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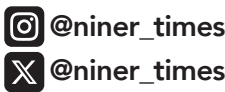
April 10, 2024



Building Rome

Civil engineering students win big at
2024 ASCE Carolinas Student Symposium

MORE ON PAGE 8



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editor@ninertimes.com

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Cover layout by Sunny Hadavi
Interior layouts by Sunny Hadavi, Ava Weaver and Denise Soriano

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DID YOU KNOW?

RATS ‘LAUGH’ WHEN HAPPY OR EXCITED, BUT THEY ARE HIGH-PITCHED SQUEAKS THAT HUMANS CANNOT HEAR.

RATS CAN ALSO REMEMBER WHICH HUMANS HAVE PLAYED WITH THEM IN THE PAST AND PREFER THEIR COMPANY.

GAMES WILL RETURN IN THE NEXT VOLUME OF THE NINER TIMES IN FALL 2024

3/27 ISSUE ANSWERS

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Student-driven news since 1947

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

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

College of Arts + Architecture hosts third annual CoAAPalooza on April 11

Ronnie Taylor | Staff Writer

The College of Arts + Architecture (CoA+A) will host its third annual CoAAPalooza on Thursday, April 11, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the arts quad between Rowe, Robinson and Storrs.

“CoAAPalooza is a spring arts festival. It includes a student org showcase with tabling and interactive activities to either show off a little bit of the artistic side of the organization or to be more engaging than a standard tabling event,” said Sam Salvato, the CoA+A marketing manager. “We have food trucks and student performances, and this year, we’ll have a live DJ. It’s just kinda a time to bring all the different units in the college together.”

While the event is mainly for students within the CoA+A, any student can attend CoAAPalooza. Faculty and staff, as well as

students from other colleges, are encouraged to stop by and participate in the tabling fun.

“Anyone who’s walking around can stop by and see what’s going on. Faculty and staff, in the college and outside, are welcome, but the main focus is for the college itself to build community,” said Salvato.

The event will feature several different organizations from the college as well as several outside organizations that have many Arts and Architecture students. These include Nova Literary-Arts Magazine, Midas Magazine, The Visual Arts Club, Earth Club and other art-affiliated clubs.

“A lot of our students are in Midas and Nova and the Improv Club, which is not necessarily in the college, but there are a lot of our students in it,” said Salvato.

CoAAPalooza began in 2021 and has become an annual event because of the love for it within CoA+A. With each passing year, more students come out, and positive feedback has increased, pushing the college to continue with the Palooza.

“We keep doing the event because everyone has great feedback on it, and it’s growing in popularity. Maybe 400 students came last year, so it’s a pretty good amount of our student population, especially considering we’re one of the smaller colleges. But we do it to highlight the talent and community we have within our college,” said Salvato.

More information about CoA+A and CoAAPalooza can be found on their Instagram, @clt_coaa.

Charlotte hosts 2024 Day of Remembrance on April 30 at the Constellation Garden Memorial

Sofia DiStefano | News Editor

Content Warning: This article mentions a past shooting on campus on April 30, 2019.

UNC Charlotte will host its 2024 Day of Remembrance on Tuesday, April 30, at 8:30 a.m. to honor the lives of Ellis “Reed” Parlier, Riley Howell and survivors.

This year’s Day of Remembrance will be at the Constellation Garden memorial outside the Kennedy Building. The University will hold a wreath-laying and bell-ringing ceremony.

During last year’s Day of Remembrance, the University unveiled the Constellation Garden memorial, which was completed that month. On the day of the dedication, a police procession was held in front of an audience, where wreaths with pictures of both Howell and Parlier were placed.

On April 30, 2019, UNC Charlotte had an active shooter on campus. The gunman killed two students, Howell and Parlier, and injured four others: Rami Al-Ramadhan, Sean DeHart, Emily Houpt and Drew Pescara.

During the shooting, Howell tackled the gunman to prevent more harm and urged students to “go, go, go” for their safety. Howell died from his injuries along with his fellow student, Ellis “Reed” Parlier. Howell was 21 years old, and Parlier was 19 years old.

The University also has a Memorial Digital Exhibit with photographs and other remembrances after the shooting.

The Niner Times published a webpage on the 2023 Day of Remembrance with written and visual content, including features on Parlier and Howell.

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Bethany Ivan/Niner Times File



From the UNC Charlotte Police Logs (March 31 - April 6, 2024)

Sofia DiStefano | News Editor

The following are descriptions of some of the incidents in the UNC Charlotte campus police logs from March 31 to April 6.

March 31

Loitering and Trespassing - Student Union

While walking through the Student Union, an officer observed an individual matching the description of the individual from a previous call at CHHS. Officers spoke with the unaffiliated individual, who was not the same person.

April 1

Larceny - Levine Hall

A housing employee called dispatch to report that her license plate was stolen from her vehicle, which was parked behind Scott Hall. An officer went to the scene and took a report for the stolen license plate. Officers checked the camera footage but were unsuccessful in capturing any good footage.

April 2

Suspicious Person - CHHS

Officers responded to CHHS for a report of a person possibly inside the building after two duffle bags were found on the third floor. An individual was located on the third floor. The individual is not affiliated with the school and had no purpose in the building.

Suspicious Person - Witherspoon Hall

Dispatch received a LiveSafe tip in regard to a male wearing only underwear and wings walking in front of Witherspoon Hall. Officers responded and located the male leaving North Deck in a vehicle. The officers were able to talk to the individual, who stated he was completing a dare.

Pick Up Property

Dispatch received a call from a staff member in regard to two .22 rounds found under a chair at the Belk Gym. The officer safely disposed of them.

Larceny from Auto

Dispatch received a call from a resident student in regard to a larceny incident in Lot 12. An officer responded and met with the reporting person, who stated that his vehicle's window had been broken and a bag containing sporting gear/goods had been stolen.

Larceny of a Motor Vehicle - East Deck

An officer responded to East Deck 2 because a complaint could not locate his vehicle. A canvas was done of the East Decks, and video surveillance was conducted. Video shows the vehicle entering the deck but not leaving. However, the vehicle was not located inside.

April 3

Welfare Check - Phase XVI

Dispatch received a call from a parent requesting a welfare check on their son that lives in Phase XVI. Officers spoke to him, and he had been sleeping. He agreed to call his mother.

Hit and Run - Lot 5

Dispatch received a call from a student reporting his vehicle was damaged while parked in Lot 5. Officers met with the student who did not want a report at this time but would like video reviewed.

Larceny - Atkins

An officer responded to Atkins regarding a stolen scooter from the bike rack.

Welfare Check - Holshouser Hall

Officers responded to Holshouser Hall regarding a welfare check. A parent was concerned about a comment that was made about self-harm. As officers arrived at the room, the student was speaking with 911 (Medic). Medic responded and transported the student to Atrium University.

April 4

Harassment - Cato

An officer responded to Cato Bldg, in reference to a Non-Resident Student requesting a No-Contact order be issued to another nonresident student. Both parties were issued paperwork.

Suspicious Person - Lynch Hall

Officers responded to Lynch Hall to investigate a report of suspicious individuals. Officers were unable to locate the males but spoke with the RA, who advised they had verbally trespassed the males, who then left without incident.

Intoxicated Subject - Laurel Hall

Officers responded to the area of Laurel Hall in reference to a possibly altercation between two groups of people. Officers spoke with a Housing security officer in Laurel, who was able to identify one student. An officer attempted to make contact with the student, who then fled to his room. The resident student was issued a state citation and Campus Appearance Ticket.

Injured Subject - McCall Hall

Officers responded to a call regarding a male resident student that was going in and out of consciousness. Officers arrived on scene, and the subject was alert, conscious and feeling better. He was evaluated by Medic and transported to Atrium University for further care.

April 5

Suspicious Vehicle - North Deck

An officer observed a suspicious vehicle on the top level of North Deck with two occupants. Contact was made, and the officer determined it was two students talking. No criminal activity was observed or suspected, and no action was taken.

Intoxicated Person - Hunt Hull

Officers responded to Hunt Hall in reference to an intoxicated underage male who had run inside the building and appeared to be bleeding. He was evaluated by Medic and CFD but

declined to be transported. A state citation and campus appearance ticket were issued.

Investigative - Laurel Hall

Officers responded to the area of Laurel Hall in reference to a resident stating he heard someone make a comment and was concerned for his neighbor's wellbeing. Officers spoke with the residents of that room who stated everything was fine. A quick check of the room was conducted, and no unusual conditions were observed.

Investigative - Kennedy Bldg

An officer responded to the area near the Kennedy Bldg, in reference to a male who had what appeared to be a thrift store shop set up. Officers made contact with the male, who stated he made reservations to set up there and had been on campus in the past.



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Administration denounces SGA Senate's divestment of Israel resolution

Davis Cuffe, Sofia DiStefano & Sunnya Hadavi | Asst. Sports Editor, News Editor & Editor-in-Chief

UNC Charlotte administration has denounced the Student Government Senate's resolution to divest from Israel, citing their commitment to maintain neutrality.

"Student Government Association (SGA) leadership has been counseled several times on the University's commitment to maintain institutional neutrality and encouraged to consider that in their requests of administrators. This SGA resolution does not align with that commitment and will not be acted upon by the administration," said the University in a statement to the Niner Times.

This response from the University follows the passing of SGA Senate's S.R. 60.2-14: A Resolution for the SGA to Recognize Israel's Actions in Gaza on March 28. The resolution calls for recognizing Israel's genocide, calling for divestment from Israel, condemning past investments and agreeing to transparency. The Senate passed the resolution in response to demonstrations and a petition about Charlotte divesting funds from Israel.

"It is evident that in blatant violation of humanitarian international law, in blatant violation of the politically controversial wishes of much of the student body, and in blatant violation of the law of the State of North Carolina, the University of North Carolina at Charlotte has continued to financially support the State of Israel's genocidal regime and thus enabled its capacity to commit genocide within the region of Gaza," says the Student Senate in S.R. 60.2-14.

The University separates itself from the Student Senate, emphasizing that while SGA supports students, it does not represent the administration's policies.

"SGA plays an important role in the life of the University and the University supports the rights of its students, individually and collectively, to freely express themselves. In doing so, however, they neither speak for nor represent the position of UNC Charlotte," said the University.

The Social Justice for North Africa and Southwest Asia (SJSWANA) and Revolutionary Student Front (RSF) at UNC Charlotte created the petition pushing SGA to endorse a Board of Trustees Divestment from Israel. As of April 5, the petition has over 540 signatures since it was released on March 25.

SJSWANA and RSF believe their petition and Student Senate resolution speak more accurately for Charlotte students.

"We must emphasize that we went through UNC Charlotte's own democratic processes to pass this resolution, made a petition that garnered over 500 signatures within the first week, and received endorsement and support from over a dozen on- and off-campus primarily cultural organizations," said SJSWANA and RSF in a statement to the Niner Times. "While we respect the dissenting voices on our campus, it is disingenuous to act as if we do not represent a significant portion of that campus."

While the Student Senate passed the resolution, it was not officially effective. The Student

Body President must review all passed legislation and sign or veto it within seven class days, or the legislation automatically becomes effective.

Tife Olusesi, former student body president, chose not to sign or veto the resolution before stepping back as president, so the resolution was forced to be discarded.

In July 2023, a law went into effect in North Carolina requiring UNC system institutions to remain neutral on any political controversies. The law aligns with the administration's push for neutrality in dismissing the resolution.

The law requires university and university officials to refrain from taking specific political stances on controversial issues when speaking in official capacities.

"The goal of institutional neutrality is to promote the open exchange of ideas on campus by ensuring that schools don't inhibit dissenting opinions. Members of the campus community will be more inclined to research controversial subjects and express their views without worrying that those subjects and views run counter to a political position held by the University or any of its departments," says Vice Chancellor Jesh Humphrey in an interview with Niner Insider.

SJSWANA and RSF said that the University's position of neutrality is inappropriate considering the current circumstances.

"The University has two exceptions as to when it can overstep any bounds of neutrality: when an external force threatens the values and interests of the University, and when UNC Charlotte must act like a corporation to protect the partnerships,

funds, organizations, etc. which it is involved with. Whether UNC Charlotte is violating the terms of its neutrality based on its own terms or against jurisdiction, we are confident in the statements of our original resolution," said SJSWANA and RSF.

News regarding the University's response to the Student Senate resolution spread on X and Reddit before involved SGA, SJSWANA and RSF members were made aware.

"The University failed to contact either us in SJSWANA or the members of RSF, and several SGA members who were also involved with the resolution were not contacted directly by the University regarding its statement. We had to find out through different news stations, like Queen City News, who reached out to us for an interview recently, that UNC Charlotte was distancing itself from the SGA resolution," said SJSWANA and RSF members in a statement.

The resolution passed with a 19-0 vote. Only one member of the Student Senate opposed the resolution and chose to abstain.

SJSWANA and RSF intend to continue advocating for the resolution and petition at the Board of Trustees' April 25 meeting despite pushback.

"We, alongside RSF, plan to make these concerns clear and once again reiterate the points of our resolution during the Board of Trustees' public meeting on April 25 unless UNC Charlotte accepts the requests from us as the student body it is meant to represent," said SJSWANA and RSF.

Universities need consistent AI policies for both professors and students

Matthew De La Rosa | Writing Managing Editor

Universities must develop a clear policy to guide professors and students in using AI in education.

With more integration of artificial intelligence (AI) in academic settings, it is crucial to address conflicts that arise from those who see it as a useful tool to aid in their education and those who believe it stops students from learning.

In academics, adopting AI tools like ChatGPT holds promise for enhancing learning experiences and streamlining academic tasks.

Yet University staff such as Robert Campbell, an associate professor in graphic design, express concerns about the technology's ability to inhibit genuine learning and problem-solving skills among students.

"The problem for students is that a learner needs to practice new problems to learn," said Campbell. "If you frequently take the shortcuts offered by Midjourney or ChatGPT, you won't be ready to solve the problems that arise."

However, people like Ethan Nguyen, an undergraduate student and member of the UNC Charlotte AI Research Group, advocate for a nuanced approach to AI integration. Nguyen emphasized the importance of leveraging AI responsibly, urging educators and learners alike to understand its capabilities and limitations.

"AI should be used in academia when educators and the people who are learning about AI know how to use AI properly, effectively and responsibly. You shouldn't use AI blindly," said Nguyen.

Nguyen also explained how AI can be properly used in an academic setting to benefit students and professors while eliminating the fear of them becoming reliant on the tool.

"Oftentimes when you use AI, like large language models like ChatGPT, you can simply ask it for the answer, and oftentimes the answer isn't the correct one it provides, or there's not proper nuance captured within it," said Nguyen. "When you learn how to appropriately prompt AI, you're able to effectively get answers without getting the answer directly and understand the thought process on getting to that answer."

Students are in a state of confusion, while professors are left to navigate AI integration without standardized guidelines.

Universities must establish a clear and standardized set of instructions for using AI in academia. Such guidelines would not only provide much-needed clarity for students and faculty but also ensure the responsible and effective utilization



October Miller/Niner Times

tion of AI tools in educational settings.

According to Education Week, 79% of educators say their educational institutions are not clearly communicating their AI policies to their teachers. Within this same pool of educators, 75% say they do not have the time to teach students how to use AI effectively.

It is clear that not only are teachers unaware of the proper policies, but they also do not have the time to educate their students on the proper use of this technology.

The burden should be on the educational institutions themselves. These institutions must provide clear rules and resources to educators

and students to guide their use of this technology and help them use it effectively.

By implementing clear rules, universities can foster an environment where AI is a valuable supplement to learning rather than a hindrance, ultimately enhancing the academic experience for all involved.

UNC Charlotte's infrastructure needs to match the growing student population

Dakota Currier | Asst. Opinion Editor

UNC Charlotte has experienced extreme growth in its student population, now surpassing 30,000 enrolled, and continues to do so without intentions of slowing down. The next step in this process is to create the space and infrastructure needed to support all students thoroughly.

At the start of both the fall 2022 semester and fall 2023 semester, students were displaced to hotels and available on-campus housing slots, mainly in Sanford. That leaves a combined total of approximately 850 students who have had their living situation disrupted in the last two years.

These students should not have to go without the proper or promised living arrangements expected from the University.

However, this issue stems beyond housing. The lack of available study rooms on campus is also clear. It takes away not just a quiet bedroom to wind down but also a space to study in.

Larry Marshall, a fourth-year chemistry student, commented on this growth in a post on Reddit.

"There are not nearly enough spaces for the number of students we have, and that is not just study space. Take a look at the housing lottery. The population growth has well outpaced the infrastructure," said Marshall.

Without the space to thrive as an individual student, the student population will be unable to perform at the level they or the University desire.

"It makes me feel less confident in Charlotte's organization and how they are handling [Phase XVI] because I feel everything is last minute. I don't want to be in that situation," said first-year student Amelia Baskin.

This lack of confidence in the University's infrastructure is not shared by Sharon L. Gaber, the University's chancellor. Gaber has proposed "Shaping What's Next," a 10-year strategic plan to grow Charlotte's research.

Gaber and the strategic planning committee propose the following vision: "To be a globally recognized, emerging top-tier research university driving discovery and innovation while advancing student access and social mobility, nurturing talent, fostering excellence, and ensuring equity."

The focus of this 10-year plan lies in research and innovation on an academic level, but with no mention of how to combat the growing student population.

The mention of infrastructure around research, but it does not focus on the growing student population. There are plans to increase funding and grants for research, but where is the same proposal for funding more on-campus housing or study spaces?

To become the 'world-renowned' research facility Gaber desires, it starts with more than just grant funding and access to innovation. It begins with prioritizing students.

The issue is not Charlotte's growth or the development of a respected research facility, but the lack of infrastructure to fairly support Charlotte students while on this 10-year track.

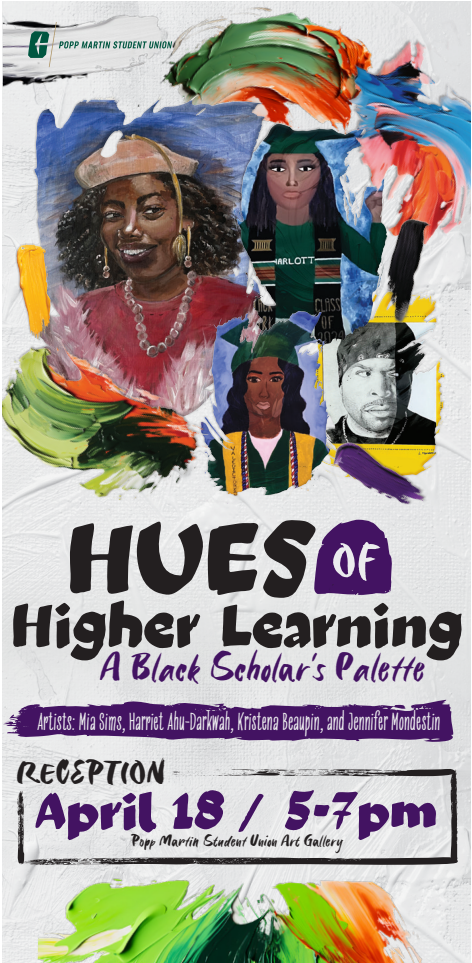
Action D3.1.2 of "Shaping What's Next" states another goal, "Optimize policies, practices and procedures for effectiveness, efficiency and equity to ensure that the University offers a work and learning space that meets employer, employee and student needs."

This promise cannot be made to students without a plan for change; infrastructure is more than just an idea. Until that is acknowledged, the University should be held responsible.

Student needs are not being met. Infrastructure is more than just an idea introduced in a proposal. It requires real planning and real change, but it is up to the University to follow through.



Loretta Ensley/Niner Times





Charlotte ASCE wins big at annual Carolinas Student Symposium

Wes Packham | Staff Writer

Photos by Megan Bentley & Sunnya Hadavi | Staff Photographer & Editor-in-Chief

UNC Charlotte's chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) won 10 awards at the 2024 Carolinas ASCE Student Symposium.

Charlotte's chapter placed No. 1 in the Concrete Canoe, Steel Bridge and Sustainable Solutions competitions, No. 2 in the Surveying competition and No. 2 overall out of the nine competing universities.

The Steel Bridge team won all seven additional first-place awards for aspects of their steel bridge. These awards were for construction economy, cost estimation, lightness, aesthetics, stiffness, structural efficiency and construction speed.

Charlotte's steel bridge was an under body truss design with twin tension members. The team designed the bridge to withstand load testing and be quickly constructed within 16 minutes.

"Charlotte designed the bridge to limit the number of members per connection to increase construction speed," said Charlotte's steel bridge informational poster. "To aid the team during

construction, tools were fabricated to increase the consistency of each build and decrease the overall construction time."

The ASCE Student Symposium is a three-day regional event for civil engineering students in the Carolinas. Events include a career networking expo, team presentations and student competitions. UNC Charlotte hosted this year's symposium from April 4 to 6 with a "Building Rome" theme.

Charlotte earned a top-three spot in nine out of the 14 total events. This included local competition awards such as No. 1 for the Freshmoore competition, No. 2 in the Caesars Video competition and No. 3 in the Concrete Shield and Quiz Bowl competitions.

ASCE's national events are Concrete Canoe, Steel Bridge, Surveying and Sustainable Solutions.

Charlotte's first-place national teams advance to the 2024 ASCE Civil Engineering Student Championships at Brigham Young University from June 19 to 22.







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SATIRE: GIANT RAT TAKES OVER SANFORD HALL, HAUNTING INNOCENT STUDENTS

Reflecting on 4 years: Jackson Threadgill's farewell from Charlotte men's basketball

Itza Ochoa | Sports Editor

After four years of dedication to bringing the team to greatness, senior guard Jackson Threadgill is leaving behind a legacy with Charlotte men's basketball. He carries his experiences and relationships built on and off the court into the transfer portal as Threadgill embarks on his final chapter in collegiate basketball.

The rookie season

A local graduate from Davidson Day School, Threadgill capped his high school career by being one of the top 20 players in North Carolina by 24-7 Sports. He led his school to the NCISAA 2A State title by scoring 30 points in the 2020 State Championship Game before joining the 49ers.

Threadgill's decision to join Charlotte's basketball program was a seamless journey, as it felt like a natural fit from the start.

"I picked Charlotte because of the relationship I built with the coaching staff," said Threadgill. "I felt like I could have a good amount of success here and felt like I could impact winning."

Threadgill appeared in 15 games during the 2020-21 season and made his first start as a freshman. He later suffered a hip injury that caused him to miss the following 10 games.

"I've had to deal with a couple of injuries since I've been here," said Threadgill. "I felt like I was able to get through them just staying level-headed, knowing the storm would go away."

He was able to return and close out his freshman year by appearing in the Conference-USA Tournament and grabbed a season-high five rebounds in 2021.

From rookie to veteran

In his junior season, Threadgill was one of two 49ers to start in all 36 games for Charlotte and experienced multiple standout moments. He scored the game-winning buzzer-beater against Davidson College in the Battle for the Hornets' Nest Trophy, followed by a season-high 17 points in the quarterfinal round of the College Basketball Invitational, going on to secure the program's first-ever postseason tournament title in 2023.

Reflecting on his journey, Threadgill's improvement pushed the boundaries of his potential.

"I've learned a lot since my freshman year," said Threadgill. "I've gotten smarter and physically got stronger. I handle the ball better and defend a lot better than when I first got

here. Iron sharpens iron, so going against [my teammates] every day has helped me get better as well."

By his senior year in the 2023-24 season, Threadgill and the 49ers saw a change as they entered the American Athletic Conference. Charlotte captured their first ranked win at Halton since 2010 as the 49ers defeated No. 17 Florida Atlantic University, then defeated East Carolina University in front of a sellout crowd for the first time since 2013.

When he first joined the 49ers, Threadgill wanted to revive the atmosphere centered around the team.

"The big thing for me was to bring resurgence back to the program," said Threadgill. "Two years before I decided to come here, the program was at a low point and hadn't won a lot of games. When I got here, we were able to turn that around. Last season, we won 22 games, and this season, we won 19 games. I feel like we brought excitement back to the community here."

Along with a new conference, the team welcomed their new Head Coach, Aaron Fearnle.

"I was already used to being around him so much," said Threadgill. "Even though he was an assistant coach, he still had a lot of input in what we did. Strategically, I don't think he had enough time to change a whole bunch

compared to what we did over the previous years, so I would say it was a smooth adjustment for me because we already had a really good relationship."

Off the court

Threadgill found his way to balance the demands of being a student-athlete and finished the 2023 fall semester with a 4.0 GPA in the Belk College of Business as a finance major.

"It was definitely challenging," said Threadgill. "You really have to understand time and how to prioritize it, knowing what matters and what doesn't. The stuff that is not important can wait."

For the second straight year, he was named to the 2024 CSC Academic All-District team.

"It was definitely a great honor," said Threadgill. "Growing up, my parents always preached how important education was, not just sports. I have always had the mindset that I have to do well in the classroom, and that's also a part of being a student-athlete. You have to do your work in the classroom, not only on the basketball court."

Read more at
ninertimes.com



Senior guard Jackson Threadgill (12) at the free-throw line | Megan Bentley/Niner Times

CLT

CHARLOTTE 49ERS SCOREBOARD

RECENT GAMES

MARCH 25 - APRIL 7

SOFTBALL

March 26: Charlotte 4, NC State 2
March 28: Charlotte 4, Wichita State 3
March 29: Charlotte 11, Wichita State 7
March 30: Wichita State 7, Charlotte 5
April 2: Charlotte 7, Longwood 1
April 3: Duke 6, Charlotte 1
April 5: Charlotte 11, FAU 1
April 6: FAU 4, Charlotte 2
April 7: FAU 5, Charlotte 3

BASEBALL

March 29: South Florida 11, Charlotte 2
March 29: Charlotte 7, South Florida 3
March 30: Charlotte 11, South Florida 8
April 2: Campbell 13, Charlotte 9
April 5: Charlotte 10, UTSA 5
April 6: UTSA 14, Charlotte 4
April 7: UTSA 13, Charlotte 1

WOMEN'S TENNIS

March 30: Charlotte 4, North Texas 2
March 31: Rice 4, Charlotte 2
April 6: Charlotte 4, ETSU 3
April 7: Charlotte 4, Furman 0

MEN'S TENNIS

March 29: Charlotte 6, Presbyterian 1
March 31: Rice 4, Charlotte 3
April 4: Charlotte 4, Elon 3
April 5: Charlotte 4, Old Dominion 3

OVERALL STANDINGS

Baseball: 14-18, 4-5

Softball: 22-16, 9-6

Men's tennis: 14-7, 0-0

Women's tennis: 17-7, 3-2

Kameron Roach's journey through Charlotte Athletics

Bryson Foster | Outreach Coordinator

Although former Charlotte women's basketball player Kameron Roach has concluded her playing career, her involvement in athletics has continued with a new role.

Roach played college basketball for six seasons and is an executive team intern with Charlotte Athletics. She said the transition from player to working in sports media has been a journey.

"Ending my playing career was bittersweet and the biggest thing was leaving all those relationships behind," said Roach. "It is awesome working with athletics. Getting to be on the other side of things and knowing how things work has been informative."

Roach works with Executive Associate Athletics Director Ragean Hill, helping with event set-up, scheduling, writing press releases and working with other departments such as Title IX. Recently, she worked the first and second rounds of the NCAA tournament at the Spectrum Center in Charlotte.

"Ragean [Hill] does a whole lot of stuff, and I work with her. I get exposed to a lot of different things," said Roach. The biggest things I have learned from her are time management, organization and multitasking skills. I know what to prioritize because she is doing multiple things at one time and building relationships with people to create a final product."

Her new role builds on her experiences during her playing career as she transitions into life after basketball.

A start in the sport

Roach, a Hopkins, South Carolina native, is the daughter of Yolande and Kendrick Roach, Sr. From the start, Roach said her family instilled a love for sports in her.

"We were definitely a sports family. My dad went to Clemson, so we grew up going there a lot for football games and track meets. We grew up in that college sports environment," said Roach.

She started playing basketball at 10 in a recreation league for the East Columbia Youth Basketball League and was selected to the league's all-star game in her first year. Roach said she realized the game was for her while playing for Southeast Middle School.

"I played in middle school in seventh grade. I did well, and we lost in the championship game, which was disappointing, but I realized I loved it," said Roach.

High school stardom

After early successes, Roach transitioned to

Lower Richland High School, where she made the team in eighth grade. In the 2012-13 season, she led the team to a regional and state title while going 26-0.

Roach also started playing for the North Carolina Spartans American Athletic Union (AAU) team. There, she met Coach Barbara Nelson, who Roach said was influential in her playing career.

"She was a big and vital part of my growth of making that transition from not just playing but making it to that next level. She was an amazing coach and pushed me by teaching me a lot," said Roach. "She was the reason why I initially wanted to coach in college. I can honestly say that without her guidance, I would not have been able to play at the collegiate level."

Roach racked up multiple accolades in her next three seasons at Lower Richland, including being named a 2017 McDonald's All-American nominee and a three-star prospect by ESPN. Going into her senior year, she tore her ACL, experiencing adversity for the first time after committing to the University of Kentucky.

"Going into my senior year, I tore my ACL and meniscus during that summer. It was a pivotal part of my career, and by then, the class I was going in with at Kentucky had all transferred out," said Roach.

Roach ended her time in high school as a four-year letterwinner and transitioned to college basketball.

College career

Roach started her career in Kentucky. During her four years with the team, she played 36 games while battling multiple injuries, leading to a red-shirt during the 2019-20 season.

Roach entered the transfer portal after the 2020-21 season. She said a conversation with Nelson brought her back to the Carolinas.

"I had already graduated from college, so I had the option to go somewhere and play immediately. I felt like my time at Kentucky was up, and I wanted change," said Roach. "I talked with Coach Nelson and told her I was considering transferring. She brought up Charlotte, which got me thinking, 'Well, what about Charlotte?'"

Roach said Charlotte was the right fit for her.

"I had two years of eligibility, and basketball wasn't my only focus. I felt I could get the education at Charlotte," said Roach. "I wanted to attend a good athletics program and a decent institution, and Charlotte checked all those boxes for me. I connected with former assistant coach [Nicole] Woods, and then we went from there."



Courtesy of Kameron Roach

Looking forward

Roach said help from former Charlotte women's basketball player and current Director of Student-Athlete Development Krystion Obie-Nelson gave her a new path after college.

"I have a great relationship with Obie Nelson because she was a former women's basketball player. She has been a significant part of my journey and told me about the internship," said

Roach. "I am actively looking for a full-time position, but I am using my resources. Obie-Nelson helped navigate me to the position that I have now."

Read more at
ninertimes.com



Mia Sims combines passion for marketing and art by selling artwork

Frankie Lowe | Staff Writer

Mia Sims demonstrates the versatility of a marketing major by starting a personal business selling her unique works of art. As a fourth-year student at UNC Charlotte, Sims looks forward to a future of artistry and further business and marketing ventures.

"With my art page, especially with my Instagram, I have to use things I've learned with my degree to find my target audience, reach the people I am trying to reach and draw people to my website," said Sims.

Sims is a lifelong creative, drawn to art from a young age, specifically painting.

"I have been painting my whole life. I think my earliest memory is me sitting in one of my parents' rooms and just taking the coloring page and Crayola watercolors and painting in there," said Sims. "I was probably three, as soon as I could grab something."

Not only has Sims been painting her entire life, but her entire life is also represented in her paintings. Sims draws inspiration from her experiences, allowing her art to speak for her struggles.

"My art is an extension of me. I paint a lot about the things that I am going through in my life with depression and anxiety and trying to figure out where I am going to go in life and my experience as an African-American in a PWI," said Sims. "They really say that 'art imitates life,' and I feel like when I have a vision for something, it is a lot of the time something that I am going through or something that I have seen."

Sims captures the world around her in her art, but she is not just limited to the things she experiences. Sims' fondness for capturing portraits allows her to connect with herself and those close to her.

"I see my friends [and] family. I just find them all beautiful, so I really love to paint that. I like to do self-portraits because I feel like I am connecting with myself through painting my face; I am connecting with my friends by painting their faces," said Sims.

Through her art, Sims can connect with herself by reflecting upon her experiences, connecting with friends and family through the vulnerability of portrait painting and using her art as her voice.

"I have been working on an oil piece right now that is huge, because I love big paintings. I like everything big, everything making a statement. Overall, that encompasses my style; [I am] just making a statement," said Sims.

Sims and fellow artists Harriet Ahu-Darkwah,

Kristen Beaupin and Jennifer Mondestin plan to make a statement at their art showcase in April.

"[The showcase] is pretty much just all of our experiences going through college because [many] of us are seniors and about to graduate. So, we are just thinking about how UNC Charlotte really made an impact on us. How has it shaped who we are today? So each of our pieces kind of go through that," said Sims.

Their art exhibit, 'Hues of Higher Learning: A Black Scholars Palette,' will be showcased in the Popp Martin Student Union art gallery from April 7 through April 26. A reception will be held on April 18 from 5 to 7 p.m.

Students can learn more about Sims' art on Instagram @mianthemind.

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"I like to do self-portraits because I feel like I am connecting with myself through painting my face."

- Mia Sims, fourth-year marketing major



Courtesy of Mia Sims

Going backstage with Madison King

UNC CHARLOTTE STUDENT RECEIVES AWARD FOR THEATER COLLEGE PRODUCTION

Kendall Maye | Staff Writer

It is lights, camera and sound cues for UNC Charlotte student Madison King.

King received the Region IV ASPIRE honorable mention award at the Kennedy Center College Theater Festival in February. King's work on the theater college production of "Welcome to Our Village, Please Invade Carefully" also advanced her to the last round of the stage management award.

The College of Arts and Architecture invited theater students and alums to the Region IV Theater Festival in Albany, Ga. King, a third-year double majoring in theater and marketing, was one of these students.

ASPIRE is a program within the Kennedy Center at the festival, allowing theater students to share their ideas for new creative programs with panelists. Students attend educational workshops

"Whenever I come into a project, and I feel the love, support and craftsmanship of others, it inspires me as a stage manager to make sure that [the show] happens."

- Madison King, third-year theater and marketing major

throughout the week, connecting them to industry professionals. At the end of the week, they share their project ideas.

King's project idea, "Visionary Vault," made it to the final stages and will be implemented next year.

"I did not think I was going to make it to finals. There were a lot of great people who made it. But it was great; it solidified being there. It was great meeting the stage managers for Disney and Broadway and seeing how it transfers to the professional realm," said King.

King's project aims to address gaps in collaborative projects in the College of Arts + Architecture at UNC Charlotte.

"It is a cross-disciplinary artistic project between the different music, dance and theater [departments]," said King. "I envisioned it for the College of Arts + Architecture. It would be something that bridges the gap between our individual curriculums so we can all come together and create a unique project."

The creation of a project prepared students for future endeavors in theater.

"To me, it meant there was space for the project I wanted to do. There was a need for it. I feel like a lot of times, we can try to create in a vacuum, but pitching it and narrowing down what the project would be showed that there was a need for it. It could be possible," said King.

The festival also taught attendees how to network with others and adequately communicate ideas. King even took acting workshops to understand how to support actors throughout a show.

On campus, King is a stage manager, a role that requires her to wear many different hats. She is pulling the strings backstage for major theatrical productions.

"We handle communication between the designers, creative team and what happens in the rehearsal room. We send out reports after rehearsals about things we need, what might have been changed. We're like the invisible hand that makes the show work," said King.

The production of the British comedy, "Welcome to Our Village, Please Invade Carefully," was a passion project for director Jill Bloede. King was one of the students who brought that show to life in fall 2023.

"For me, I am inspired by the love. The love of everybody who is a part of the project to make something happen. Whenever I come into a project, and I feel the love, support and craftsmanship of others, it inspires me as a stage manager to make sure that [the show] happens. If not for me, then the audience," said King.

Every artist finds their muse in different things. For King, it is all about sharing the craft she is most passionate about with those around her.

"To be a part of that shared experience that we all have as audience members and even as artists ourselves, to be able to create things that can be shared, it's beautiful. That's what inspires me," said King.



Courtesy of Madison King

**"ONCE YOU MAKE A
BABY, IT'S NOT YOUR
BODY ANYMORE."**

— Lt. Governor Mark Robinson





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