. This event will be held within the University Recreation Studios. Tuesday features Back-to-school-Bingo and Cookout & Cornhole. Worship & Ice Cream and Glow in the Dark Capture the Flag are a couple of events on Wednesday. A Drive-In-Movie will be held Thursday evening. The NormsQuest campus scavenger hunt will be held on Friday and the Welcome Back concert in the West Quad.

This week is packed full of activities and events for everyone. Whether you are a new student or returning, it is sure to be a wonderful experience. Bring your friends and seize the opportunity to make new friends. Enjoy this year’s Gold Rush at UNC Charlotte!



FALL EVENTS IN CLT

SIX EVENTS TO LOOK OUT FOR THIS FALL

by Niyathi Sulkunte
Photo Editor

Photo by Curtis Cheung

Coming back for a new school year means coming home to the vibrant city of Charlotte. While there are many things to do on campus, there is lots more to do beyond campus life. Various events are happening for people interested in the outdoors, arts, sports, and more. Check out the list below to see if anything piques your interest!

U.S. National Whitewater Center Labor Day Celebration

The Whitewater Center is a gorgeous area with tons of open land and opportunities for fun. They have whitewater rafting, kayaking, rock climbing, hiking, biking and ice skating in the winter! You can purchase a day pass that allows you to do an unlimited amount of activities offered, or you can purchase a ticket for a specific activity. Make sure to check out the Labor Day celebration on Sept. 4 and 5. There will be fireworks and music, and the event is free, besides the \$6 fee for parking.

Charlotte SHOUT! (Highlight: the Festival of India)

Charlotte SHOUT! is a festival that lasts from Sept. 17 to Oct. 3. This fun festival is hosted in uptown Charlotte with art showcases, light shows, dance performances and more. This year's SHOUT! Festival will also include the Festival of India. The Festival of India will be on Sept. 25 at Gateway Village. Although Charlotte SHOUT! only debuted in 2019, the festival of India has been an annual event for 26 years now. Be sure to check out Charlotte SHOUT!

Charlotte Pride Parade

Charlotte Pride will have events from Aug. to Nov. There will be various events ranging from volunteering events, an interfaith service, a pop-up event, a scavenger hunt, a job fair, a concert and a parade. The Pride concert will be held on Sept. 17. and will highlight LGBTQ+ artists as well as the annual drag pageant. At 1 p.m. on Oct. 24, participants will start the parade and walk on Tryon Street through the city. Celebrate the LGBTQ+ community at these events this fall!

Buy Black Pop Up Shop

If you are looking to support black-owned businesses, check out this pop-up shop from 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. on Oct.

30. Located in Lab City, this event will have food, music, black-owned business vendors and more. There will also be a Halloween costume contest, so come prepared to win some cash prizes!

Charlotte Sports

Are you interested in sports? Charlotte has a lot of opportunities to view live sporting events. The Charlotte Panthers will be playing at the Bank of America stadium all fall. Check out their home games against the New York Jets, New Orleans Saints, Philadelphia Eagles, New England Patriots, and more! Beyond checking out the Panthers, you can also go to Hornets games or check out the Charlotte Knights. Charlotte is also home to NASCAR racing so take advantage of it!

SCarowinds

The popular amusement park Carowinds transforms

into "SCarowinds" on specific nights between Sept. 17 and Oct. 31. Along with the rides already there year-round, there will be haunted mazes, scare zones, and live entertainment. So get ready to get spooked! This is a great activity to bring a bunch of friends to so you all can enjoy the Halloween season together.

This list just touches the surface of what Charlotte has to offer. Keep a lookout for ways to explore the city more during your time here.



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NEXT TO CIRCLE K, BESIDE UNCC



Your comprehensive guide to UNC Charlotte parking

by Max Young
Copy Editor

Photos by Patrick M

Each Niner has their own war stories dealing with Parking and Transportation Services (PaTS). However, following their rules and policies can save you from getting a ticket or even towed. Here is your comprehensive guide on how to navigate on-campus parking and avoid PaTS infractions.

Unless you want to pay for parking each time you visit campus, you will need a parking pass to the several commuter parking lots and decks. There are several categories of parking permits. The regular permit options include full year, full semester, night and partial year. The most basic parking passes can range from \$300 to \$500,

“...if you are one of the heathens that double parks...you deserve whatever hellfire PaTS reigns upon you.”

depending on your needs. However, there are discounted options for those who want to park farther away from campus. These options include Lot 6A, Lot 27 and North Deck. The best thing about parking on campus is that it is free on the weekends after 5 p.m. on Fridays until 5 a.m. on Mondays.

Game-day football parking passes can be purchased through the PaTS website. Four hours before kickoff, all campus entrances will be closed to all except emergency and service vehicles. Finding decent parking on game days can be a blessing. However, vehicles parked after midnight before a game will be towed at the owner's expense. If you can't find parking, there are shuttles throughout campus to the games.

For those who utilize UNC Charlotte's disability services, PaTS has several resources to navigate campus. Along with the Americans with Disabilities Act designated parking spots, UNC Charlotte offers a paratransit system to get students around campus efficiently. Disability parking for game days has designated passes at the CRI deck for free if you are a student or \$15-20 if you are not. Visitors with disabilities can park at Lot 28 by Robinson Hall, East Deck 1, Union Deck, Cone Deck and South Village Deck.

Although a lot of the parking on campus is designated for students, faculty and staff, there are still several options available for visitors. Visitor parking costs start at \$5 for the first hour and \$2 for each additional hour. After that, fees cap at \$15, but make sure to hold on to your ticket because there is a \$20 lost ticket fee.

It is a known fact that UNC Charlotte students have a rough relationship with PaTS. This is mainly because PaTS is responsible for delegating parking fines. To avoid them, make sure to follow all UNC Charlotte parking ordinances.

When it comes down to it, make sure you are parking in the correct lot. If you were to get a ticket, it was most likely because you were parking in the wrong place, or you are just awful at parking. However, if you are one of the heathens that double parks or puts a cone in your spot to reserve it, you deserve whatever hellfire PaTS reigns upon you.

The peaks and valleys of being on campus can be at the hands of UNC Charlotte's parking authority. This incredible resource is intended to help the Niner Nation stay organized in the battle against parking qualms. Parking is the first step to any Niners' experience here, and once you park, your 49er adventure can start.





WELCOME FROM YOUR STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT:

Hello Niners! My name is Dick Beekman, and I am your Student Body President. I'm a Senior double majoring in History and Political Science, with a minor in American Studies.

Hello everyone! My name is Gabi Hitchcock and I serve alongside Dick Beekman as your Student Body Vice President! I'm currently a Senior majoring in Political Science and Sociology with a minor in Legal Studies.

You must be thinking, who is SGA and what do they do? Or maybe, why do I care? Unlike your organizations in high school that plan your homecoming, we're instead centered around advocacy for your financial, social and academic interests. We are made up of three branches of individuals from varying backgrounds in the University, from majors such as Political Science to Engineering, working to ensure that students are front and center of every decision made by the University. Alongside the countless communities at UNC Charlotte, we work with administration and faculty to relay concerns that you may have in any facet. Some of our past accomplishments include bringing football to UNC Charlotte, obtaining Pass/No Credit for the Student Body during this past academic year, and ensuring we were the only school in the UNC System to have a Spring Break for our students last year. We are continually engaging in dialogue on the important issues, programming and presenting opportunities so you all can get the most out of your years here at UNC Charlotte. If you ever find yourself confused with University decisions, wanting to ask questions about academics, need help navigating the community, or just want to know more about getting involved, we're here for you every step of the way.

We are absolutely elated that you chose Charlotte as your home and we can't wait to welcome you on campus! If you want to stay up to date with us, you can follow either [@beekmanhitchcock](#) or [@uncc_sga](#) for the latest updates, legislation and opportunities. We also welcome you to e-mail us at studentbodypresident@uncc.edu or studentbodyvp@gmail.com anytime you need, whether it be a concern or you just need someone to talk to. Good luck this semester and **GO NINERS!**

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Looking for a place to eat?

Where to dine on campus this fall

by Jessica Ceballos
Asst. News Editor

Photos by
Angelique Butler

UNC Charlotte's Fall semester is hopeful yet unclear, but where you're going to eat this semester should not be. However, there are changes and additions to look forward to, such as the Aurum Science Cafe featuring Auntie Anne's, Shake Smart (in the Student Union) and Thoughtful Cup (in Fretwell) that will open during the fall 2021 semester.

"Dining Services endeavors to return to normal operations for 2021-2022," Robin Sutton, Marketing Director for Dining Services said. "However, meal plan and dining operations are subject to change with course delivery and campus operation changes. We will communicate with meal plan holders should any updates become available."

Dining services encourage students to use the Dine on Campus app to stay up to date for any changes throughout the semester. The app allows the user to view hours and available locations, as well as the menu.



Each dining location is following safety precautions to guard against COVID-19. Some changes to be aware of from spring 2021 semester are as follows. Returning to self-service for some stations in the dining halls. The dining staff replaces self-service utensils every 30 minutes. The plan is to return to 100% capacity in all dining areas, with extended outdoor seating. Check Dine on Campus or the screens outside of the dining halls to view dining hall capacity. Prospector, Crown Commons, and SoVi have designated social distancing dining areas for anyone who may not be comfortable dining close to others.

This past year, dining services added the following changes to the dining experience, which are still in place. Plexiglass is in place at all serving stations and face-to-face operations. Employees are wearing masks and undergoing daily health checks, hand sanitizer stations are throughout dining facilities, high-touch surfaces receive regular sanitization, clean/dirty tokens are on all tables to signify when a table is clean. In addition, dining hall patrons are required to use a fresh cup and plate each time they get more food.

To promote contactless ordering on campus, dining services has installed ordering kiosks in the Student Union, Prospector and Cone. Kiosks accept DB, Optional Dining Account (ODA), 49er Account, debit and credit. They also encourage students to use the Niner Diners Mobile Ordering app. The Niner Diners Mobile Ordering app is a useful tool to order food ahead of time for retail dining and to-go food.

New to campus this semester is the Hand Off Delivery program through



the Niner Diners Mobile Ordering. For a \$3.95 delivery fee, Panda Express and Subway offer this service for five locations across campus at lunch. Dining services is also launching the FanFood app to allow students to mobile order concessions during football and basketball.

According to Sutton, "All first-year resident students have been assigned to The Daily Plan. Upperclass resident students may choose from The Daily Plan, 160 Block Plan and the 100 Block plan. Upperclass students in non-required housing and commuters may choose from all of the meal plans as well as straight DB plans."

Meal plans are made available to students for purchase. Meal plans options include a varying amount of swipes and declining balance (DB). Meal swipes can be used in SoVi and Crown Commons

dining halls as well as to purchase meals from Crown2Go. In addition, students can use DB, ODA and 49er Account funds can at all retail dining locations. For more information about meal plans, please visit the meals plans and dining accounts websites.

"There is nothing more important than the health of our campus community," Chancellor Sharon Gaber said in the message to Niner Nation on Aug. 4. "It has and continues to be paramount in all of our decisions."

Which editor are you?

by Brandon Mitchell
Layout Editor

Answer these ten questions to find out which editor you are most like. After completing the quiz, flip the next page upside down to calculate your results. Disclaimer: Results only include editors within the the final production team.

Which super hero are you most like?

- a.) Beast Boy
- b.) Iron Man
- c.) Captain Marvel
- d.) Scarlet Witch
- e.) Gambit

What's your favorite spot on campus?

- a.) Botanical Gardens
- b.) The Union
- c.) Hechenbleiker Lake
- d.) Hammocks next to Fretwell
- e.) Hammocks next to Robinson

What's your favorite section?

- a.) News
- b.) Copy
- c.) Arts & Culture
- d.) Opinion
- e.) Layout

What's your favorite show?

- a.) Wilfred
- b.) All American
- c.) Bob's Burgers
- d.) Modern Family
- e.) Harley Quinn

What's your aesthetic?

- a.) Sweater weather
- b.) Biker shorts and an oversized hoodie
- c.) Comfort over everything
- d.) Athletic shorts, big tee and airforces
- e.) An eclectic cowboy

What are you most likely doing at a party?

- a.) Just chatting
- b.) DJing
- c.) Taking shots
- d.) Staying hydrated and hoping there's a pet
- e.) Starting a drinking game

What's your catchphrase?

- a.) Sick!
- b.) I hate you.
- c.) Yikes!
- d.) Where are my antacids?
- e.) F*ck this noise.

What meal could you eat for the rest of your life?

- a.) Wings
- b.) An authentic burrito with a side of rice and beans
- c.) Sub sandwich
- d.) Any kind of pasta
- e.) Chicken nuggets

What's your favorite font?

- a.) Helvetica
- b.) Accidental Presidency
- c.) Times New Roman
- d.) Helvetica
- e.) Helvetica

What's your escapist fantasy?

- a.) Firewatcher
- b.) Watching the sunset in Italy
- c.) Lighthouse living
- d.) I don't have one
- e.) Roadtripping across the country

Calculate your results.



Izzy, our assistant copy editor, is always down to hang, but might need to pop a few antacids first. She likes spending her nights baking, reading and playing Minecraft. If you got her, you're probably a sociable introvert and probably own at least one cat.



Hiral, our opinion editor, might seem quiet on the surface, but she's full of hot takes. She's a leo-moon, sun and rising. If you got her, that might actually mean something to you. You also probably get boba at least once a week.



Brandon, our layout editor, is a pretty cool dude. Outside of Niner Times, he also makes podcasts, but think NPR not Joe Rogan. He's also an avid defender of country music and has even written an article about it. If you got him, you're probably the loudest at a party and the fastest person to derail a meeting. Join Uptown Audio and come meet him!



Max, our copy editor, loves to hang out with friends, but also needs time by himself to recharge. He always seems to have his ukele on him, but never seems to know any songs. If you got him, you probably spend your time playing video games with friends or watching hockey. Go Canes!



April, our Editor-in-Chief, is full of chaotic energy and sarcasm. She's an Aries with an attitude, but she also has a soft side for her friends. If you got her, you probably spend your time watching Netflix or out on the town with friends. This also might be your sign to join the publication.

Your most selected letter choice is who you are most like! A=Max, B=April, C=Hiral, D=Izzy and E=Brandon.

NOT OUT OF THE WOODS YET



Charlotte athletics look to jump even more hurdles in 2021-22 season

by Bradley Cole
Sports Editor

Photo by
Chris Crews

In August of 2020, Charlotte athletic director Mike Hill and the entire athletic department were preparing to navigate the new norm.

A year later, the 49ers are dealing with the same issues as the 2021-22 school year approaches. The pandemic still presents numerous questions as the Covid-19 delta variant has sparked a rise in cases around the country in Charlotte.

According to a Mecklenburg County report, an average of 12.4% of tested individuals was positive for Covid-19. The trend in new cases has promoted stricter guidelines such as UNC Charlotte requiring masks on campus regardless of vaccination status.

For Hill and his team, this means some things are still up in the air when it comes to fall sports.

"It really is still TBA," said Hill of the Fall season. "Right now, we are still moving forward with our plans, and we are selling tickets. We attend to have as many fans in the stands as we can."

Charlotte will start the season with a bang as the football team hosts Duke on Sep. 7. After only playing six games in 2020 due to covid related issues, Hill hopes to have the team on the field for the entire season.

"We have protocols in place because of the delta variant to keep everyone safe," said Hill. "It's really important that we complete a full schedule this year, and I think everyone around the country recognizes that."

Hill says the best the teams can do is prepare for any changes, as cases have proven to be up and down throughout the summer. However, when it comes to the football team getting every game completed, it's not only important for financial reasons but for the players too.

"It's important for the morale and the success of our program," said Hill. "In the end, there are clearly financial repercussions if we do not play all of the games on our schedule. More than anything, it's important

for these young men to be able to play 12 games. They are here to get an education, and they are here to play."

The vaccine will be important for the 49ers teams when it comes to completing games on time this year. Hill says players have heard from medical experts about the vaccine to ensure they have the most up-to-date information about the Covid-19 vaccine.

"We have provided a lot of vaccine education to our student-athletes and our staff," said Hill. "We have had medical experts come in, multiple experts that have spoken to the teams since the start of the pandemic to talk about the safety of the vaccine and answer the questions of the athletes."

Hill added that he feels "really good and confident" about the athletic program's position at the moment when it comes to the rate of vaccinations amongst athletes. He added there's still a way to go, but progress has been made even in the last few weeks.

The upcoming season will be important for Charlotte for multiple reasons. Covid-19 will still present its set of challenges. Another important part of the year will be to keep growing the new rebrand launched over a year ago, titled "BoldRush." The University added the new logo to the middle of the 49er football field and other areas of campus.

Even the demand for new Charlotte merchandise has been through the roof, according to Hill.

"It's been hugely successful," said Hill of the rebranding. "We can't keep the bookstore in stock of new merchandise, which is a good indication we are selling merchandise faster than we can keep it in stock."

Hill says even metrics show the new brand is connecting with people even outside the program. With now a full year of getting exposure through TV, there is still even more room for growth for the brand.



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HOTTEST SHOWS THIS FALL

by Isabella Perryman
Asst. Copy Editor

Photos courtesy of
Netflix

The start of the semester means the beginning of a great fall Netflix release schedule, and there is nothing better than getting cozy and binge-watching something on Netflix after a long day of classes and homework! Netflix has many new seasons of their most popular shows coming out and some debuting for the first time. Read ahead for the rundown on some of the season's most exciting releases.

“Clickbait” Aug. 25

First on the list is “Clickbait.” The story follows Nick Brewer, when an unknown person abducted him. A video of Nick is posted on the internet, and his family begins a frantic search for the truth. The premise is definitely disturbing but is sure to be entertaining!

“Edens Zero” Aug. 26

If you are looking for a fun and exciting new anime, “Edens Zero” releases on Aug. 26 and follows a young boy who can control gravity. The series is space-themed and is based on a manga

series by Hiro Mashima.

“Tiptown High” Aug. 27

If your guilty pleasure happens to be reality television, then you will definitely want to be on the lookout for the release of “Tiptown High.” It is a brand new Netflix series that follows students’ real lives at Valdosta High School in Valdosta, Ga. The show is set to premiere on Aug. 27 and is sure to give reality-T.V.-lovers their fix.

“Q-Force” Sept. 2

“Q-Force” is set to be an addition to the world of adult animation. The show follows a group of LGBTQ+ secret agents as they go on missions. It will be released on Sept. 2 and promises to provide lots of laughs as it is primarily a comedic animation.

“Lucifer” Season 6, Sept. 10

Season 6 of “Lucifer” will sadly be the last, but this is it if you are looking for an entire series to binge-watch in your free time!

“Sex Education” Season 3, Sept. 17

“Sex Education” follows 16-year-old Otis as he navigates the trials and tribulations of high school culture along with the added comedic relief of having a sex-therapist mother. Otis ends up opening his own secret sex therapy clinic to help other students with questions about sex and other related topics. While I have not seen the show, I have heard many great things and will be putting it on my to-be-watched list!

“Dear White People” Season 4, Sept. 22

“Dear White People” has something for everyone. The show has important messages on social justice, racial equality and other relevant topics. Not to mention how entertaining the show is as a whole. Season 4 will be the show’s final season and will also have a musical spin that will pull in a lot of different audiences.

“The Witcher” Season 2 Dec. 17

Sci-fi and fantasy fans probably already know about this release, but I am putting

it in here to say: if you have not seen the first season of “The Witcher,” it’s worth the watch. Fans of the first season have been enthusiastically waiting almost two years for this release. Disclaimer: This release is technically during winter break but is still a great watch to cozy up for after finals!

“Dead to Me” Season 3 TBA

Dead to Me, season 3 is another highly anticipated release. You will laugh, cry and will truly love Judy and Jen’s dynamic friendship. While the exact release date is still TBA, Netflix has stated that the show’s final season will be released this Fall.

“You” Season 3 TBA

Your favorite murderer and book-lover, Joe Goldberg, is back for another season of “You.” If you are into true crime podcasts or love Penn Badgley, this is a must-see! This is another release that is TBA but has been confirmed for the Fall.

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Urban Parks

by Isaac Naylor
Asst. Opinion Editor

A Charlotte native's guide to urban nature

Photo by Meredith Murray

With the mutated resurgence of Covid-19, many people would like to experience life in Charlotte without the risk of contracting this virus. My solution: nature! Green spaces are the only escape afforded to urban residents from the sprawl of uptown Charlotte—specifically places like cemeteries, parks, nature preserves, trails and greenways. This is your guide to the city's nature that can often be tucked away behind towering skyscrapers and sprawling neighborhoods.

The most popular (and therefore most crowded) park in Charlotte is Freedom Park, located between Dilworth and Myers Park. Still, the city is home to many other parks with much more to offer. For example, Romare Bearden Park in Third Ward and First Ward Park in (you guessed it) First Ward are great urban parks. However, they are usually crowded on weekends and lack mature trees that help shade passersby from the sun's oppressive rays.

If you are looking for quiet and shaded places, I suggest walking a few blocks away from the uptown light rail tracks. If you're looking east, I would recommend visiting the underused Marshall Park on Third Street in Second Ward or Independence Park in Elizabeth near Central Piedmont Community College. Westward, Frazier Park and Seversville Park are excellent spaces to watch an impromptu soccer game or explore the abandoned streetcar tracks serving residents in Third Ward and Wesley Heights.

The most continuous greenway in the city is Little Sugar Creek Greenway that extends over 13 miles from Cordelia Park in North Charlotte to Carolina Place Mall near I-485 in South Charlotte. Other

noteworthy trails include Irwin Creek & Stewart Creek Greenway, walking west of Third Ward and the Charlotte Rail Trail along the light rail tracks.

Parks and greenways shelter some of the city's best wildlife, and urban gardens and parkettes provide residents with spaces to literally smell the roses. The best urban garden in the uptown area is The McGill Rose Garden on North Davidson Street. Other parkettes include Little Sugar Creek Community Garden on North Alexander Street and Frazier Community Garden on West Fourth Street.

If parks and parkettes are a bit small for your taste, you could always check out the city's nature preserves. A wooded oasis outside the urban core offers a promising connection to nature, and the

best preserve, bar none, is Reedy Creek Park on Grier Road. Two other places to venture into urban wilderness include Ribbonwalk Nature Preserve on Nevin Road and Evergreen Nature Preserve on Norland Road, adjacent to the Evergreen Cemetery, a scenic yet unconventional destination.

I know cemeteries may seem like an uncanny setting for a stroll, but during the cooler hours of the day, they can be just as beautiful as the urban greenways. Cemeteries are sacred places where the dead are honored through remembrance and realism of the past through modern hindsight. The oldest cemetery in the city is Settlers' Cemetery, located on the corner of Church and Fifth Streets. Established in 1768, this cemetery is home to some of the original English

and Scots-Irish settlers that colonized Mecklenburg County and displaced the native Catawba tribe. Here's a fun fact: Stonewall Street is not named after Confederate General Stonewall Jackson but the site of a literal stone wall that segregated the incoming settlers in the north from the Catawba in the south. However, Settlers' Cemetery is far from the city's only burial ground.

The largest urban cemetery in Charlotte is Elmwood Cemetery, located off of West Sixth Street, which has quite the history. This 72 acres of rolling green hills was founded in 1853. "Elmwood" is the collective name for Elmwood, the historically white cemetery, and Pinewood, the historically black cemetery. During the days of segregation, white Charlotteans outlawed interracial spaces in residential housing, movie theaters, department stores and cafés, as well as graveyards. Even in death, black bodies were physically separated from white ones. To add insult to injury, a Confederate gravesite was constructed after the Civil War at the center of Elmwood Cemetery, which only reinforces the history of racial apartheid. When you visit this cemetery to admire the ornate mausoleums and hundred-year-old trees, try to keep this cemetery's history in mind lest you romanticize Charlotte's bigoted past.

All of these urban green spaces provide enjoyable getaways from the concrete kingdom that is uptown Charlotte. However, Charlotte is like any other city, meaning crime can occur anywhere. So, be sure to walk in groups when venturing uptown and keep an eye out for your own sake. (And, don't forget to bring mosquito repellent!)





How to stay in touch with your college path other than going to class

by Tyler Trudeau
Community Editor

Photos courtesy of Marvel, Universal Pictures, Warner Bros Pictures, Studio Babelsberg, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Eon Productions, Sony Pictures

“Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings” - Sept. 3

Following the last few releases from Marvel Studios, which have focused primarily on previously introduced characters like Loki and Wanda Maximoff, moviegoers will finally see the cinematic debut of Marvel’s master of kung-fu, Shang-Chi, this September. With actor Simu Liu taking on the role of a skilled martial artist who must confront a complicated relationship with his powerful father, the film is set to dip further into the mystical areas of the Marvel Cinematic Universe. With another mystical-focused Marvel film arriving in November, “The Eternals,” this solo feature could promise an expansive new layer to Marvel’s next phase of projects.

“Dear Evan Hansen” - Sept. 24

Broadway fans can rejoice as another popular stage adaptation is set to arrive on the big screen with “Dear Evan Hansen.” As Ben Platt, star of the original 2015 stage musical, returns to titular role, the story of a high school student whose therapeutic self-intended letter is stolen by a classmate who later commits suicide is poised to draw in

fans of the play and new fans alike. Helmed by the director and writer of 2012’s “Perks of Being a Wallflower,” as well as the novel it was based on, “Dear Evan Hansen” should be able to traverse the complicated layers of coming-of-age teen drama reasonably well.

“The Many Saints of Newark” - Oct. 1

It is not uncommon for the children of Hollywood actors to portray their parents on the big screen. From O’Shea Jackson Jr. playing his father and member of the notorious rap group NWA, Ice Cube in “Straight Outta Compton” to Shia LaBeouf portraying a version of his abusive father in “Honey Boy,” it can be both a challenge and a profound honor for a young actor to step into their parents’ shoes to play a role. It is also common for an actor to assume a fictional role made famous by their parents, as Michael Gandolfini is set to do in “The Many Saints of Newark.” Taking on the dramatic role of Tony Soprano made famous by Michael’s late father James Gandolfini in the iconic HBO series “The Sopranos,” the prequel film will tackle the younger days of the mobster as he

traverses a city riddled with crime.

“No Time to Die” - Oct. 8

It feels odd to write once more on the continuously delayed new James Bond outing, yet here we are. Initially set for a November 2019 release, one director departure and a global pandemic later led “No Time to Die” along a string of ever-shifting release dates. The spy sequel is now primed to roll into theaters as it follows Daniel Craig’s 007 into his final adventure as the suave secret agent. It would be an understatement to say that the excitement for this entry has dwindled since it was initially set to hit screens. Still, the long-awaited film could reign in eager moviegoers with another exhilarating blockbuster.

“Dune” - Oct. 22

Another blockbuster feature that became a victim to countless delays due to the pandemic was the science-fiction epic “Dune.” An adaptation of the 1965 novel of the same name by Frank Herbert, the saga of space dynasties and massive sandworms is set to make waves on the big screen this fall as a star-studded cast hops aboard the ambitious project. From the

director of thought-provoking films of massive scales like “Arrival” and “Blade Runner 2049,” “Dune” is primed to ignite a multi-film franchise to rival and perhaps surpass the likes of “Star Wars” and “The Lord of the Rings.”

“The French Dispatch” - Oct. 22

You can pick out a Wes Anderson movie in a crowd fairly easily. A sprawling tale of off-beat comedy, constant whip camera pans and an ensemble cast most definitely including Owen Wilson, Bill Murray and Jason Schwartzman, among others. Those are just the things that exist on the surface of the filmmaker’s, for lack of a better word, exotic filmography. Anderson has made a name for himself with a set of quirky films that often draw moviegoers in with their charming intrigue and lavish aesthetic. His latest looks to be no different as “The French Dispatch” pulls together a charismatic cast to fill a story described as “a love letter to journalists.” Following a collection of stories centered around an American newspaper in a fictional 20th-century French city, the film promises another grand adventure that will span both the globe and numerous genres.



“Eternals” - Nov. 5

With the “Avengers” films on pause for the moment as the Marvel Cinematic Universe works to establish its next generation of powerhouse heroes, the franchise looks to the stars once more as it is set to introduce an ancient alien race known as the Eternals. While the film, which will rally together a slew of powerful new characters to face an ancient evil after centuries in hiding, might seem far removed from iconic heroes like Iron Man and Captain America, the mystical team-up feature will seemingly react to the dramatic events of 2019’s “Avengers: Endgame” in a significant way. All the while, the film

will be a game-changing addition to the franchise’s fourth phase of storytelling.

“Ghostbusters: Afterlife” - Nov. 11

Following the failed 2016 reboot, which saw the likes of Melissa McCarthy and Kristen Wiig battle ghosts and angry film critics in a lackluster attempt to rejuvenate the “Ghostbusters” franchise, the 1984 classic, and its sequel are finally getting a worthy follow-up in “Ghostbusters: Afterlife.” Set thirty years after 1989’s “Ghostbusters II,” the new film finds the granddaughter of Harold Ramis’ Egon Spengler investigating strange occurrences in Summerville, Oklahoma. With much of the original

two films’ cast returning to their actual roles (unlike in the maligned reboot), including Bill Murray, Dan Aykroyd and Ernie Hudson,) the sequel is poised to honor the legacy of the ghost-catching franchise and its characters in a far more meaningful fashion.

“King Richard” - Nov. 19

From buddy-cop action comedies like “Bad Boys” to more dramatic turns in “Seven Pounds” and “The Pursuit of Happyness,” Will Smith has become a Hollywood staple with his larger-than-life personality and versatile acting ability. His latest project sees the actor stepping into the shoes of coach Richard Williams,

better known as the father of renowned tennis players Venus and Serena Williams. Marking the siblings’ rise to stardom as young athletes, the film will detail how instrumental Williams was as a father and coach to set his daughters on the path towards becoming legends. With Smith having mixed success playing real-life individuals, from Muhammad Ali in “Ali” to forensic pathologist Dr. Bennet Omalu in “Concussion,” his latest could garner some talk come awards season or add another forgettable portrayal to his filmography.



WHAT IS THE GREATEST BENEFIT TO BEING INVOLVED ON CAMPUS?



**"THE COMMUNITY
AND CONNECTIONS
WITH A VARIETY OF
PEOPLE"**

ANVI TIRUNAGARI

Student Government Association, Emerging Leaders,
University Transition Opportunities Program (UTOP)



**"SAFE SPACES AND
SUPPORT SYSTEMS THAT
NO OTHER ENVIRONMENT
CAN PROVIDE"**

DAISY OROZCO

Latin American Student Organization,
University Transition Opportunities Program (UTOP)



**"NETWORKING AND
PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT,
BOTH OF WHICH ARE
SUPER IMPORTANT FOR A
POST-GRADUATE CAREER"**

LILY BURNS

Alpha Chi Omega, Gamma Iota Sigma,
University Recreation Group Fitness



**"GETTING OUT OF MY
COMFORT ZONE AND
FINDING MULTIPLE
COMMUNITIES WITHIN
UNC CHARLOTTE"**

GISELL MUNOZ

Latin American Student Organization,
Beta Chi Chapter of Omega Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.,
University Recreation Group Fitness



**"THE LIFELONG
FRIENDSHIPS THAT
ARE CREATED"**

CHARLES "VINCE" GRAHAM

Student Government Association,
Lambda Theta Phi Latin Fraternity, Inc.,
Student Alumni Ambassador



**"THE OPPORTUNITY
TO STRENGTHEN MY
INTERPERSONAL
SKILLS"**

TIERA RAY

Mu Sigma Upsilon Sorority, Inc.,
National Council of Negro Women,
On-Campus Employee



**"TO BE A PART OF AN
EXTENDED FAMILY - TO MEET
NEW PEOPLE, AND CONNECT
WITH PEOPLE IN WAYS YOU
MIGHT'VE THOUGHT WASN'T
POSSIBLE"**

TERRELL GRIER

Campus Activities Board



**"FINDING AN
ADDITIONAL FAMILY,
WHO I CAN GO TO
FOR ANYTHING"**

JORDYN RASCOE

Campus Activities Board



**"RELATIONSHIPS
WITH PEOPLE WHO
HAVE INTERESTS
SIMILAR TO MY OWN"**

DAVIS WALKER

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NAVIGATING A NEW ENVIRONMENT
ESTABLISHING A HEALTHY AND BALANCED LIFE
SETTING YOURSELF UP FOR SUCCESS
BECOMING YOUR BEST SELF

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