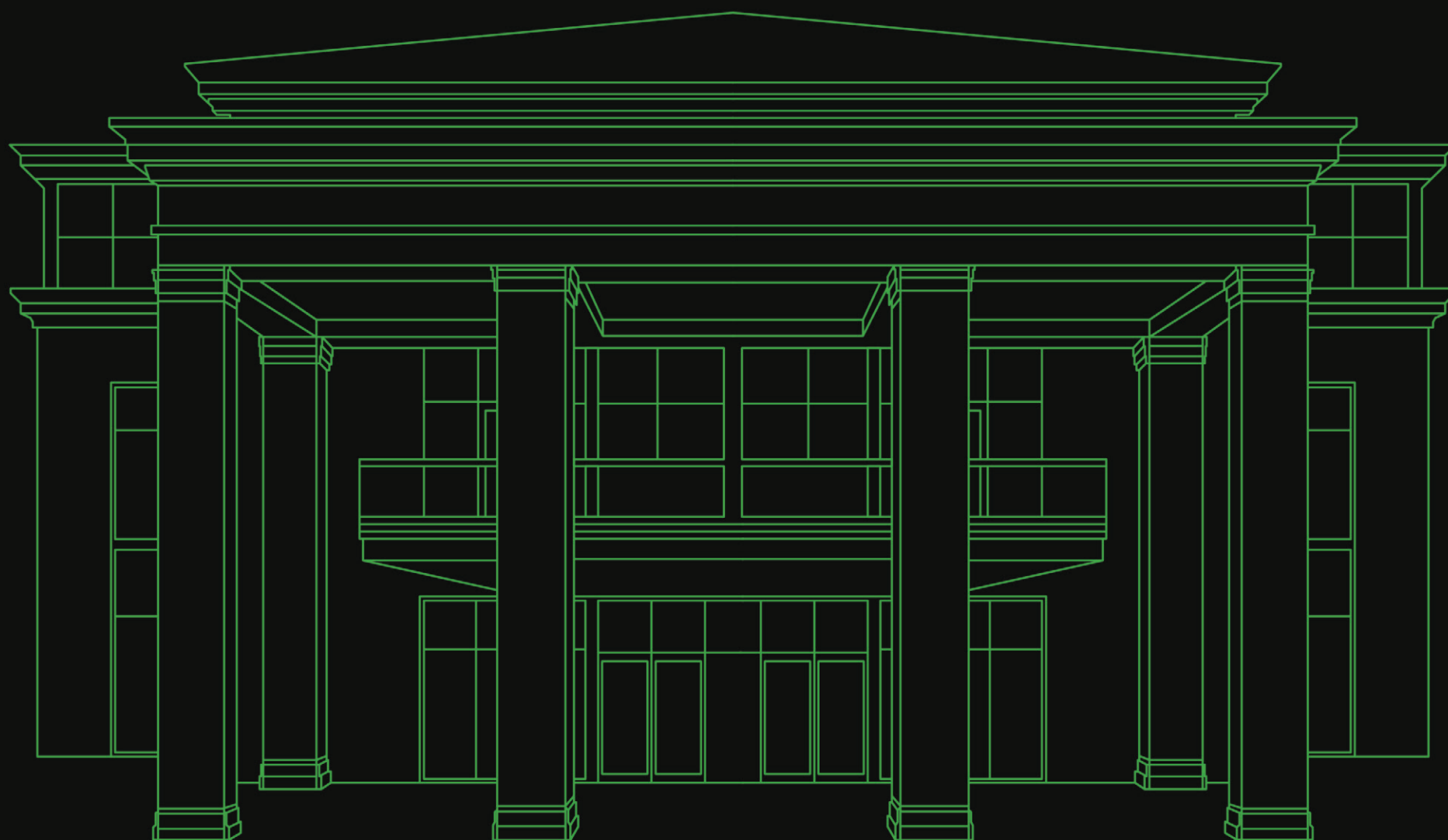


# NEW YEAR NEW UREC



VOL. 32, ISSUE 13  
JANUARY 14, 2020  
**NINERTIMES.COM**



Overview of the new center on page 3 & navigation guide on page 11



f NINER MEDIA  
@UNCCMEDIA

NINER TIMES f  
@NINER\_TIMES



f RADIO FREE  
CHARLOTTE  
@RAD10FREECLT

SANSKRIT LIT f  
ARTS MAGAZINE  
@SANSKRIT UNCC

*Sanskrit*  
LITERARY-ARTS MAGAZINE

## POLICE BLOTTER

### Larceny 1/4

Officers responded to a bike rack in reference to a larceny of a bicycle.

### Underage Drinking 1/7

An officer responded to a report of an odor of marijuana and issued two state citations for underage drinking.

### Drug Possession 1/7

An officer responded to a report of an odor of marijuana and issued two state citations for drug possession.

### Expired Registration 1/8

Officer initiated a traffic stop. Driver was cited for displaying an expired registration tag.

### Trespass 1/9

Officers were dispatched to the Student Union in reference to an illegally parked vehicle. The disruptive driver was issued a trespass order.

VIEW FULL BLOTTER AT  
[HTTPS://POLICE.UNCC.EDU/POLICE-LOG](https://police.uncc.edu/police-log)

# TABLE OF CONTENTS



## NEWS

Niner Nation Remembrance Commission **Page 2**

final report  
UREC is finally open **Page 3**



## OPINION

Worries of war **Page 5**



## A&E

Anticipated films of 2020 **Page 6**



## SPORTS

Looking back and moving forward **Page 10**



## LIFESTYLE

Navigating the new rec center **Page 11**

## NINERTIMES

### EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

**Madison Dobrzenski**  
editor@ninertimes.com

### EDITORIAL

Drew Fitzgerald COMMUNITY EDITOR

Megan Bird NEWS EDITOR

Sam Palian SPORTS EDITOR

Noah Howell A&E EDITOR

Olivia Lawless LIFESTYLE EDITOR

Hiral Patel OPINION EDITOR

Emily Hickey COPY EDITOR

Pooja Pasupula PHOTO EDITOR

María Solano VIDEO EDITOR

Natasha Morehouse LAYOUT EDITOR

### ASSISTANT EDITORS

Kennedy Hehr, Elissa Miller, Niyathi Sulkunte, Max Young, Emily Kottak

### LAYOUT STAFF

Sam Palian, Olivia Lawless, Brandon Mitchell, Hiral Patel, Drew Fitzgerald, Reuben Sanchez

### CONTRIBUTING STAFF

Tyler Trudeau, Curtis Cheung, Chris Crews

### COVER ILLUSTRATION

Natasha Morehouse

**NEWSROOM 705.687.7150**

**NINERTIMES.COM/STAFF**

**TWITTER @NINER\_TIMES**

### MARKETING DIRECTOR

**Caleb Adams**

mktdirector@uncc.edu

### CREATIVE DIRECTOR

**James Bourke**

production@uncc.edu

### MARKETING STAFF

Joe Calhoun, Abram Shaw, Alexis Raines, Raquel Adams, and Johanie Payer



LOCATED ON THE LOWER LEVEL OF THE STUDENT UNION

Niner Times • Radio Free Charlotte  
Sanskrit Literary-Arts Magazine  
Media Marketing • Technical

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHARLOTTE

Kelly Merges NINER MEDIA ADVISER

Laurie Cuddy BUSINESS MANAGER

Joshua Wood GRAPHICS & PRODUCTION

Kelly Dudden OFFICE MANAGER

READ & WATCH MORE ONLINE AT  
**NINERTIMES.COM**

# UREC IS OPEN

*\$66 million University Recreation Center officially opened on Jan. 8, 2020*

by Emily Kottak  
Assistant News Editor



## NEWS

After years of planning, design and construction, UNC Charlotte's new recreational facility, UREC, is officially open.

The ribbon-cutting and grand opening took place on Wednesday, Jan. 8, the first day of the Spring 2020 semester. Students and faculty gathered to experience the unveiling of this long-anticipated gym.

To spark participation and help introduce students to the new facility, UREC hosted many activities like a dance party, polar plunge and a dive-in movie.

The building, which is located

next to the Student Union, was first proposed in 2014. Planning began the following year, and construction started in July of 2017. The facility was originally scheduled to open in the fall of 2019, but was pushed back five months back to construction delays.

UREC will now serve as the campus's primary gym as the Belk and Student Activity Center (SAC) workout facilities are closed for students, serving as a workout space for athletes. Students are still granted access to the basketball and volleyball courts in SAC.

At 148,000 sq. ft., UREC includes both an indoor and outdoor pool, 4 multi-purpose courts, 5 multi-purpose studios, 80 group fitness classes a week and outdoor basketball, pickleball and volleyball courts.

This stunning facility, costing \$66 million, was funded by university debt and student fees.

"I knew the building would be full of brand new equipment and the pool would be impressive, but I had no idea how beautiful a gym could be," said first-year student Maggie Pearce. "I love that the building provides such great views of campus

while you are using the equipment. There is also so much space so you never feel crowded or like your workout space is being invaded."

The University Recreation webpage includes a considerable amount of information regarding UREC such as group fitness schedules, upcoming events, facility hours and details about the project's history.

"All together, UREC is a great space," said Pearce. "It is a beautiful building and a great addition to our campus."



UREC basketball court, photo by Curtis Cheung



# NINER NATION REMEMBRANCE COMMISSION FINAL REPORT

*Niner Nation Remembrance Commission recommends \$1 million memorial to honor victims of April 30 shooting*

by Megan Bird  
News Editor

The Niner Nation Remembrance Commission has proposed a \$1 million permanent memorial to be placed in Belk Plaza to honor the two students killed and four students injured in the April 30, 2019 shooting on UNC Charlotte's campus. They also recommended an annual day of remembrance, several on-campus exhibits and a repurposing of Kennedy 236 where the tragedy occurred.

The Commission was created by Chancellor Dubois and composed of volunteers, including family

members of the victims, Virginia Tech 2007 shooting survivors and UNC Charlotte students and alumni.

The Commission's final report was based on information collected from campus listening sessions, advice from families of the victims and an online survey with over 4,500 responses. The report said that the feedback was "remarkably consistent."

"It is the Commission's great hope that the proposed recommendations bring comfort to the families of Reed and Riley, advance recovery and healing for those who experienced trauma on April 30 and reaffirm the enduring spirit of Niner Nation," wrote Commission Chair Emily Zimmern in the final report.

The proposed memorial will be located in front of Kennedy in the Belk Plaza and will include the names of the two students who lost their lives in the tragedy, Riley Howell and Reed Parlier. It would cost \$1 million in addition to the \$1 million needed to finish the plaza. The design would be announced April 30, 2021 and the memorial would be unveiled April 30, 2022.

The Remembrance Subcommittee also recommended a temporary

exhibit in Atkins Library, a day of remembrance on April 30 for the next three years and scholarships in Howell's and Parlier's names.

They also advised that Kennedy 236 and its adjacent classroom should not be used, but rather

converted into a space for reflection and meditation by April 30, 2020.

Chancellor Dubois said in an email to the UNC Charlotte community that he will review the Commission's recommendations and finalize his decisions by the end of January.



Norm statue the day of candle light vigil on May 1, photo by Chris Crews

*"It is the Commission's great hope that the proposed recommendations bring comfort to the families of Reed and Riley, advance recovery and healing for those who experienced trauma on April 30 and reaffirm the enduring spirit of Niner Nation,"*  
*-Commission Chair Emily Zimmern*



## NOW HIRING

- servers
- busboys
- cooks

Flexible hours, No tip sharing.

[arsalco@aol.com](mailto:arsalco@aol.com)  
or apply in person at  
230 East WT Harris Blvd.  
(Behind Walgreens)

# WORRIES OF WAR

Opinion editor expresses concerns regarding deployment and politics

by Hiral Patel  
Opinion Editor



President Trump began 2020 by directing an order to the U.S. Military to assassinate the Iranian Military Commander, Qaseem Soleimani, on Jan. 3. This was his response to a potential attack that the Iranian Government had been planning and an attack on the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad that occurred on New Year's Eve by an Iran-backed Militia. Events leading up to this airstrike have been occurring since the day Trump was inaugurated. Trump's 2016 campaign had plans to roll back parts of Obama's Iran Nuclear Deal, which he successfully accomplished in 2018. The following year, Iran attacked U.S. allied oil tankers and infrastructures leading Trump to impose sanctions on the nation. Although neither nations actually want war, this assassination seems to be a tipping point to a major global conflict.

This U.S. drone strike has led to deployment of many US troops to the Middle East, including those close to home. Reuters reported that approximately 3,500 troops from Fort Bragg's 82nd Airborne Division were sent overseas and that their tasks there are to prepare for potential threats from the Iranian Government and to train for a set of battles that may lead to a global war.

I am very patriotic about our troops and the time and effort they put into protecting our nation and protecting our rights; however, in the event of political unrest, I tend to favor diplomacy over war. I believe that although Trump made an intense and stupid decision, the deployment of troops was necessary because our embassy was attacked, but it should not have gone as far as killing one of the most powerful men in our adversary's government. Like always, we're at risk for history repeating itself, hence the reason why our top meme trend for 2020 is World War III. The best thing to focus on right now for the United States and Iran is diplomacy so it would not shake international relations and would deter war, especially because we now have far more destructive methods of military tactics and equipment.

As citizens, we should stay informed, but not let these broader topics cover the sentimental ones. The last time deployment was prominent in the US was during Afghanistan. I was in elementary school then, and I did not have a sense of the effects it would have on the lives of people around me. Now that I know people that are being directly impacted by this issue, I am writing this article to explain what the public should know about families or friends with a member in service. Daniel Moody of UNC Charlotte and Sophia Spangler of Western Carolina are both students who are from Fayetteville, a town near



ROTC student flying American flag, photo by Chris Crews

the Fort Bragg military base. Daniel's parents are military contractors and he has had friends deployed from Fort Bragg. Sophia's father was deployed to Afghanistan when she was in middle school and has now retired from the military, but she has other family members and friends on the military base. With the current politics, they want us to know the realities of having military involvement.

Often times, government politics and military action are portrayed as negatives for those in service. Spangler explains, "If the public knew all the information about our men and women abroad it would put them all in danger. There is more to the story than what civilians know, and if it was public knowledge it can lead to thousands of deaths." Be mindful of what families are going through rather than focusing on your own views of what the military should and shouldn't do. Moody states

that having had friends deployed, "It made me feel quite uneasy, but I know the men and women are putting their lives on the line for our country...so I am also grateful for them...I think people need to keep in mind the sacrifices the families are putting forward for not only us, but for themselves, and our country. The public should be very supportive and keep those families in their thoughts and prayers." With the recent outbreak of World War III memes, we have to admit that there is insensitivity among us. Spangler says, "America has a very strong volunteer military. It's frustrating to listen to people belittle the men and women that serve our nation and protect our freedoms. These people go willingly and with a sense of pride and duty...Before someone makes jokes about dodging the draft that isn't going to happen or WWII, stop and think about the people who have the bravery and duty to put themselves in harm's way to protect people."

With intense politics like these, we need to find an apolitical standpoint. We should hold the government and the actions its authority takes accountable; however, the troops still take orders from the government regardless of how they feel about the current conflicts. They risk their lives for our safety and rights, and putting them and their families in an uncomfortable environment for your own political stance is an action of disrespect almost close to betrayal. Spangler really puts this into perspective by saying, "We all feel for each other and know that having a loved one overseas is one of the hardest things someone has to deal with because of the uncertainty. But we also have the understanding that this is a necessary part of life in the military."





# THE MOST ANTICIPATED

## Start the the new decade with a look at

by Tyler Trudeau  
Staff Writer

With another decade of film behind us now, 2020 has finally arrived and with it comes an exhilarating line-up of promising features set to tease at what is to come in the next ten years of filmmaking. From Hollywood reboots and sequels that are set to reshape old projects for a new age to increasingly ambitious original stories, here are some of the most anticipated upcoming films of the year.

**“Dolittle”** - Following his emotional exit from the Marvel Cinematic Universe in last year’s blockbuster hit “Avengers: Endgame,” Robert Downey Jr. has relinquished his suit of armor as top Avenger Tony Stark/Iron Man to don an entirely new look in this month’s “Dolittle.” Starring as the titular Doctor Dolittle, a talented animal practitioner made famous by author Hugh Lofting, Downey leads the newest adaptation of the classic adventure. Accompanied by a colorful cast of creatures at his side, including a dog voiced by fellow Marvel co-star Tom Holland, Downey aims to stake his claim on a bold new project after leaving one of Hollywood’s biggest film franchises.

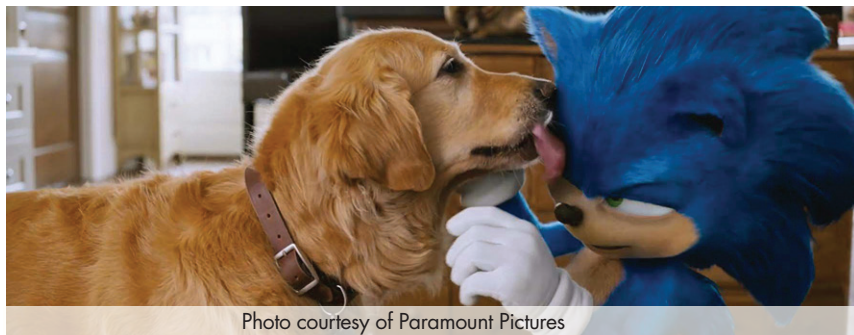


Photo courtesy of Paramount Pictures

**“Sonic the Hedgehog”** - With films based on video games being notoriously maligned by both critics and audiences alike, the latest attempt at bringing a tentpole franchise from the console to the big screen has already made a name for itself, albeit on the negative side of things. With this February’s “Sonic the Hedgehog” speeding into theaters after correcting production issues predominantly involving the central character’s design, the adaptation is set to arrive as a much more promising endeavor than originally imagined. While its premise, which finds the blue speedster battling Jim Carrey’s appropriately campy Doctor Robotnik, might remain questionable to some audiences, fans of the franchise may give the project a chance after its much more faithful design changes.

**“Birds of Prey (and the Fantabulous Emancipation of One Harley Quinn)”** - With its subject matter taking inspiration from one of DC Comics’ deadliest all-female squads and its title possibly taking a cue from 2014’s introspective dark comedy “Birdman,” the latest installment in the DC Extended Universe finds itself in the quasi-Harley Quinn origin story “Birds of Prey.” Set after the events of 2016’s misguided attempt at an anti-Justice League team-up feature in “Suicide Squad,” the female-centric adventure

pits Margot Robbie’s sadistic criminal-turned-vigilante against the equally-psychopathic foe Black Mask (Ewan McGregor). With a slew of other kick-ass vigilantes at her side, Robbie’s Harley Quinn takes the driver’s seat as the film explores not only the character’s past, but also the further potential of a franchise still working out some of its kinks.

**“Onward”** - The first Disney-Pixar project to drop in the new year, followed not too far behind by June’s “Soul,” this Spring’s “Onward” finds the studios behind such hits like “Toy Story” and “The Incredibles” traversing entirely new ground as they lean into their first true fantasy comedy. Set in a suburban world populated by mystical creatures, the film follows two elf brothers (Tom Holland, Chris Pratt) as they voyage into the unknown in search of the dwindling magic that is slowly escaping their world. Of course, as a Pixar film, there’s a deeper meaning to the journey as the brothers try to reforge a bond with their late father by way of magic. Filled with enigmatic characters from every corner of the fantasy genre and a heart-warming tale of brotherhood at its center, “Onward” is Pixar’s latest opportunity to give audiences one of the best films of the year -- and perhaps decade.

**“Mulan”** - The next chapter in Disney’s line of revamped adaptations of their classic films is set to arrive in March’s “Mulan.” With its live-action reincarnation taking influence not only from the 1998 animated film but the Chinese folklore “The Ballad of Mulan” as well, the tale of a young woman taking her father’s place in a war to defend their country from invasion is reimagined in an epic war drama. While the musical inklings of the 1998 film might be scarce from the new film, the action, star-studded cast and classic tale of heroism remains in what looks to be a promising and ambitious middle-ground between the iconic Disney feature and the folklore it is based on.

**“Black Widow”** - The other major release of 2020 delving into the world of action and espionage is May’s “Black Widow.” Picking up after the events of 2016’s “Captain America: Civil War,” which saw the members of the Avengers team splintered into separate factions, the first solo feature to explore the past of Scarlett Johansson’s Natasha Romanoff is set to reveal the former-KGB assassin’s life outside of the superhero team. Finding herself alone and in exile, she is forced to come to terms with her dark past as she encounters both old allies and new enemies. While some of Marvel Studios’ other upcoming projects, like November’s “Eternals,” might aim to shift the franchise’s focus to new, emerging heroes and stories, a trip into the more cryptic past of one of Marvel’s most intriguing female heroes could tease more of what’s to come than we might expect.

**“Top Gun: Maverick”** - Another sequel entering a new age in 2020 lies in the highly-anticipated follow-up to 1986’s adrenaline-pumping classic “Top Gun.” Set more than thirty years after the original, which found a reckless rookie aviator (Tom Cruise) testing his skills in the air against uncertain odds,

# ANTICIPATED FILMS OF 2020

Look at the biggest blockbusters set to arrive this year

the June sequel pits the pilot against not only his most daring mission yet, but forces him to confront the ghosts of his past. With a ragtag team of wide-eyed trainees under his command, including the son of his late comrade “Goose,” Cruise’s Maverick is set to take to the skies once more with even more lives in his hands than ever before.



Photo courtesy of MGM

**“No Time to Die”** - With the beginning of the new year hallmarked by a number of new reimaginings and reboots, the Spring season kicks off with the latest installment in one of Hollywood’s longest-running spy franchises. Set to be the final chapter of the James Bond era starring Daniel Craig, April’s “No Time to Die” seeks to wrap up the events that have haunted the super spy since 2006’s “Casino Royale,” all while pitting 007 against his most cunning adversary yet. With new players like Rami Malek’s mysterious villain Safin and Lashana Lynch’s ‘00’ agent, who takes up the reins after Bond briefly retires. Entering the explosive sequel, the film will likely give a fitting end to Craig’s time as Bond as it ignites an entirely new era for the iconic spy.

**“Wonder Woman 1984”** - As the year kicks off with DC’s first female-led ensemble film in “Birds of Prey,” the other major release from the studio in 2020 reveals the further adventures of another renowned female hero in Gal Gadot’s Wonder Woman. Picking up more than sixty years after the first film, the sequel finds Diana Prince traversing the 1980s as she comes into conflict with not only a corrupt media tycoon (Pedro Pascal), but a vicious archaeologist bent on revenge (Kristen Wiig). With many questions concerning the film’s plot and characters still unanswered, like how in the world Chris Pine’s Steve Trevor returns after his supposed demise in the first film, this summer’s “Wonder Woman 1984” brings the immortal heroine into a deadly, new age.

**“Tenet”** - With many of his recent films defining the last decade for me as far as original, contemporary epics go, director Christopher Nolan remains one of Hollywood’s most ambitious filmmakers. After tackling everything from

war dramas and science fiction spectacles, his latest project sees the director leaning into the genre of international espionage. Led by a star-studded cast including John David Washington, Robert Pattinson and Michael Caine, the thriller is set to be a time-bending spy adventure like no other. While details remain scarce on nearly everything outside of the film’s cast, the July feature is likely to stake its claim on 2020.

**“Eternals”** - Continuing what has been established in previous films like 2014’s “Guardians of the Galaxy” and last year’s “Captain Marvel,” the second Marvel Studios project to headline the new year is set to lean even further into the cosmic side of the franchise. Telling of an immortal race of aliens created to protect humanity from cosmic threats, “Eternals” will be the first film in a new era of the Marvel Cinematic Universe. Following the fitting conclusions of the many of the franchise’s central players, like Captain America and Iron Man, a diverse ensemble of unique and powerful heroes are primed to shift the Marvel universe in a bold, new direction.

**“Dune”** - While December 2020 might lie in the not-too-distant future, the month harbors what could likely become the biggest science fiction blockbuster of the year with Denis Villeneuve’s ambitious two-part adaptation of the Frank Herbert novel “Dune.” Set within an expansive futuristic realm of interstellar empires and massive creatures, the adaptation will see a new retelling of the conflict between the two feuding families of House Atreides and House Harkonnen as a young heir Paul (Timothée Chalamet) embarks on a perilous adventure. With a hefty cast of stars to match the story’s epic proportions, “Dune” will finish off a year of extraordinary and highly-ambitious films.



Photo courtesy of DC Films



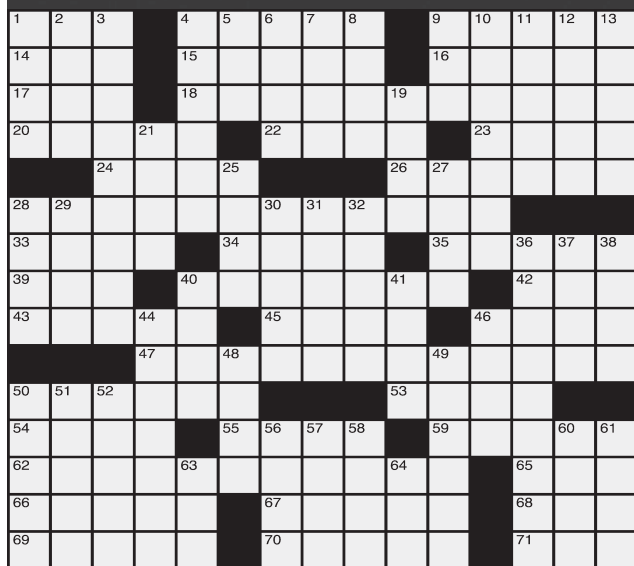
# JANUARY 16 - 19 MOVIES AT THE UNION THEATER



FREE WITH UNC CHARLOTTE STUDENT ID • \$2 ALL OTHERS  
SHOWTIMES: [studentunion.uncc.edu/movies](http://studentunion.uncc.edu/movies)

## NINERTIMES.COM

YOUR ONLINE SOURCE FOR CAMPUS NEWS



### ACROSS

- 1 Hanks who plays Mr. Rogers
- 4 Spanish houses
- 9 Watched secretly
- 14 Dr.'s group
- 15 Scarlett of fiction
- 16 African river
- 17 Server of shots
- 18 Manicurist's tool
- 20 Word with sprawl or renewal
- 22 Norse trickster
- 23 Walrus feature
- 24 Made stuff up
- 26 Like Mattel's Cathy doll
- 28 Eponymous '60s-'80s "Airways" entrepreneur
- 33 Like desperate straits
- 34 Send with a stamp
- 35 Old Detroit brewer
- 39 Like frozen roads
- 40 Resolves out of court
- 42 Paris summer
- 43 Spot for a friendly kiss
- 45 Bit of cat talk
- 46 Mennen lotion
- 47 Attacker or defender of online information systems
- 50 Water heater
- 53 Nuremberg no
- 54 German auto
- 55 Movie lab assistant
- 59 President #2
- 62 "It" novelist
- 65 Org. for the ends of 18-, 28-, 47- and 62-Across
- 66 Remove the chalk
- 67 Muslim holy city
- 68 Home state for the ends of 18-, 28-, 47- and 62-Acr.
- 69 Monica of tennis
- 70 Beautify
- 71 Suffix with Japan or Milan

### DOWN

- 1 "Forbidden" fragrance
- 2 Actor Epps
- 3 Bakery item Jerry stole

- from an old woman in a classic "Seinfeld" episode
- 4 Fooled in a swindle
- 5 "Figured it out!"
- 6 Windsurfing need
- 7 Guthrie of folk
- 8 Quarterback-tackling stat
- 9 Biol. or ecol.
- 10 Toaster snack
- 11 Data to enter
- 12 Spew out
- 13 Not at all cool
- 19 Kiss from a pooch
- 21 Teacher's helper
- 25 Ten-cent piece
- 27 Gas brand with toy trucks
- 28 Bank acct.-protecting org.
- 29 Wealthy
- 30 Cake directive Alice obeyed
- 31 Soda bottle buy
- 32 Permit
- 36 Arrange new terms for, as a loan
- 37 Bart's bus driver
- 38 Perceive aurally
- 40 Terrier type
- 41 McGregor of "Doctor Sleep"
- 44 "Total" 2017 event visible in a coast-to-coast path from Oregon to South Carolina
- 46 Very dry
- 48 Soft French cheese
- 49 President #40
- 50 Diamond quartet
- 51 Off-the-wall
- 52 Perfect
- 56 Govt.-owned home financing gp.
- 57 Gave the nod to
- 58 Wealthy, to Juan
- 60 Corp. execs' degrees
- 61 January "white" event
- 63 "For \_\_\_ a jolly ..."
- 64 ATM giant

UPDATED EVERY DAY!

## UT & UT NORTH

### University Terrace 4BR 2BA



Starting at \$395/month

LOWEST RATES  
WALK TO CLASS  
UTILITIES INCLUDED  
FREE PARKING  
WASHER/DRYER INCLUDED

### University Terrace North 4BR 4BA



Starting at \$455/month

NEXT TO CIRCLE K - BESIDE UNCC ON JOHN KIRK RD.

980-226-1071



# Looking back and moving forward

*Catching up on what you missed  
and what's coming*

by Sam Palian  
Sports Editor



It has genuinely been an outstanding year for the Charlotte 49ers, and it seems that with some other sports starting their seasons or getting into conference play now that it's probably going to continue to be. Outstanding doesn't mean better-than-ever in all cases or that the Niners don't still have room to improve. Of course, there is always something to get better at and no one wants anyone to become complacent, and it seems that Charlotte programs feel that way more than anyone lately. Plus, the work didn't stop over Christmas break.

## Football

Charlotte Football had an incredible season and made so much history in their seventh year on the field. By the end of the season, they were countless unbelievable moments, but it wasn't all touchdowns and wins. Obviously it was a historic year, but more than anything, it shows progress. Head Coach Will Healy arrived and helped to guide the program into somewhat of a turnaround season but again, no one is settling. A win in the Bahamas would have been great and a conference championship would have too, but the season that Charlotte Football is nothing to ignore. While the bowl game against Buffalo was a 31-9 loss, the fact that the team made it there at all is impressive, though the whole point is that everyone should come to expect it.

"We're going to be hungry. This isn't how we wanted to end and I think it's going to motivate us going into the offseason and we're going to work harder than we've ever worked before," Quarterback Chris Reynolds said.



Charlotte Men's Basketball celebrates winning Hornet's Nest, photo by Chris Crews

## Men's basketball

Here's the thing: this whole idea of having amazing seasons but never being satisfied is wonderful. It's especially wonderful if multiple programs experience a great enough season to have to remind people that making it to a bowl game shouldn't be the end of it. Men's basketball seems to be heading in the same direction, but

being 3-0 in Conference USA so far and at the top of the conference has also led Sanchez to make the point that no one should be overthinking what that means. There are 11 more games and almost six more weeks until the conference tournament begins. It's not time to think that far ahead, it's time to focus on right now, the next practice and the next game. As Sanchez would say: "Be where your feet are." Still, this is the first time

that the team has started the conference 3-0 since the 2012-13 season and that was the final season that program was part of the Atlantic 10. In fact, the program began conference play 0-3 in 2018-2019 in Sanchez's first season as Charlotte's head coach. While this is just the beginning and the program was placed 12th out of 14 in the 2019 C-USA Preseason Poll, each of the three wins were over teams picked above Charlotte includ





Carson Johnson rounds the bases, photo by Chris Crews

ing the most recent win over fourth-ranked Old Dominion.

Coming up, the Niners continue conference play against Marshall on Thursday, Jan. 16 and WKU on Saturday, Jan. 18. WKU was picked first in the preseason poll and is currently 3-1 while Marshall stands at 2-2.

## Women's basketball

Charlotte tends to have a tough non-conference schedule and finished the 2019 preseason 9-2 with losses against Fordham and No. 15/14 Kentucky. The 49ers also found themselves picked sixth in the 2019 Conference USA Preseason Poll and are currently 1-2 in conference play. Consistent with how the team has fared over the past four seasons and how it tends to sway for most teams, they're getting better results at home (4-1) than they are away (4-3). While a loss is a loss, this team is better than their record often shows, and just like with the men's team, there's a lot of time left in this season.

"We have to understand that we have to be better to close a game out but we also need to understand that we're not a bad team. We're a very good team and we're going to have a

lot more opportunities to win games in this league," Head Coach Cara Consuegra said. "Just a long way to go."

## Track & Field

The Charlotte 49ers Track & Field team began their indoor season in December 2019 and will continue with the Virginia Tech Invitational beginning Friday, Jan. 17. The men and women both performed well to kick off the season, seeing Niners secure several of the top spots and win multiple events. Keon Howe, Elijah Cole and Robert Yardley took the top three finishes in pole vault and Gabe Nash won the 60-meter dash event. Anthony Richarfson, Brandon Smith and Justin Leaston also collected the top three sports in the 60-meter hurdles while Jurcek Korpik Lesjak and Austin Gallagher finished first and second, respectively, in the weight throw. The women also won several of their events as Tracey Manigualt won the 60-meter dash with Imani Rivas, Alex Council and Taylor Boykin-Roach not far behind her, taking all top five spots. Eve English and Riley Felts also won their events in the high jump and pole vault, respectively. Megan Cook collected a personal

best in the weight throw to get second and in fourth was Mateya Haintz. What's very promising about this indoor season is that the underclassmen are performing especially well, boding well for the overall results and development of the program in 2020.

## Baseball

There are only 31 days left until Charlotte Baseball takes the field again on Friday, Feb 14. to kick off a home stand against VCU at 3 p.m. at Hayes Stadium. This season begins with the program's first new head coach since Loren Hibbs retired in 2019 after 26 years with the program. As the program has teetered between winning and losing seasons over the last decade, a new season with a new head coach in Robert Woodard and a new emphasis on data analytics, changes have certainly hit the baseball program quickly much like other Charlotte 49ers programs over the last few years. Charlotte is 13-6 against VCU and this series kicks off the first of eight matchups before getting into conference play on March 13 against UTSA. Charlotte takes on quite a few tough opponents throughout their season including

an early game at Tennessee on Feb. 18; a team which the Niners are 1-3 against so far. East Carolina, NC State and Wake Forest are also some of the programs that Charlotte has a long in-state history with. The 49ers host a home stand March 6-8 against East Carolina who leads Charlotte 19-5. Wake Forest and NC state will both take on Charlotte at BB&T Ballpark, but first the Niners will travel to Raleigh to take on the Wolfpack on March 10 before meeting them again in Charlotte on March 24. The Charlotte 49ers are 4-14 and 0-4 at BB&T Ballpark against NC State, the Niners only fell 5-6 in the most recent matchup in 2019.

Wake Forest, however, has been giving Charlotte trouble for much longer and lead 32-18-1. The most recent loss to the Demon Deacons came in 2019 at Hayes Stadium where the Niners suffered a 12-point loss. Of course, Charlotte is 2-2 against Wake Forest in the last four games and the only meeting between the two teams at BB&T Ballpark came in 2018 when Charlotte won 13-1 after beginning the game with four runs in the first inning.

## Softball

Once again, a new head coach in Ashley Chastain has taken over the Charlotte softball program that will hit the field for play starting Feb. 7-9 with the Charlotte Invitational. While the program seems to filter in plenty of talent consistently, they have not had a winning conference record since 2011 when Charlotte was still a part of the A-10 and had not yet rejoined Conference USA. One important goal for Chastain and the team will be making sure that the program feels like a family, but also that the talent they have and bring in will be better-developed and utilized in the coming seasons. Charlotte baseball and softball have consistently recruited and pulled quality athletes from North Carolina, and Chastain hopes to continue to foster those relationships with local talent and to get the program to a conference championship and NCAA postseason.



# CHECK YOURSELF BEFORE UREC YOURSELF

A guide to navigating the new recreation center



by Olivia Lawless  
Lifestyle Editor

Photo by Niyathi Sulkunte

After a year of construction and anticipation, it's finally done. The new UREC is five glorious floors of all the fitness equipment you could want. It has wonderful open spaces with giant windows and plenty of new equipment. The only problem is that all that space and equipment can be kind of overwhelming, especially for people who aren't accustomed to large workout spaces—or for people who aren't accustomed to going to the gym at all.

Generally, gyms will have equipment organized by body part: an area for leg machines, an area for arm machines, an area for free weights, and usually a long row of cardio machines. Although the center is organized by floor, much of the equipment is scattered around. You can walk around at any time to see where the machines are, but to some people, wandering around while others are exercising (or while you're trying to exercise) sounds like a nightmare. I'll give a quick breakdown of each floor so you don't have to go through that ordeal.

**The third floor, or the entry floor, is just the basketball courts.** It's the floor with the main entrance and main desk where you can check out things like towels and boxing gloves. I think they might have an office or different room tucked into the corner of this floor, but for the most part, it's just for basketball.

**The fourth floor is my personal favorite: open space and full-body exercise equipment.** It's directly above the basketball courts and is full of equipment such as tires, ropes, bars, medicine balls, kettlebells and even a sled. A running track that measures one-sixth of a mile loops around the whole area. This floor is good for people who like exercises that involve jumps, swings, or body weight exercises done on a mat. If you're only looking to lift weights, this floor won't interest you, but if you love cardio, it's a great area to check out.

**The fifth floor is the smallest workout area in the building.** It has a handful of weight machines, a few cardio machines, and one multi-purpose room with a mirror. It might be a good place to start if you hate working out in large spaces and want to use a bike, treadmill or elliptical. Otherwise, it doesn't have anything that the other floors don't have.

**One floor below the basketball courts, the second floor, is where the weights begin.** The second floor is full of machines and free weights, and it is easily bigger than SAC and Belk fitness centers combined. If this intimidates you, don't worry. One benefit to having scattered machines is that you can usually find a treadmill, stair climber, or even some weight machines tucked into corners away from other people. At the back of this floor, near the stairs, are a few rooms where most of the group fitness classes happen. With part of the floor filled with group fitness rooms, part of it filled with cardio machines, and part of it filled with weights, it is arguably the floor with the most variety.

**The first or bottom floor is another area full of weight machines**

**and connects to the pool.** The first and second floor are similar, but the first floor has way more room dedicated to lifting. About half this floor is taken up by a huge frame of at least six squat racks, with a few individual racks lining mirrored walls. The rest of it is full of free weights and weight machines. The indoor pool is connected to the rest of the floor via male and female locker rooms, which also have several shower stalls. This whole floor is great for weightlifting, especially for lifts like deadlifts, squats, and bench press.

Each floor also has bathrooms (mainly male and female, but a few individual all-gender as well) and lockers for your belongings. Each locker is about the size of an average backpack. Ellipticals, treadmills, bikes, and row machines are on every floor except the main floor as well, so you can go almost anywhere to work out on those.

I could write pages and pages of exact description of all the equipment. This is just a quick guide meant to save you from walking up and down the stairs twenty times trying to find what you want. Unfortunately, you still might do quite a bit of wandering around on the floors with weights, since many of the machines are not organized in any noticeable fashion. Though it's an annoying quest, I think the sheer variety of machines makes up for it.

In fact, you'll probably see machines you've never seen before. I know I did. Most machines have a picture and/or instructions on them, but if they don't, here's a tip for figuring out what they do: check out where the pads, foot rests, and hand grips are. The pads will be slightly soft and puffy material where you're meant to rest some part of your body, like your back, calves or head. Platforms where you rest your feet are generally flatter sheets of metal (though in some cases, you do rest your feet on more handle-bar shaped parts). If you're still totally clueless about the equipment after sizing it up for a while, just give it a rest and wait for someone else to use it so you can spy on them.

Also, realize that many machines achieve the same thing as free weights do, so you can have a productive workout without hitting fifteen different machines. On the other hand, if you previously avoided free weights before because of your discomfort or bodily limitations, this is a good chance for you to give all those fancy machines a go.

Overall, UREC is huge. And it's busy, especially the first and second floors. The combination of New Years resolutions, the newness of the gym and the subsequent closing of Belk and SAC fitness centers means that there's a pretty constant flow of people inside. It doesn't feel too cramped because of all the space, but it is definitely busy.

If you're one of the people that dreads working out in big spaces or crowds, the best advice I have is to bring a buddy. It can make you feel more at ease in the crowds. Otherwise just remember that you deserve to be there no matter your size, speed, or ability. The gym is all about health and self-improvement, so be safe and enjoy the new equipment!





## Global Engagement Scholars Program

The UNC Charlotte Global Engagement Scholars Program (GESP) offers global and intercultural academic and co-curricular opportunities to a wide and diverse group of students in any major. GESP is intentionally designed to include students pursuing degrees in academic programs with lock-step curriculum.

### BECOME A GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT SCHOLAR

- OPEN TO ANY MAJOR
- DEVELOPS STUDENT GLOBAL COMPETENCY SKILLS FOR CAREERS OF THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY
- OFFERS A MIX OF ACADEMIC, CO-CURRICULAR, AND INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE COMPONENTS
- PROVIDES STUDENT OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE SYNTHESIS OF GLOBAL LEARNING THROUGH A FINAL PORTFOLIO PROJECT

LIVE, LEARN,  
**BE**  
GLOBAL

704.687.7755  
[globaleducation@uncc.edu](mailto:globaleducation@uncc.edu)  
[global.uncc.edu](http://global.uncc.edu)

# EDGES OF THINGS

JESSICA BURKE &  
VALERIE HANKS

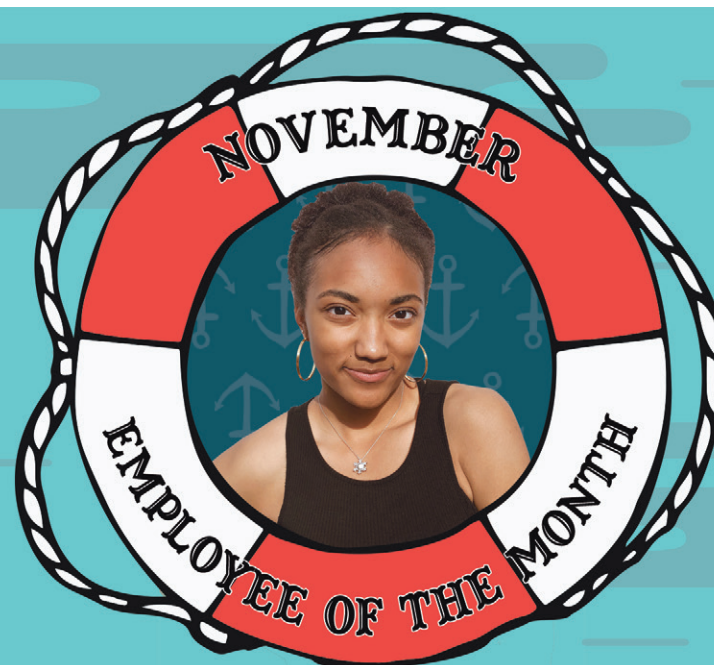
JAN. 5 - 24  
RECEPTION JAN. 23  
5 p.m. - 7 p.m.



Popp Martin  
Student Union,  
Art Gallery

UNC CHARLOTTE  
Popp Martin Student Union

   @UNCCUNION  
[STUDENTUNION.UNCC.EDU](http://STUDENTUNION.UNCC.EDU) • 704-687-7100



I'Cess Young is the November Employee of the Month. As Technical Director, she is responsible for maintaining Student Niner Media's websites and social media accounts. Since taking this position in summer, I'Cess has worked closely with TownNews, an outside vendor, to transfer all of Student Niner Media's websites from WordPress to a new platform. She's been busy providing training to all departments to update their websites as they see fit. Congratulations I'Cess on a job well done!