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UNC CHARLOTTE FIRES FOOTBALL HEAD COACH WILL HEALY AFTER 1-7 START

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Former UNC Charlotte football Head Coach Will Healy at the game against FAU on Oct. 21, 2021.

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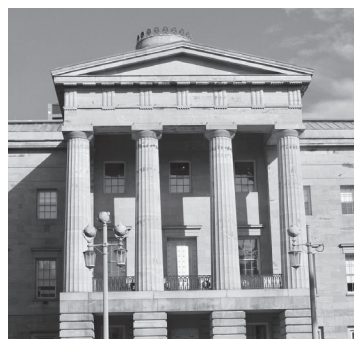
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Golden Niner Ra'Quan Leary
Photo by Chris Crews



Former Head Coach Will Healy
Photo by Chris Crews



North Carolina State Capitol
Photo by Isabella Lain



'The Conjuring' (2013)
Photo courtesy of IMDB

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Man arrested for trespassing at UNC Charlotte has been released

by Jessica Ceballos & AJ Siegel
News Editor & Copy Editor



Courtesy of the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office

BAKER, JORDAN TIMOTHY

- DOB: 10/19/1991
- Race/Sex: B/M
- Height: 5’10”
- Status: STATE INMATE
- Committed: 10/20/2022 5:13 PM
- Released: 10/21/2022 9:12 PM

The man arrested in the Popp Martin Student Union on Oct. 20, identified as Jordan Timothy Baker, was released from custody on Oct. 21 at 9:12 p.m. Baker is 31 years old, 5 feet 10 inches and was seen wearing pink boots and a pink vest.

Baker’s arrest occurred on Oct. 20, around 11:40 a.m. According to the Mecklenburg County Sheriff’s Office website, Baker was charged with possession with intent to sell or deliver marijuana, assault inflicting serious injury on law enforcement, probation, or parole officer or on a person employed at a state or local detention facility, resisting public officer, second-degree trespassing and possession of marijuana paraphernalia.

In a video taken by a witness, the man appears to be resisting arrest and is heard screaming and saying, “leave me alone.” The man pushes and tackles a police officer. During the tackle, a nearby student was knocked out of a chair. The man was then removed from the Union in handcuffs and escorted by four police officers to a campus police car. The specific events prior to the physical altercation between the suspect and police are currently unknown.

According to the Oct. 20 UNC Charlotte police log at 1:38 p.m., “Officers responded to the Student Union regarding a suspicious person. Upon arrival, the individual was identified as a trespassed person. The subject was arrested and transported to Mecklenburg County intake. Report completed.”

“He has previously assaulted a female African American police officer and harassed females for refusing to purchase marijuana,” according to

the Student Government Association (SGA) Reddit post.

SGA says, “I would encourage students to immediately report to campus police should they ever see him on campus again. The police are doing everything in their power to contain this individual and keep him from returning to campus.”

If Baker is seen on campus, use the LiveSafe app or call UNC Charlotte campus police at 704-687-2200.



Baker resisting arrest in the Popp Martin Student Union on Oct. 20
Photo taken from video courtesy of Yusuf.Shire via Snapchat

CRIME AND ACCIDENT LOG						
FILE # REPORT# - (N/S) *	INCIDENT TYPE	INCIDENT LOCATION	DATE/TIME REPORTED	TIME LAST KNOWN SECURED	APPROXIMATE TIME FRAME OF OCCURRENCE	DISPOSITION
202210200002 (N) 2022006929	Suspicious Person	Student Union	10/20/2022 @13:38	N/A	N/A	Report Taken
INCIDENT DESCRIPTION	Officers responded to the Student Union regarding a suspicious person. Upon arrival, the individual was identified as a trespassed person. The subject was arrested and transported to Mecklenburg County intake. Report completed.					

Courtesy of the UNC Charlotte Police Daily Log

UNC Charlotte selects Ra'Quan Leary as the 2022 Golden Niner

by Allyson Parsi
Staff Writer

Ra'Quan Leary was announced as the Golden Niner at the halftime of the homecoming football game on Oct. 22 for the 2022-2023 school year.

The Niner 9 candidates included Ra'Quan Leary, Page Freeman, Maggie Pearce, Kaitlin Klotz, Madison Wilson, Brenna Murray, Alexa Schoubert, Sam Nelon and Christian Rios.

Leary is a third-year at UNC Charlotte majoring in middle-grade education.

Leary is a resident advisor, a member of the Resident Students Association and the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc.

"When you are a Niner, you are not only choosing excellence but striving for greatness; being cognitive of how your actions affect

the community around you, and always lending a helping hand when you can. Knowing one's strengths and improving one's weaknesses. A Niner is a premiere student that wants better for themselves, others, and the world around them," Leary says on the Niner 9 website.

The Golden Niner exemplifies the values and spirit of Niner Nation and was chosen "regardless of their gender, gender identity, and gender expression," according to the Niner 9 website.

In 2021, Charlotte replaced the gendered titles of "Homecoming King and Queen" with the title "Golden Niner" to promote inclusivity.

Charlotte also removed the fixed number ratio of male-to-

female representation within the homecoming court.

The Golden Niner will receive a \$500 award and a Golden Niner Pickaxe. They also get to design a Golden Niner-themed jacket or blazer; will be featured in Charlotte promotional and storytelling campaigns; and collaborate with athletics, admissions and other departments across campus. Next year, they will pass the Golden Niner Pickaxe onto the 2023 winner at next year's homecoming football game.

Charlotte voted for the Golden Niner from Oct. 13-19, and "Meet the Niner 9" was held from Oct. 14-19 from 12-2 p.m. each day at the Popp Martin Student Union.



UNC Charlotte's 2022 Golden Niner Ra'Quan Leary
Photo by Chris Crews

Native American Student Association's first annual powwow to be held on Oct. 29

by Allyson Parsi
Staff Writer

The first annual powwow run by UNC Charlotte's Native American Student Association (NASA) to raise cultural awareness will be held on Oct. 29, 2022. The event will be from 12-6 p.m. at the northeast recreational field complex.

The powwow will include traditional Native American drumming and different forms of traditional Native American dancing.

Page Freeman, president of the NASA, said, "We have women's fancy, men's fancy, women's jingle, men's traditional and a lot of different varieties of traditional dancing. For native people who are usually involved in powwows, there will also be a competition."

There will be vendors for food and vendors that will sell Native American beaded jewelry and handmade soaps.

Freeman said, "We'll have one vendor

that'll be set up, and she'll be making frybread, which is a big food in native culture. She'll also make Indian tacos, which are tacos but on frybread."

Freeman said there will be different food for people who do not want to try authentic Native American food. "We're looking at a burger food truck, like the ones on campus."

Grand entry to the powwow starts at noon and will begin with registered dancers doing a group dance as the day's first event.

"We don't have all the different category times planned out and what categories are going to dance when, but dancing will be taking place throughout the day until 6 p.m.," Freeman said.

Charlotte students, staff and faculty have free entry with their University ID. For students from other universities,

it is \$3 for entry, and they must have a student ID. General admission is \$5.

Lot 6A is reserved for parking, and a bus will be shuttling people to and from the event, according to Freeman.

The powwow is hosted by the NASA and the Native American caucus.

The NASA was restarted in fall 2021 after being inactive due to a lack of members.

"The issue with NASA is that we have so few Native students here throughout the years that it's kind of fallen off, so we're really excited to be back and just spread our culture and everything around campus," Freeman said.

The NASA advisor, Michelle Stanley, Coharie Tribe, also started the Native American caucus on the Charlotte campus.

"[Stanley] has been a very avid helper

in getting NASA started, and she wanted to do the same thing for faculty and staff on campus," Freeman said. "Sadly, there's not a lot of native faculty and staff, but we're working on trying to get the university to go out and actively look for native faculty to hire and bring that diversity on campus. [Stanley's] been a big help in all of this."

The last powwow on the Charlotte campus was in 2012.

"We looked at all the other universities around North Carolina that have their powwow. For example, Carolina has a Powwow every year; they're on their 35th annual powwow," Freeman said. "It's a tradition at other universities, and Charlotte didn't have that. So we were like, 'Let's go ahead and start it. Why not? What better time than now?' So that's what we did."

Running down a dream

CROSS COUNTRY RECEIVES HIGHEST PROGRAM RANKING DUE TO OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES

by Bryson Foster
Sports Editor

The Charlotte cross country team received its highest national ranking in program history, peaking at No. 27 on Tuesday, Oct. 18. The squad has won five Conference USA (C-USA) weekly awards through six competitions. Nick Scudder, Finn McBride and Austin Heft racked up the awards while leading the 49ers.

Head Coach Joseph Lynn said his athletes had earned the honors.

“The men and women deserve what they get because they have earned it,” said Lynn. “It is a lot of fun sitting back and watching it all happen. I am happy with where we are, but we have a long way to go.”

Nick Scudder, junior

Scudder is coming off an outstanding 2021-22 cross-country campaign where he was named to All-Conference USA’s first team. This season he’s been named the C-USA Male Athlete of the Week three times. He is coming off a dominant win in the Panorama Farms XC23 Invitational on Saturday, Oct. 15.

Lynn said Scudder is one of the best in the conference.

“Nick [Scudder] has established himself as the class of the conference from a distance standpoint,” said Lynn. “Anytime he races and gets that award, he takes great pride in it.”

Scudder has won the award six times since arriving in Charlotte. He said winning the award shows that the hard work has been paying off.

“It is awesome to see the hard work paying off,” said Scudder. “It is great to be able to represent Charlotte.”

The Raleigh native was named C-USA 2020 Male Cross Country Athlete of the Year.

“The biggest thing is having fun,” said Scudder. “You can’t run well if you aren’t having fun.”

Scudder has been prominent in helping Charlotte develop into a national powerhouse. He has an average finish of second place this season. Scudder said the accolades show what the 49ers’ are building.

“It shows our dominance,” said Scudder. “We continue to show that we belong at the top.”

Scudder and the 49ers are looking ahead to the regional and national tournaments.

“We want to get a spot in nationals,” said Scudder. “We want to get the most people we’ve ever had to regionals and nationals.”

Austin Heft, freshman

Heft was named C-USA Female Athlete of the Week on Tuesday, Oct. 11. She earned the award for her performance in the Royals XC challenge, where she was the highest finisher for the women’s squad, recording a time of 19:16.6. Lynn said Heft continues to do her part.

“We always talk about everybody doing their part,” said Lynn.

“Austin [Heft] is the epitome of that as she is farther back in our depth chart since she is a freshman. She keeps the positivity, and seeing her focus to race at a high level is great.”

Heft said she was shocked to receive the honor.

“I was surprised to win the award because I didn’t think it was something I would ever get,” said Heft. “It was a good confidence booster because it wasn’t something I expected.”

Heft started running cross country in high school. She was a high school phenom winning the 2020 and 2021 Virginia Cross Country State Championships while setting multiple school records. Heft is carrying over her success to the collegiate level.

“I had a lot of experience in high school,” said Heft. “I am not where I want to be, but it has helped with the transition. It helped me have confidence that I can stay with the pack.”

Heft is off to an impressive start with the 49ers but isn’t finished yet.

“My goal is to move up in the pack and place higher,” said Heft.

Finn McBride, redshirt junior

On Tuesday, Oct. 11, Finn McBride was named C-USA Male Athlete of the Week, recording a time of 25:05.6 in the Royals Challenge. It was the second week in a row that a 49er had won the award. McBride returns to the team after not competing in cross country for the 2021-

22 season due to injury.

Lynn said McBride is returning to form.

“Finn struggled a bit at the start of the year, and him winning the award was a huge confidence boost,” said Lynn. “Finn is a key part of our program, and we missed him when he was out.”

McBride said he is excited to receive the honor.

“It is definitely really exciting,” said McBride. “This is my fifth year, and I haven’t gotten one of those before. I am looking forward to winning more of them.”

McBride comes from a lineage of athletes, as his mother Emamarie ran track at Tulane. He said his parents have been behind him every step of the way.

“I was fortunate that my parents were athletically talented, and they weren’t overbearing for me to do it,” said McBride. “It is nice to have someone you share ambition and prowess with.”

McBride has his eyes on a single goal.

“We are looking to make a push for the national meet,” said McBride.

Next up

The Charlotte cross country team will be back in action on Saturday, Oct. 29, for the C-USA Championship in Denton, Texas. The women’s race gets underway at 9 a.m., and the men’s race will follow at 10 a.m.

SCOREBOARD

MEN’S SOCCER	WOMEN’S SOCCER	FOOTBALL	VOLLEYBALL
October 15: Charlotte 3, SMU 1	October 16: Rice 1, Charlotte 0	October 22: Florida International 34, Charlotte 15	October 16: No 22. Rice 3, Charlotte 2
October 21: UCF 2, Charlotte 1	October 23: Charlotte 0, FIU 0		October 21: No. 23 Western Kentucky 3, Charlotte 0
			October 23: UTEP 3, Charlotte 0

Hook, line and sinker

CHARLOTTE ANGLER LOUIS MONETTI IS THE 2022 BASSMASTER COLLEGE CLASSIC BRACKET CHAMPION

by Bryson Foster
Sports Editor

After a long day on the water, Charlotte's Louis Monetti stood side-by-side with Seth Slanker of Florida Gateway College. Monetti believed he had lost his chance to win the Bassmaster College Classic Bracket in Greenwood, S.C., and the next step in his bass fishing career.

As the competitors were given small clipboards, he looked down to see the word "winner" etched across the paper.

Monetti said he was shocked.

"It was such a trying day. I had no idea that I was going to win," said Monetti. "I feel like I blacked out when I read the card that I had won. It was true disbelief."

Monetti's final day weight of eight pounds, 13 ounces clinched him a spot in the 2023 Academy Sports + Outdoors Bassmaster Classic. The event is scheduled for March 24-26 in Knoxville, Tenn. Monetti will also receive paid entry fees to all nine 2023 St. Croix Bassmaster Opens and a fully rigged Toyota Tundra and Nitro Boat.

Monetti said competing in the Classic is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

"It is a dream come true because it is the holy grail," said Monetti. "To have an opportunity to compete in that is just unbelievable."

Monetti is a native of Brielle, N.J., a small town on the coast and one of the world's fishing capitals. Monetti's identity has been intertwined with the sport since his father took him fishing for the first time at three years old.

"My parents are the ones that pushed me to be the best at whatever I did," said Monetti. "They never had an agenda on what it was that I did, though. They got more behind me in bass fishing as I got further into college and had some success."

In middle school, a friend invited him to try freshwater bass fishing. Monetti was intrigued by competing in the sport.

"In fifth or sixth grade, I had a buddy tell me that I needed to try out bass fishing," said Monetti. "He convinced me to go, and I was enamored by it instantly. Shortly after, I discovered I could compete in bass fishing."

At age 14, Monetti started to compete in New Jersey Bass Nation Youth tournaments. He knew that bass fishing was something he wanted to continue in college. Monetti said he wanted to go to a school where he could compete.

"At the time, college bass fishing was becoming popular, and I knew I wanted to go somewhere I could do that," said Monetti. "At Charlotte, I felt I could instantly come down here and start competing, which was a key factor in me coming here."

Monetti joined the Charlotte bass fishing team and competed for four years. Monetti graduated in 2022 but continued

competing in tournaments because the college season runs from April to October. Monetti said his time with the team turned him into the angler he is today.

"I got out and honed my craft during my time at college," said Monetti. "It was a blast and an awesome time. We might not have had a lot of money for gear, but we made up for it in heart and talent."

Monetti's time with Charlotte was capped off in the Bassmaster College Classic Bracket. The tournament was different than others. Instead of a whole field of competitors, it was a one-on-one elimination bracket.

Monetti said his philosophy on the water is to block out the noise.

"I had the option of knowing my competitor's weight, but I opted out. I simply wanted to keep my foot on the

gas and keep things going. At the end of the day, you aren't fishing against your competitor, but rather the fish," said Monetti.

Monetti isn't the first 49er to win the prestigious event. Jake Whitaker won the Carhartt Bassmaster College Series National Championship in 2014. The Charlotte Bassmaster team continues to develop its roots as a growing program. Monetti said he is proud to add to the legacy of Charlotte anglers.

"Having graduated last year, the timing of this honor has been meant to be," said Monetti. "I will make the most of this opportunity and carry on the legacy."

As he turns his attention to the future, Monetti will start his career with the biggest event on the bass fishing calendar, the 2023 Academy Sports + Outdoors Bassmaster Classic. Monetti said he will soak up the moment.

"I am going to live it up in that tournament," said Monetti. "I am going to take in the experience. I am competitive, so I know I will fight to win it because winning the tournament is career-making."

For Monetti, this moment has come full circle. As a fan, Monetti has attended every Bassmaster Classic since 2018.

Instead of sitting near the main stage where the champion is announced, he sits far away. Monetti's Instagram post from the 2019 Classic with the caption "One Day" reminds him that he needed to earn the opportunity to walk the stage.

"I feel that everything has come full circle," said Monetti. "I have this tradition that I set on the rafters by myself on day three. I wanted to avoid that floor until I deserved to walk across it."

Monetti said he is looking toward the future and a potential pro series career in the next 5-10 years.

"I want to be getting my start on the pro series in the next 5-10 years," said Monetti.



Louis Monetti was crowned the winner of the 2022 Bassmaster College Classic Bracket
Photo courtesy of B.A.S.S.

UNC Charlotte fires football Head Coach Will Healy after 1-7 start

by Bryson Foster
Sports Editor

Charlotte fired football Head Coach Will Healy on Sunday, Oct. 23. The firing comes on the heels of a 34-15 homecoming game loss to Florida International University on Saturday. The loss eliminated the 49ers from bowl contention.

Healy posted a 15-24 record in four seasons with the team. At the same time, the 49ers have a 10-14 record in Conference USA (C-USA) games under Healy. The 49ers, who are currently 1-7, have struggled mightily this season.

Athletic Director Mike Hill said the on-field results had not met expectations.

“We are grateful to Will Healy for the incredible energy and enthusiasm he brought to our program,” said Hill. “He made an impact here that will never be forgotten. Sadly, however, our on-field results have not met expectations. Will and his family are special people, and we wish them the best.”

Healy led the program to its first and only bowl game, the Bahamas Bowl, in 2019 after a 7-6 season. The 49ers were 2-4 in 2020. In 2021, the team posted its first power five victory over Duke before finishing 5-7.

In the following three seasons, the 49ers lost 18 games. In 12 of their last 14 losses, the team lost by an average of 24 points.

The defensive struggles have been apparent this season. The 49ers are giving up a whopping 43 points

and 243.3 rushing yards per game. Nationally, the team ranks 131 out of 131 FBS teams in total defense.

Healy said he was honored to be with the program.

“I want to thank Mike Hill, Chancellor [Phil] Dubois and

Chancellor [Sharon] Gaber for giving me the opportunity and support at this special place,” Healy said. “We were fortunate to have some special moments. I was able to work with some outstanding coaches and staff members and coach an incredible group of young men. I want to thank the students, boosters and fan base for the support they’ve shown over the years, and I apologize for not being able to bring the results that we were striving for. I’m really proud of the young men in our locker room. I’m a 49ers fan for life, and I know the future of this university is bright.”

The team will turn to Offensive Line Coach Pete Rossomando for the rest of the season. He was a standout head coach at the FCS level with Central Connecticut State.

Rossomando was named 2017 FCS Coach of the Year during his time with the Blue Devils and was Division II National Coach of the Year at New Haven before that.

The search for a new head coach will start immediately.



Former UNC Charlotte football Head Coach Will Healy after homecoming game loss to FIU
Photo by Chris Crews

How the team has performed under Healy since coming to Charlotte

Season records

2019: 7-6 record (5-3 C-USA record)
2020: 2-4 record (2-2 C-USA record)
2021: 5-7 record (3-5 C-USA record)
2022: 1-7 record (0-4 C-USA record)

Notable matches

Aug. 29, 2019, first win as the head coach of Charlotte in a 49-28 victory against Gardner-Webb.
Sept. 14, 2019, he recorded his first career victory over a Football Bowl Subdivision opponent with a 52-17 win against UMass.
Oct. 26, 2019, first C-USA win against North Texas 39-38.

Nov. 23, 2019, the 49ers reach bowl eligibility for the first time following a home 24-13 victory over Marshall.
Dec. 20, 2019, faced Buffalo in the Makers Wanted Bahamas Bowl. The first bowl in program history.
Sept. 3, 2021, the program’s first win over a Power 5 opponent with a 31-28 win over Duke.

C-USA placement

2019: No. 4 in the East
2020: No. 4 in the East
2021: No. 5 in the East (tied)
2022: Currently No. 11 (last)

N.C. legislation should allow the freedom of choice in abortion cases

by Amna Noyal
Contributor

Millions of women worldwide, especially in third world countries, suffer daily from insufficient feminine hygiene and healthcare. Many of that results from the lack of abortion clinics or doctors available. So why are women living in the United States, a first-world country with many resources available to them, also being subjected to the same treatment so many women wish they could have?

We know of the recent abortion ban overturning *Roe v. Wade* since it has been circulating in the news. As a shock to many, this ban is sadly becoming a reality. The N.C. legislature's formal decision is harmful regarding the right to bodily autonomy and should be changed.

While the abortion ban was ruled as a national issue, it is a law that gives many states the choice to enforce it if they are willing to or not implement it at all. For this reason, different state legislatures have different outlooks and variations of the law. However, following the historic U.S. Supreme Court decision permitting states to restrict abortion, a federal judge has declared that North Carolina's broad prohibition on abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy can be enforced.

U.S. District Judge William Osteen overturned an order that had prevented the ban in a court order on Aug. 17, stating that the injunction violated the Supreme Court decision that invalidated *Roe v. Wade*. The law in question, which forbids abortions after 20 weeks, has existed since 1973. Some exceptions were made for abortions due to late-term medical circumstances.

However, as of late, North Carolina has made the surgery permissible until fetal viability, which is often about 23 or 24 weeks of pregnancy. According to Planned Parenthood South Atlantic,

enforcing the 20-week ban would pose a hardship for those seeking abortion care. They might now be required to travel outside of the state for abortion care, experience delays in accessing that care, experience dangerous complications with their pregnancy or be forced to carry a pregnancy against their will.

Abortions after 20 weeks are "exceptionally rare and happen because of a tragic health emergency or diagnosis," said Democratic Governor Roy Cooper in a Twitter post after the decision was made. He also argued that the ban would criminalize essential medical care. In general, many feel that the abortion ban is unfair to women.

It is unfair for women to be put on a time limit to carry out something they might be in dire need of later. The choice should be entirely up to each individual and giving them restrictions like this can be very unhealthy and unnecessary. Furthermore, risks such as future health risks for the pregnant individual and fetus and deaths during pregnancy

could be avoided as well if the choice of abortion was entirely up to the pregnant individual.

As it would be unfair for the government to mandate men to get vasectomies, there should not be any second guesses about the women in the same case. The government does not deserve to control anyone's body. However, the debate over bodily autonomy would not be the same if it were from the men's side. Rulings such

as this ban on abortions implement patriarchal values. If you need any resources regarding reproductive care, abortions or contraceptives, you can use resources such as Planned Parenthood. People's bodies should not be something to be governed, and with early voting taking place from Oct. 20 to Nov. 5, 2022, you can make your voice heard now.



The North Carolina State Capitol in Raleigh
Photo by Isabella Lain

Declining university attendance rates are dangerous

NATIONAL DECLINES IN ATTENDANCE RATES DEMONSTRATE THE NEED FOR CHANGE IN UNIVERSITIES

by Matthew Porto
Staff Writer

Is the present state of attendance and enrollment in universities concerning as it pertains to the institution of higher education? Currently not trending in a positive direction by any means, university attendance in the United States is showing that the path of higher education needs to boost its reputation. Although a decrease in students attending classes is not a cause for an emergency, universities still need a more effective campaign on how the opportunity cost of college is worth it and how it can provide better opportunities than fast-track career options.

For a young and ambitious generation,

walking the path of least financial and timely burden is seemingly a no-brainer. Still, the viability of these options as they inevitably become oversaturated is yet to be seen. This ambiguity creates a troubling proposition that can negatively impact the trajectory of a constituency of 17 to 18-year-olds pondering the crucial first step to the rest of their professional lives. These observations show the complex trending analytics of falling university attendance and retention rates that are downplayed by some forums.

One such forum is the College Board, a reputable education administration platform that conducted a 2021 research

study whose results suggest that there is not much to worry about. This is quite an idyllic perspective where the basis of conviction is shaky, considering their quantitative findings are statistically based and are “open questions expected to be the focus of much future education research,” according to the 2021 College Board study. The platform is not reeling with the idea of hundreds of education institutions finding themselves in dire financial straits and what a possible long-term result of this could look like, navigating an evolving global pandemic.

With the introduction of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020,

universities faced even more adversity when implementing protocols that became more constricting as new information was introduced. Here at UNC Charlotte, the number of students physically being on campus and utilizing facilities began to change as the pandemic progressed and new ordinances were relayed. Many health check procedures were introduced just to keep people on campus and enrolling in in-person classes.

An August 2020 NBC report states that “roughly 1,360 colleges and universities have seen declines in first-year fall enrollment since 2009, including

about 800 four-year institutions.” This development, coupled with already declining numbers of college attendees leading into 2020, created a tricky spot financially for hundreds of universities nationwide. As referenced by NBC, a college can struggle financially, including mismanaged finances, increased spending as new enrollment dwindles and the construction of new buildings.

There is no doubt about the notion that the COVID-19 pandemic accentuated the issue to a much greater extent. Meanwhile, though four-year universities are certainly feeling the sting of the current state of academia’s new age, the brunt of the proposed attendance crisis is being taken on by another form of higher education: community college. As per NPR, enrollment in community college has been down 13% since fall 2019. This figure proves to be much steeper than that of four-year universities.

“That could be the beginning of a whole generation of students rethinking the value of college itself,” said research scientist Doug Shapiro in an interview with NPR. “I think if that were the case, this is much more serious than just a temporary pandemic-related disruption.”

Shapiro’s thinking is not implausible. With undergraduate-aged individuals forging other avenues to success and branching out of the schema of higher education, it is realistic that the continuance of alternate options will keep steady its progression. However, it is also a safe bet that this crisis does not spell the definitive end of higher education. Still, it shows an unprecedented moment of instability for a route that has brought so many Americans to successful futures.



UNC Charlotte students attending class and completing classwork
Photo by Matt Lower

Exploring the differences in minimalism and maximalism

WHICH OF THESE POPULAR STYLES SUITS YOU BETTER?

by Annie Turk
Staff Writer

You may have heard the words “maximalism” and “minimalism” thrown around while watching interior design shows, TikTok style hacks and more. But what do they mean? For starters, we can associate less is more with minimalist design and more is more with maximalist design.

Minimalism

Minimalist design is simple and elegant and focuses on the fundamental necessity of the item or space. Think clean neutral colors, structural shapes and a sense of blankness. Minimalist design practice can be applied to many things like interior design and architecture, focusing on light and form. It could also be used in your wardrobe, where functionality and wearability are the most sought-after characteristics. Minimalist looks in fashion honor simplicity and adaptability. The capsule wardrobe trend perfectly shows how minimalism worked its way into fashion. The capsule wardrobe is where you only have a few essential staples in your closets that are relatively plain and can be mixed and matched and dressed up or down. If you are currently living in a dorm, consider sticking to a minimalist wardrobe for simplicity and functionality.

The minimalist movement has been prominent since World War II and the 20th century. A wave of anti-consumerism struck our country during this time, making people want fewer possessions while still keeping style and elegance. Many artists like Frank Stella, Sol LeWitt and Robert Morris strayed away from abstractism then and into minimalism. What minimalism design lacks in action and spontaneity, it makes up for in harmony and lightness.

Many modern homes are built with a minimalist design: monochromatic colors, lots of open space, natural light forms and different textures to create variety among the intentional simplicity. It is a clean look that people are looking for nowadays because it is easy to replicate and maintain. It does not take a genius to perfect a minimalist design. However, the minimalist trend is slowly decreasing as people are now beginning to value a sense of uniqueness, color and personalization. Maximalist design checks all of those boxes.

Maximalism

You know a maximalist space when you see it. Many think of maximalism as filling the space around you with things that bring you joy. This is absolutely the case as people try not to eliminate anything they already have and instead elevate them, unlike with the minimalism movement. Maximalist design celebrates intense colors, an abundance of the mixture and eccentric expression. Often described as eclectic, interior design maximalism comprises unique trinkets, bold furniture and complex themes for each room. While this may seem like the perfect equation for a disaster, maximalism allows for creative expression and exploration, creating a sense of playfulness and connection.

Maximalism brought life to the 1970s when people were looking for ways to express not only their personalities but their emotions. In terms of art, the maximalist movement was a response to the redundancy of minimalism and is supported by modern artists like Mickalene Thomas, Nathalie du Pasquier and Hassan Hajjaj. Maximalist art incorporates mixed media, distinctive design elements and complex colors to create one-of-a-kind pieces just waiting for

someone to appreciate their uniqueness.

Many fashion trends of late follow maximalism – the layering of bright colors, quirky pieces, different textures and prints with many accessories. This overall aesthetic, both in fashion and other forms like interior design and art, is on the rise as people want to satisfy their imaginative and childlike desires. Walking around campus, you will notice that a lot of people are embracing maximalism since thrifting is popular among college students.

Sustainability

In terms of sustainability, there is an argument as to why minimalism is better and why maximalism is better. In minimalism, you are stripping things down to the basics and typically only keeping things that serve multiple purposes in your life. For example, owning neutral clothes that you can mix and match, a wooden table that can double as a desk or even textural wall art that fits any room. This could produce a lot of waste as people purge what they no longer need to stay on the minimalist trend.

On the other hand, maximalism uses

whatever you already have to make a statement. Your grandma's bell bottoms, a disco ball from a party or the hot pink couch you found on the side of the road are all up for grabs in maximalism. Some argue that this design produces less waste because you are not replacing anything new to fit the trend. However, there is an urge to always need more in maximalism, which could lead to overproduction.

Some people are drawn to minimalism's coziness and structure, while others love the creative imagination and lack of rules maximalism offers. It is also important to note that although it may appear this way, minimalism and maximalism are not polar opposites. Instead, they are two sides of a spectrum with many wavelengths in between. History has proven that these movements are a part of a continuous cycle as people change tastes and styles all the time. Whichever way you sway, do it because you love it.

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Things to do on Halloween other than partying

by Cat Beck
Staff Writer

Parties are not everyone's cup of tea. Some of us would rather stay inside and maybe curl up with an actual cup of tea. Regardless of how you feel about parties, there is more than one way to celebrate the spookiest season. So dim the lights, get some friends together (or not) and try one of these options.

Watch a scary movie

This one almost goes without saying. Every October means an influx of new frightening films in addition to the classics. There are countless subgenres of scary movies, from slashers to psychological thrillers, and countless options for each one. The hardest part is just picking one.

Watch a not-scary movie

Halloween movies don't have to be scary to be seasonal. The horror genre has an odd habit of overlapping with comedy – a pairing that works shockingly well. My personal favorite is "What We Do in the Shadows," but there are plenty of others, like "Shaun of the Dead," "Cabin in the Woods" and "Happy Death Day."

In addition to intentional comedy, there is a simple pleasure to be had in so-bad-it-is-good movies, and the horror genre is a treasure trove of these gems. Sometimes an honest attempt to frighten the audience fails spectacularly, and this usually results in its own kind of quality entertainment.

Bake something

In my opinion, baking is a much more fun way to satisfy your sweet tooth than just gorging yourself on candy – though candy is not bad either. You can make and decorate some creepy cookies or cupcakes or stick to a fall classic like pumpkin pie or apple crisp.

Have a scary story-telling contest

This could be the time to exercise those creative muscles. Coming up with a scary story or taking the stage to tell one of your favorites is a great way to set the mood for Halloween.

Carve a pumpkin

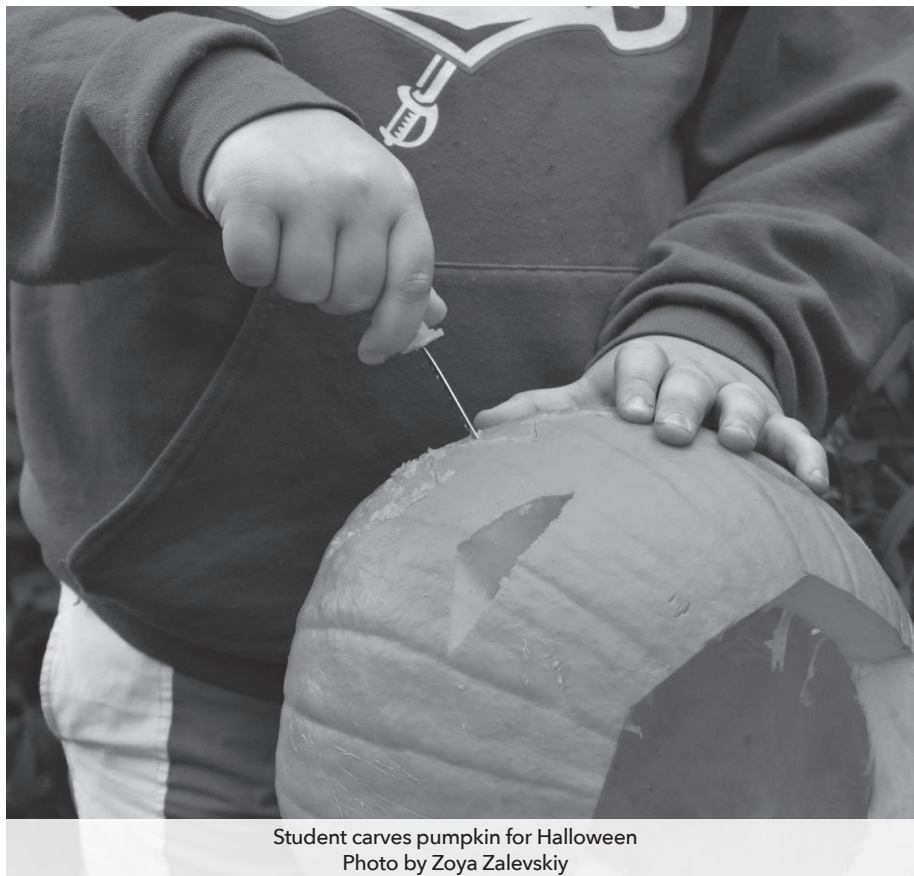
This is one of those things that everyone associates with the fall season but plenty of people have never actually done it. Now is the time to try it out. Do not forget to save the seeds; you can season them and roast them in the oven.

Have a solo photoshoot

So, you got all dressed up in your most ghastly garments, but now you have nowhere to go. Fear not! You

can always show off your costume with a photo shoot. This opens up opportunities you would not have with a regular costume party. For instance, you could wear multiple costumes and use lighting and background to set the stage.

If you are not much of a party person like me, you can still enjoy Halloween from home. Hanging out with a few close friends or just getting cozy and watching a movie can be just as fun. If you do like parties, remember to be safe and have fun! The rest of us will be here getting our spook on and baking cookies. Happy Halloween!



Student carves pumpkin for Halloween
Photo by Zoya Zalevskiy

DEAR NINER TIMES, Where are the best places to study on campus?

by Annie Turk
Staff Writer

Coming to a college that is this big can be overwhelming. However, now that midterms are approaching, students are looking for more places to study around campus.

Quiet and resourceful: Atkins Library

The library has 10 floors with different quiet levels and also offers collaborative study spaces and individual studying areas. Everything you may need to help you study can be found here, from technology to printing and, of course, books. You will also get great views of campus and can even sit outside the library to study on a nice day.

Coffee shop vibes: Thoughtful Cup and Starbucks

Surrounded by the smell of fresh ground coffee and sweet pastries, Thoughtful Cup, located on the first floor of Fretwell, will satisfy people's love of studying in a coffee shop. If that is not your cup of tea, you can also grab Starbucks to go and take a seat in one of the many comfy chairs throughout Popp Martin Student Union. Recently refurbished, the Union has arguably the best and most unique chairs on campus, perfect for those of us who tend to study best in non-traditional sitting positions like criss-cross applesauce.

Great place for collaboration: Science Building

A rather untapped area in terms of popularity is the study areas throughout the Science Building. Study rooms with whiteboards and projectors are on every floor. This is ideal for group projects or complicated math study sessions where you need extra space to spread out and write down all your thoughts, ideas and lengthy equations.

Independent study time: Cone University Center

With lots of seating and not a ton of foot traffic, Cone makes for a great place for independent study. Conveniently located inside of Cone is Niner Central, where you can get all your questions about registration, transcripts, financial aid, student accounts, billing and tuition, academic calendars and more answered. If you need a break from studying, go to the third floor of Cone and find the Northeast Piano Lounge – there are study desks, a piano that can play and even dedicated nap pods.

Horror movies to watch this fall

by Jack Hale
Staff Writer

With the fall season finally upon us, it is time to get your horror films on. While they are certainly worth watching year-round, they are almost mandatory to watch at this time of year. However, it can be daunting to determine which horror films to watch, so here are some of my essential picks.

'Alien' (1979)

When it comes to iconic sci-fi horror films and film franchises in general, "Alien" is hard to beat. All of the scenes of the xenomorph hunting down the crew are fantastic and intense, but the exploration and world-building are top-tier with great and interesting characters. Subtlety is something that lots of horror films nowadays don't get, but "Alien" proves just how powerful not showing something can be.

'The Blair Witch Project' (1999)

If you want to talk about subtlety, look no further than "The Blair Witch Project." The film is a masterclass on how to create tension on a low budget and was a pioneer for the found footage horror genre. I watched this one recently and was taken aback at how effectively the film creates tension and anxiety. While the characters are fairly weak, it is hard not to root for them to get out of the woods and escape whatever is terrorizing them. The constant uneasiness the film presents is remarkable, adding to an extremely tense finale.

'The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari' (1920)

I am being a bit of a film snob here, but hear me out. "The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari" follows a doctor that uses a somnambulist to commit murders. The film is a highlight of the German expressionist movement and is incredibly effective at being creepy and unsettling with its fantastic imagery, despite being made in the silent era. While it is not the scariest film out there, it is fun to watch the genre at one of its earliest stages.

'The Conjuring' (2013)

One of the scariest films of the 2010s, "The Conjuring," follows paranormal investigators trying to help a family get rid of an evil presence. What I love the most about this film is its compelling story with great characters. That is such a rare trait in horror films now, but it adds much more tension when you care about the characters. The scares in "The Conjuring" are nonstop, and James Wan is one of the best at building up that suspense and ensuring it pays off.

'The Exorcist' (1973)

After a young girl becomes possessed, a mother seeks out help from two priests. A modern horror classic, "The Exorcist," stands out due to its engaging story and interesting characters. It is easy to root for the girl and her mother, but the priest struggling with his faith adds a great element to the film. The body horror and scenes with the demon are bone-chilling, and the mysterious occurrences during the production of the film only add to how scary this one is.

'Hereditary' (2018)

Considered by many to be a modern horror classic, I do not think a film has ever unsettled me quite like this one. After her mother's death, Annie and her family slowly begin to be consumed by strange occurrences. What I love about "Hereditary" is that there is a fantastic story to go along with the consistent creepiness. Learning more about what is happening to this family is gratifying and elevates every rewatch because you continue to pick up more subtle clues throughout. Writer and director Ari Aster rarely lets you have a moment to breathe, especially in the final incredibly intense 20 minutes. This is a must-watch for any horror enthusiast.

'Nightmare on Elm Street' (1984)

This could honestly work for any of your favorite classic slashers, but "Nightmare on Elm Street" is easily the best out of the bunch. A brilliant concept with

an entertaining villain makes for a great time, despite the acting being less than mediocre. The violence is over the top and cheesy, but that doesn't take away from some great tension.

'Psycho' (1960)

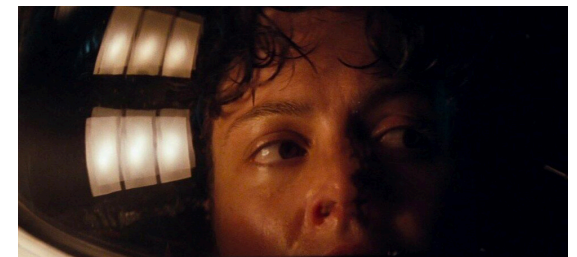
A woman on the run stops by a motel where she encounters the owner and his overbearing mother. The cinematography and shot selection are among the best ever, and Anthony Perkins (Norman Bates) is incredible. "Psycho" is about as iconic as it gets with its twists and the infamous shower scene. This is absolutely a must-watch.

'The Shining' (1980)

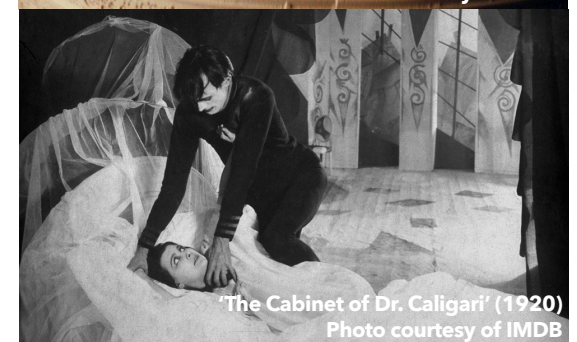
"The Shining" is not only my favorite horror film but also one of my favorite films of all time. Alone in an isolated hotel, a father begins to act violently towards his family. The complexity and subtlety writer and director Stanley Kubrik brings here is outstanding, as you discover more after every watch. The two-and-a-half-hour runtime flies by due to great pacing and Jack Nicholson's (Jack Torrance) fantastic performance. There are countless theories and speculations because there is so much content, but it is unnerving to the end.

'Shaun of the Dead' (2004)

You cannot talk about essential horror films without a zombie movie, and Edgar Wright does it the best with "Shaun of the Dead." The comedy is blended perfectly in with the zombie apocalypse, and they really bring on the gore towards the end. The characters are a joy to watch, and there are quite a few surprisingly emotional moments. You could certainly go with "28 Days Later" or "Night of the Living Dead" for more serious films, but this one is undeniably enjoyable.



'Alien' (1979)
Photo courtesy of IMDB



'The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari' (1920)
Photo courtesy of IMDB



'The Conjuring' (2013)
Photo courtesy of IMDB



'The Blair Witch Project' (1999)
Photo courtesy of IMDB



'The Shining' (1980)
Photo courtesy of IMDB