

# BIVALENT COVID-19 BOOSTER SHOTS ON CAMPUS

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Shareese Woods in 2007  
courtesy of Charlotte Athletics



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# Bivalent COVID-19 booster shots offered on campus

by Jessica Ceballos  
News Editor

UNC Charlotte will offer new bivalent booster shots on campus via booster clinics. The Student Health Center hopes to receive the vaccines and start the booster clinic in late September or early October, but no dates have been released.

The bivalent booster is a combination of a sample taken from the proteins of the original COVID-19 virus and combined with the omicron variants BA.4 and BA.5.

According to Dr. Robert Jones, medical director of the Student Health Center, this combination will combat the surge of

a variant that may appear in the late fall or winter in addition to flu season.

“I think this is going to be our best opportunity to help the University and campus community be protected against what’s likely to be another surge in the late fall or early winter,” Jones said. “This is our best way to mitigate against that.”

The FDA approved the vaccine on Aug. 31 and the CDC on Sept. 1.

UNC Charlotte does not require the bivalent booster shot on campus,

but students and faculty are highly encouraged by Jones to get a shot.

According to the FDA, the bivalent booster “is designed to provide broad protection against COVID-19 and better protection against COVID-19 caused by the currently circulating Omicron variant.”

Once the vaccines arrive on campus, at least two to three booster clinics will be held to distribute the vaccines. These clinics will be in addition to the flu shot clinics.

The University is still working out the details of hosting the booster clinics. Jones said the hope is to distribute during the clinics and then be able to give the boosters away on an on-demand basis.

“We want to meet the demand,” Jones said. “Our job is to be able to provide this vehicle as a way of protecting the campus community. We want to be able to get it to everyone who wants it and everyone we can convince to get it.”

# Five Wi-Fi outages on campus in a week

by Abigail Leonard  
Contributor

UNC Charlotte experienced five significant internet outages across campus within a week due to a firewall issue and software bug.

The main issue regarding the Wi-Fi stems from a network firewall problem. The firewall is the network’s security system that monitors and controls incoming and outgoing network traffic.

Dr. Michael Carlin, vice chancellor for OneIT and chief information officer (CIO), and the University’s IT department worked to find and solve the issue.

“[The team] spent a lot of time validating and proving where the issue was, working behind the scenes to identify the issue,” Carlin said. The team worked for over eight hours one night alone to resolve the issue.

The University has an extensive network, so the firewalls can back up to 100 million individual connections, Carlin said.

“On an average day on campus, we have well over 50,000 devices connected at any given time,” Carlin said.

“This summer, normal replacements were made,” Carlin said. Two of the school’s firewalls were replaced, which

are directly connected to the internet provider. These new firewalls ran all summer with great efficiency, Carlin said.

The first outage occurred on Tuesday, Aug. 23, at 1 p.m. Users of the on-campus Wi-Fi experienced a complete shutdown of their electronic devices.

The second and third outages occurred on Thursday, Aug. 25, at 10 a.m. and again at 2:45 p.m.

The last outage occurred on Tuesday, Aug. 30, at 10 a.m. and again at 11:06 a.m.

When the firewall started to malfunction during the first week of classes, the IT department first believed the outages might have been caused by the number of incoming traffic to the

University, Carlin said.

However, due to another outage at 3 a.m., the team ruled out the assumption because most students and faculty were not using the internet at 3 a.m. In addition, students in on-campus dorms did not experience this outage, as the dorms use a private provider.

Carlin said that the IT team determined the issue was not a hardware problem because the likelihood of having two firewalls with the same hardware malfunction was improbable.

The team checked on the software of the firewalls, which were updated this summer with the vendor. The vendor is the internet provider. The team discovered that the software had a bug, which was the primary concern.

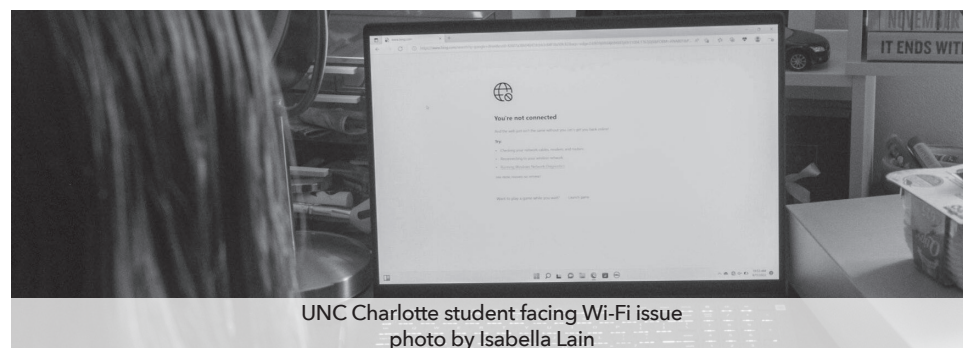
Once the issue was discovered, the team tested the firewall using packet capturing, which is a way to help identify network performance issues. Packet capturing allows the IT team to look for details about what is happening inside the firewall to send to the vendor.

While waiting for the vendor to come up with a diagnosis, the IT team reverted the software to its previous version. However, like updating a cell phone, using an older version of the software can have its issues; however, it is not a long-term solution.

While the IT department waits to hear from the vendor for a long-term solution, Carlin said, “The team at Charlotte has done everything they can do to resolve the issues, and now it is back in the vendor’s court.”

The IT department is unsure if this is an isolated issue or if the vendor is receiving similar calls from other universities.

The University hopes to receive a concrete answer from the vendor soon. In the meantime, the Wi-Fi is using the old software, allowing students, faculty and staff an internet connection.



UNC Charlotte student facing Wi-Fi issue  
photo by Isabella Lain

# Concord Mills shooting suspects arrested

by Kathleen Cochran  
Asst. News Editor

The Concord police confirmed that two men were arrested and one man shot during a chase inside the Concord Mills Mall on Wednesday, Aug. 31.

Police responded to a report of three men who stole credit cards inside the mall. When approached by the police, the three men started running. The police chased them through the mall and into a construction area within the mall.

One of the suspects pulled out a handgun, and the police reportedly gave him multiple warnings to put the gun down. When the suspect refused to put down the gun and fired one shot at the police, the police returned his fire. The suspects kept running, and the suspect with the gun fired off a few more shots. The officers shot back, and one of the shots hit the suspect that started the shooting.

After the suspect was shot, the police called for EMS support. The suspect was in critical condition at Atrium Maine Medical Center. Police confirmed on

Sept. 6 that the suspect shot, Dominic Jeter, 23, died in the hospital.

The two other men fled the scene but were later caught and arrested outside the mall by police officers.

The Concord Police identified the two other suspects arrested outside the mall on Sept. 1: Wuanell Hernandez, 21, and Christian Tyson, 21.

Charlotte students frequently visit Concord Mills Mall, and second-year

Caleb Hargrove was at the mall during the chase. Hargrove made a TikTok about being right next to the shooting.

“I was about to leave when I heard rumbling. I had a weird feeling something was going to happen. Then, all of a sudden, I heard shots right near me, and all I could see was the smoke from the gun. I started running and ran into the Champion store, and they brought me to the back,” Hargrove said.

Chief Gacy of the Concord Mills police department called the State Bureau of Investigation to investigate the incident and the officers involved in the shooting.

The police officers involved in the chase were identified as Jeremy Hogarth and Maria Westphalia. The Concord Police are now reviewing the case regarding using deadly force.

“I was also frustrated because kids and families were just trying to shop. Nobody should have to worry about making it home from a mall,” Hargrove said.

Many students claimed that they drove up to the mall shortly after the police had arrived, and they saw so many police cars and fire trucks that they turned around and left.

Concord Mills is a heavily populated area, and they have many policies for when an incident such as this occurs. Students and families who visit Concord Mills should be safe and know the policies they have to keep everyone in the building safe.



Concord Mills police department vehicle  
photo by Jade Suszek

## Vietnamese Student Association will celebrate the mid-autumn festival on Sept. 15

by Monique Delagey  
Managing Editor

The Vietnamese Student Association (VSA) is preparing for its annual mid-autumn festival while trying to recruit new members.

The festival will be held on Thursday, Sept. 15, at UNC Charlotte's Star Quad, beginning at 5:30 p.m. The mid-autumn festival will include mooncake tastings, the lion dance, lanterns and much more. Everyone is allowed to participate.

The lion dance has dancers dressed in costumes or masks to appear as a lion and is said to bring good luck and fortune. It appeared at “Viet Night,” an event held in spring 2022, which is held annually and will commence again in spring 2023. Their events share important traditions of Vietnamese culture.

“It’s a way to get back together to celebrate,” Thi Le, the external vice president of the organization, said. “Traditionally, it is celebrated on [Sept.] 10, but we are doing it on [Sept.] 15 because we wanted more time to prepare.”

The mid-autumn festival is called Tết Trung Thu. The president of VSA, Kaitlyn Van, describes the festival’s historical meaning.

“It’s a harvest festival. Vietnam is made up of a lot of farmers. Tết Trung Thu was more popularized among them, and it’s the celebration of food,” Van said.

According to Le, “It was created for parents to make up for lost time with their children after harvest season.”

With 13 members on the editorial board, VSA provides an inclusive environment for the student body.

“Our club is mainly Vietnamese students, but it’s not exclusive, and we try to promote diversity, so we tell everyone, ‘You don’t need to be Vietnamese to join,’” Le said.

The organization has many events and opportunities to learn about Vietnamese practices, eat different traditional foods and learn about certain celebrations.

The organization posted a statement on the story associated with Tết Trung Thu.

“Our best-known tale is about a man named Cuội, who hung on to a magical banyan tree as it floated up to the moon. We say that if you look closely at the full

moon, you can see the shadow of a man sitting under a tree. Children parade lanterns in the streets the night of [the] mid-autumn festival to help light the way to earth for Cuội from the moon,” said the post on Instagram via @unccvsa.

The VSA was founded in 1989 at UNC Charlotte. According to their mission statement on Instagram, “[The] ultimate goal is to spread awareness of the Vietnamese culture.”

The festival is not their first event this year, as the organization also held a boba social for new and interested members. For more information about future events for this organization, it is posted on their Instagram page, @unccvsa.

# Planting trees isn't enough to fight climate change

by Sylvia Srinivass  
Contributor

Planting trees has long been considered the ultimate environmental philanthropic act that's accessible to just about anyone. As we scramble for solutions to climate change, many environmental conservation organizations have pushed ambitious tree planting goals. This is a good start, but it is not the optimum solution to climate change.

So, how effective is tree planting in combating carbon emissions? Trees remove carbon dioxide from the air during photosynthesis and store it in their trunks, roots and leaves. In turn, they release oxygen into the atmosphere. In recent years, mass tree-planting efforts have gone into effect around the globe.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has worked with governments from across the globe to pass legislation concerning environmental protection. In 1992, the Kyoto Protocol treaty, which was an extension of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), was adopted internationally. The protocol, implemented in 2005, recognized the threat of climate change. It committed the 140 participating industrialized parties "to limit and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with agreed individual targets."

In recent months, however, the EPA has faced pushback from the U.S. Supreme Court regarding its proposed carbon emission regulations. A ruling in June 2022 decided that the EPA and other similar agencies cannot adopt regulations that measurably transform the economy without explicit permission from Congress. In delivering the majority opinion, Chief Justice John Roberts stated that "capping carbon dioxide emissions... may be a sensible solution to the crisis..." but refused to give the EPA the "authority to adopt on its own...regulatory scheme."

The decision comes at a time when the climate crisis is dire and in need of immediate relief, so the rejection of a holistic approach is a big step backward for the environment. In addition, 2022 is an election year, and since most college students are of voting age, this is the time to vote for candidates who support regulations regarding environmental protection.

In contrast to recent decisions made by the government, many independent and non-profit organizations have continued to run campaigns to combat climate change. Many of these organizations urge tree planting as a remedy. One of the better-known organizations that supports reforestation is Plant-for-the-Planet. They started the Trillion Tree Campaign in an effort to "restore up to 1 trillion trees to capture between 488 and 1012 billion tons of CO<sub>2</sub>." For as little as 14 cents, donors can pay to plant a tree virtually anywhere in the world. At first glance, this seems like a no-brainer. Who wouldn't trade some pocket change for cleaner air?

Look a little deeper, however, and tree-planting starts to look less promising. Trees store a lot of carbon, but studies show that the mitigative power of tree planting has been estimated to be too optimistic. A 2020 study spearheaded by environmental researcher, Forrest Fleischman, noted that "large-scale tree planting programs have high failure rates." This is due to many reasons, most of which can be chalked up to human error.

Recent findings reveal that these efforts may not be as effective as we thought, and in some cases, they can be detrimental to the environment. Tree-replanting often occurs in areas previously used for something else, such as agriculture or farm animal grazing. In many instances, livestock crush tree seedlings. Seedlings

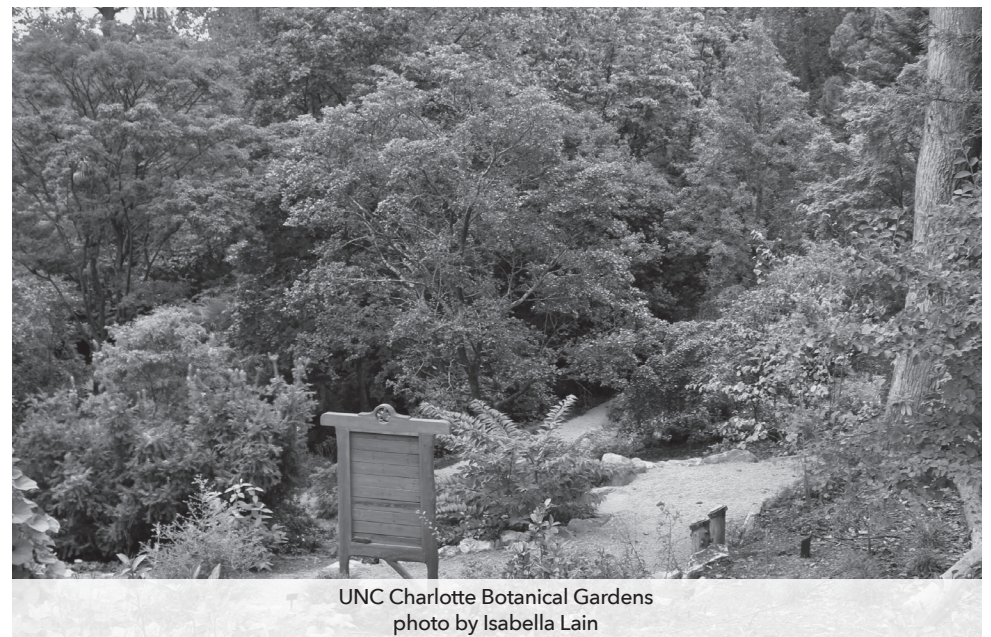
spared by livestock often die due to a lack of attention and proper care. Other times, new trees displace native forests, leading to deforestation. More problems arise with afforestation when tree planting occurs in habitats where trees didn't previously exist, such as savannas. The sudden influx of trees can disrupt the ecosystem's delicate balance and threaten water supplies and native plant and animal species.

In other instances, government reforestation incentives can have the opposite effect. In 2018, the Mexican government started a program called Sembrando Vida, or Sowing Life. The program seeks to contribute to the well-being of the planet "through the implementation of plots with agroforestry production systems." It provided financial incentives to farmers who planted trees, rather than crops, on their land. Unfortunately, this program had unexpected consequences—farmers cut down existing trees to get money to plant new seeds. Based on satellite image estimations, this resulted in the loss of

nearly 73,000 hectares of forest coverage.

This is not to say that we should stop planting trees entirely. Trees clean the air, prevent runoff and erosion, and provide shade and habitat. They are necessary to the health and well-being of Earth and all who inhabit it. Global efforts toward tree restoration are promising as a mitigative strategy but not as a solution to climate change. Urgent tree planting wouldn't be necessary if the focus were on reducing fossil fuel emissions. In times as dire as these, the best solution for climate change is the most obvious one: reducing carbon emissions. Our focus should be on reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the industrial and transportation sectors, such as using renewable energy and more efficient recycling practices.

However, we can also catalyze change as individuals through simple yet meaningful actions like voting for officials who prioritize the environment's health. Our generation is the next one to inherit the Earth, so we need to be the ones to protect it, too.



UNC Charlotte Botanical Gardens  
photo by Isabella Lain

# Charlotte vs. Maryland

Photos by Chris Crews

The Charlotte football team played the Maryland Terrapins on Saturday, Sept. 10, in Jerry Richardson Stadium. Maryland scored the first points early in the game, and the 49er offense could not come back with a win. The final score of 56-21 earned Charlotte their third loss in a row this season.



# Maryland rolls against Charlotte

## THE TERRAPINS DEFEAT THE 49ERS 56-21

by Kameron Roach  
Staff Writer

The Charlotte football team hosted the Maryland Terrapins in their first meeting on Saturday, Sept. 10, on a rainy afternoon in Jerry Richardson Stadium. The Terrapins defeated the 49ers 56-21 in dominating fashion.

The 49ers entered the contest with two tough blowout losses to Florida Atlantic and William & Mary. The Terps were coming off a 31-10 victory at home against the Buffalo Bulls.

### First half

Maryland scored the first points early in the game with a five-play drive ending in a 39-yard pass from quarterback Taulia Tagovailoa to Jacob Copeland. Charlotte returned and answered with a sixteen-play drive that resulted in an 11-yard pass from Xavier Williams to last year's leading receiver, Grant DuBose, for a touchdown.

Shortly after, in only three plays, Tagovailoa hit his receiver, Jashaun Jones, for a 14-yard pass that led to another touchdown. The Terps were then up 14-7.

Unfortunately, the 49er offense could not come back and capitalize with a score. The Terps, however, were able to score once again before the first quarter ended, making it 21-7.

The Charlotte offense showed a spark early in the second quarter before the game got ugly. Williams found wide receiver Victor Tucker who took it to the house for a touchdown to end an 80-yard possession. This touchdown put the 49ers back in the game, making things competitive.

Soon after, in another short stretch of plays, the Terps scored another touchdown with a second connection from Tagovailoa to Copeland to extend the lead to 28-14.

### Second half

The 49ers went scoreless until the fourth

quarter when Tucker scored the last touchdown of the game off a pass from quarterback Trexler Ivey who relieved Williams. The Terps went on to score 28 more points.

The final score of 56-21 earned Charlotte their third loss in a row this season. The

Terps are now 2-0 and will face off against Southern Methodist University in their next game.

### Takeaways

The Charlotte defense didn't seem to have

an answer to the Maryland offense run by Tua Tagovailoa's younger brother, Taulia Tagovailoa. Tua Tagovailoa was also a quarterback who had an exceptional career at Alabama and currently plays for the Miami Dolphins.

Taulia seems to be headed in the same direction as his older brother, with how well he led the Terps offense on Saturday. Taulia ended the game with 391 passing yards with 27 completion, four touchdowns and one interception.

Charlotte's redshirt freshman quarterback Williams did not have a bad showing himself. Williams ended the game with 191 passing yards with 19 completions, two touchdowns and zero interceptions.

Williams did an excellent job of making the right reads. His next step in improving is increasing his accuracy under pressure. Head Coach Will Healy praised him on his performance.

"I was proud of the way Xavier played as a redshirt freshman making his first start. I thought he, especially in the first half, looked poised. His feet were up underneath him; he was accurate with the football."

During the post-game interview, Healy also said, "I left knowing that we had a football team that is understanding and getting better at a process, and I feel good about where this football team will be by the time we finish Game 12, and it'll be fun to celebrate that stuff with y'all."

### Next up

Charlotte's next opponent is the Georgia State Panthers. The 49ers will travel to compete against the Panther in Atlanta, Ga., on Saturday, Sept. 17 at 7 p.m. Fans can watch the game on ESPN+.



Charlotte's wide receiver, Grant DuBose (14), leaps to make a catch  
photo by Bethany Ivan

# The inaugural Charlotte Hall of Fame class

## A CLOSER LOOK AT THE INDUCTEES

by Sam Perry  
Staff Writer

Charlotte athletics inducted their first Hall of Fame class on Friday, Sept. 9, at the Popp Martin Student Union. The class features Lee Rose, Dale F. Halton, Judy Rose, Corey Nagy, Shareese Woods, Jon Busch and Cedric Maxwell.

The inaugural class is the class of 2020, but due to COVID-19, the ceremony has been held off until now.

### Remembering Coach Lee Rose

The ceremony started on a sad note as Charlotte honored legendary basketball coach Rose who passed away in April. Accepting his honor was his wife, Eleanor Rose.

"It is bittersweet, but it is an honor that continues to strengthen our 47-year connection with this city, this community, this team and all of our friends and this university," said Rose during her acceptance speech.

While coaching Charlotte, he led the 49ers to the 1976 NIT Finals and the 1977 NCAA Final Four. During his tenure at Charlotte, the 49ers went 72-18 and 40-2 at home.



Lee Rose during the 1977 NCAA Final Four photo courtesy of Charlotte Athletics

After coaching the 49ers, Rose coached at Purdue and South Florida. Rose ended his collegiate career with a 388-162 record before becoming an assistant coach with multiple NBA teams.

### Key contributor: Dale F. Halton

Halton helped fund many projects and scholarships to help Charlotte grow. The Dale F. Halton arena is named after her.

Halton is the former president of Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company in Charlotte and has been a passionate fan of the athletic department and the university for a while.

"Charlotte is a great program and a great school, and I love being involved," said Halton.

### Trailblazing athletic director: Judy Rose

Director of Athletics Emerita Rose served as a coach for Charlotte from 1975-91 before taking over as the athletic director until 2018. She is only the third female to serve as athletic director for an NCAA Division I program. She most noticeably brought in football.

Rose fundraised the development of over \$100 million in facility expansion and development. Under her watch, Charlotte had 44 NCAA Tournament team appearances and 70 conference titles.

"Standing before you this evening, I am truly humbled. To share the stage with this group of people really warms my heart," said Rose during her acceptance speech.

### Charlotte lit a fire: Corey Nagy

From 2006-2010, Charlotte's men's golf team accumulated four league titles and four NCAA Regional appearances.

Nagy had a successful career at Charlotte, earning the 49ers' best-ever third-place finish at the 2007 NCAA Championships. He holds the program record for single-season (70.71) and

career (71.79) stroke averages. He was a part of the 49ers team that ranked No. 1.

Nagy's success with the program helped lead it to new heights.

"I absolutely treasure my time spent here. Charlotte molded me into the person I am today, and I am forever grateful to the entire University and Athletic Department. I deeply look forward to seeing the growth and success of the Charlotte 49ers Athletic program in years to come," said Nagy.

### Running through history: Shareese Woods

Woods earned four USTFCCCA All-American honors, four Atlantic 10 Conference (A-10) Performer of the Year Awards and 15 event titles at the A-10 Championships from 2003-07.

Woods was named the A-10 Performer of the Year in 2006 and 2007 and won 15 gold medals at the league championships.

She represented Team USA winning a gold medal at the 2006 NACAC Championships as part of a record-setting 4x100 relay team.

"I'm already indebted to everything that Charlotte has given me. I'm just in awe. [The 49ers] have already given me so much," said Woods.

Woods is now the head track and field coach for Texas Rio Grande Valley.

### All-American keeper: Jon Busch

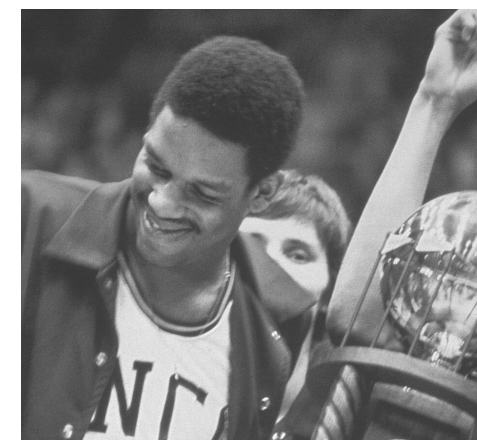
Busch was instrumental in the 49ers men's soccer success in the mid-'90s helping Charlotte reach two NCAA tournaments, winning a pair of conference titles and achieving top five rankings in '94 and '96.

"It's an amazing award that speaks volumes for the guys I was with during those three years and the guys that came before me. For me to represent the guys I played with is an absolute honor," Busch said.

Busch was named a 1994 Soccer America Freshman All-America leading

the school to its first-ever NCAA College Cup appearance. In 1995, he was named the C-USA Championship Tournament Most Valuable Goalkeeper.

He played 14 years in the MLS while appearing for the US National Team in 2005. In 2008, he was named MLS Goalkeeper of the Year.



Cedric Maxwell during Sun Belt Championship photo courtesy of Charlotte Athletics

### NBA star: Cedric "Cornbread" Maxwell

Maxwell led the men's basketball team to the 1976 NIT Finals and the 1977 NCAA Final Four.

"I couldn't be happier for the class that I'm going in with that includes several of my mentors," said Maxwell. "It's so cool for a small-town kid from Kinston to come to Charlotte and be honored as one of their outstanding school representatives."

He won MVP of the 1976 NIT and Mideast Region in 1977. He played for the 49ers from 1973-1977, leading Charlotte to a 97-18 record and going 58-0 at home. He ended his collegiate career with more than 1,800 points and a school record of 1,117 rebounds.

Maxwell was selected 12th overall in the NBA draft by the Boston Celtics. He helped the Celtics win the NBA Finals in 1981 and 1984, taking home Finals MVP honors in '81. His number 31 was retired in the Boston Garden.

# The man who reached 118

## HOW CHARLOTTE MEN'S SOCCER COACH KEVIN LANGAN MADE HISTORY

by Jesse Morris  
Staff Writer

Since 2006, Coach John Tart's 117 wins have been the hallmark of excellence in the pages of 49er soccer history. Eighteen years later, a new man, Head Coach Kevin Langan, is set to take his place at the top.

It took Tart 237 matches to achieve the record. Langan reached it 46 games quicker.

### Before Charlotte

Long before donning the green and white, Kevin Langan was a star in his own right. He began a career in professional soccer at age 18. Langan later helped the University of Bath's 2000-01 team win a championship. In 2001 and 2003, he represented Great Britain as part of the national team in the World University Games.

Langan's time at the University of Bath gave way to a first experience in coaching through internships and obtaining a degree in coaching education and sports performance. When he came to the United States, an interest in the field became a passion.

"My old soccer coach asked me to take a few U9 teams (under nine years old), and I just had a blast. It was so much fun teaching the game I love, watching how they could improve, how they could learn those lessons that soccer gives you about life... that was when I thought, 'oh, I really like this [so] maybe there could be a future in it for me,'" said Langan.

### Serving as assistant coach

In 2009, the 49ers attained a season with an over .700 win percentage, the first since 1994. Then-Head Coach Jeremy Gunn was starting his third year at the position. After spending a year coaching in Texas, a new assistant coach, Langan, joined the staff.

By 2011, Charlotte would fight for the national championship.

His talents stuck out at the time. Now an assistant coach, Charles Rodriguez played for Charlotte that year; he experienced first-hand the value of Langan.

"Kevin [was] one where you just had to enjoy picking his brain and listening," said Rodriguez. "For me in my off-days, I would come down and watch film – I don't know if he remembers – but he would sit and watch film with me. [I] learned to view the game [through] a different lens."

Charlotte found itself without a commander in the wake of coach Gunn's retirement. After only three years with the team, Langan got his chance to take the reins.

"All of a sudden – I was 32, I believe – I got the head coaching job," said Langan. "I

felt it had come a little too soon for me, but I was very determined."

### Tenure as head coach

From the start, Langan set the bar high. In his first year, the 2012 men's soccer team earned a .750 win percentage, good enough for one of the top five best seasons in program history. Even more impressive, under Langan, five seasons had higher than a .700 win percentage; no other coach has ever accomplished more than three.

Out of ten years as head coach, nine have

seen Charlotte make the NCAA Tournament.

### What sets him apart?

Alex Willis, a graduate student with three years out on the pitch for Charlotte, attributes it to Langan's keen eye.

"He's obsessed, and obsessed in a good way, with attention to detail... he knows what he wants, and he's going to implement that one way or another," said Willis.

Senior Kameron Lacey feels that Langan does the work when people aren't watching.

"I think what goes unnoticed is the hard work... that he puts [in] off the field... in the office, when no one's watching."

Charles Rodriguez talks of his dedication to their craft from the coach's perspective.

"I would say it is... infectious, the energy that he drives and puts into the program. It makes me better; it makes [assistant coach] Shane better," said Rodriguez.

### Breaking the record

To some, the chance to set a lasting legacy is the pursuit of a lifetime; Langan seemed little impressed by his shot at history.

"I'm not really big on the legacy," he explained. "I don't really concern myself with what other people are thinking too much. All I want to do is put out a team that first and foremost makes me proud."

On the evening of Sept. 9, the men's soccer team took the field at home against Detroit Mercy. Under the hot summer sun, Langan led his squad to victory in a dominating 5-0 match.

As the crowd cheered on in celebration, not only for the team but for the record-breaking tenure of the great chieftain, the coach looked none stirred by the moment. The man from Jersey had made history an ocean away from home, but what mattered more was his team and the game that he loved.



Kevin Langan after Friday's men's soccer clash against Detroit Mercy  
photo by Chris Crews

# Film Review: 'Pinocchio'

by Jack Hale  
Staff Writer

In a retelling of the 1940 classic of the same name, a wooden boy is brought to life by a fairy, and he sets out on a journey to discover how to become a real boy. "Pinocchio" is the latest Disney classic to receive a live-action remake. While I wasn't expecting much going into this one because of how bad previous remakes are, I was blown away by just how terrible it was. This isn't even because of a deep nostalgia and love for the original; I only watched it a week ago in preparation for this one.

While it is awful on just about every front possible, the one small redeeming factor is that they attempted to build a more emotional connection between Geppeto and Pinocchio. The original did not attempt that, yet there was still a stronger emotional connection. That is how hard this remake falls flat. I am baffled by how this is even possible, but I do have to give credit to writer and director Robert Zemeckis for trying to add something new to the film.

When I say that is the only redeeming factor, I absolutely mean it. Everything else in the film is painstakingly boring, lifeless, unfunny and dull. A lot of this is due to the atrocious pacing, as "Pinocchio" moves at an absurdly slow pace. The setup of the film takes forever to get into, and from then on, every scene just drags on and on. There are very few times where it feels like scenes naturally progress into each other. It constantly feels like we are just jumping from one place to another, making for a rather jarring watch.

One of the main reasons the film feels so lifeless is because of the live-action and CGI hybrid, which is one of my biggest complaints about nearly all of these remakes. The original "Pinocchio" animation was so vibrant and full of life; replacing that with CGI and live

action makes for very awkward scenes.

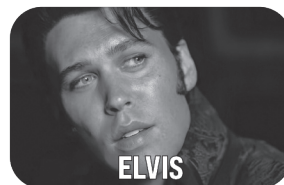
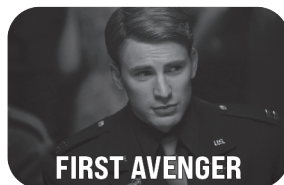
Everything about the CGI feels very cheap, and it feels like there was little effort put into it. What is even more frustrating is that it also feels so pointless. Disney did very little to change anything about the story besides a brief backstory for Geppeto. A couple of added scenes do absolutely nothing for the story or change anything about the character of Pinocchio. It is the most frustrating thing when remakes do absolutely nothing to change the original material, as it feels incredibly lazy and a full-blown cash grab.

There really isn't much more else to say about "Pinocchio." It is an incredibly boring watch; everybody would be much better off just watching the original Disney classic. Not only is it much more charming and funny with beautiful animation, but it is a film that will stand the test of time and is something that children will always be able to look back on and learn from. Poor acting, terrible pacing and no meaningful additions made this easily one of the worst films of the year.

**Rating: 2/10**



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## DEAR NINER TIMES,

# How can I feel more involved as a new transfer student?

by Abigail Leonard  
Contributor

Transferring schools can be difficult. You are in a new place, with new classes, new bus routes to memorize and a new crowd of people. Being a part of a large campus community can be overwhelming. Getting involved on campus is a great way to combat many of the frustrations new transfer students feel while also getting to know other like-minded people around you. Here are some tips to feel a bit more at home in your new home.

### 1. Join a club or an organization

While community colleges have a small variety of clubs and organizations, nothing compares to the vast selection of clubs, organizations and intramural sports you can join as a student on campus at a large university. At UNC Charlotte, there are over 400 clubs and organizations to choose from. Whether you want to meet people who love the same TV shows as you, or you want to join a club sport, there is something here for everybody.

### 2. Get involved in your classes

Getting to know your classmates and professors is a great way to make an impression and also meet like-minded people who may be studying similarly to you. Creating study groups with people from your classes is another great way to get to know people while also keeping up on your class work.

### 3. Go to campus events

Sports games and other events are great ways to showcase your school spirit and meet new people. A list of upcoming games can be found at [charlotte49ers.com](http://charlotte49ers.com).

While being a transfer student may be difficult and sometimes isolating, there are many resources at your disposal to become more involved and help you adjust to your new home.

# Upcoming concerts this fall

by Nicholas Caceres  
Contributor

Looking for an escape during the fall semester? Luckily, there are many upcoming concerts in these next several months, ranging from iconic metal acts such as Trivium to specially-themed raves celebrating the classic green ogre. Be sure to check out some of these concerts around the Charlotte area. Note that this list is curated, and not every upcoming show is listed. Sold-out shows will not be included, so do not stress. Tickets should still be available for all of these performances, which are divided by venue.

## Bank of America Stadium

- Elton John, Sunday, Sept. 18, 8:00 p.m.

## Belk Theater

- Blackstar Symphony, The Music of David Bowie, Friday - Saturday, Sept. 16 - 17, 8:00 p.m.  
- Regina Spektor, Wednesday, Oct. 19, 7:00 p.m.

## Charlotte Metro Credit Union Amphitheater

- Gryffin, Friday, Sept. 23, 7:30 p.m.  
- Demi Lovato, Friday, Oct. 21, 8:00 p.m.

## Neighborhood Theater

- Lucy Dacus, Wednesday, Oct. 5, 8:00 p.m.  
Shadow of Intent, Sunday, Oct. 30, 6:30 p.m.

## Ovens Auditorium (Bojangles Coliseum)

- Kevin James, Thursday, Oct. 6, 7:30 p.m.  
- Tribute To Biz Old School Hip-Hop Concert, Friday, Nov. 18, 8:00 p.m.

## PNC Music Pavilion

- Wu Tang Clan & Nas: N.Y. State Of Mind Tour, Sunday, Sept. 18, 8:00 p.m.  
- \$UICIDEBOY\$, Wednesday, Sept. 21, 6:30 p.m.  
- Zac Brown Band, Saturday, Sept. 24, 7:00 p.m.  
- Shinedown and Jelly Roll, Monday, Sept. 26, 7:00 p.m.  
- Alice In Chains and Breaking Benjamin + Bush with special guests, Tuesday, Oct. 4, 5:30 p.m.

## Spectrum Center

- Lizzo, Thursday, Oct. 20, 8:00 p.m.  
- Greta Van Fleet, Friday, Oct. 28, 7:00 p.m.  
- Hillsong UNITED and Chris Tomlin,

Saturday, Nov. 20, 7:00 p.m.

- Daddy Yankee / Tuesday, Dec. 6, 8:00 p.m.

## Snug Harbor

- SHADOWGRAPHS, Saturday, Sept. 17, 10:00 p.m.  
- Ross Adams, Wednesday, Sept. 21, 9:30 p.m.  
- Tennis Courts, Wednesday, Oct. 5, 10:00 p.m.  
- Wolf Eyes, Thursday, Oct. 13, 10:00 p.m.  
- Neggy Gemmy, ESPRIT 空想, George Clanton, and Death's Dynamic Shroud, Saturday, Oct. 22, 10:00 p.m.  
- KEN MODE, Thursday, Nov. 3, 9:30 p.m.  
- Sunflower Bean, Friday, Nov. 4, 10:00 p.m.  
- Starcrawler, Saturday, Nov. 12, 10:00 p.m.

## The Fillmore

- Denzel Curry, Friday, Sept. 16, 8:00 p.m.  
- KING PRINCESS, Wednesday, Sept. 28, 8:00 p.m.  
- COIN, Saturday, Oct. 1, 8:00 p.m.  
- Peach Pit, Monday, Oct. 3, 8:00 p.m.  
- Turnstile, JPEGMAFIA and Snail Mail, Tuesday, Oct. 11, 7:00 p.m.  
- Sabrina Claudio, Wednesday, Oct. 12, 8:00 p.m.  
- Steve Lacy, Thursday, Oct. 20, 8:00 p.m.  
- Hippo Campus and CHAI, Saturday, Oct. 22, 8:00 p.m.  
- AWOLNATION, Saturday, Oct. 29, 8:00 p.m.  
- Trivium, Monday, Oct. 31, 7:00 p.m.  
- Bad Omens, Thursday, Nov. 3, 6:30 p.m.

- Rina Sawayama, Sunday, Nov. 6, 8:00 p.m.  
- Silversun Pickups, Saturday, Nov. 12, 8:00 p.m.  
- Omar Apollo, Saturday, Nov. 19, 7:45 p.m.  
- Jinjer, Wednesday, Dec. 7, 7:00 p.m.

## The Underground

- Shrek Rave (18+), Friday, Sept. 16, 9:00 p.m.  
- 100 Geecs, Tuesday, Sept. 20, 8:00 p.m.  
- LADYGANG, Sunday, Sept. 25, 7:00 p.m.  
- Barns Courtney, Monday, Oct. 3, 8:00 p.m.  
- Yung Bae, Wednesday, Oct. 12, 8:00 p.m.  
- Duckwrth, Tuesday, Oct. 18, 8:00 p.m.  
- Oddisee, Thursday, Nov. 10, 8:00 p.m.  
- Touche Amore, Sunday, Nov. 13, 7:00 p.m.  
- Blue October, Friday, Dec. 2, 8:00 p.m.

## The Milestone Club

- Creeping Death, Wednesday, Sept. 14, 7:00 p.m.  
- Teens In Trouble, Sunday, Sept. 25, 8:00 p.m.  
- Cosmic Reaper, Thursday, Sept. 29, 8:00 p.m.  
- Rundown Kreeps, Monday, Oct. 3, 8:00 p.m.  
- True Lilith, Saturday, Oct. 8, 8:00 p.m.  
- Casket Robbery, Oct. 19, 8:00 p.m.  
- Great American Ghost, Sunday, Oct. 30, 8:00 p.m.  
- ALICE, Friday, Nov. 4, 8:00 p.m.

## Visulite Theater

- Melvins, Tuesday, Oct. 4, 8:00 p.m.  
- Caalexico, Saturday, Oct. 15, 8:00 p.m.  
- Young Jesus, Saturday, Nov. 20, 7:00 p.m.



Twenty One Pilots concert at the Spectrum Center on Sept. 4, 2022  
photo by Jade Suszek

# Yiasou Greek Festival returns to the Queen City

by Dezanii Lewis  
Contributor

The Yiasou Greek Festival was held for the first time since 2019 and went from Friday, Sept. 9 to Sunday, Sept 11. Zeus, the mythological Greek god of sky, rain and thunder, made an appearance at Saturday's events. Despite the rainy weather, people were all smiles while attending the festivities.

It was clear how tight-knit the Greek community was. Everyone seemed to know each other, and cheerful greetings were ubiquitous. As I walked the grounds, I encountered a family hugging and kissing each other. One woman, while holding a young boy, proclaimed, "You got so big!" The festival was more than just a celebration of their Greek heritage—it was also a celebration of enduring the pandemic.

The festival featured music, food, arts and crafts, souvenirs and beverages. Wherever you turned, there was something that spoke to Greek history and culture. It was a rich immersion of culture all around.

## Vibe check

The atmosphere was exceptional. Everyone was friendly. No one cared one bit about the rain. In normal circumstances, you might find people huddling under tents with forlorn expressions, cursing the rain, but that wasn't the case. People were just happy to be here. The festival was charged with excitement, the current running through the festival grounds. Even if you're not someone of Greek descent, you were still very welcome.

The customer service was efficient, and the volunteers seemed genuinely delighted to be able to help consumers revel in their culture, if only for a little bit. It was like your grandmother holding your hand to help you get food. While I was ordering food, I mispronounced

everything. When ordering Spanakopita, I said: "SPAN-uh-cop-ituh." This was wrong. "span-uh-koh-PEETA," the woman behind the counter kindly corrected. Everyone had a smile on their face and was eager to help.

## Culture

If ever you wanted to be immersed in Greek culture without going to Greece, the Greek festival is the place to do it. Though the festival grounds were small, the festival maximized every opportunity to display Greek heritage.

The food tents were the blue and white of the Greek flag, traditional music resounded from the speakers, and glimpses of Greece were present in the form of posters and pictures.

Children dressed in traditional Greek attire trekked the festival, and I overheard them announcing they wanted



Men in Evzones uniform  
photo by Dezanii Lewis

gyros (which, according to them, is pronounced YEAR-oh, not GUY-roh, as I had been saying).

At various intervals, there was a performance of some kind. Children performed numerous traditional Greek dances, groups performed musical sequences and there was a changing of the guard ceremony.

In Greece, at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the Presidential Mansion, there are ceremonial guards called Evzones. A couple of men replicated the ceremony at the festival wearing the same uniform the Evzones in Greece wear.

There were also wine tastings (for those 21+), a raffle for a trip to Greece (which I sadly did not get) and you could even get a Giannis Antetokounmpo jersey.

## Food

It's not a festival if there isn't food, and this festival did not disappoint. Gyros, Greek fries, Spanakopita and Loukoumades, were just some of the foods featured among the wide range of options at the festival.

Loukoumades are the Greek version of doughnuts, and they were glorious. They had a crisp exterior with a soft, melt-in-your-mouth center and were dipped in honey. The subtle sweetness of the honey combined with the fried dough was heavenly. I heard one attendee exclaim in delight as he tried the little treats.

Did you know frappés are Greek? Well, I didn't, so I had to try it out. If you like flavored coffees, then this isn't the drink for you. If you are okay with simple coffees, then you will love this.

Baklava ice cream sundaes are not a thing that I ever thought existed, but I was happy to try it. It was vanilla ice cream topped with crumbles of baklava that had to grow on me. I wasn't sold



Frappé and baklava sundae  
photo by Dezanii Lewis

on the first scoop. Then I took another bite and another. The simplicity of the vanilla ice cream paired with the crispy, saccharine baklava was a party in your mouth.

Gyros are a staple in the Greek community. They were at the top of almost every menu board. One attendee was enchanted as he consumed his. The sweet tang of the tzatziki sauce with the perfectly seasoned flavor of the lamb and beef was noteworthy. "Just needs more sauce," he said.

There were also to-go food options, and for those who missed the festival, there will be a holiday bake sale where patrons can purchase their favorite treats.

While it's unfortunate that people will have to wait a year for next year's festival, it goes without saying that this year's events were necessary and were a huge success. Overall, I had a great time, and I am glad I went. I may not be Greek, but I felt welcomed all the same.