

NINERTIMES

Student-driven news since 1947

APRIL 30, 2025

2024-25

YEAR-IN-REVIEW



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

We cover campus happenings, news and events in the city of Charlotte and North Carolina and topics that are important to students.

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Jordyn Phillips/Niner Times File

Events to watch for on and off campus

Student Game Showcase
May 1, 5-8 P.M.
Cone University Center

Paws for Exam Therapy
May 2, 5 & 7, Times vary
J. Murrey Atkins Library

Larger than Life, A Musical Theatre Certificate Showcase
May 8, 3 P.M.
Rowe Recital Hall

NOTES FROM THE NEWSROOM:

We must never forget Reed and Riley

Sunnya Hadavi | Staffer



lies and friends. I think about Rami Al-Ramadhan, Sean DeHart, Emily Houpt and Drew Pescara. These are people I will never forget, and neither should you.

While I was not yet a student at Charlotte on April 30, 2019, I still feel the impact of that day. I think about Ellis 'Reed' Parlier and Riley Howell, who passed that day, as well as their families and friends.

Following this tragedy on our campus, we have seen our community come together and remain unified. Starting with the vigil held the day following the shooting in 2019, students, faculty and staff came together to mourn and support the victims. With annual wreath-laying ceremonies and the construction of the new Remembrance Memorial, the University does its part in ensuring they are never forgotten.

Six years after this tragedy, all students from that time have graduated. What remains are the University staff, faculty and us newer students. However, each year, fewer and fewer students are engaging with this side of our community. We cannot let this happen.

As current students, we are responsible for remembering and educating one another and those coming in after us. Not just about what happened on April 30, 2019, but, more importantly, the type of people Reed and Riley were. Not just that Rami, Sean, Emily and Drew are survivors, but rather by their lives and the people they have become.

By learning more about Reed and Riley and all the initiatives that came from it, we can all feel much more connected with our campus community. We can begin to understand the effect of such a tragedy and all its complexities despite not being here when it happened. Not only about the way it impacts loved ones, but it can also bring people and communities together.

From the Charlotte police logs (April 19 - 25)

Davis Cuffe | Editor-in-Chief

The following are some incidents in the UNC Charlotte campus police logs from April 19 to 25, 2024.

April 21

CMPD spotted a wanted vehicle on John Kirk Drive. An officer searched the area, but it was not found until the driver was apprehended after a chase with CMPD.

April 22

An officer responded to a report about a student possessing Starship delivery robot flags. The flags were returned, and misconduct Maxient was completed.

April 22

Dispatch received a call about an animal control incident near EPIC. Officers reviewed video showing a subject picking up and releasing a goose.

April 25

A resident student in McCall #3 reported a sick baby duck. After consulting Animal Control, they decided to release it into Hechenbleikner Lake.

4 takeaways from Charlotte Board of Trustees' April 24 meeting

Sofia DiStefano | News Editor

UNC Charlotte's Board of Trustees (BoT) meeting was held in the Dubois Center on April 24. This meeting marked the final BoT meeting of the 2024-2025 academic year.

New opportunities

During the Academic and Student Life committee meeting, the board discussed a wide range of topics while also listening to presentations from Dr. Glenn Gorman, professor and chair of the Department of Physics and Optical Science, Richard Buttimer, dean of the Belk College of Business and updates from Charlotte's athletic director, Mike Hill.

Dr. Gorman spoke on behalf of the science department and the army-funded research he works on alongside students. In his presentation to the board, he explained that the overall goal of the program research is to investigate possible upgrades to the Javelin missile system to defeat the active protection system on tanks. This research has been a leading part of Charlotte's growth in military research, especially now that the University is among others with a Research 1 (R1) classification. Gorman elaborated more on how the program intends to conduct trials in two locations, one in Maryland and the other in Michigan.

As the University continues to grow, so does

its presence in Uptown Charlotte. Following Dr. Gorman's presentation came one from Buttimer, who discussed one of UNC Charlotte's newest additions, the CO-Lab. Located near the Dubois Center, the CO-Lab will serve as a place for students, entrepreneurs and innovators to access University expertise in a collaborative environment and tackle more challenges.

"When we talk about University resources, we mean our students," said Buttimer. "We mean our faculty, and we need to collect knowledge of the university. We have students who are working as interns for the CO-Lab. Our expectation is that we have more and more companies coming to the CO-Lab with the hopes that those companies themselves will hire our students as entrepreneurs and we're very excited about that."

49er Ventures

Announced in the Academic and Student Life Committee meeting by Jesh Humphrey, the vice chancellor for institutional integrity and general counsel, UNC Charlotte has formed a new corporate nonprofit organization called the Charlotte 49er Ventures. During the April 24 BoT meeting, the board approved the relationship between 49er Ventures and UNC Charlotte. The mission and sole purpose of 49er Ventures is to manage and promote the multimedia rights as-

sociated with Charlotte 49ers athletics, which will support the athletics program's visibility, branding and financial well-being.

Niner Nation Gives

During the Advancement and Public Relations Committee meeting, Beth Crigler, the vice chancellor of advancement, presented the Niner Nation Gives campaign update. The 2025 Niner Nation Gives took place from April 8-10 and raised over \$4.9 million. The 2025 Niner Nation Gives also celebrated the 10th anniversary of the fundraising campaign, which has seen growth in engagement each year. According to Crigler, the University received a little over 6,600 gifts this year. This number also marks a gift growth of 600 compared to 2024's Niner Nation Gives.

Strategic plan update

During the April 24 meeting, Chancellor Sharon L. Gaber provided an update regarding UNC Charlotte's Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan was set to take place over 10 years, from 2021 to 2031. The University and Gaber set this plan as part of the Shaping What's Next mission.

In the update presented by Gaber, certain goals within the plan have already been met, fast-tracking its original goal of 10 years. There was also an update to the plan that was made in

compliance with the new updated UNC System policies. To achieve these updated goals, a Strategic Plan Update Working Group has been established, which is composed of representatives from academic affairs, research, student affairs, communications, faculty and student leadership.

The updated and approved four strategic focus areas are as follows:

1. Transform Students' Lives Through Educational Opportunity and Excellence
2. Power the Future Through Inquiry, Research, and Creative Discovery
3. Drive Progress for North Carolina and Beyond
4. Lead in Engagement and Community

Looking forward

As the 2024-2025 academic year comes to an end, the BoT will see some new faces in the 2025-2026 academic year. During the April 24 meeting, Brett Keeter, who serves as the chair of the academic and student life committee, announced that he would be stepping down after three years on the committee. His replacement has not been announced yet, and further updates will be provided by the Niner Times as received.



Dan Rice/Niner Times File





Erika Karlson/Niner Times

Looking back at the 2024-2025 academic year

Sofia DiStefano | News Editor

The 2024-2025 academic year marked one of the biggest for UNC Charlotte's students and campus community. Between starting the academic year off with the 45th presidential election seeing an uproar in community gatherings, the University climbing new ranks, celebrating 50 years of Divine Nine and welcoming the 62nd Student Government Association Legislative Assembly, the campus has seen it all.

The Niner Times looks back at some of the major milestones and happenings from the past year.

45th Presidential election

In the 2024 election season, Charlotte witnessed a significant surge in first-time voters, particularly among college students. UNC Charlotte became a hub for civic engagement, with students actively participating in early voting at the Cone Building and campus discussions. Students, faculty and staff saw visits from popular

Hollywood figures such as Sophia Bush and Busy Philipps, who were a part of the reproductive freedom rights tour, as well as political figures such as Gavin Newsom, the governor of California. Charlotte students also participated in various political campaign events, such as rallies at the Bojangles Coliseum.

As the polls went live and election results came in, various groups at UNC Charlotte hosted watch parties on campus as spaces for students to engage and watch history being made. Charlotte's chapter of Turning Point USA (TPUSA) and College Democrats both held watch parties of the live Electoral College map updates on Election Day to provide a sense of community for students who resonated with either party.

Student involvement

During the fall 2024 semester, UNC Charlotte celebrated the historically Black National Pan-Hellenic Council's (NPHC) Divine Nine's 50th anniversary on campus, with the addition of dedication plaques in the Star Quad. The plaques came to life through the collaborative efforts of the University Foundation and Kevin Bailey, vice chancellor of student

Courtesy of UNC Charlotte

affairs. Their goal was to celebrate the NPHC organization and its significance on campus. The chosen location for these honorary plaques is significant to the NPHC, as they were the group that gave the Star Quad its name.

Just past the Star Quad in the Popp-Martin Student Union, the Student Government Association (SGA) welcomed its 62nd Legislative Assembly on March 20. Charlotte's SGA will see new faces for each class presidential role, but Isaiah Grayson will remain the student body president for another term. Grayson will be serving as student body president alongside his vice president, Madison Brown. The two were the first to run unopposed in the history of SGA elections.

During the SGA Election debate on March 13, Grayson claimed that the SGA completed 10 out of 14 platform points under the 61st assembly. However, little information regarding the points was provided.

In addition to the newest class presidents, the SGA appointed Breanna Applewhite to serve as chief justice on April 11. Previously, Applewhite served as attorney general, and she hopes to continue working on improving the SGA's connection with the student body.

Student advocacy

Student advocacy took on a slightly different look this past year. During the spring 2024 semester, members of Social Justice for Southwest Asia & North Africa (SJSWANA) and The Revolutionary Student Front (RSF) worked together to hold die-ins and encampments, advocating for Palestinians and raising awareness of the genocide in Gaza and the West Bank. Various protests, marches and rallies were held from October 2023 to May 2024, when campus police dispersed the 14-day-long encampment.

During the 2024-2025 school year, the campus did not see public activity from either group until the spring 2025 semester. The advocacy group Students for Justice in Palestine (UNCCSJP) held a teach-in in February and a walkout in early March. It was not until March 12 that UNCCSJP disrupted a Students Supporting Israel (SSI) event, which led to a non-student activist being detained under the name of RDO (resisting, delaying, or obstructing an officer) and trespassing.

SSI and UNCCSJP met once before, on Oct. 7, 2024, during the fall semester, where both groups were protesting in honor of the one-year anniversary of the Hamas attack and Israel's subsequent retaliation.

University achievements

UNC Charlotte has continued to make a name for itself this past academic year. The 2024-2025 school year started with the University reaching a record-breaking enrollment of 30,488 undergraduate students. This was a 3.7% increase from last year's enrollment numbers. As for Charlotte's graduate student population, 6,223 students were welcomed in the fall of 2024, marking an increase of 23.9% since 2014.

While the numbers increased among students, so did the University's overall rankings. In September 2024, the University announced that it had achieved its highest U.S. News ranking to date in its institutional history. When the 2025 Best Colleges rankings went public, UNC Charlotte found itself at No. 81 among public universities nationwide. This marked a 15-point improvement compared to the last report. However, Charlotte has not seen just a 15-spot increase. Since 2020, the University has moved up a total of 76 spots in national rankings, making Charlotte one of the fastest-growing universities in North Carolina.

Among other recognitions, Charlotte was also

ranked No. 45 in U.S. News' Most Innovative Schools ranking. This recognition makes Charlotte the only public University in North Carolina to be on this list.

It came as no surprise that Charlotte earned a spot on the list of Most Innovative Schools. As the campus welcomed back students, faculty and staff for the 2025 spring semester, it also welcomed the prestigious Research 1 (R1) Carnegie Classification in February 2025. UNC Charlotte's achievement of the R1 level was long in the works, as the University has made significant strides in research programs and economic growth. As a result of dedicated students and staff, the University is now part of the elite, as the R1 status is the highest recognition a doctoral university can receive.

The Charlotte research community had more than just the R1 status to celebrate in February. On Feb. 6, 2025, UNC Charlotte announced the launch of the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Institute. The AI Institute has been established to improve research that affects businesses, health care, the arts and science.

University changes

In the 2024-2025 academic year, UNC Charlotte underwent significant changes to its diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) offerings in response to directives from the UNC System Board of Governors policy.

One of the earliest and most notable changes

the University made in order to comply with the policy was the closure of three DEI-related offices on campus: The Office of Diversity and Inclusion, the Office of Identity, Equity and Engagement and the Office of Academic Diversity and Inclusion. Full-time staff from these offices were given employment opportunities elsewhere, or their positions were transitioned to new ones.

Most recently, the UNC System suspended required courses that contained 50% or more of DEI-related material in compliance with President Donald Trump's executive order made in February 2025.

In addition to the DEI rollback that has happened across the UNC System, the University and state implemented new laws regarding the use of facial coverings during public protests. Students who are actively participating in demonstrations or protests must abide by the new rules the University has, such as reserving a designated space on campus from a provided list of options, no signs that exceed a certain size, no flags that exceed a certain size, no noise amplifiers and no masks outside of medical grade masks.



Dan Rice/Niner Times



In memoriam of the 4 students who passed during the 2024-2025 academic year

Courtesy of UNC Charlotte

Sofia DiStefano | News Editor

During the 2024-2025 academic year, the UNC Charlotte community was deeply saddened by the loss of four of its own: Eli Tucker, Lillie Ellen Hining, Chloe Tatman and Alona Bell. Each of these students brought a unique light and spirit to campus life, and their memories remain a part of the University's collective story.

Elijah 'Eli' Tucker

Feb. 3, 2002 - June 17, 2024

Elijah 'Eli' Tucker of Indian Trail, N.C., was the son of Lydia Aponte-Tucker and Gary Tucker. He graduated from Porter Ridge High School in 2020 and was majoring in social work, at the time of his passing.

"Eli enjoyed sports, playing football and basketball. He loved participating in the drum line at Porter Ridge High School's marching band. He would light up a room with his beautiful smile and infectious laugh. He spent a lot of his free time volunteering and tutoring," reads Tucker's obituary.

Tucker's family was given a posthumous degree by the University, as he was of good academic standing with a cumulative 4.0 GPA. He received his Bachelor of Social Work.

Eli is survived by his parents, Lydia Aponte-Tucker and Gary Tucker; twin sisters, Eriana and Emarie Tucker; maternal grandmother, Irma Esquilin; paternal grandmother, Lillie Tucker; friends, uncles, aunts and cousins. He was preceded in death by his paternal grandfather, William James Tucker.

Chloe Tatman

Sept. 10, 2004 - Aug. 9, 2024

Chloe Michele Tatman, of Indian Trail, N.C., was the daughter of Celia and Keith Tatman. Before her passing, Tatman was a pre-communications student at Charlotte.

"Chloe had a fire in her belly to live life to its fullest. She was always on the go with her friends and adventure was her best buddy. She had a love for water and always found her happiness when her feet were wet. While she was the baby of three,

she was a wise soul and always loved everyone. Chloe expressed experiences through writing and music. She was a songbird. Her greatest love was her family," reads Tatman's obituary.

Chloe is survived by her parents, Keith and Celia Tatman, her older brother, Zachariah Tatman and her older sister, Olivia Tatman, as well as grandmothers Lillien Diane Rohe, Marilyn Tatman and Deogracias Arjona.

Lillie Ellen Hining

March 27, 2006 - Sept. 14, 2024

Lillie Ellen Hining of Fleetwood, N.C., was the daughter of Staci and Kevin Hining. After graduating from Watauga High School, Lillie was in a new part of her life journey as a first-year at UNC Charlotte during the fall semester of 2024. Lilli was a Meta-Major Explore student, as she enjoyed being outdoors.

"From the beginning, she was a bright, funny and outspoken child that loved to explore new places and things. She was always up for an adventure, whether it be snorkeling, scuba diving,

kayaking or fishing. She pushed us as a family to get out of our comfort zones and do things we would have never done otherwise, and for that we will always be grateful. She was so much more than what this obituary holds, and her memory will live on forever," reads Hining's obituary.

Lillie is survived by her parents, Kevin and Staci Hining and brother, Miller, of Fleetwood, N.C.; her grandparents, Greg and Luellen Hining of West Jefferson, N.C. and Sandra Scott of Boomer, N.C., and her cousin, Morghan Bass, of Charlotte, N.C. She was preceded in death by her grandfather, Doug Scott of Boomer, N.C. and aunt Lori Scott of Charlotte, N.C.

Alona Bell

March 7, 2006 - Oct. 9, 2024

Alona Bell, of Greensboro, N.C., passed on Oct. 9, 2024. She was a pre-elementary education student at UNC Charlotte.

Unfortunately, the Niner Times has no further details about her life, as no obituary was available, but she is still remembered on campus.



Courtesy of the Tucker family

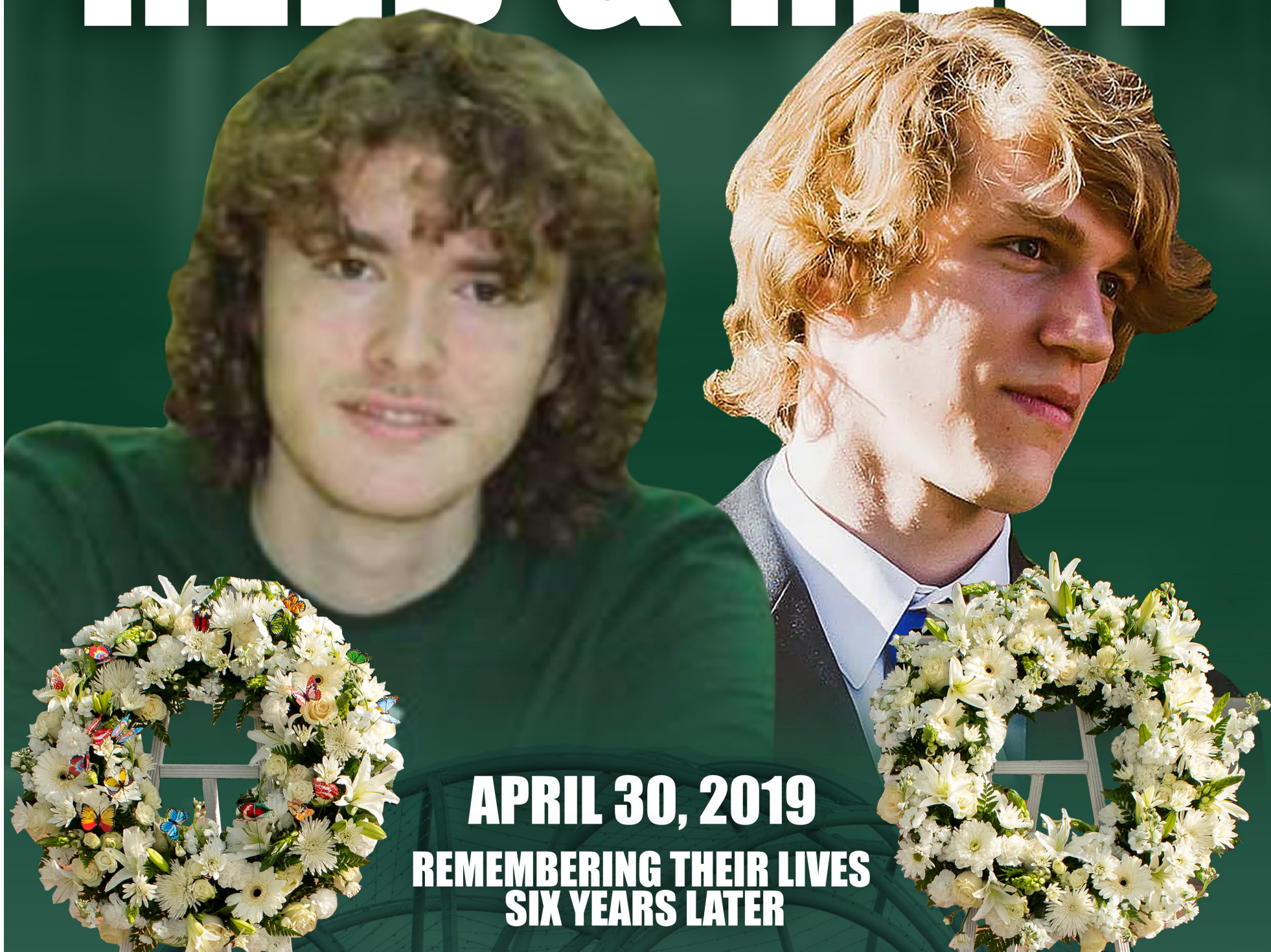


Courtesy of the Hining family



Courtesy of the Tatman family

REMEMBERING REED & RILEY



APRIL 30, 2019
REMEMBERING THEIR LIVES
SIX YEARS LATER



Remembering Riley Howell

Teddy Howell discusses his memories of his older brother and his lasting legacy

Bethany Ivan | Former Niner Times Staff

Content Warning: This article contains reference to a past shooting on campus on April 30, 2019.

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

On April 30, 2019, a gunman opened fire in the Kennedy Building. To prevent any more harm, Riley tackled the gunman and urged students to “go, go, go” for their safety. In the process, Howell died from his injuries along with his fellow student, Ellis ‘Reed’ Parlier. Howell was 21 years old, and Parlier was 19.

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

Riley was a big fan of Star Wars, liked spending time outdoors, especially time spent with his family and friends, worked out and listened to music such as The Rolling Stones. Their song “Jumping Jack Flash” was one of his favorites.

Teddy’s memories of Riley

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

“If you were ever in real trouble, he was right there,” said Teddy. “If you ever got hurt or anything, he’ll dive right in head first to help you out.”

Despite their seven-year age difference, it did not stop Riley from spending time with his younger brother.

“He and his friends, whenever they’d be over, I’d want to be right there,” said Teddy. “They probably didn’t wanna hang out with [his] nine-year-old little brother when he was 16. But he always did. At the time, I didn’t think anything of it because he would always hang out with me.”

Teddy recalled more memories of his older brother before his death, ones that he will always remember.

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

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

“In the summer of 2018, we had this houseboat on a lake called Fontana. It was pretty old and rundown, but it’s fun. We always go there in the summer,” said Teddy. “It was him, his girlfriend Lauren and I, and he taught me how to drive a boat.”

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

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

Riley’s legacy

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

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

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

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

In May 2019, the Riley Howell Foundation Fund was founded. The organization was formed to help and provide counseling and funeral expenses to the families of victims who were lost to gun violence. The foundation fund is run and is made up of Howell family and friends.

Remembering Riley

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

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

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

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

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

Teddy continues to live every day in Riley’s memory, as Riley remains a role model to others and himself.

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

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



Remembering Ellis Reed Parlier

The Parliers, professors and students discuss Reed Parlier's impact and legacy

Bryson Foster | Outreach Coordinator

Content Warning: This article contains reference to a past shooting on campus on April 30, 2019.

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

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

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

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

Reed has been described as a giver who made others feel wanted.

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

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

"He was tutoring a student at his high school that had cancer, and Reed offered to help them catch up so they wouldn't be left behind," said Julie.

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

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

Impact on other students

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

Nathan Weisskopf was the first recipient of the Reed Parlier Memorial Scholarship. He received \$72,000 from the University in honor of Reed. Weisskopf is a graduate of Reed's high school.

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

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

"I never knew Reed, but I had friends that knew him. I remember an acquaintance from high school breaking down and crying after the

shooting because they knew him," said Weisskopf.

Relationship with professors

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

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

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

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

"We did paired programming in that class, and since he had that extra experience, he would take the time to help other students learn by answering their questions. I could see that the other students appreciated his patience, and he created a bond with all of them."

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

"I was honored to be invited to be a part of the celebration of life, and when I went there, I got to know more about him," said Najjar. "I have a son, and at that point, he was nine or 10 and

was starting to get into gaming, and seeing Reed's friends from gaming changed my perspective, as it allowed me to see how they connected. He taught me something even after he wasn't with us anymore."

Carrying on the legacy

Reed's parents are carrying on his legacy by hosting the 2025 Reed Parlier Golf Tournament on Monday, April 28, at the Pine Lake Country Club. Since the event's inception in 2019, more than \$1 million has been raised in honor of Reed.

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

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

According to Reed's mother the event continues to add more people each year.

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

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

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

Remembering April 30 and the following year's reverberations

Davis Cuffe | Editor-in-Chief

Content Warning: This article contains reference to a past shooting on campus on April 30, 2019.

On April 30, 2019, the unthinkable happened at UNC Charlotte after a mass shooting occurred, killing two students, Ellis 'Reed' Parlier and Riley Howell, leaving campus forever changed.

As six years have passed since that day, it is as important as ever to remember April 30 and the events that followed.

Below is a brief overview of what unfolded on April 30 and the subsequent year.

April 30, 2019:

At around 5:40 p.m., an individual opened fire on Room 236 in the Kennedy Building as students gave presentations on the last day of class.

Riley Howell tackled the shooter, taking him to the ground and allowing students to escape. His sacrifice saved countless lives.

The class professor held the room's door open for students to exit before bringing them to Barnard, barricading students inside the building before calling 911 and alerting faculty.

Four others, Drew Pescaro, Sean DeHart, Emily Houpt and Rami Al-Ramadhan, were hospitalized after being shot. Reed Parlier and Riley Howell were shot and pronounced dead at the scene.

UNC Charlotte campus police responded to the shooting at 5:43 p.m., and the gunman was arrested at 5:44 p.m.

Charlotte Fire Department and EMS arrived on campus at 5:45 p.m. and immediately began caring for gunshot victims. Fifteen other agencies responded to the scene to assist.

At 5:50 p.m., UNC Charlotte's Office of Emergency Management alerted students via Niner Alerts and Twitter, now known as X, saying, "Shots reported near Kennedy. Run, Hide, Fight. Secure yourself immediately."

While the school remained on lockdown until around 10:51 p.m., the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department declared the campus secure at 7:40 p.m.

At 10:45 p.m., then-Charlotte Chancellor Philip Dubois issued a message to campus and the greater Charlotte community.

"This is the saddest day in UNC Charlotte's history," read the first sentence of Dubois' message.

All exams were canceled for the spring 2019 semester.

May 1, 2019:

On the following day, a vigil was held in Halton Arena, gathering students, faculty and community members to reflect and unify. All seats in Halton were full for the vigil, with many spilling out into the surrounding area.

Following the vigil at Halton, students met at the Star Quad for a candlelit vigil.

May 6, 2019:

UNC Charlotte launched a Niner Nation Remembers website to honor Reed and Riley and ensure their legacies are not lost. With it, a Niner Nation Remembrance Commission was formed to guide the University in how best to memorialize Reed and Riley.

May 11, 2019:

Riley Howell and Reed Parlier were given honorary degrees in memoriam at Charlotte's spring 2019 commencement. At the commencement, the UNC Charlotte brass ensemble played a rendition of "American Elegy," composed in memory of the Columbine High School victims. Dubois announced the creation of two new scholarships in memory of Reed and Riley.

The ROTC Medal of Heroism was posthumously awarded to the family of Riley Howell at a private ceremony on campus. Riley was enrolled in ROTC courses but was not contracted to become an officer.

May 22, 2019:

Riley Howell's family received a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star, honoring Riley's actions. The awards were given to the family by Waynesville police in Riley's hometown.

May 30, 2019:

Chancellor Dubois announced that the Kennedy Building, where the shooting occurred, would not be used in the 2020 academic year. While the building was one of the first two buildings constructed on campus, as of the spring 2025 semester, classes are no longer held there.

Kennedy 236 has since been repurposed as a space for memoriam and contemplation.

Oct. 21, 2019:

The inaugural Chipping In For the Ellis Reed Parlier Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament was played at Pine Lake in Mint Hill, N.C. The event hosted 144 golfers and raised over \$30,000 for scholarships established in memory of Reed Parlier.

The Parlier family started the tournament in collaboration with the Chipping In organization and it has only grown since its inaugural year. In 2023, the tournament raised \$46,000 and continues to give scholarships to Charlotte students.

Dec. 21, 2019:

Riley Howell was honored by Star Wars and Lucasfilm with the character Ri-Lee Howell, a Jedi pictured in "Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker: The Visual Dictionary."

Jan. 29, 2020:

Chancellor Emeritus Dubois accepted the Niner Nation Remembrance Commission's recommendation for a memorial outside of the

Kennedy Building in remembrance of April 30, 2019.

The memorial was unveiled on April 28, 2023, and features a light design displaying the orientation of the stars above the building on April 30, 2019.

April 30, 2020:

Unfortunately, plans for the first annual Day of Remembrance were altered, canceling the Day of Remembrance concert and sending all observances online due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

While 2020's plans were sent online, a Day of Remembrance ceremony is held every year outside of Kennedy in remembrance of that unfathomably tragic day.



Jade Suszek/Niner Times File

Opinion: The 61st SGA Assembly delivered words, not results

Emmanuel Perkins/Niner Times

Davis Cuffe | Editor-in-Chief

On April 3, UNC Charlotte's Student Government Association (SGA) swore in their 2025-2026 Executive Board, putting a wrap on a 61st Assembly that was seemingly all but effective.

Platform points touched on but not accomplished

While the Grayson-Citrin administration claims to have accomplished all 14 platform points, where is this visible?

The administration claims these points have been accomplished by adding liaison positions like their new safety and sustainability liaisons. However, without action from those positions, what is the point besides inflating the SGA's budget?

Other platform points were noted as accomplished by creating advisory committees or feedback forms, two of which are a parking committee to make parking easier and a Dining Services Advisory Board to improve dining on campus.

Ask yourself, have you seen a positive change in parking or dining on campus?

Ultimately, it is fair to question whether these initiatives truly translate into tangible benefits for students or if they merely serve to mask the lack of real progress.

Advocacy-less SGA

When the president of the 61st Assembly, Isaiah Grayson, ran unopposed seeking a second term, he ran on a platform of inclusion with "You belong at Charlotte" as the campaign's slogan.

Yet, in a 2024-2025 academic year where UNC Charlotte was irrevocably changed through dismantling diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) programs, the SGA failed to advocate for students or even give a public statement.

Looking to other North Carolina schools, at

UNC-Chapel Hill, where DEI resources were also stripped from students, UNC's SGA stepped up. UNC's SGA established a Department of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, offered events to help students navigate the policy and spoke publicly about the issue.

At UNC Charlotte, our SGA did nothing while the same DEI-altering changes occurred.

Again, when six UNC Charlotte students had their visas terminated, UNC Charlotte's SGA did nothing to quell student concerns.

At UNC, visa terminations also occurred, and their SGA put out a statement on the day of the terminations. The same goes for North Carolina State University, where their SGA has been outspoken about visa terminations and DEI.

Yes, neutrality is a focus, as it is at NC State and UNC, but these are real issues that affect real students.

With UNC Charlotte priding itself in diversity and holding the largest population of international students across UNC System institutions, these issues especially affect our school.

Senate inactivity

As recorded on the SGA's website, the 61st Assembly processed 99 different pieces of legislation. The last time the SGA's senate passed this few pieces of legislation was during the 58th Assembly, in the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 when classes were online. The 58th Assembly passed 81 pieces of legislation during their period in office.

In the past five years, the average number of passed legislation has been 124, far exceeding the 61st Assembly's mark of 99.

Of course, quality over quantity, but some of the resolutions passed by the 61st Assembly included the "Spooky Resolution," enacting a petition to rename the J. Murrey Atkins Library as

"The Crypt of Knowledge" and the "Recognition of Homecoming Act," acknowledging Niner Nation Week and the SGA-hosted Niner Nation Night event as a "smashing success."

This lack of activity marks another missed opportunity for the SGA.

As turbulent as the 2024-2025 academic year was and with student issues like housing and parking still apparent, the SGA could have taken some action to advocate.

Obviously, the student government cannot wave a hand and open up 1,000 new parking spots or dorms. Their powers are limited. Still, some legislative action to push for positive change to address any student issue would have been a step in the right direction.

Social media inactivity

While it may seem nitpicky, social media has proven an excellent way to connect with communities, especially at a commuter school like Charlotte.

Despite having three press secretary positions, the SGA has failed to effectively communicate with campus through social media, opting to use their platform to promote campus events and their own happenings rather than connect with campus.

Whatever progress the SGA claims to have made in addressing student needs and accomplishing platform points has gone undocumented, leaving students unaware of what the SGA does or can do.

Instead, the SGA's social media acts as an instrument to promote its programming. While this programming can bring students together on a somewhat disjointed campus, it is the SGA's job to advocate for students, not throw parties.



Further, through the focus on promotion and event programming, the SGA has failed to connect with the population they were created to serve. Without any way to gather feedback and truly understand and hear student concerns, it seems the SGA has grown deaf to the campus, which may be the root of the problem.

Through better social media utilization, the SGA can find ways to connect to the campus in ways other than Valentine's Day boo-basket giveaways.

Hope for the 62nd Assembly

With new leadership entering the SGA and internal reform promised, there is hope for a productive SGA in the 2025-2026 academic year.

While the SGA's legacy of advocating for students is appreciated, the 61st Assembly was no aid to this legacy.

Editor's note: Although the Niner Times' editor-in-chief wrote this piece, it does not speak for the opinion of all of the Niner Times. A primary purpose of journalism is to create accountability, and the author believes this piece does that.

By students, for students: Student organizations' events in 2024-2025

Wes Packham & Kendall Maye | Asst. Arts & Culture Editor & Arts & Culture Editor

With record enrollment in the 2024-2025 academic year, students stayed involved on UNC Charlotte's campus by participating in over 400 unique clubs and organizations, leaving plenty of opportunities for students to explore what they are passionate about. During the year, they continued to leave a lasting impression on the campus community through each event, service project and meeting they hosted. Here are some of the most prominent activities that students hosted.

General and educational

The Campus Activities Board (CAB) stayed active throughout the 2024-2025 year. On Oct. 24, 2024, the organization held the Haunted Union, turning the Popp-Martin Student Union into a spooky haunted house experience with treats and activities galore.

CAB hosted their popular annual LEGO Day event on Jan. 27, 2025, in which students could choose a free LEGO set and enter a raffle to win a bigger set. In collaboration with the Triveni Indian Students Association (TISA), CAB co-hosted "Holi Moli" on March 15, 2025, celebrating Holi, a Hindu festival centered around music, food and throwing colors.

Norm's Vintage Market stayed active on campus throughout the year. After debuting two markets in the spring of 2024, Norm's Vintage Market held three more during the 2024-25 academic year, bringing vintage style to students while supporting sustainable fashion.

With 2024 being a presidential election year, political clubs on campus held election night watch parties where students on each side patiently waited to

see the election results. On Nov. 5, 2024, Charlotte's chapter of Turning Point USA (TPUSA) held its watch party at the Popp-Martin Student Union Theatre, and Charlotte's College Democrats held their watch party in room 376 of the College of Health and Human Services.

MIDAS Magazine collaborated with CAB to host a Dress to Impress event for students to share their passion for fashion on Feb. 24, 2025. This event was a real-life version of the popular "Roblox" game of the same title, and it was the first time MIDAS had hosted such a large event. With a time limit, models chose outfits based on a theme, and attendees voted for their favorites, creating a fun, interactive experience. The event was awarded the CAB event of the year.

The UNC Charlotte Sewing and Cosplay Guild hosted the Gold Arts Convention on March 16, 2025, bringing together students who share interests in anime, cosplay and Japanese culture.

On March 19, 2025, the Popp-Martin Student Union's art gallery was abuzz while NOVA Literary-Arts Magazine released its newest edition at a reception. The edition marked a new era of creativity for the publication, while they used a new method to accept more submissions. It focused on themes of nostalgia and '90s and 2000s internet aesthetics.

Another big release came from MIDAS Magazine, celebrating their latest issue and 10th edition, "Golden Age," on April 26, 2025.

On March 29, 2025, the Society of Art Historians (SOAH) held its annual Art History Symposium featuring research projects from club members and a guest speaker. Students presented heavily-researched projects of their choice on various topics, including AI, the hypersexualization of Black people in art and controversy surrounding the preservation of sacred cultural objects in museums.

On April 18, 2025, the Film Club held the Gold Reel Film Festival, featuring short films, screenplays and a documentary made by UNC Charlotte students. The festival received over 35 submissions competing for best directing, acting and animation awards, among others.

Charlotte Mock Trial hosted the American Mock Trial Association (AMTA) Regional Tournament on Feb. 1-2, 2025. The tournament brought 28 teams from across the East Coast for the two-day competition, with teams competing for awards and a bid to the Opening Round Championships Series (ORCS).

The Charlotte Speech Team hosted the American Forensic Association (AFA) National Speech Tournament (NST) from April 5-7, 2025. Over 60 universities from across the country came to campus, and over 500 students competed for na-

tional championships in multiple events over the three-day competition.

Cultural

On April 6, 2025, the Vietnamese Student Association (VSA) hosted its 10th annual Viet Night titled "Lanterns of Legacy." Encouraging traditional wear and formal outfits from attendees, the event featured traditional dishes, performances, games and extensive decoration, resulting in an ecstatic night with hundreds of attendees.

Five Asian student organizations collaborated for the Roots on the Runway fashion show on March 25, 2025. Collaborating organizations included the South Asian Student Association (SASA), the Southeast Asian Student Association (SEASA), the Hmong Student Association (HSA), the Asian Student Association (ASA) and the Vietnamese Student Association (VSA). Each organization shared its unique culture, showcasing traditional attire on the Cone University Center's Lucas Room stage.

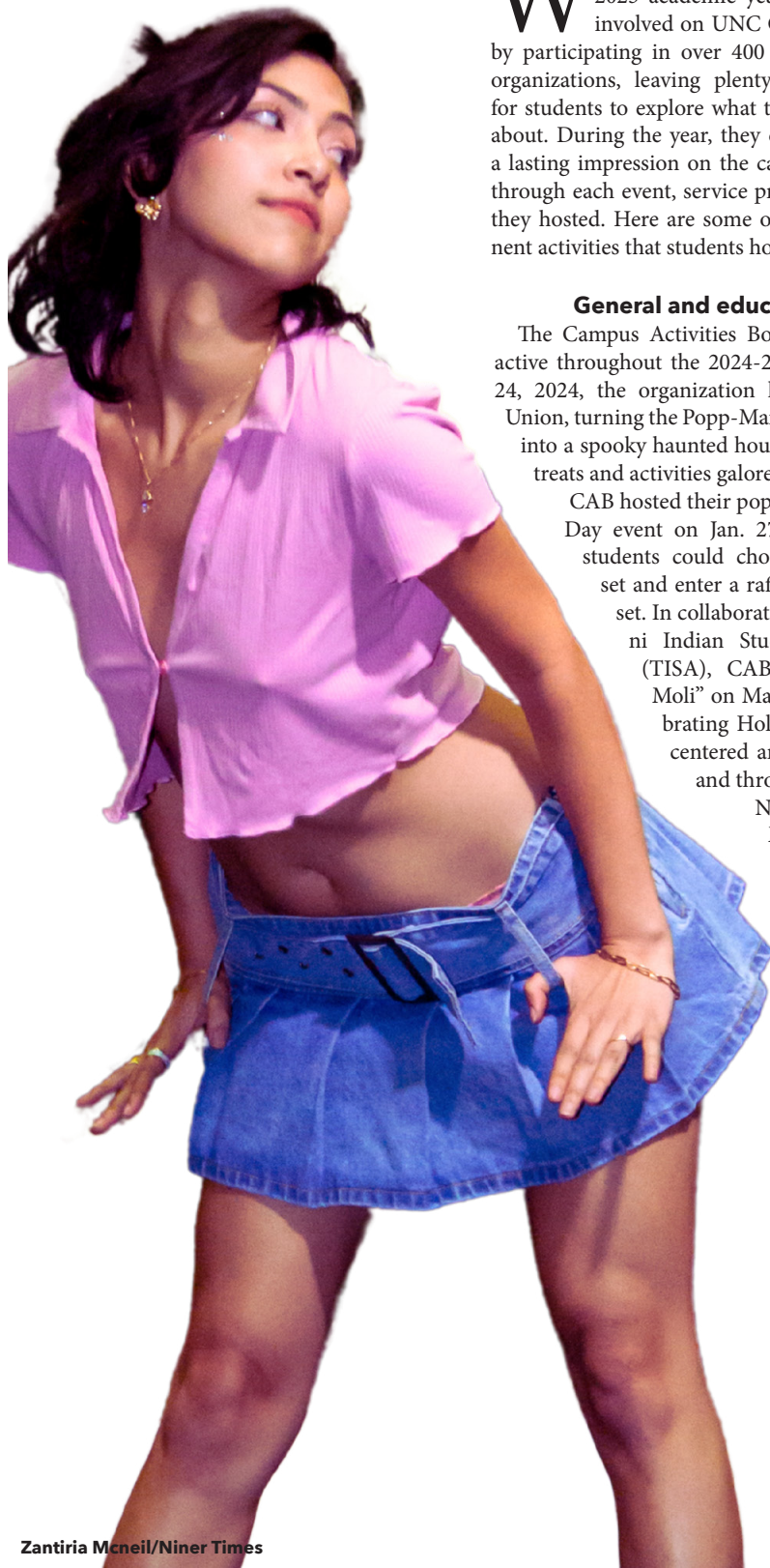
During Hispanic Heritage Month in September and October 2024, many Hispanic organizations celebrated their history and culture through events during the month. The LatinX Student Union held its Hispanic Heritage Dinner at the South Village Dining Hall (SoVi) on Oct. 7, 2024. The theme of the night was "Sabor en Vuelo," meaning "Flavor on Air," and the dinner brought traditional dishes from different Latin American regions.

During Black History Month in February 2025, many of the Black student-oriented clubs on campus stayed active with events throughout the month. 100 Black Women hosted a table talk welcoming conversations surrounding healthy relationships and mental health. They also hosted Black History Jeopardy Night, educating attendees in a fun and engaging way. The Black Student Organization Alliance Board (BOAB) also held fundraisers, community service and general body meetings during the month.

During Ramadan, the Muslim Student Association (MSA) hosted many Iftar nights to break fast together during the holy month and celebrated 45 years at Charlotte during its Iftar dinner on March 26, 2025.

New and growing

Niner Notes held its first interest meeting in the fall of 2024, attracting dozens of students interested in creating and enjoying music. They have been steadily growing and hosting events throughout the 2024-2025 year, such as open mic nights and songwriting workshops, and have



Zantiria Mcneil/Niner Times

released collaborative albums made by members.

After several years of inactivity, Coloring 4 Chemo returned to campus in the fall of 2024, supporting cancer patients and their families through arts and crafts therapy. They hosted several meetings throughout the 2024-2025 academic year, keeping their thoughts with cancer patients and promoting awareness of different types of cancer.

The Dancing Association for Latine Expression (DALE) was founded in 2023 and has had its most successful year in the 2024-2025 academic year. With more members and more events, they capped off the year with their Suavamente event on April 21, 2025, with live music and professional dance instruction.

Students involved in political science and criminal justice founded UNC Charlotte's Undergraduate Law Review in the spring of 2025, offering students, both on and off campus, an entry into legal writing and current issues.

Protest, fundraising and activism

UNC Charlotte's Students for Justice in Palestine (UNCCSJP) and Students Supporting Israel (SSI) held demonstrations on campus on Oct. 7, 2024, in recognition of the attack by Hamas and retaliation by Israel in 2023.

Four clubs came together for the United for Gaza Potluck on March 11, 2025, to raise funds for the HEAL Palestine charity, which works to support genocide victims in Palestine. Collaborating clubs included the Palestinian Cultural Organization (PCO), the United Mission for Relief and Development (UMR), the Arab Student Organization (ASO) and the Muslim Student Association (MSA).

UMR has raised over \$7,000 through their events over the 2024-2025 academic year to support Palestine, Lebanon, Pakistan and Ukraine, and raised over \$1,400 during Char-ity Week in October 2024.

The Sudanese Student Association hosted its Soul of Sudan night on April 6, 2025, bringing together the Sudanese community in a celebration of culture while donating all proceeds to Sudan.

The Vietnamese Student Association held its first Charity Gala on Dec. 1, 2024, to raise funds

for victims of Typhoon Yagi in Southeast Asia while also raising funds for individuals in need in Charlotte.

Clubs that are serving the Charlotte community

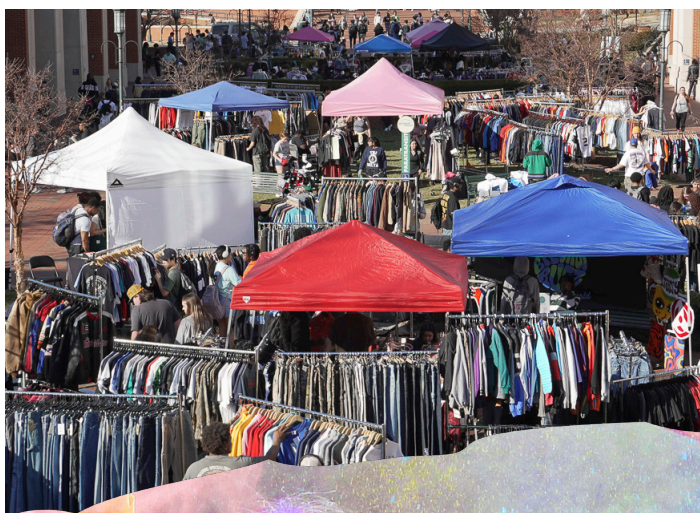
Levine Scholars collaborated with The Bulb to bring free, sustainable produce to students at multiple harvest exchanges.

The Undergraduate Public Health Association at UNC Charlotte hosted its Cards for Cancer event on Oct. 7, 2024, to raise awareness and provide support for breast cancer patients.

Two students launched the Student EMS Initiative in April 2025, working to build a team of Emergency Medical Technician-Basic (EMT-B) certified students to provide emergency medicine for medical emergencies and 911 medical calls on campus. They are currently working towards becoming an official student organization registered with the University.

Organizations and clubs remain an essential part of college life, providing a community for students no matter their interests. Having a sense of belonging and understanding can create learning opportunities for students and exciting experiences to connect with others that they will always cherish.

Cairo Smith/Niner Times



Kendall Maye/Niner Times
Ivory Galloway/Niner Times
Chimena Ihebuzor/Niner Times

Top 10 Charlotte Athletics moments from 2024-2025

Kelli Blackburn | Sports Editor

Amid another year of transitions and changes brought by the transfer portal and NIL landscape, Charlotte Athletics achieved a lot under the helm of seventh-year Director of Athletics Mike Hill.

With new faces arriving in the Queen City and school records falling, the 2024-2025 academic year was a wild ride filled with ups and downs for the 49ers. The following is a look back at some of the top highlights from this memorable season.

1. Charlotte women's lacrosse program is launched

A project more than two and a half years in the making finally became a reality when the Charlotte women's lacrosse team debuted for the 2024-2025 season. Head Coach Clare Short, formerly the head coach at Queens University of Charlotte, brought her expertise to the field, leading a talented freshman class alongside a top-10 ranked transfer portal class.

In the program's inaugural year, Short and Assistant Coach Sarah Stagaard were hands-on with every detail, designing sticks, uniforms and lockers for the players. What seemed like a fast-

tracked launch was years in the making—waiting only for the right culture and chemistry to get the ball rolling.

2. Blake Gillespie throws second no-hitter in baseball's program history

Junior right-handed pitcher and University of Georgia transfer Blake Gillespie delivered a statement win for Charlotte baseball on March 7, leading the 49ers to a 5-0 win over James Madison University.

Gillespie threw the second no-hitter in 49ers program history, nearly 38 years after Ronnie Honeycutt recorded the first on April 14, 1987, against the University of North Carolina at Asheville. In a dominant performance, Gillespie allowed just one baserunner—a walk—who sophomore catcher Logan Poteet quickly threw out.

Over nine innings, Gillespie fired 70% of his pitches for strikes and racked up 11 strikeouts, etching his name into the Charlotte record books.

Following his historic outing, Gillespie also became one of the top 50 pitchers in the nation on the College Baseball Hall of Fame National Pitcher of the Year Watch List.

3. Tennis programs are nationally ranked

Following a five-game homestand at the Halton-Wagner Tennis Complex from Feb. 14-March 9, the men's tennis program entered the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) national rankings at No. 67 on March 13.

The women's tennis team also made noise nationally, entering the ITA rankings at No. 64 on March 6 before climbing to No. 40 after a 4-1 win over No. 36 Furman University on

March 28. The 49ers swept the Paladins in singles play, earning their fourth win over a ranked opponent this season.

Charlotte's momentum continued as the women's team faced No. 36 Wake Forest University on April 1, narrowly falling 4-3 at home. Despite the loss, the 49ers finished the regular season with a stellar 21-4 overall record and a dominant 16-2 record at home.

On the men's side, Charlotte posted an 8-3 home record and notched a historic milestone when junior Ivan Drey Copp was named the American Athletic Conference (AAC) Men's Tennis Player of the Week on April 15. Drey Copp led the 49ers to their first-ever team victory over Virginia Commonwealth University on April 12.

Both tennis programs enjoyed remarkable seasons, earning national recognition for their statement wins, individual honors and dominance at home.

4. Men's golf becomes American Athletic Conference champions

A record-breaking 49ers men's golf team performance led them to their first-ever AAC Championship—and 11th conference title overall—on April 23 at the Ritz-Carlton Members Club in Sarasota, Fla.

Charlotte entered the final round of the tournament behind the University of South Florida by five strokes. Clutch performances by junior Justin Matthews, who shot a 66 (-6), and sophomore Daniel Boone, who shot a 68 (-4), helped lead a comeback.

All five 49ers competing shot under par in the final round, pushing the team to 35-under overall and setting a new conference record for the championship.

With the victory, the 49ers clinched an automatic bid to the NCAA Regionals held

May 12-14 across six regional sites. Charlotte now looks to continue its strong postseason run, hoping for a trip to the NCAA National Championship at the Omni La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif., from May 23-28.

5. 49ers sink Pirates' ship at Jerry Richardson Stadium for in-state rivalry

Charlotte football took down in-state rival East Carolina University 55-24 at Jerry Richardson Stadium on Oct. 5, 2024, marking one of the program's biggest showdowns of the season.

With both teams entering the game at 3-3, the 49ers seized control early, jumping to a 14-3 lead in the first quarter. Redshirt junior defensive back Elijah Culp grabbed a second-quarter interception to maintain Charlotte's momentum, while junior running back Cartevious Norton, redshirt junior wide receiver Jaius Mack and redshirt senior linebacker Stone Handy delivered big plays.

Charlotte led 31-10 at halftime and never looked back. The 55-24 final marked the program's second-largest win over a conference opponent and tied the school record for most touchdowns in a game.

6. Ian Pilcher picked No. 24 overall by San Diego FC

After a standout 2024 season, Charlotte men's soccer senior defender Ian Pilcher saw his professional dreams come true on Dec. 20, 2024 when San Diego FC selected him as the No. 24 overall in the 2025 Major League Soccer (MLS) SuperDraft.

Pilcher became the fifth first-round pick in program history and the 17th player overall to be drafted from Charlotte.

He guided the 49ers to back-to-back AAC Championships in 2023 and 2024 and three



Courtesy of Charlotte Athletics
Emmanuel Perkins/Niner Times (center)

Courtesy of
San Diego FC

NCAA Tournaments in 2021, 2023 and 2024. Before the draft, Pilcher was one of the select few invited to the 2024 adidas MLS College Showcase in San Diego, Calif.

In a full-circle moment, the Charlotte native returned home on April 19 when San Diego FC faced Charlotte FC at Bank of America Stadium.

7. Chaisilprungruang punches individual ticket to NCAA Regionals, earns AAC accolades

Freshman Pinky Chaisilprungruang made an immediate impact in her first season with the 49ers, emerging as one of the top young golfers in the nation.

Ranked No. 46 nationally among Division I players, Chaisilprungruang was the top individual in the AAC and racked up several honors: three-time Golfer of the Week, Golfer of the Month (September), Player of the Year and Freshman of the Year.

She became just the second player in program history—joining Cecilie Finne-Ipsen—to qualify for NCAA Regionals as an individual. She will compete at the Charlottesville Regional from May 5-7 in Charlottesville, Va.

8. Ben Montgomery breaks track & field's program record at Bob Pollock Invitational

Sophomore sprinter Ben Montgomery shined brightest among Charlotte's 19 Top-10 performances at the Bob Pollock Invitational in Clemson, S.C., on Feb. 1.

After advancing through the 60m with a 6.84, Montgomery made history in the 200m. His time of 21.00 flat broke the program record set by Jason Moore in 2006—a massive leap from Montgomery's previous best of 21.71 at the VertKlasse Meet in High Point, N.C., on April 5, 2024.

9. Charlotte football hires Head Coach Tim Albin

A new era began for Charlotte football on Dec. 8, with the hiring of Tim Albin—a two-time Mid-American Conference (MAC) Coach of the Year and leader of 2024 MAC champion Ohio University.

Albin, the fourth full-time head football coach in Charlotte history, came in following the departure of former Head Coach Biff Poggi. He arrived with a 33-19 career record at Ohio across four seasons, including a 23-9 mark against conference opponents.

He wasted no time getting started, bringing in new talent through recruiting and leading the 49ers through spring practices ahead of summer workouts.

10. Women's lacrosse makes history with inaugural win

Playing their first season at Jerry Richardson Stadium, women's lacrosse gave themselves a warm welcome home with a 20-2 win over Gardner-Webb University on Feb. 8. The 49ers set an AAC record for the most goals scored in a program debut in conference history.

Kylie Gioia starred in her senior season debut, finishing with four goals, three assists and five draw controls. Graduate student attacker Claire Schotta also tallied four goals in the historic win.

The 49ers closed the 2025 regular season with a 5-4 home record at Jerry Richardson Stadium, making a strong statement throughout their first year of competition.

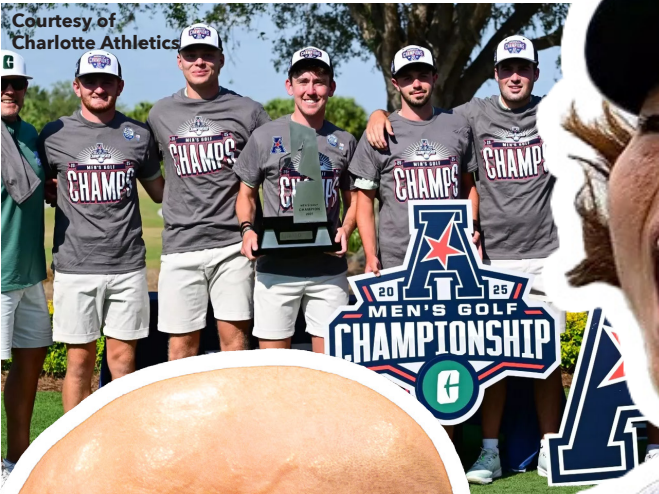
Looking ahead

Whether it was earning national rankings, rewriting the record books or welcoming new leadership, Charlotte Athletics made its mark in 2024-2025. The 49ers continue to raise the bar, and there will still be much more to come.

Emmanuel Perkins/Niner Times



Courtesy of Charlotte Athletics



Emmanuel Perkins/Niner Times



Emmanuel Perkins/Niner Times



Courtesy of Charlotte Athletics

Student organization events from the 2024-2025 academic year

