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# table of contents

	<b>4</b>	Letter from the Editor
Meet Chancellor Gaber	<b>5</b>	
	<b>6</b>	Charlotte athletics takes on tough task of returning to sports
Online tips for online classes	<b>8</b>	
	<b>9</b>	New Hobby Guide
Not Your Average Office	<b>11</b>	
	<b>12</b>	Six Movies to Stream this Fall
Charlotte looks to go "all in" with rebrand	<b>17</b>	
	<b>18</b>	Election Guide 2020
	<b>23</b>	
	<b>24</b>	Construction update

# Letter from the editor: This year is different

Dear Niner Nation,

I'm going to be honest. This year has been hard. It feels strange to write a cheesy letter that says "welcome back to academia!" as if things are business-as-usual. Things aren't business-as-usual. Things aren't like last year, or the year before. So that's not the letter I'm writing.

This year has challenged all of us physically, academically and emotionally. 2020 is not what I anticipated. 2020 has brought me some of the most difficult times of my life.

New Year's is my favorite holiday. There's something about making new goals, experiencing new beginnings, that really motivates and inspires me. A clean slate. A year of possibilities. I spent New Year's Eve 2020 in my apartment with my best friends. I even had a New Year's kiss. I had a long list of resolutions. I was having a great year as Editor-in-Chief, I had a fun part-time job, I was feeling good mentally and emotionally. I recognize the cliché, but I really did think this year was going to be a good year for me and those around me.

So when March came and I was locked out of my newsroom, missing my friends and struggling to attend my now-online classes, 2020 didn't seem so bright anymore.

Now it's nine months into 2020, and I've spent six of them affected by a pandemic, beating myself up for being unmotivated, unhappy and clueless on how to exist. I've punished myself for my mental illness making everything more difficult. I've looked at other people and thought they were "coping" better than I have been. I've looked at my list of resolutions and thought of how much of a failure 2020 has been. I've thought about how much of a failure I am.

How messed up is that? Not only has 2020 brutally kicked my ass, but I've assisted it in the process. And I am sure I'm not the only student who feels this way.

A lot of people are excited about the beginning of

the semester, even with all the unknowns, and I'm truly happy for them. But I am a little scared. I am nervous. I am afraid that it will just be a semester of 2020 continuing to do what it's done to me all year.

So I am going to make *new* New Year's Resolutions, and I invite you to join me. There are three months left in 2020. Although that doesn't sound like much, think about how much changed from January 2020 to March 2020. Three months is longer than we think. While it seems as if COVID is not going anywhere anytime soon, we can adapt as best we can and make the most of the remainder of this unpredictable and peculiar year.

## **Resolution 1: Stop comparing yourself to others.**

We hear this everywhere from all the self-love gurus and motivational Instagram stories. However, I feel like it's especially important right now. We're literally living during a pandemic where almost every aspect of our lives is altered. People are going to deal with that in different ways. Yes, even after all this time. It's still okay to be kind to yourself. It's still okay to be figuring things out. You don't need to be on a fitness journey because your friend is running every day. You don't need to be learning a new skill. You also don't need to stop if you're on a roll right now. Wherever you are is okay, as long as you're going forward.

## **Resolution 2: Stop measuring your days and worth in productivity.**

Productivity, while valuable, should not be the goal of every day. We must get tasks done. However, when you find more worth in a productive day than in a restful one, your brain and body may get tired, and your self-worth, warped. You are worthy of love, rest and happiness even if you end your day with a couple things unmarked on your to-do list.

## **Resolution 3: Appreciate your relationships (including the one with yourself).**

During a time when quality time with loved ones may be limited, it is imperative to appreciate our

relationships. COVID-19 has made me realize which relationships feed me positively. I have loved and cherished the time I've spent with my inner circle during this time. Calls to my family have revived me on difficult and exhausting days. Watching Schitt's Creek with my roommates has been a huge source of joy. Texting my best friend at UNC Chapel Hill throughout the day reminds me that I'm loved.

Connecting with others is something that truly makes life worth living. However, connecting with yourself is just as, if not more important. I have been relearning how to enjoy my own company during this pandemic. It is ineffable how important it is to be able to be alone with yourself. Listen to your body and mind, and give it whatever it needs. Whether it's with a book, meditation, journaling, or watching Schitt's Creek by yourself--appreciate the relationship you have with yourself. Be kind to yourself.

These are three resolutions I plan to uphold for the remainder of 2020 and I invite anyone to join me. We have three months left--three resolutions. I know I can handle that. I know you can too.

Or even if you don't achieve these goals specifically, I challenge us all to make the best of this semester, this academic year, and the rest of 2020, wherever it takes us. This year is different, but it can still be good. We can still make it a good one, for ourselves and each other. I think making the most of this year, as well as life, boils down to being kind to ourselves and each other.

Here's to a good, although different, year. And from all of us at the Niner Times: Welcome back. We've missed you.

Best wishes,

Madison Dobrzenski  
Editor-in-Chief



# Meet Chancellor Gaber

*Dr. Sharon Gaber, our new chancellor*

by Megan Bird  
News Editor

Living in a time where uncertainty is the norm can make it difficult to appreciate positive changes. Many students might forget that behind all of the Niner Notices, promotional videos and notorious UNC Charlotte Bookstore emails is a new face: Chancellor Sharon L. Gaber. Gaber was ushered in as UNC Charlotte's fifth chancellor and second female leader (after founder Bonnie Cone) on July 20, 2020.

Gaber's appointment was long awaited, with the search process beginning in late August 2019 when the UNC Charlotte Board of Trustees appointed a 16 member search committee led by Michael Wilson ('93). The Committee submitted 65 names to the UNC Charlotte Board of Trustees and three candidates came to campus for interviews. Two names were sent to UNC System Interim President Bill Roper who submitted Gaber as the final candidate for the Board of Governors' approval.

She holds a bachelor's degree from Occidental College, a master's degree from University of Southern California and a doctoral degree in city and regional planning from Cornell University. Before her five years as president of the University of Toledo, she spent six years as provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Arkansas and also served as interim provost at Auburn and as a faculty member and administrator at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Perhaps of more importance to students, however: Gaber says her favorite spot on campus is Lake Hechenbleikner, where she walks her dog on the weekends (points to her for already learning that name). Like many of us, she works out in the Bissell House garage to stay sane during quarantine and even purchased one of those interactive workout mirrors. Since arriving in Charlotte she has enjoyed eating outside at restaurants in Uptown



and Southend, though she wouldn't turn down a meal at Crown Commons (jury's still out on SoVi, though-- sorry y'all).

Gaber has the unenviable position of starting her tenure during the coronavirus pandemic. One of her first duties as chancellor was convincing the UNC System Board of Governor's to push UNC Charlotte's in-person start date back to Oct. 1. Now, she says students can expect to hear early in the week of Sept. 21 whether in-person classes will resume as planned.

"It's interesting because when I

interviewed here the pandemic hadn't started, but when I accepted the job it had," said Gaber. "I was the president of a university somewhere else going through some of the issues that UNC Charlotte is. The nice thing here is that we had a team working on it already and we now have three additional weeks."

Gaber tells the Niner Times that aside from navigating the pandemic, she hopes to get started on the new strategic plan (the current one expires in 2021) and, in the long term, earn Research I status, a distinction based on the number of doctoral students and external research

grants. She has already met with city and county officials to strengthen community ties and hopes to continue building upon those relationships.

"I tour the colleges and walk through the buildings with the deans and only meet two to four people," says Gaber, whose favorite part of the job is interacting with students and faculty. "I can't wait to be at the point where people are back on campus. Even if we wear face masks, that's okay."



# CHARLOTTE ATHLETICS TAKE ON TOUGH TASK OF RETURNING TO SPORTS

After months of being on the sidelines due to COVID-19, Charlotte Athletics looks to safely return to sports this Fall

by Bradley Cole  
Sports Editor

Photo by  
Chris Crews

The last time a Charlotte 49ers sports team competed in an NCAA event was in early March when both the women's basketball and softball teams picked up wins on Mar. 11.

Shortly after, Conference USA canceled all games for the rest of the athletic season in order to stop the spread of Covid-19. The rest is history.

Since then, life has become a lot different. Face masks and social distancing is the new normal and uncertainty is an everyday thing. One thing is certain though, athletic events will look a lot whole different this year and beyond. The days of maximum capacity crowds are over for now.

Charlotte athletic director Mike Hill and his team spent the summer working to find a safe way to bring back athletes to the playing field and eventually fans for the 2020-21 athletic season.

It's a long road that will have a few bumps along the way. Hill and the Charlotte athletic department have put in measures to prevent the spread of the coronavirus since athletes came back to campus on Jun. 15, even though the NCAA permitted voluntary workouts for select sports starting Jun. 1.

"We were not comfortable bringing back athletes until June 15 because we wanted to ensure the protocols we had in place were fully vetted by medical experts and people on campus," said Hill. "We are pleased with the results thus far."

The summer has seen a lot of big-name schools report clusters of coronavirus cases inside their athletic departments. Charlotte has not seen any burst of positive coronavirus cases since athletes have come back.

"You're seeing around the country teams have had outbreaks and we are fortunate that thus far we have not," Hill said. "You certainly hold your breath every week there is a test."

Some of the protocols that have been put in place include the weekly testing of athletes and the staff that works closely with them. Temperature checks

and questionnaires occur on a daily basis when players and staff go in for the day. Social distancing is practiced along with masks. During the football season, football players will be tested for COVID-19 three times a week by Conference USA.

Unlike other years, the outside public isn't allowed to attend the football team's preseason practices.

It's no surprise the new protocols have been an adjustment for everyone involved, but Hill likes the progress that has been made by the teams that have been back on the practice field.

"I give our coaches and our athletes a ton of credit. They are walking the walk," said Hill. "It's not easy to do. Part of why it's not easy because it's not a lifetime habit."

Even though there haven't been many cases for the Charlotte athletic department, Hill knows there's a chance a player or staff member could contract the virus. If that happens, Hill wants to ensure people there are appropriate plans in place.

"If we had an outbreak, a lot of it would depend on the numbers but we have protocols in place in accordance with university and county guidelines related to quarantine and contact tracing," said Hill. "Depending on the number, that could affect your ability to practice."

Another point of contact the school will keep a close eye on is when student-athletes travel to other schools for games. Given the athletes will be going into new territories, new protocols will also be implemented.

"I think you will see our coaches and health staff have our athletes on lockdown while we travel so they are not engaging with other people," said Hill.

Another big question around the country for athletic teams is whether or not fans will be able to attend games. And if so, how many?

Programs around the country such as the University of Georgia and Tennessee have started to announce plans to bring back fans to football games at 20-25 percent capacity.

For Charlotte, there will be no fans for their home

opener against Georgia State on Sep. 26. As of Sep. 1, North Carolina legalization does not allow groups of more than 50 people in outdoor spaces, which would prohibit fans at sporting events in the state as the state is still in Phase 2.5 of the reopening process.

"These decisions will be institutional," said Hill. "For us, we unfortunately still don't have a plan that we are prepared to announce. We have been working on a variety of scenarios all summer long from no fans all the way up to as maximum capacity that we can possibly accommodate."

No matter what decision the athletic department decides to go with, it will be approved by the appropriate local health officials.

"The reality is that no matter what plan we develop, it's gonna have to be a plan that our county and officials and state are comfortable," said Hill. "We are a part of a larger community and we want to make sure we don't contribute to community spread."

Hill looks to wait to see what the status is for the state's reopening plan to make any final decisions on the football's team other three home games. After the Sep. 26 opener, the next home game for the 49ers is Oct. 17 against Florida International.

The Charlotte football team will be the only team that is 100 percent going to take the field this fall as of Aug. 31. Men's and women's soccer and volleyball had their seasons postponed to Spring 2021 on Aug. 21. There has been no decision made on the cross country season.

No matter what happens this fall, Hill hopes the team and players focus on what they can during the time of uncertainty.

"What we have talked about as a program is that we need to focus on and what we can control here," said Hill. "And that's following our protocols and preparing for a season."



# FIVE ONLINE RESOURCES TO IMPROVE DISTANCE LEARNING

Websites and applications that will increase your socially-distanced productivity

by Brandon Mitchell  
Asst. Layout Editor

If you're anything like me, online classes have made you less productive. Due dates are difficult to remember and motivation is hard to find. Below I've listed a few online tools that have helped me over the past few years in hopes they will help you too.

1. Grammarly is already quite popular due to its aggressive marketing campaign. Still, this website is a must if you intend on writing at all this semester. Even emails can benefit. Everyone messes up on occasion, and unlike us journalists, most students do not have a copy editor on-call. Grammarly's free version will catch a grand majority of those basic mistakes. It isn't perfect so don't take its advice as gospel. But it will save your

ass now and then. There is a premium version that detects more advanced issues, but it's not worth the costly monthly subscription. Just stick to the free version. It'll get the job done.

2. If your computer's webcam is a bit dated, or if you want to look a bit more spiffy during class, DroidCam is here to help. This app allows you to use your phone camera as a webcam while on calls. There is a free version available. However, I recommend springing for the five-dollar premium version. It unlocks high definition streaming and a couple of other helpful tools. DroidCam is only available on android, but iVCam Webcam is a solid alternative for apple users.

3. Hemingway App is another great free tool for student writers. Unlike Grammarly, Hemingway App focuses on making your writing as readable as possible. It will highlight unnecessary phrases, pesky adverbs and weak verbs. It will make your writing more understandable and assertive. All my essays and articles get repeatedly checked through this site, and so I based this recommendation on ample experience. Use this site in conjunction with Grammarly, and your writing will improve.

4. Like most things in college, calculators are not cheap. TI-84s, the bare minimum for any college math course, will cost at least one-hundred dollars.

Wabbitemu is a free workaround for that. This app emulates every version of the Texas Interment line of calculators perfectly. I've been using this high school and have never had any issues with it. My friends have even often mistaken my phone as the actual calculator while using it. Your teacher probably would not have allowed this in class before, but with distance learning, that may no longer be an issue.

5. You most likely already have a preferred note-taking app. I use Google Docs or Evernote. That isn't my recommendation though. Padlet is an online corkboard. It's a straightforward program for making quick little notes to your future self. The notes can be texts, but you can also post documents and files. It can also be shared with a friend if you have a project together.

This listicle isn't gonna solve all the problems that came with our online switch. It'll make some things easier, but things might still be rough regardless of the efficiency of your online workstation. There are plenty of other online resources to increase optimism between classes. I encourage finding your own. I enjoy playing Scribbl.io and Catan Universe with my friends between assignments. Make sure that you are taking care of yourself in addition to your grades.



Graphic of Online Conference Call by Alexandra\_Koch via Pixabay

# NEW HOBBY GUIDE

## What UNC Charlotte students have been up to during quarantine

by Hiral Patel  
Opinion Editor

I can't speak for everyone, but I can say that most of the people that I know including myself were used to constantly going out. As soon as I wake up, I would leave my house and come back at night most of the time. Getting food, working out, watching a movie, working a job, whatever I wanted to do involved leaving my house.

The Covid-19 pandemic hasn't been great for anyone, whether they were directly impacted by the virus or not. When the stay-at-home order was first issued a lot of people like my friends and I did not know what to do at home. Those who held jobs could not go to work as businesses and institutions were shut down, using an electronic screen became tiring and started to strain users' eyes, and with the scare of catching the virus, many did not want to go out for something as simple as a walk.

After online classes were over from the Spring 2020 semester, I was bored out of my mind and wanted to do something about it. I wrote out a list of all of the things I've wanted to do but never had time for such as getting back into shape. Sitting at a screen all day and only moving from point A to point B in my house had taken a toll on my physical and mental health. I felt lazy and sluggish. Because of my list, I started eating healthier by looking at blogs and TikToks on delicious and nutritious meals, and I made a workout routine with different exercises and yoga. Not only did I feel lighter, but I felt more energized to look for and try new things such as finding time for arts and crafts. I was able to design my room by putting up wall art, hanging lights, building and decorating furniture and I also found the time to go through my old belongings and clean it out or put it to use. Having a sibling at home helped a lot too, so I wasn't entirely bored. I basically had a best friend that I could spend my day with. My older brother taught me how to play certain video games, and trust me, I was never fond of them. We would just go on drives and even have a picnic in our backyard sometimes. We would even go to our uncle's house to help him take care of his garden; gardening was on his list of things he's always wanted to do.

But this was just how I spent most of my time during the quarantine. A lot of students around campus have spent their time similarly or differently. Mackenzie Lee, Junior at UNC Charlotte said, "Quarantine has given me the opportunity to truly focus on bettering myself mentally and physically. I've started to exercise three times a week and have pushed myself to become stronger and healthier." Another student, Jordan Williams, junior

at UNC Charlotte, took a different approach and focused on her love for pets and animals. "During quarantine, I adopted a puppy and fostered two kittens. I named my puppy Cookie and the kittens are named Princess and Buttercup. Quarantine for me hasn't been bad at all. I've enjoyed the time to myself and my animals."

We will continue to stay in a similar state as long as the pandemic is at its peak. I hope many of you are smart enough to not go out, or if you do, then I hope you are smart enough to wear a mask. But while you're home, I encourage you to try new things and make new memories. If anything, this is also probably the only chance you will get as a college student to go through your list of things you've always wanted to try.

**o b s e r v a t i o n s**  
KURT WARNKE

**Sept. 5 - Sept. 25**  
Q&A:  
Thursday, Sept. 17  
5pm - 7pm

Popp Martin  
Student Union,  
Art Gallery

UNC CHARLOTTE  
Popp Martin Student Union

@UNCCUNION





## SAFE

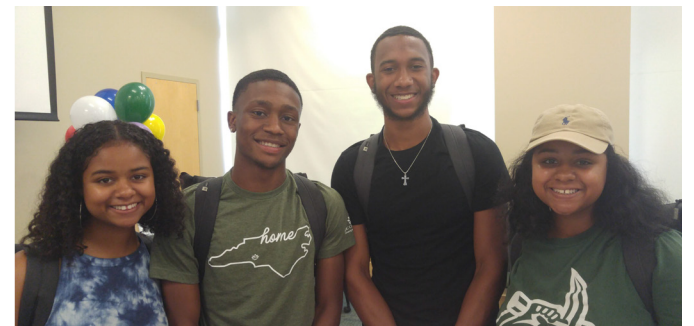
The SAFE Academic Year Program is an opportunity for first year students who were unable to attend Voyage to still get connected with our office, gain a mentor, and participate in our academic and social programming throughout the year. Visit [safe.uncc.edu/apply](https://safe.uncc.edu/apply) to learn more. Applications close on the first day of class, **September 7th**.

## NEW OFFICE LOCATION

We've moved offices!  
Come check us out  
in the Popp Martin  
Student Union  
**Suite 252!**

## QUEER YEAR 1

QY1 is a cohort based program that engages first year LGBTQ+ students through community building, intentional dialogue, and connects students to both campus and community resources.  
[identity.uncc.edu/education/queer-year-1](https://identity.uncc.edu/education/queer-year-1)



## SIGNATURE PROGRAMS

MLK Celebration • Activate! (Social Justice Training Program)  
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# Not Your Average Office

## The transition to working at home

by Julianna Peres  
Lifestyle Editor

There is nothing more stressful than having your dog barking, your sister yelling and the neighbor's lawnmower going in the background of a Zoom meeting. This is an adjustment period for everyone. Even for those with no "home office," they must now create an office space within which to work. Whether your job includes writing, teaching, creating, or calculating, being stuck at home 24/7 can make it difficult to concentrate.

Although I have worked from home before, I'm still not entirely

comfortable with it. However, my best practices revolve around organization, conversations and exercise. I tell everyone I know about the perks of having a physical notebook/agenda. Yes, Google Calendar is a wonderful tool, but putting something in your own writing will help you remember.

Regardless of whether it's a conference with my professor, a Netflix party with my best friend, or taking a midday walk with my dog, I write it down. This helps me keep my priorities straight. It also helps me make sure that I take breaks

and practice self-care. I know, self-care has been a buzz topic for the last couple of years, but it doesn't always mean bath bombs and face masks. Sure, it can be both of those things, as long as it allows you to relax. For me, I like to watch a comedy after work. Or sometimes I'll read one of my favorite childhood books. As long as it gives you a reprieve from your job, it's worth taking the time out of your schedule to do it.

Other than filling notebooks with due dates and appointments, working from home also means ensuring that you can be present for the job; however virtual that presence may be. Thanks to web cameras and cell phones, we are able to have a fairly good office experience in our own rooms. But, we don't always think of the things we'll need to "go to work." The first thing is wifi. AT&T, Verizon, Xfinity and Frontier are just a few wifi companies that you can purchase for less than \$20 a month. Perfect for a college-student budget! Now, in order to use wifi, it has to be connected to something. That something is either a computer, an iPad, a phone, or any other smart technology. I always make sure that my cell and laptop are fully charged at the beginning of the day. It doesn't reflect well on employees if their devices die in the middle of the workday. The final step to creating a functioning office environment in your own house is dressing professionally (at least from the waist-up). Since it is your home, I would suggest not donning the full suit-and-tie ensemble, but I would also recommend steering clear of inappropriately worded T-shirts or revealing dresses. Be comfortable, be presentable.

On the flip-side, there is plenty of boredom to go around and a lot of you may be on the hunt for remote work. Indeed.com and hireaniner.uncc.edu are great resources. Right now is the best time to build up your savings account and polish your resume. As fall approaches, there are also several openings for seasonal employment. You could be a Community Organizer for the upcoming presidential elections, a secretary for a nonprofit organization, or even a virtual tutor for kids who are being homeschooled.

Whether you've already gotten the hang of working from home or you're still overwhelmed with the remote transition, there is much to be learned during this period of change. I, for one, have learned that I work harder when no one is watching because my work has become qualitative rather than quantitative. I've also learned that, despite being really good at the "online-thing," I'd much rather greet my supervisor and coworkers in-person than on-screen. Here's to hoping that classrooms, office buildings, and movie theaters are soon able to reopen. Here's to also hoping that, until that time comes, we ask for help from our remote colleagues, we remain patient with these new adjustments, and we get through it all as wiser, kinder people.



Photo courtesy of Ivan Samkov on Pexels.com



# 6 Movies to Stream This Fall

With theaters still closed, check out these six stream-worthy movies

by Tyler Trudeau  
Community Editor

With numerous movie theaters across the nation remaining closed as the summer sizzles to an end, the fall movie season is set to kick off on an equally somber note. While the state of theaters might leave the fate of tentpole blockbusters like Christopher Nolan's "Tenet" and others up in the air, cinema is not dead yet as streaming services and Video On Demand platforms seek to bring the hottest movies directly to your living room. Films that were once meant to dominate the big screen such as Disney's "Mulan," are now opting for the small-screen journey, a path that could radically shake up the mix of contending films come this year's awards season. Before we get there, however, the fall season has plenty of small-screen debuts to entice audiences in the coming months before the year's close.



What was meant to rival fellow tentpole feature "Tenet" at theaters this summer, the live-action remake of Disney's iconic take on the story of Mulan will finally land in front of families across the nation as it streams exclusively on Disney+ on Sept. 4. However, there is one catch. Its arrival on the streaming platform that has yielded such hits as "The Mandalorian" and "Hamilton" will be marked for "Premier Access," meaning those who wish to watch the film right away will need to fork over another \$29.99 in addition to their current subscription. While Disney fans that are eager to catch the studio's latest live-action reboot might be an easy sell, some may opt to wait a few more months for the adaptation to eventually stream for free. Well, almost free.



While Disney+ may reside as the home for all the Disney classics of one's past, and the current Marvel and Star Wars obsessions of one's present, Netflix has retained its spot as the place to watch almost anything, including this Sherlock Holmes fan fiction. Adapted from the book series of the same name by author Nancy Springer, the tale of "Enola Holmes" finds the younger sister of the iconic detective embarking on her own investigations into various mysteries. With the film pitting "Stranger Things" alum Millie Bobby Brown as the titular character (created by Springer), it will also feature Henry Cavill and Sam Claflin as Sherlock and his brother Mycroft Holmes, respectively.



As awards season steadily approaches, Netflix is banking on a handful of original titles to set itself among the ranks of the annual performance-led contenders that typically visit movie theaters at the year's end. One of those titles is the ensemble thriller "The Devil All the Time," based on the novel of the same name by author Donald Ray Pollock. Following the converging tales of disparate characters in post-World War II Ohio, the film will feature Spider-Man actor Tom Holland in one of his most dramatic roles yet as he faces unholy preachers, serial killers and crooked cops.



# Antebellum

Streaming On Demand, Sept. 18

Photo courtesy of LionsGate

In the vein of horror thrillers like “Get Out” and “Us,” September’s “Antebellum” looks to once more compare and contrast the racial issues of our present with that of our past—of course by way of nightmarish alternate realities. After successful author Veronica Henley (Janelle Monàe) suddenly finds herself trapped in a pre-Civil War era period, she must carve out a desperate path back to her own reality. Set during the time of the Underground Railroad, the film will likely explore a far more nightmarish parable on the lives of 19th-century slaves. All while imagining how that dark past might further influence our future centuries later.

# The Trial of the Chicago 7

Streaming on Netflix, Oct. 16

Photo courtesy of Netflix

Another high-profile, performance-heavy film arriving on Netflix this fall is the story of a group of counterculture protesters that made waves during the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago. Known as the Chicago Seven, the group of defendants were charged with a slew of charges for their anti-Vietnam War objections, igniting a defiant movement that radicalized Nixon-era America. With writer-director Aaron Sorkin (“The Social Network,” “Steve Jobs,” “The West Wing”) heading the project—which has evolved from a long-delayed story from director Steven Spielberg—the film will run through the dramatic events that defined the Chicago Seven. Its fast, flamboyant script is just as much a draw for audiences as its stellar cast.

# On The Rocks

Streaming On Demand, Sept. 18

Photo courtesy of American Zoetrope

Bill Murray reteaming with writer-director Sofia Coppola for the first time since 2003’s “Lost in Translation,” the latest Apple TV+ original film to hit the streaming service looks to explore the familiar premise of rocky father-daughter relationships, through the lens of a dreamy ode to a pre-pandemic New York City. As father Felix (Murray) and daughter Laura (Rashida Jones) embark into the depths of the sprawling city, their bond is constantly tested as they struggle to understand the throes of misguided love. With Coppola experienced in not only delving into the psyches of troubled characters but also in subverting the norms of everyday culture (including cinema itself), the film could hold the same comedic and emotional resonance as her previous films. All while painting an intricate portrait of the unexpected world around us.



**WALK TO CLASS**  
**ALL 4 BEDROOMS**  
**2 & 4 BATHROOMS**  
**LEASE OR OWN**  
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# UNC Charlotte Looks to Go “All In” With Rebrand

After going through a rebrand during the summer, UNC Charlotte looks for a fresh start and look

by Bryson Foster  
Staff Writer

New uniforms and logos have the UNC Charlotte campus buzzing with enthusiasm. With the Charlotte 49ers starting to become a resurgent in the sports world, some new looks will be shown on the field and court this year. The new logo looks to encompass much more than just its campus but instead the city of Charlotte as a whole. The changes were made to help Charlotte stay up to date with what fans

**“As a university, we want to be seen by others as Charlotte’s one and only college team,”  
- Mike Hill, Athletic Director**

want to see. It was an in-depth process for the athletic department as they wanted to give the people a way of seeing the university in a new light.

“We wanted to develop some tools as we worked with a local firm in Charlotte that understands our university that would lead to an effective way to get feedback from our students, staff, and alumni,” said Athletic Director Mike Hill. “We wanted to show what the market at large thought it [Charlotte] represented as a whole; we really

wanted to get people talking,” said Hill.

The logo was meant to give the university some new excitement and enthusiasm headed into building years for the sports programs. With the basketball team finishing (16-13) in the regular season and the football team having a historic year, going to the first-ever bowl game in university history.

With programs that seem to have a brand new life, it was time for a brand new look. It was the first time the university had gone through a change like this since 2000.

Hill sees an emergence of Charlotte’s sports programs.

“There was a want to have a strong brand because we have started to become a powerhouse not just in our state but the region and the nation as a whole,” said Hill.

The new “CLT” logo has

been created to include the city of Charlotte as a whole. Another new change is the use of “9ers” and “49ers” logos respectfully.

Hill has seen the new logo already become something people in the city recognize.

“I wear a lot of gear with the new logo and I’ve had multiple people who don’t know me who come up and ask me if that’s the new 49er mark and say they love it,” said Hill. “That’s validation for what we are trying to achieve there.”

The pickaxe has also gotten a new look going from a “C pick” to the “All-in” pickaxe. New uniforms will be used for football and basketball teams this year with new colors of a darker hue of green, white and a brand new gold color on alternate jerseys. The new images look avery sleek and seem to pop. A brand new basketball court will start being used this year as well, with new logos and Niner green.

“The intention with this redesign was to develop a clean and simple look, just as other top schools have a logo that you look at and you know it belongs to that university we want that here and we invite it,” said Hill.

It is a new chapter for Charlotte and defines what the university will look like. It is great to see, and students will love what is being done with the brand. It is an exciting time that has the university shrouded in attention.

“As a university, we want to be seen by others as Charlotte’s one and only college team,” Hill said.



Photo courtesy of UNC CHARLOTTE



Photo courtesy of UNC Charlotte



# 2020 ELECTION VOTING GUIDE

Routes for registering to vote, early voting and absentee voting in North Carolina elections

by Emily Kottak  
Asst. Features Editor

As we all know, we are experiencing unprecedented times and are having to adapt to a new normal. Many aspects of our lives have changed and along with that, voting may look a bit different in the 2020 election. Here are some steps to help make the voting process efficient this year.

## Register to Vote

First of all, be sure to register to vote. North Carolina offers online voter registration, but you can also register by mail by filling out a voter registration form. There is no fee for voter registration services. The North Carolina State Board of Elections website provides a link to the qualifications a person must meet in order to register to vote in North Carolina. There is also a lot more helpful information on their website to help with

all things voting, including registering.

## Early Voting

The early voting period in the state of North Carolina runs from Thursday, October 15, 2020 to Saturday, October 31, 2020. Specific dates and hours may vary based on where you live.

## Absentee/Mail-In Ballot

Due to the pandemic, some may find it difficult to physically go to the polls on election day. Common solutions people are turning to are absentee/mail-in ballots. There has been confusion in regard to the difference between these two. The difference is that absentee voting still requires a person to apply for a ballot to be sent to them whereas mail-in voting is when a ballot is sent to a

person without them having to ask for it. For years, a reason had to be given for a person to apply for an absentee ballot, but that is no longer the case in several states.

16 states use absentee balloting as the only form of voting through the mail. In some states, like Maryland, all registered voters are being sent applications for a mail-in ballot which is quite controversial.

According to the North Carolina State Board of Elections, "To receive a mail-in absentee ballot for an election, a voter or the voter's near relative or legal guardian, or any member of a multipartisan assistance team (MAT) authorized to assist voters, must first use the State Absentee Ballot Request Form to request the ballot."

If a person is not registered to vote in their county of residence, they must register to vote no later than 25 days prior to the date of the election. For the November general election, the deadline for requesting an absentee ballot is 5 p.m. Tuesday, October 27, 2020.

For the November 2020 general election, only one witness is required for an absentee ballot. In all other elections the voter should mark the ballot in the presence of two witnesses. There is a list of prohibited witnesses and assistants which can be found on the North Carolina State Board of Elections website.

The two steps voters must complete after marking their ballot are: seal the ballot in the container-return envelope and complete the Absentee Application and Certificate on the ballot container-return envelope.

After the Absentee Application and Certificate is completed with all necessary signatures, the voted ballot must be returned to the county board of elections no later than 5 p.m. on Election Day. The envelope can be

mailed or delivered in person.

There is controversy regarding absentee/mail-in ballots as some see it as a less secure voting method. Some approve of absentee ballots but not mail-in ballots, especially in cases like where the secretary of state in Michigan mailed all registered voters in the state ballot request forms. Some believe that the fraud risk is higher when it comes to mail-in ballots, making it a controversial practice.

As we continue to adjust to this new situation, it is important to remember that we are still capable of having our voices heard. Getting to the polls may be more challenging this election than in previous years, but that should not stop the American people from voting for what they believe.



Photo of a Mecklenburg Voting Sign by Niyathi Sulkunte

## Important Voting Dates

### Early Voting:

Oct. 15, 2020-Oct. 31, 2020

### Absentee Ballot Deadline:

Oct. 27, 2020

### Voter Registration Deadline:

October 9, 2020

### Election Day:

November 3, 2020





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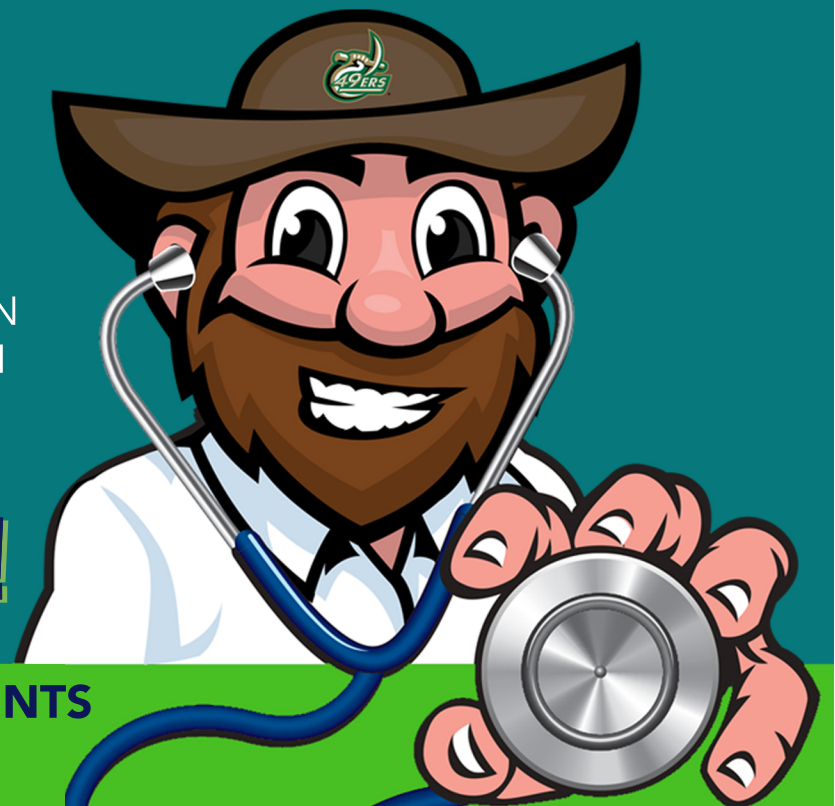
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[global.uncc.edu/GESP](http://global.uncc.edu/GESP)



# Construction Update

*What's under construction at UNC Charlotte now?*

by Olivia Lawless  
Managing Editor

Green and white are the proud colors of Niner Nation, along with our gold accent and—some people joke—orange. This is because, like the city of Charlotte itself, some part of UNC Charlotte's campus is constantly under construction. From a simple path snaking through South Village to the conclusion of the new University Recreation Center (UREC), something is usually being torn down, expanded, or built.

UREC and the Admissions and Visitors Center are two major projects that were recently completed in Fall 2019. UREC is located beside the Popp Martin Student Union, while the Admissions and Visitors Center is located in South Village, beside Levine Hall.

The most recent updates for on-going Capital Projects, which are renovation or construction projects over \$500,000, are for the new Science Building and Marriott Hotel and Conference Center.

As of February 18, 2020, forming and pouring columns and elevated slabs, as well as interior metal framing and electrical work, was in progress for the Hotel and Conference Center. Temporary lighting and the floor sink were also installed in the first few floors.



As of February 18, 2020, roof trusses, interior framings, interior spray and fireproofing were being installed in the Science Building. In-progress construction on the RUP and Data Center, which is part of the Science Building Project, includes interior painting and control installation. The estimated completion date for both the Science building and the Marriott Hotel and Conference Center is Spring 2021.

Construction around what used to be Scott Hall is ongoing. Students living in South Village and accessing food in South Village must take paths designated by on-site construction maps, such as the newly-constructed sidewalk behind Levine and Sanford. Traffic along Sanford Lane will be restricted to construction vehicles only. Residence Hall XVI, which is being constructed where Moore Hall was formerly located, has an anticipated completion date of July 2021.

At this time, UNC Charlotte is scheduled to start the first three weeks of classes with remote instruction, suspending in-person instruction until Thursday, October 1. It is unclear how this will affect construction on campus.





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