

# The Pine Needle

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Founded in 1947

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## UNCP Stays the Course, Other Schools Bail

**Students began the semester masked and socially distanced and they're ending it the same way**

By Audrey Bishop  
LaRuth Anderson

A drive-thru commencement ceremony kicked off the semester, for spring graduates who had been banished when the pandemic began, and a drive-thru commencement ceremony will wrap it up. While other schools bailed about two weeks into their fall terms, UNCP stayed the course, with faculty in masks and behind plexiglass (or completely online), and students masked and seated in chairs at least six feet apart (or completely online). From COVID clusters to campus quarantine, from temperature detection to antibody testing, from protests to counterprotests, this semester is definitely one that will go down in history at UNCP.

Externally the campus doesn't look much different, but upper-classmen know the picnic tables and food truck on the Quad are new and that parking spots have never been this easy to come by. Inside, there's floor stickers and seat stickers and locked water fountains and hand sanitizer EVERYWHERE. In fact, hand sanitizer and face masks are on everybody's "school essentials" list now. Before students came back to campus, faculty had the opportunity to switch their classes to be fully online or hybrid or to remain face-to-face.

Freshmen were assigned peer mentors through their freshman seminar sections, but still some expressed struggles in having to drop classes, not being affectionate with other people, and the cancellation of co-curriculars they would have otherwise participated in. Students aren't



Chancellor Cummings presided over a drive-thru commencement for Spring graduates on Saturday Aug. 8, after Fall semester had already started. Submitted photo/Ignayara Hernandez Martinez.

allowed to hang out in residence halls other than where they reside. The annual "Meet the Greeks" went online on Aug. 12, with students having to "meet" all the fraternities and sororities by watching videos on the Greek Life tab on the university web site. Pembroke Activities Council worked hard to continue to host events online, such as crafting of-

ferred synchronously with supplies picked up in advance. Counseling and Psychological Services transitioned to online for an hour every week to help students learn coping mechanisms they can implement into their everyday lives.

About 40% of UNCP classes were online, 30% hybrid and 30% traditional face-to-face. Four weeks into the term Chancellor

Cummings said he was "cautiously optimistic" about being able to continue with face-to-face classes, although students and faculty were bracing for a quick changeover to online delivery that never came. Student Health Services was open seven days a week, with a new full-time employee working on COVID

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## Most Students Won't See Rise in Tuition, Fees

by Sara Fox

An online open forum to discuss possible increases in tuition and student fees was held on Oct. 20.

During the event Dr. Zoe Locklear, the university's provost, explained that the Office of Academic Affairs wanted a 3% increase to tuition for out-of-state undergraduate and graduate students. Chancellor Cummings could have presented that proposal to the UNCP Board of Trustees.

The Board of Governors (BOG) prohibited tuition increase requests for in-state students this year.

As the Pine Needle goes to press, the BOG guidance has changed. The state's universities are prohibited from seeking an increase in any undergraduate tuition.

The purpose of the increase would be to fund recruitment and retention of the university's highly qualified faculty, according to Locklear.

"We don't want to lose our faculty to other campuses in the UNC system," she said. "We don't want to lose our faculty to out-of-state universities who are always recruiting faculty away to take other jobs."

Before the new guidance was issued in early November, Academic Affairs had hoped that

some of the increased revenue could be used for academic support for both undergraduate and graduate students, such as tutoring, mentoring and advising. They also hoped to direct some to graduate assistantships and the purchase of academic equipment, as well as to maintain equipment that is already present.

Athletics is requesting a \$10 increase in their fee, while Student Health Services is requesting an increase of \$6.50.

Dr. Lisa Schaeffer, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, explained that with the exception of Student Health Services, "Any proposed increase must be offset by a commensurate decrease in another fee, resulting in no net change for the students." In this case, a \$10 increase for Athletics can be offset with CARES Act funding for IT expenditures that students would normally pay toward the Education Technology fee.

Athletics Director Dick Christy said, "The majority of this revenue would go to offset some expanded healthcare costs and some changes coming in our athletic training offerings."

UNCP falls behind many schools in the amount of the athletics fee despite being the sixth largest department in the system, according to Christy.

He explained that about 37%

of the revenue that comes into Athletics goes right back out to the university by way of scholarships and keeping student enrollment up.

"We're hoping for a good financial recovery next year, but we know that it won't be enough of a recovery to address some of those healthcare challenges that are coming up, so we're just trying to be proactive and trying to keep this on schedule with catching up to our peers," Christy added.

Student Health Services' request for \$6.50 is the only additional cost to students, changing the fee amount from \$205.49 to \$211.99.

"It is necessary to increase the health fee to maintain a high level of service and improve the operational management of the clinic," said Dr. Crystal Moore, Director of Student Health Services. They're anticipating providing healthcare to 8,000 or more students in the next fiscal year.

Shaeffer explained the forum's purpose, stating that the university is trying to remain transparent to ensure that students receive as much information as possible about the process and specific proposals.

A diverse group of students was selected to serve on a committee dedicated to representing students and campus life in the

conversations. The committee completed their deliberation on Oct. 22. The changes passed and were forwarded to the Chancellor.

After the Chancellor makes his decision, the information will be presented to the UNCP Board of Trustees for their review and approval after this issue of the Pine Needle is sent to the printer. Check the Pine Needle website, pineneedlenews.com, to follow the status of the tuition and fees request.

If approved, the proposal must be submitted to the UNC system office by Dec. 4. It then would move on to the Board of Governors for consideration at their February meeting.

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# PRESIDENT TRUMP VISITS LUMBERTON



President Donald Trump's campaign rally stop at the county fairgrounds in Lumberton was attended by thousands.

PN Photo/ Zachary C. Young

## The Pine Needle

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Founded in 1947

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By Zachary C. Young  
Editor-in-Chief

President Donald J. Trump held a short-notice rally at the Robeson County Fairgrounds in Lumberton on Oct. 24. This marked the president's eighth campaign visit to the Tarheel State, as he hoped to secure North Carolina's 15 electoral votes.

"When I'm elected, I will proudly sign the Lumbee Recognition Act," Trump said, referring to legislation that had recently passed a committee hurdle in the U.S. House of Representatives and could be taken up for a vote by the full chamber. A similar bill sits in the U.S. Senate.

"It should've been signed a long time ago and the people of North Carolina want that," Trump said. He said it was his reason for campaigning in Lumberton. Lumbee Tribal Council member Jarrod Lowery took the stage first and addressed the crowd. An indigenous drum group also performed.

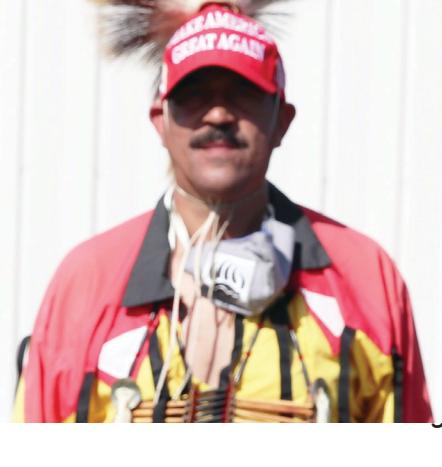
UNCP Chancellor Robin Cummings attended the rally and was acknowledged by the President. Cummings received criticism on social media for attending the rally the day after he urged students, staff and faculty to avoid large gatherings because of the threat of COVID-19. Hundreds of maskless people at the rally were bunched up with others wearing masks.

Trump told the crowd his administration would support tribal sovereignty by protecting Native American cultures, history and languages.

"I'm fighting for every American of every background, race, color and creed, including Native Americans. That's why we're here. The last administration promised to bring hope and change to 'Indian Country,' but they abandoned you the moment they got your vote," Trump said.

Some within the Lumbee community have expressed criticism of Trump's sudden support of the tribe, attributing it to just another election year political ploy. However, despite the timing of the announcement, some appreciate being on the president's radar.

Cochise Clark, 53, an enrolled Lumbee tribal member, is thankful for Trump's proposed recognition of the Lumbee, saying the recognition is long overdue.



"You have to take everything with a grain of salt. It is an election year, but he is the first sitting president to show any interest in us ever. So, I am going to give him the benefit of the doubt," Clark said.

President Trump promised to help Native American communities fight the epidemic

of murdered and missing Indigenous women (MMIW), that plagues Indigenous populations. In addition, Trump also vowed for school choice for Native Americans.

Congressman Dan Bishop and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue were in attendance and spoke to the crowd beforehand.

In addition to Native American issues, Trump mentioned his administration's trade deals with China and that he is the first president to "challenge" China in business matters. He promised to bolster American agriculture and generate manufacturing jobs in rural areas such as Lumberton.

Andrew Bailey, 52, of Suffolk, Virginia, drove over 200 miles to attend the rally. 2016 was the first presidential election that Bailey participated in and said he would vote for Trump this year as well. Bailey says this election is all about the economy and he trusts President Trump to lead the United States to an economic recovery. Bailey also urges everyone to exercise their right to vote.

"I don't care who you vote for, get out and vote," Bailey said.

The event yielded a turnout of approximately 3,000 supporters who screamed chants such as "Four more years," "We love you," and "Lock him up" referring to comments made about Hunter Biden's ties to Ukraine.

Wyatt Jones, 61, of Lumberton, is registered as an Independent and says that he plans to vote Republican in this year's presidential election. Jones listed his top three Presidents as Kennedy, Reagan and Trump.



# PROMISES TO RECOGNIZE THE LUMBEE



Trump said the tribe has been "wrongly denied federal recognition for more than a century."

PN Photo/ Zachary C. Young

*continued from page 2*

"The nation is not being pulled apart by Trump, it's the Democrats. They lost their way and they don't represent the people anymore," Jones said.

Trump said that Vice President Biden has said he will eliminate

Social Security and played a video of Biden debating Bernie Sanders on the issue.

Trump discussed the state of higher education and said he will eliminate the "radical indoctrination" of students and bring back "patriotic education."

Keeping with that theme, Trump promised to continue his support of the military, veterans and defense spending. He also made claims that ballots from military members who voted for Trump were found in trashcans.

The President also spoke

of his administration's efforts to make America the leader in space travel. Trump told his supporters that America will be the first nation to land a woman on the moon and the first to land a human on Mars. "We've already started the process," said the President.

*Below: Trump points out "fake news media" to the crowd.*

*Left: Fans at the Lumberton rally cheer for Trump. PN Photo Photo/Zachary C. Young*



## UNCP Stays the Course

*Continued from page A1*

response. UNCP's first COVID cluster was announced on Aug. 24 (Cypress Hall), the next one just 11 days later on Sept. 4 (Pine Hall). The university collaborated with the Robeson County Health Department on mass COVID-19 testing on multiple occasions, taking over the parking lot at the football stadium. Students weren't liking their quarantine food service and the loneliness, so they got serious and tried to give up partying. The next cluster wasn't announced until Oct. 22, and that was among student-athletes.

With competitions postponed, canceled or drastically altered, most of the Braves student-athletes found themselves reduced to individual workouts and to team meetings over WebEx, or short bursts of team practice interrupted by COVID clusters that struck track, football, volleyball and wrestling. By Nov. 4, all athletic activity for teams was suspended, with the exception of swimming and cross country. Some were consoled by ring presentation ceremonies

stemming from last year's conference championships (men's basketball, swimming, wrestling, and women's track and field).

North Carolina was a battleground state in federal elections again this year. It's a "swing state" where races end in a close call between Republicans and Democrats. Student organizations helped register students to vote, and the Office for Community and Civic Engagement ran shuttles to the polls. President Donald Trump visited the state at least nine times during his campaign for re-election, including

a late visit to Lumberton that became controversial as a mass gathering

every two weeks, and distribution in commonly touched racks is problematic. You will see that it's a compilation of stories that have been posted to the Pine Needle website over the course of the semester, some that have been updated to reflect later developments, and some that are being published for the first time.

This semester has been very challenging and getting adjusted to college life these days is pretty hard. We feel for the wave of freshmen who are experiencing college for the first time, under conditions they wouldn't have predicted a year ago. We feel for the graduates who won't parade in cap and gown next weekend with the friends they've made here, who won't enjoy the speeches and applause amidst a sea of black and gold. They head into a frightening job market of widespread unemployment or work-from-home if they can get it. It may be safe to say that after drive-thru commencement on Nov. 21, students will be happy to see the year 2020 in their rearview mirrors.

**"students will be happy to see the year 2020 in their rearview mirrors."**

impacting the university. As this issue of the Pine Needle goes to press, the country still can't say with certainty who will take the oath of office in Washington D.C. in January.

This paper edition of the Pine Needle is the first and last one of the semester. Because of social distancing requirements, the student staff could not work in the office to lay out a paper

## Age of U.S. presidents

*At the time of each president's first inauguration*

George Washington	57
John Adams	61
Thomas Jefferson	57
James Madison	57
James Monroe	58
John Quincy Adams	57
Andrew Jackson	61
Martin Van Buren	54
William Henry Harrison	68
John Tyler	51
James K. Polk	49
Zachary Taylor	64
Millard Fillmore	50
Franklin Pierce	48
James Buchanan	65
Abraham Lincoln	52
Andrew Johnson	56
Ulysses S. Grant	46
Rutherford B. Hayes	54
James A. Garfield	49
Chester A. Arthur	50
Grover Cleveland	47
Benjamin Harrison	55
William McKinley	54
Theodore Roosevelt	42
William Howard Taft	51
Woodrow Wilson	56
Warren G. Harding	55
Calvin Coolidge	51
Herbert Hoover	54
Franklin D. Roosevelt	51
Harry S. Truman	60
Dwight D. Eisenhower	62
John F. Kennedy	43
Lyndon B. Johnson	55
Richard Nixon	56
Gerald Ford	61
Jimmy Carter	52
Ronald Reagan	69
George H.W. Bush	64
Bill Clinton	46
George W. Bush	54
Barack Obama	47
Donald Trump	70
Joe Biden	78

Source: Library of Congress, White House

Graphic: Tribune News Service

**The Pine Needle**  
**pineneedlenews.com**

# Students Protest Chancellor's Attendance at Trump Rally



Junior Samuel Shelton (left) addressing student protesters outside Lumbee Hall, where Chancellor Cummings' office is located. Senior Anthony Mungo (right) draped in a LGBTQ+ flag, speaking to members of the Non-Violent Students Cultivating Change. PN Photos/Tyrique Weston.

**By Jay Locklear**  
**Contributor**

Oct. 26 marked the first day of what student protesters said would be a week of demonstrations calling for the resignation of Chancellor Robin Cummings after he attended a rally for President Donald Trump on Saturday, Oct. 24, at the Robeson County Fairgrounds in Lumberton.

Cummings' attendance at the president's rally came a day after he urged students, faculty and staff in an email message to refrain from "gatherings of any size if possible."

Elijah Bivens, a sophomore at UNCP, said that their anger comes from being told to social distance and wear a mask by the chancellor while he took the opportunity to attend a rally that lacked both. They are also angry because, to them, President Trump is against the inclusivity that this campus prides itself in.

"How are you a chancellor for the most diverse school in the South, but go to a rally for a man against that?" asks Bevins.

Chancellor Cummings released a statement Sunday following the backlash he received on social media, but, to the protesters, that isn't enough.

They think the statement glossed over the actual issues

people had with the chancellor's actions. Emma Quiorz Garcia says that this is why they're protesting, so they can ensure that their issues are being heard.

"We aren't asking for too much," she said. "We're just asking to be heard."

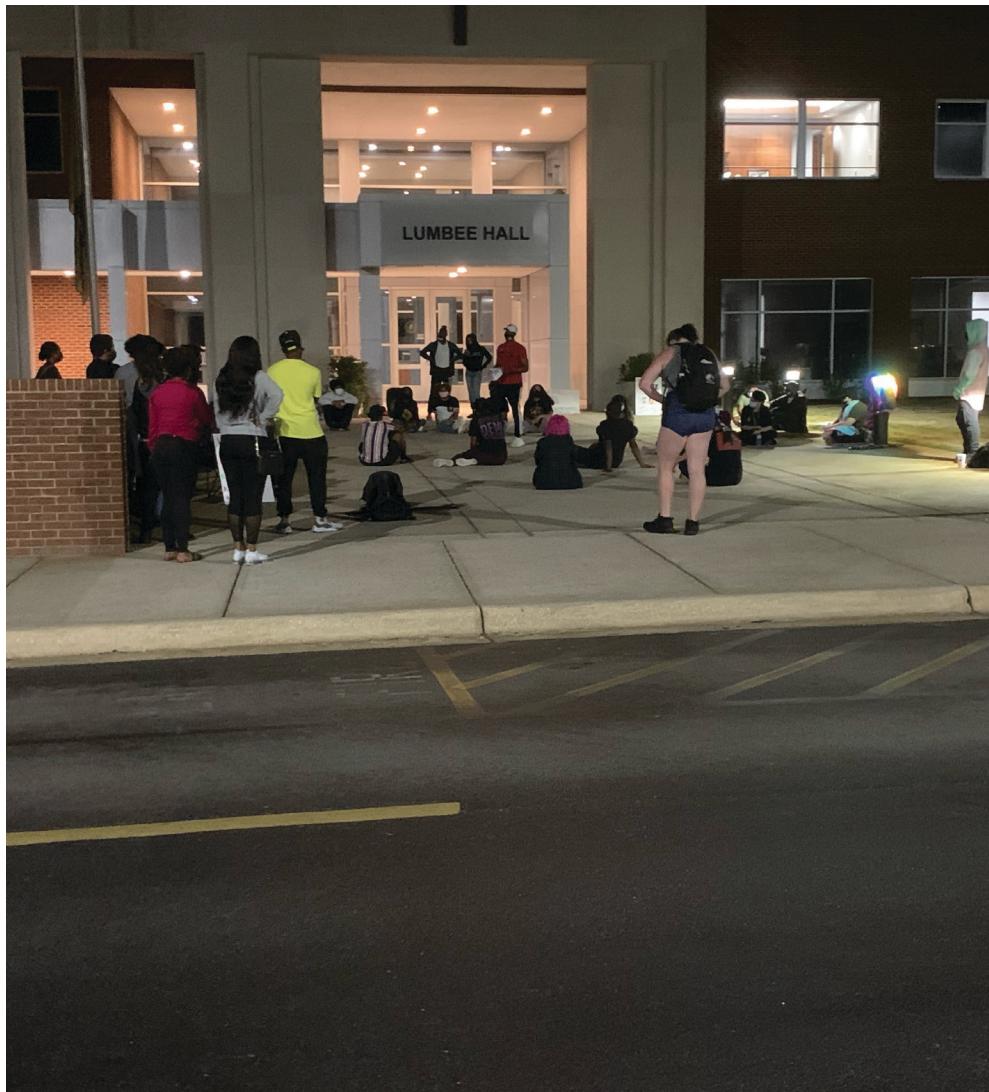
The protest, which started at noon in front of Lumbee Hall, was attended by approximately 65 people, although the size of the group varied throughout the day as student organizers advised participants not to cut class. Water, snacks and hand sanitizer were provided and masks were required.

Along with the gathering in front of Lumbee Hall, groups of students marched across campus chanting slogans such as, "What do we want? A leader! What did we get? A liar!" and "Chancellor Cummings, go home!" and "Hey ho! Chancellor Cummings has got to go!"

Campus police officers said that the protest had been well organized and that event organizers have been in constant communication with police. Students remained outside of Lumbee Hall until midnight and staged various demonstrations throughout the week, taking a break on Thursday. They resumed on Nov. 5 and since then have gone to online meetings only.



Aspheros Alexander sitting outside Lumbee Hall during the first day of demonstrations. PN Photo/Tyrique Weston.



The campus organization Non-Violent Students Cultivating Change demonstrated for six non-consecutive days and some nights. The protest has since become virtual on their Instagram page @NSCCofUNCP. PN Photo/Alyssa Hernandez.

# Students Start Counterprotest to Support the Chancellor



Counterprotesters show their support for Chancellor Cummings and do not agree with those who are calling for his resignation. PN Photo/Alyssa Hernandez.

**By Alyssa Hernandez  
Contributor**

On the second day of UNCP students calling for Chancellor Robin Cummings' resignation, another demonstration formed to support the chancellor. There were approximately 10 people at the counterprotest. Counterprotesters said he did the right thing by going to the Trump rally in Lumberton.

The counterprotesters stood peacefully across the street from the demonstration at Lumbee Hall. Both sides occasionally yelled at each other, but there were no physical altercations. The counterprotesters wore masks and appeared to maintain social distancing. On the plaza in front of Lumbee Hall, the original protestors performed several line dances during the night that brought many of them relatively close together.

UNCP junior Jillian Shroyer said, "It does not matter what side you are on politically. We are not here for a political reason, just to support the Chancellor."

Both groups have started petitions to further support their causes. Both sides are using change.org for their protest. They can be found on Instagram at savannahcallie and nsccofuncp.

The petition supporting the chancellor was started by Savannah Jones. Jones, a senior, did not participate in the counterprotest but said she would consider it if the petition doesn't help.

"I do not want to cause friction or drama with anyone. It was not the best place to protest as they were face-to-face," Jones said. "I feel like that would cause drama."

Jones said Chancellor Cummings can bring a lot of growth to this campus and credited him with the low tuition at UNCP. (UNCP participates in the state's low tuition plan known as "NC Promise" with two other schools in the UNC system.)

Sophomore Zachary Mayo provided this personal message for the chancellor: "I would like to personally say to the chancellor, I am sorry you have to go through this."



Sophomore Zachary Mayo supports Chancellor Cummings' attendance at a rally held by President Trump in Lumberton. PN Photo/Alyssa Hernandez.

# Group Asks for Accountability and Change

**By Victoria Brousseau  
Managing Editor**

Tensions were high across campus following Chancellor Cummings' attendance at a rally held by President Donald Trump at the Robeson County Fairgrounds in Lumberton on Saturday, Oct. 24.

Since August, Chancellor Cummings has been adamant about reminding students to avoid gathering in large groups, one of many safety precautions implemented this year in response to the coronavirus pandemic. After North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper relaxed the size limits on indoor and outdoor gatherings in September, Chancellor Cummings said UNCP would maintain the original limits of 10 people indoors and 25 outdoors excluding classes.

On Friday afternoon, Oct. 23, the Chancellor's office had released a statement asking students to stay vigilant over the weekend.

"We have come so far this semester, and I ask you to please take these final weeks very seriously," he wrote. "We must wear our masks and practice social distancing without fail. And please, do not attend or host gatherings of any size if possible."

The following day, Trump called

on Chancellor Cummings near the front of the crowd at his rally in Lumberton, where thousands of people, many of them unmasked, were crowded together.

Many students criticized the chancellor on social media throughout the rest of the weekend. On Oct. 25, he sent an email to the university, saying that his main reason for attending was to support the Lumbee Tribe at the rally, where Trump announced he would sign a Lumbee Recognition Act that currently has versions in the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives.

"While I did maintain social distancing given the seating arrangement provided and wore my mask throughout the event, it was still inconsistent with how we have navigated the fall semester under my direction," Cummings wrote in his email.

Photos and video footage of the rally show that social distancing was nearly impossible.

Freshman Nadia Gibson, who attended a protest outside Lumbee Hall on Oct. 26, said she felt as if Chancellor Cummings' emailed apology was not enough and that she doubts he even wrote it himself. Gibson said the students of UNCP are owed a real apology through actions. "Words are just words," said

Gibson.

Senior Jalen Ellis put together a group of students calling themselves Nonviolent Students Cultivating Change (NSCC), and they held demonstrations on campus nearly every day for a week and intermittently after that, before moving online.

Ellis spoke about the betrayal many students are feeling. "You [Chancellor Cummings] broke your own guidelines," he said, referring to the strict policy the university has adopted under Chancellor Cummings' instructions regarding COVID-19 precautions.

"We want honest leadership that will stand with the students," said Ellis as he spoke of the goal to achieve more accountability and honest communication between the administration, the community and the student body.

The protesters were met with a counterdemonstration one night from some students and local residents who said students were disrespectful in protesting the Lumbee Recognition Act. Ellis said that the point of the protest is to demand accountability and has little to do with Trump's announcement.

Ellis said accountability would include the Chancellor condemning the insensitive and hateful things

that have been said to UNCP students by the community. Ellis brought up the peaceful march against police brutality in Pembroke in June when students were met with racial slurs and the threat of gun violence by community members. Cummings issued a statement at the time, noting he was "saddened" and "heartbroken" by what the students were subjected to, which he witnessed firsthand as a participant in the march. (See story on B4.) Ellis also spoke of several examples of opponents joking about drive-by shootings on social media during their week of demonstrations after the Trump rally.

Cummings did not respond to a Pine Needle interview request, and he did not attend the weekly Student Government Association meeting online on Oct. 28, although he has a standing invitation to do so and was listed on the agenda. According to UNCP's chief communications officer, Jodie Phelps, Chancellor Cummings offered to meet with Ellis and other students on the first day of the protest and they declined. He met virtually with NSCC on Oct. 29.

"It was pretty much a one-sided conversation and inconclusive," said junior Samuel Shelton, who attended the WebEx with three other students.

# Bahr Receives First Patent in University's History

**Zachary C. Young**  
Editor-in-Chief

Dr. Ben Bahr, a professor of microbiology and biochemistry, recently received a patent for the treatment of Alzheimer's Disease and other traumatic brain diseases. Bahr has been with the school since 2009 and runs the Alzheimer's Disease Research Lab at UNCP's Biotechnology Center.

"We had the idea that there must be a pathway that tries to help repair the brain and we found drugs, and even natural products that help enhance that pathway. They're like little garbage disposals, these pathways. The drugs that we have makes these little garbage disposals work harder," he explained.

"We put these ideas into a patent because a lot of companies are stopping their Alzheimer's programs because they spend a lot of money doing drug development and then the clinical trials fail. We wanted to make sure that this new idea was out there in case the companies want to try it."

The university owns the patent, US 10,702,571, under its intellectual property policy for work conducted

on university time and with university resources. According to a university press release, the patent also includes compounds formulated from Bahr's previously patented work with Dennis Wright, Ph.D. at University of Connecticut.

"You must understand there are many types of scientists from all backgrounds and many different countries. People need to appreciate what it takes to develop a drug," said Bahr, highlighting the collective effort that goes into biomedical research.

Bahr expressed optimism in this newly patented treatment method, which consists of a combination of certain drugs and natural products that are in food to enhance the repair pathways to the brain.

"I am hoping this promotes collaboration with the pharmaceutical industry because those are the companies with the big dollars that help research move forward. We want to show pharmaceutical companies that UNCP has patented information which is exclusive technology that we get to use for the next 10-15 years," Bahr said regarding the patent's potential impact on UNCP.



Dr. Ben Bahr and his former student, Joanne Cooper. Photo/Ben Bahr

Bahr explained that Alzheimer's and dementia are essentially the same thing. The difference is that dementia is the symptoms of loss of mental function. This could come from strokes, car accidents, etc. Alzheimer's is simply the most common form of dementia.

Bahr has followed work from other laboratories who have done brain scans on patients with Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE) and has noticed that those scans look very similar to brain scans of Alzheimer patients. CTE is commonly found in football players and military personnel.

Because of his research, Bahr received grant funding from the U.S. Army five years ago to test whether blasts can create early signs of the risk factors associated with Alzheimer's. These tests were conducted at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland.

Bahr's lab had applied for two patents previously. He and his staff learned from the first two attempts to supply enough evidence and data to satisfy the United States Patent Office. Originally submitted in 2016, Dr. Bahr received news of the patent being approved the second week of July 2020.

## Students Say Inclusivity for LGBTQ+ Students Lacking

**Jay Locklear**  
Staff Writer

With no designated "safe space" on campus, some students feel as though UNCP is lacking inclusivity for the LGBTQ+ community.

The education organization GLSEN defines a safe space as "a welcoming, supportive and safe environment for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) students." The Safe Space Alliance defines it as a location with supportive staff, where LGBTQ+ students "can freely express themselves without fear. . . . a space that does not tolerate violence, bullying, or hate speech towards the LGBTQI+ community."

Michelin Henderson-Maldonado, the vice president of Spectrum, the LGBTQ+ student organization on campus, is making that kind of LGBTQ+ resource center her number one priority in helping

the university move in the right direction.

"Not having one is damaging to the community. It's really important for us to have that space," she says.

A resource center is not the only way to provide a better experience for LGBTQ+ people on campus. Henderson-Maldonado points out that other UNC-system schools have gender-neutral bathrooms that UNCP does not have. The president of Spectrum, AC Armbrister, says that every attempt to get gender-neutral bathrooms has gotten nowhere, along with gender-neutral housing.

However, it is not just up to UNCP to provide a safe space, says Hannah Baggott Anderson, the faculty adviser to Spectrum. People need to help each learn, and she has talked with the organization's members about how to help.

"One thing we talked about is that we're going to have

to take it back to the basics," she says. "Like, 'Here's the complexity of gender and here's the complexity of sexuality.'" Learning the basics allows for a better understanding of the complex community.

Henderson-Maldonado says people should hold each other accountable as well. Using a person's legal name, as opposed to the name they've asked to be called, and refusing to use the correct pronouns for a student, should not be accepted, she says.

Although inclusivity on campus is important for the LGBTQ+ community, it might not be the final goal. Anderson says there needs to be other kinds of change. The system is based on white heteronormative ideals, and it should instead grow into something where asking your pronouns is common.

"If things are going to get better, both culturally in the U.S. and at our university, I think

there needs to be some type of cultural shift. A transformation. Because otherwise, it's just going to feel like people are just going to start checking boxes," she says.

The Office of Student Inclusion and Diversity has been holding inclusion roundtables with Dr. Lawrence Locklear as a way to get input from different communities on campus about how UNCP can improve in helping them. The LGBTQ+ roundtable was held on Sept. 29. Affected parties hope changes will be implemented to provide a better experience for them on campus.

In the meantime, because some faculty and staff have undergone "safe zone" training in previous years, students who need a LGBTQ-supportive person to talk to, can look for the rainbow-striped safe zone logo on an office door or on an employee's web bio, or check out Spectrum on BraveConnect.



Members of UNCP Spectrum gathered to celebrate their community. Submitted photo/Delisha Sidbury

# When Doing Laundry Starts Looking Like a Privilege



Students use Braves Cards, or coins if they can find them during the pandemic-related shortage, to operate the washers and dryers like these shown here in the laundry room of UNCP's Oak Hall.. PN Photo/Andrew Thrift.

**By Andrew Thrift  
Contributor**

Students expect to spend thousands of dollars to attend North Carolina's state colleges, but in addition to tuition, room, meal plan, books and "fees," they might not have factored in the cost of washing their clothes.

There is no consistency across the UNC system in how students are charged in the residence halls, and at UNCP the cost of doing your laundry is exacerbated by the pandemic coin shortage.

Students pay by the load when using the machines that are provided by a third-party vendor in their residence halls.

At Pembroke, it costs about \$2 per load when washing and drying. The machines take quarters or the Braves Card. The exception is Courtyard, where each apartment has its own machines owned by the university.

"We are in the middle of a national coin shortage and they expect us to pay for our laundry with coins?" asks Casey Bell, a resident of Oak Hall. "I just go home to do my laundry because I know I won't have to pay for it there."

Some students have had

to add Brave Dollars on to their Braves Cards, which "is a pain," says Chloe Cramer of Oak Hall.

"We have to load \$10 or more onto our Braves Card at a time. Some students don't have the ability to put money onto their card, which is making it harder for them to do their basic necessities," she says.

Oak Hall resident Ashley Arriaga agrees that some students don't have the cash flow for washing their clothes on campus.

"I personally do my laundry at home, because I don't want to spend my money here. We don't know everyone's backgrounds. Some students don't have the ability to spend the money."

"With housing, it should definitely be included. Paying per load inconveniences most of us," says Katie Pressley of Cypress Hall. Like others interviewed for this story, she says, "I find myself taking my laundry home rather than paying for it here."

Chapel Hill also charges their students to wash their clothes. Lindsey Ware lives on that campus and says she pays about \$3 to wash and dry one load.

At Appalachian State University, the student government worked to get laundry included in the housing price tag, which was resolved in time for the current school year.

"I feel that this is especially important during the current situation with having to wear masks all the time and the constant need to wash our reusable masks," says Alyssa Svalina, a resident of ASU's Cone Hall.

Wilmington, ECU, Charlotte, and Greensboro have laundry fees included in their housing costs.

UNCP's Director of Housing and Residence Life Paul Posener says the school's goal is to keep room rates as low as possible for all students.

"If we were to include that cost in the room rate, it would increase the room rate for all students, which we do not wish to do," Posener says.

"The current room rate has not increased from last year, and our hope is to keep those rates low again next year. Our goal is always to keep costs low for students and not pass on any extra added costs."

Posener points out that UNCP has some of the lowest room rates in the UNC system.

"We are committed to making the total cost of education as affordable as practicable and keeping room rates low by not passing on additional pay-for-use service fees like laundry to all residential students, as only some residents take advantage of that particular service," he says.

Robbie Evans, a resident of Pine Hall, thinks UNC Pembroke is treating laundry like a privilege. "UNC Pembroke is marketed as an affordable school compared to other UNC-system schools," she says. "But I feel like if they were to add the laundry costs into our housing [bill], it wouldn't make a huge difference in the overall costs. If I have to pay two dollars every time I have to do laundry, I start to question how much money I am actually spending."

Evans says she, too, has started taking her laundry home. She only does laundry here on campus if it's an "emergency" or if she's unable to go home.

According to Posener, the university does not profit from the laundry vendor contract, and if there is revenue above the cost, that difference is put into student scholarships.

## UNCP to Allow Students to Use Preferred Names

**By Jay Locklear  
Contributor**

The Department of Information Technology (DoIT) is working on a system to allow students to use their preferred name on certain platforms at UNCP.

This system, which will incorporate Banner, Canvas, Braveweb, the roster verification system and others, will allow students to have their preferred name show up instead of their legal name.

This change is a result of interpretation of a portion of federal civil rights law known as Title IX, which prohibits sex-based discrimination in education by institutions who receive federal dollars.

The U.S. Department of Education (DOE) said in 2016 that schools must honor transgendered students' preferred names and pronouns and protect their privacy by not disclosing their gender status without consent.

Although aspects of the 2016 DOE guidelines, which also covered sex-segregated activities and facilities, were rescinded by the Trump administration and are now the subject of federal lawsuits, the Faculty Senate at UNCP

supports a preferred name policy.

"This doesn't just affect students. It affects faculty and staff as well," said Associate Vice Chancellor of Information Resources and Chief Information Officer Dr. Katina Blue.

Faculty and staff will be required to use a student's preferred name and pronoun, which will be made easier when that's all they encounter on their rosters.

Students and employees can also request a new Braves Card that would show a preferred first-name-only, according to UNCP Title IX Coordinator Ronette Sutton Gerber. But students need to know that kind of ID could not be used for voting in North Carolina.

Already this semester, DoIT enabled a modification in Canvas that allows students to select from three set pronouns: she/her, he/him, or they/them.

Once selected, these pronouns will show up beside the name of students on things such as discussion boards, preventing accidental misgendering.

DoIT is currently scoping out all possible platforms that will be affected by this.

"There are a lot of

applications that are not hosted at UNCP, and we need to determine which applications can hold a preferred name rather than a legal name," said Deputy Chief Information Officer and Director of Enterprise Applications Ray Buehne.

This means that all of the changes will not be fully implemented by the end of the year.

Some changes began this semester, while some will bleed into the Spring 2021 semester.

Project managers say they will be posting a schedule to let students, faculty and staff know what changes will be happening and when they will occur.

X



**Julia L Locklear (They/Them)**

Logout

Notifications

Profile

Files

Settings

Screenshot of Canvas' preferred pronouns update that students can control themselves for all classmates to see. PN Photo/Jay Locklear.

# December Session for Those Not Seeking a Break

Lakota Craft  
Contributor

UNCP is now offering classes in December, during a four-week session identified as "Fall 3" in Braveweb. Previously, the fall semester had only three configurations for undergrads: first eight weeks, second eight weeks, or the entire 16-week term.

Originally conceived as a standalone winter session, the new offering got tacked onto fall to maximize the availability of financial aid options for students and meet state guidelines, according to Associate Vice Chancellor of Enrollment Management Lois Williams.

During the pandemic UNCP students have been able to create schedules that consist of courses that are held online,

face-to-face or in hybrid format. However, this will not be an option for the new session, which will be offered strictly online.

The idea of a "winter" session is not a new one. UNCP piloted a version of it last December that was only online and only General Education courses.

The faculty were required to let the students pace themselves around their holiday schedules. Four classes were offered across four different departments and averaged 15.5 students each.

Dr. Aaron Vandermeer, chair of the Department of Music, taught Introduction to Jazz Appreciation last winter. He said a winter term helps students "get a little bit ahead on their Gen Ed requirements... [and potentially] lighten their load for the spring."

Vandermeer said it ended

up being about three weeks of instructional days and he enjoyed it. "It was the best off-term class I've had, compared with regular teaching in Maymester and Summer One," he said.

This year the courses will not be limited to General Education courses and will expand into major and minor courses, according to Dr. Richard Gay, Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences.

Despite the expansion of course options, students will not be able to register for much more than one course. They will be limited to four credit hours. Dr. Gay said the university doesn't want students to "attempt too many hours and put themselves at a disadvantage or hinder their progress towards completing their degrees."

"Limiting winter session to [an average of] one course helps students focus on these fast-paced courses," Gay said. The decision was made in the interest of professors and students alike.

This year the self-paced option is not required of faculty, according to Dr. Scott Billingsley, Associate Provost, which means this time the instructor may determine the pace of the course and due dates for assignments, although the dates of the term are Nov. 30 to Dec. 30 and include an official university holiday, Dec. 24 - 25.

Like last year's pilot program, only full-time faculty will be contracted to teach this session. Classes that don't enroll at least nine students will be canceled because they would not break even.

# CARE Center Still Fighting Food Insecurity During Pandemic

Alyssa Hernandez  
Contributor

Food insecurity may force a college student to choose between having food or having the books needed for classes. Here at UNCP, the CARE Resource Center can help. The CARE Center, located in Wellons Hall Suite C, provides hygiene products, produce, bakery items, dairy, meat, frozen, nonperishable food items and a professional clothing closet.

When classes moved online back in March, the CARE Resource Center "played an important role in providing food for those who stayed on campus," said Andy Mendez, Assistant Student Manager.

They continued to work over the summer. Out of almost 400 people who were assisted through the CARE Resource Center over the summer, 47% were faculty and staff, and 42% were students, according to a report from Art Malloy, Associate Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, speaking at the August meeting of the Student Affairs and Campus Life Committee.

"Since returning for the Fall semester, we have seen an increase in students, specifically freshmen and sophomores, using the CARE Resource Center," Mendez said. Between Aug. 3 and Nov. 7, there were 1,033 visits.

Approximately 78% of those are student users.

Despite this growth, they are still abiding by the COVID-19 guidelines the university has put in place. Students must wear a mask and use hand sanitizer as soon as they enter the building.

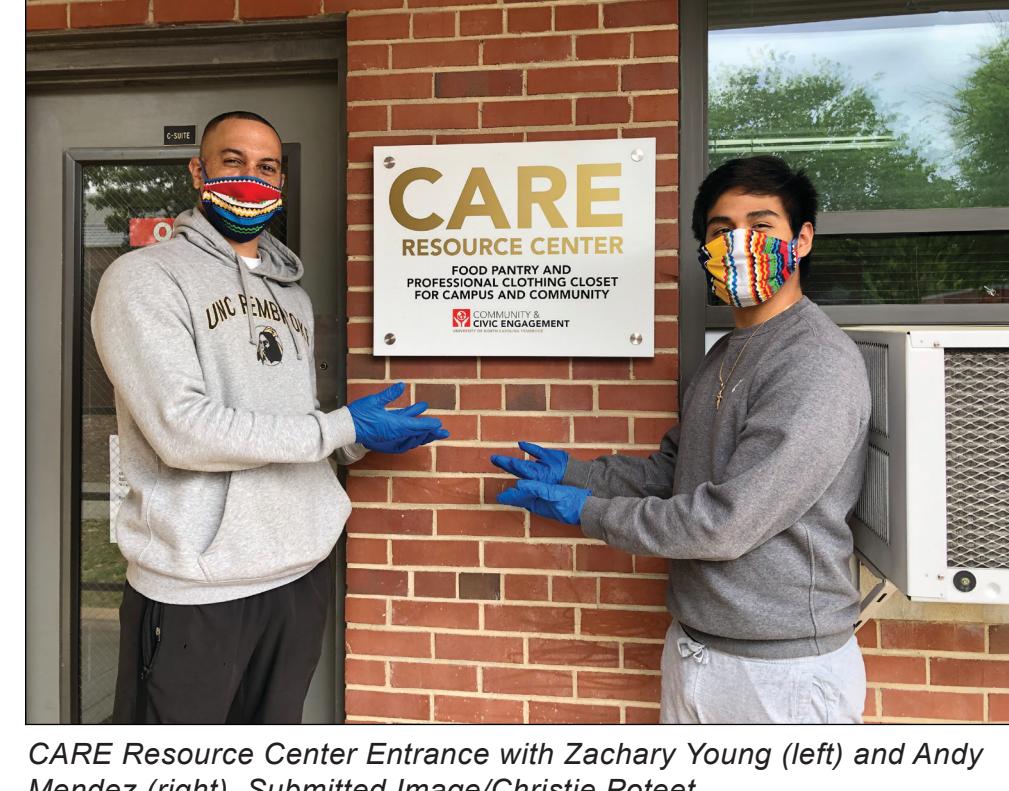
Only four patrons are allowed in at a time. The CARE Resource Center also asks all patrons to bring their own reusable bags, otherwise they can only provide you with two plastic bags. Employees and volunteers are required to wear a mask and gloves, which is provided at the beginning of every shift.

Students can get items from the CARE Resource Center twice a month. These include: two meat or frozen foods, thirty nonperishable foods, six hygiene items, ten clothing items, unlimited produce, bread and other bakery items.

According to Director of Community and Civic Engagement Christie Poteet, the center has recovered nearly 19,000 pounds of food from Sodexo and the local Walmart this semester to stock the pantry.

Over the break, they will be open until Dec. 15 on Mondays and Tuesdays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information, students can follow @CAREUNCP on Facebook and @uncp\_cce on Instagram.



CARE Resource Center Entrance with Zachary Young (left) and Andy Mendez (right). Submitted Image/Christie Poteet



CARE Resource Center volunteer Chenoa Chavis. PN Photo/Victoria Brousseau

# No Spring Break But 'Wellness Days'

Lakota Craft  
Contributor

UNCP students were upset about the announced elimination of spring break when the revised academic calendar was posted last month.

Spring 2021 was adjusted for classes to start Jan. 19 and end on April 30 with only the Christian holiday known as Good Friday as a day off.

This gave students about eight weeks for a winter break but no spring break during the following term.

According to Dr. Scott Billingsley, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, the idea was to "minimize long breaks such as spring break to reduce opportunities for travel-related virus transmission without disrupting the academic calendar

significantly."

"The most significant benefit of the adjusted start date is the reduction of opportunities for students to gather in large groups, which, historically, is common with travel-related and spring break activities," Billingsley said.

Students became concerned.

Harvey Strickland, a third-year student at UNCP, said, "Taking something like spring break away is going to be atrocious for the mental health of students all across campus."

"I need a break for my own mental health," said Nik Bishop. "This semester was difficult without fall break, so going two whole semesters in a row without a small break sounds like a nightmare."

Bryan Buckheit agrees. "They should have had us go back on

time [the original start date] for next semester...and kept spring break in," he said.

The students' concerns seem valid. Everybody has continued to experience decreased volumes of social interactions and events as the pandemic has forced the university to enforce social distancing and safety protocols for all students and staff.

The Student Government Association agreed. They passed a resolution on Oct. 21 that proposed three days off scattered throughout the semester "for the mental health and well-being of faculty, staff, and administration, as they all have an effect on student success." They asked for Feb. 19, March 9 and March 22.

On Nov. 11 the university announced a response: two "wellness days" (Feb. 18 and March 17) and a "reading day" on

April 30, the Friday before final exams.

"In light of the hardships the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on everyone, these days have been set aside for emotional, physical, and intellectual refreshment," Billingsley said in an email to faculty. No classes may meet and no assignments can be due on those dates, but university offices will be open. Good Friday remains as a holiday with the university closed.

Dr. Billingsley said earlier this month that the administration recognizes "students are experiencing greater levels of stress right now...[and staff] are developing opportunities and promoting existing services available to address the mental health needs that many students, faculty, and staff may experience."

# Temperature Stations are a New Kind of Office Solution

By Lakota Craft

As the number of coronavirus infections continued to rise over the summer nationally and statewide, UNCP prepared the campus with increased safety precautions and protections for the health of students, employees and visitors. Some were in the form of supplies such as disposable gloves and masks in building lobbies. Some were in the form of equipment such as motion-activated hand sanitizer dispensers. Much of it was paid for with federal CARES Act funding, including some new-fangled temperature stations.



Thirty-nine self-check, no-touch temperature kiosks were purchased from Olympus Computer in Lumberton at the cost of \$2,495 each. Olympus has been in business since 1988 and normally sells networking and communications services for small and medium businesses. They've also been manufacturing ultraviolet sterilizing devices for medical offices and factories since before the pandemic, according to Olympus co-owner Jim Vance, who founded the company.

As the coronavirus pandemic proceeded through the spring months, they perceived a "new normal" in workplace procedures that gave rise to new needs.

"It was apparent that non-touch temperature detection was going to be important, as well

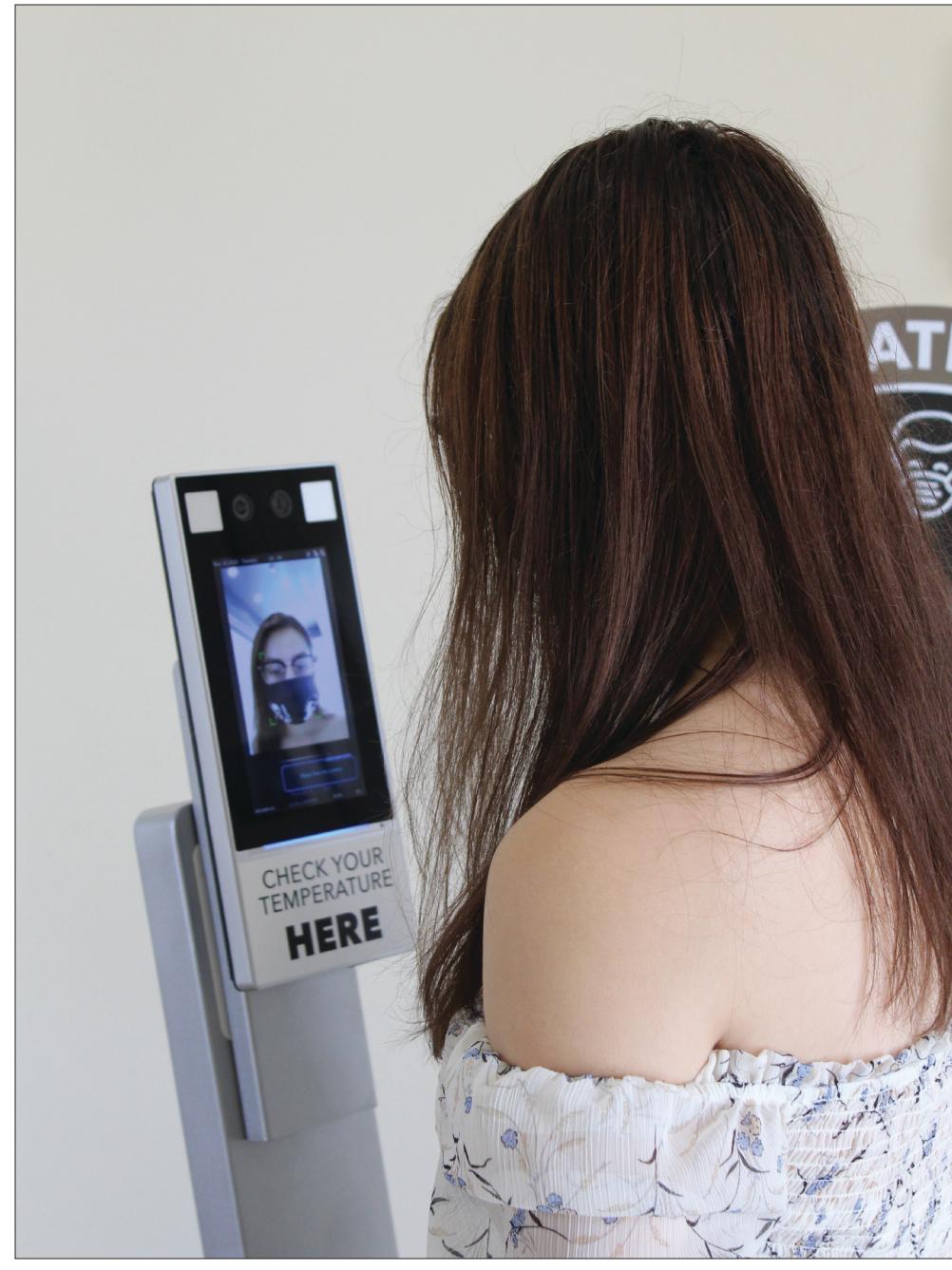
as devices that could provide COVID tracking if required," Vance said. They are not used for tracking at UNCP, which would require people to enter identifying information in advance.

On campus, high-traffic buildings have at least one, but sometimes multiples, of these interactive electronic kiosks. A few buildings have none, but those are smaller office buildings or locations with little-to-no traffic, according to Jodi Phelps, UNCP's chief communications officer.

Students and employees are encouraged to use the machine upon entering a building.

"I check [my temperature] to be sure I'm doing my part to keep everyone safe," said Christie Poteet, Director of the Office for Community and Civic Engagement. "The one in the U.C. is conveniently located at the front door, so why not just give it a quick check on the way in? It takes two seconds to make sure I'm healthy and those around me are safe," she said.

According to the manufacturer's own spec sheet, the devices are accurate to .10 of a degree. Vance said the core temperature taken at the wrist is not affected by activities, like your forehead would be. The face-recognition screen can see if you're wearing a mask or not,



*The face detection video display recognizes that student Stephanie Giltinan is wearing a face mask in Sampson Hall. PN/Tyrique Weston  
Inset: Temperature is detected touch-free by infrared at the student's wrist.*

and will tell you to put one on if necessary.

History professor Jaime Martinez said she sometimes uses the kiosk in the Dial Building if she forgets to take her temperature at home.

Junior Danny Williams said he thinks they're a great addition to the campus but he doesn't know anyone who uses them.

"I think younger people like

the idea of something new, but once it's normalized it's just not given much attention," Williams said. "I thought it was pretty neat at first, but as the semester has gone forward, I just got used to seeing them and I guess that's why I don't use it. They are convenient, but I haven't seen any of my friends or any person in particular that uses the kiosks a lot."

## Graduates to Get Drive-Thru Ceremony



*The setup for the combined grad/undergrad ceremony on Saturday, Nov. 21, will be nearly identical to this setup that was used on Aug. 8 for the Spring/Summer ceremony. Photo: University Communications*

**Ashli Rayam  
Sara Fox**

UNCP is again offering a drive-thru graduation ceremony for both undergraduate and graduate students on Nov. 21. That makes two in a single semester, considering the May graduates weren't celebrated until Aug. 8, after the newly configured Fall semester had already started.

Each graduate is allowed to bring one vehicle to the ceremony, and guests must remain

in that vehicle during the procession. Only the graduate is allowed to get out in order to get their symbolic diploma on stage at the Prospect Road entrance. There will be law enforcement during the parade, and Prospect Road will be closed to the public during the ceremony.

"I understand the changes are mandatory because of Covid-19," said senior Regina Ray.

"However, I feel like a big piece of my college career is missing. The drive-thru ceremony

simply doesn't equate to a traditional ceremony."

Ray is disappointed she won't get the moments that all graduates look forward to.

"I wanted to see my family clapping, balloons flying, my classmates' smiles, and to just be around others who are just happy as I am about this big accomplishment."

Caps and gowns can be picked up at the UNCP bookstore. Students are still required to wear a face mask during the

entire ceremony. Graduates will check in at Parking Lot 14 by the Jones Center. The speeches are being pre-recorded and will be available online.

Although Covid-19 has caused a lot of changes to the Fall 2020 Commencement, there will still be reception tents for graduates to take photographs in locations such as the water feature on the Quad and Old Main. A company called Grad Images will take a photo of each graduate when they leave the stage. Photo information will be emailed to the graduate's Bravemail account on a later date.

Senior Karijah Pinkney said she's torn about the idea of a drive-thru graduation versus canceling it outright.

"On one hand, I would have liked if the school canceled the graduation as a whole, because a drive-thru graduation is not giving us, the graduates, the commencement we deserve," Pinkney said. "However, I also would rather have something than nothing. Hopefully this commencement will have the same feeling of acknowledgement and happiness as those in previous years."

For more information about the undergraduate ceremony, contact the Office of the Registrar at 910.521.6298 or graduation@uncp.edu.

Graduate students can contact The Graduate School at 910.521.6271 or grad@uncp.edu.

Congratulations to all and good luck!

# Native American Students Come Together Online

**By Jay Locklear**  
Staff Writer

The Native American community at UNCP gathered on WebEx to chat about the semester on Oct. 21. The event, called Coffee and Community, was set up by Dr. Leslie Locklear, the coordinator of the First Americans' Teacher Education Program and member of the Lumbee and Waccamaw Siouan tribes. This informal environment introduced some Native American faculty and staff on campus as everyone took a break from the unique semester. After the WebEx call, \$5 was put onto the students' Bravecards so they may purchase a cup of coffee.

Coming together in an event like this can be important for the community.

"I think the most important reason is because culturally as Native people we are communal, and relationship based. A lot of us are struggling and I believe that social and mental exhaustion bleeds into our work or our academics," said Locklear. Due to the pandemic, students cannot build relationships with other Native Americans on campus, and Coffee and Community is a way to help build those relationships.

Locklear did not start Coffee and Community because of COVID-19. The inspiration came after Locklear attended Native Strong, the Native American orientation program, last year. After



A screenshot of the Webex meeting for Coffee and Community, featuring Dr. Ashley McMillan. PN Photo/Jay Locklear.

realizing that the students she worked with had events to attend in a more formal setting, she decided to create this event to continue to connect with the students but in a more informal way. She went on Facebook and asked for donations to help pay for coffee and received over \$500.

The support from both Native American and non-Native American people was so strong that people showed up to the event to donate more money. Faculty and staff saw the importance of this event and offered to help provide funds. Dr. Ashley McMillan, the American Indian Liaison to the Chancellor, and Lawrence

Locklear PhD., the Director of the Office of Student Inclusion and Diversity, both reached out to find funding.

Coffee and Community has helped Native American people on campus. Chandler Allred, a sophomore and member of the Skaroreh Katenuaka tribe, participated in the event.

"Of course the money that they put into your account is good, but also the ability to get on and talk about the problems you're having this semester and all the Native faculty and resources that you get to meet is valuable information for all Native students," said Allred.

As this event is newer, there is room for improvement. Chandler said that he would like for there to be an opportunity for the students to have input. Allowing students to talk about their problems not only related to school, but in life is something he says will be helpful. Leslie Locklear hopes to have this event back in person, and have it be more inclusive for non-traditional students who may not attend in the middle of the day.

Coffee and Community is something that Locklear plans to continue with the Native American community's support at UNCP.

# Campus Quarantine: IS THE PARTY REALLY WORTH IT?

**By Andrew Thrift**  
Staff Writer

At UNCP, residential students who test positive for the novel coronavirus are required to quarantine for two weeks. They're sent to Village Apartments, located across from Cypress Hall, near the north end of campus. The experience makes some of them question whether they should have—or could have—been more careful about the spread of COVID-19.

Freshman William Mimy attended a party with dozens of students, where nobody wore masks and social distancing was limited when practiced at all. Afterward, Mimy tested positive for the virus, landing him two weeks in quarantine.

"It was like a prison," Mimy said. "There was a certain time when you got your food, and you stayed locked in your little space."

"Our food was just dining hall food but packaged. We were fed once a day at noon where we got all of our meals," Mimy said.

Freshman Whitney Peck attended the same party and contracted COVID-19. Rather than being quarantined on campus, she decided to go home.

"If I'm going to be sick, I want to be around my family," said Peck. "I wanted to be where I could be taken care of. I didn't



An example of UNCP "Quarantine Food." All meals delivered at noon. Submitted photo/William Mimy.

know anyone at the time who had been into quarantine so I wasn't about to find out what exactly happened."

Quarantine food services at various universities faced scrutiny in the press and on social media this semester. Sometimes students' dietary restrictions were

ignored, some did not get food until late in the day, while others were just fed snack foods. Kam Townsend, an undergrad at UNCP, felt like "They basically gave us old dining hall food and a bunch of snacks."

"The portion sizes were too small," said Danielle Wick. "They

would even sometimes forget to bring us food. They would also give us a lot of sodas, a few water bottles, and maybe an orange juice every two days." Wick felt like she wasn't being treated the way that she should when she was in quarantine.

In September, UNCP's quarantine capacity was down to 8.5% full, with 27 active cases as of Sept. 18. By Nov. 6, after team practices or workouts resumed in the Division of Athletics and clusters reported among several sports, 35.58% of that on-campus capacity was being used. Of course, some students stay in commercial apartments. There were 69 known active student cases that week.

Students who are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms should contact Student Health Services. Once a student tests positive for COVID-19, Student Health Services and Robeson County Health Department begins tracing to figure out who the student has been in contact with and who might have contracted COVID-19.



PN Photo/Tyrique Weston.

# Writing Center Adapts to Pandemic Conditions

**Ashli Rayam**  
Staff Writer  
**Sara Fox**  
Campus Life Editor

Like all offices on campus, the University Writing Center had to make changes in procedures and working conditions because of the coronavirus pandemic. But director Dr. Elise Dixon says they tried not to miss a beat.

Right now there are two options for students who want to receive help from the Writing Center, which has a roster of peer tutors from a variety of majors.

"A student can make an online appointment where you see someone synchronously," Dixon explained. There is also a text chat feature for students who may not want to appear on video.

For students who do not want to participate in a virtual appointment, there is also a "review session" option, where students can upload their papers and receive feedback within 24



Dr. Elise Dixon in her Covid-19 and student-friendly office. PN/Photo LaRuth Anderson

hours.

It is undecided whether tutoring services will remain online through the Spring 2021 semester. "I will have to see how things are going," Dixon said recently. The goal of moving tutoring services online was to ensure the safety of both tutors and clients.

"I think in terms of health and safety, these are good changes," Dixon said. "Things are going well." By October 13 the staff had completed 247 online consultations since the start of fall semester.

Dixon was hired over the summer. It was the Writing Center's interim director, Dr.

Michael Berntsen, who had to shepherd the student staff through the first period of adjustment in March.

"Since all the tutors are trained to work with online students, the transitioning to a completely online center was smooth," Berntsen said. "All of the staff recognized the importance of the tutoring sessions for their peers, so they made every effort to guide students who find it hard to navigate online learning."

They completed more than 127 online tutorial sessions between March 23 and the end of the spring semester.

"Overall, the tutors excelled at

maintaining quality guidance for all the students who reached out for extra help," Berntsen said.

Dixon's research focuses on the role that discomfort plays in daily writing center work, especially for marginalized students. She says she is excited for the return of in-person services.

"Writing centers are their best when they can also be face-to-face, and I cannot wait to get back to face-to-face," she said.

To take advantage of University Writing Center assistance, students can visit [uncp.edu/writingcenter](http://uncp.edu/writingcenter) to make an appointment or request a review session.



# New Dean Shares Vision for School of Education

**Zachary C. Young**  
Editor-in-Chief

Loury Ollison Floyd, Ph.D., is the newly appointed dean of the School of Education at UNCP. Floyd hopes the department will develop graduates who are change agents, teachers who can orchestrate and facilitate change in their respective communities. "We assist them with building the tools they need to impact the next generation. The art of teaching is the art of assisting discovery," said Floyd.

Before working for UNCP, Floyd was the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. With a proven track record in higher education that spans over 23 years, Floyd is confident that her experience will serve her well in her new role.

Floyd says that UNCP's School of Education has a dynamic group of faculty. With many of them being new, she views this as an opportunity for growth. "Having experienced the tenure and promotion process, I consider it a privilege to mentor those faculty and assist them along their career journey," said Floyd.

"I've been given a wonderful education and blessed with great life experiences. Now I can use that in this part of North Carolina and build on the



Dr. Loury Floyd is the new dean of the School of Education. She hopes to develop graduates who are "change agents." PN/Photo Zachary C. Young

legacy that's already started," said Floyd. Born and raised in Pamlico County, Floyd understands the challenges that students from rural communities in the state face.

Floyd believes that educating future teachers about minorities and culturally responsive pedagogies will help bridge the gap in classrooms. "Understand where students are and meet them there. We don't expect them to change their lives to meet us because they are children. We fill in that gap and then bring them along," said Floyd.

Currently, the School of Education at UNCP has a Memo of Understanding with 11 school districts

in southeastern North Carolina, including Bladen, Cumberland, Robeson and Scotland Counties.

Floyd noted that the School of Education is in the process of applying for the Institutional Resilience and Expanded Postsecondary Opportunity federal grant. Opportunities like this allow UNCP to capitalize on state and federal funds, and to continue "changing lives through education," one of Chancellor Cummings' favorite mottos. Floyd is hopeful this will help meet some of the needs of Robeson County and surrounding areas.

Floyd has a vision of securing additional grant funding that will create mobile

hot spots. These would be for school children who normally do not have internet access. She added that major technology companies are interested in what happens in rural America. "A brand-new device is no good without the ability to connect to the internet," says Floyd.

Dr. Floyd has floated the idea of an early college program on UNCP's campus. "For high school freshmen and sophomores who otherwise might not consider higher education, being right here in the community, this would show them what's possible," she said. UNCP can have a hand in systematically ensuring high school students are ready for college."

# BLM March Draws Students, Faculty and CounterProtesters



**Photos by  
David Leeks**



Students march down W. 3rd street in downtown Pembroke on June 26 to demonstrate against police brutality nationwide, including the death of George Floyd in May.

By Zachary C. Young

Editor-in-Chief

The Pembroke "Black Lives Matter" march in late June resulted in one arrest and various citations. Personal accounts and social media images document some of the events that transpired during the march.

Dr. Mary Ann Jacobs, a Lumbee Indian and the UNCP American Indian Studies Department Chair, participated and reported to a faculty discussion group that the counterprotesters outnumbered the 150 or so BLM marchers. Jacobs said the opposing crowd threw water bottles and beer cans at the marchers and used the N-word.

"They tried their best to shout us down and one or two made more noise with their motorcycles, slowing down to keep pace with the marchers, but they didn't make anyone give up. One guy was there with some sort of assault rifle in a sling on his shoulder; I found out on Facebook that he was a non-Indian from out of town," Jacobs said.

"The reaction that I received from some of the townspeople was appalling. I had objects thrown at me. I was called racial slurs and almost got physically assaulted by one of the counterprotesters," said UNCP sophomore Anthony Mungo, who marched and voiced his disappointment in the treatment of the protestors.

Danny Hunt, 56, of Pembroke was charged by the Pembroke Police Department on July 14 for his actions during the counterprotest. Hunt is charged with assault on a female, assault with a deadly weapon and disorderly conduct. In addition to the arrest of Hunt, several individuals were charged with violations of the open container and noise ordinances and disorderly conduct.

Robeson County Sheriff Burnis Wilkins condemned the counterprotesters' behavior and said that social change should extend beyond just police reform.

"I was quite disturbed after reviewing the actions of some in attendance of the planned peaceful protest. While I support the efforts

of the protestors, I stand against those that were trying to bring about harm. We in law enforcement understand the message and realize that some change may be needed but change is needed across the board and not just within the law enforcement community," said Wilkins.

The day after the protest, the Town of Pembroke issued an official statement on its website. "The Town supports nonviolent dialogue that leads to understanding. We support real change in our society that makes all voices heard, regardless of the color of their skin. What we do not support is violence, racism, harassment or threatening action against any member of our community—whether they be a life-long resident or a student." The letter also addressed UNCP students: "We want our students at UNCP to know we hear you, we value you, and you are a vibrant part of the Town of Pembroke."

In addition to students, BLM marchers included UNCP faculty, staff, alumni, community members and Chancellor Robin Cummings. In all, approximately 150 individuals marched to take a stance against police brutality.

"Without hesitation, UNCP administration fully supported the purpose of yesterday's march because we know with certainty that our students' intentions are to seek change in an unjust world." Cummings also wrote the marchers honored the lives and sacrifice of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and so many more. "Those who harassed them honored no one, least of all themselves," Cummings wrote in an email addressed to the UNCP community. He suggested that many of the counterprotesters were outsiders who do not necessarily belong to the area and were "encouraged and organized by irresponsible activity." Cummings expressed UNCP's support for the students and marchers who were blatantly attacked and violated while exercising their First Amendment right to assemble.

"There were clearly a lot of Native Americans there who are



from the area. If they live in the town, no one knows, but it was very clear that the crowd gathered and riding through were predominantly Native American. Those African American students saw what they saw and everyone else who was there did too. I don't believe in spin; some Native Americans have a problem with Black people," Jacobs said concerning race relations among the Lumbee and Black residents in Robeson County.

**"As a faculty we are appalled by the verbal and physical threats our students faced as they peacefully assemble..."**

Dr. Abigail Mann, Faculty Senate Chair at UNCP, expressed in an email that "As a faculty we are appalled by the verbal and physical threats our students faced as they peacefully assemble... We affirm that Black lives matter. We know that one of this campus' great strengths is its diversity and we must continue to work to make sure that every student feels and is safe and supported by UNCP." UNCP Faculty Senate have since issued a resolution in support of the students and the student-led march:

"We strongly encourage community leadership to develop antiracist community partnerships and programs that cultivate inclusive community through education and shared understanding that foster appreciation of and respect for all people, with immediate emphasis on issues of racism that shape Black lives."



Counterprotesters, some armed, outnumbered the protesters and shouted slurs at the marchers.



## Student's racist video sparks First Amendment controversy at FAU

By Scott Travis, Sun Sentinel

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — A student's repeated use of a racial slur on social media has ignited a debate at Florida Atlantic University about whether students have a right to racist speech.

Some Black students called for student Ryan Richards, 19, to be expelled after he said the "n-word" in a video posted to social media last week. While FAU officials have condemned the comment, they haven't disciplined Richards, citing his First Amendment rights.

The debate highlights the difficulty that public institutions face in combating bigotry while observing individual freedoms at a time when racial tension has intensified nationwide.

FAU is one of many universities grappling with the question, which has become more difficult in recent months after the May killing of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer fueled a national dialog

about race.

In the five-second video, Richards used the derogatory term five times, followed by, "Guess what? White people created it, b — . He ended with another expletive.

The video, originally posted to the social media site Snapchat, received wide attention after FAU's Black student newspaper, the Paradigm Press, posted the video and a chat about the video between Richards and another student.

"I already talked to the dean. I'm good," Richards said, according to an Instagram chat posted on the Paradigm's website. "Freedom of speech is one Hell of a right."

Richards could not be reached for comment, despite requests through FAU and a direct message to his Instagram account.

During an appearance at an Oct. 30 online forum hosted by his FAU apartment complex, Innovation Village, Richards apologized for the comments and also said he'd received death threats, said Paradigm

Press Editor Kennedy McKinney, who attended the meeting.

"He started to apologize, but then he tried to change the narrative," said McKinney, who is also president of the Black Student Union, an FAU student group. "He said the backlash he's receiving is 10 times worse than what Black students are dealing with, because he's getting threats and hate messages."

Graduate student Abby Duncanson said she complained to FAU's dean of students, Aaron Hackman, after reading the racist comments on social media.

"At the very least, he should be removed from campus. He should be expelled," Duncanson told The South Florida Sun Sentinel. "If someone uses that kind of language, holds those kind of beliefs, it makes it dangerous for other Black or brown students."

FAU President John Kelly issued a statement Tuesday condemning racism and pledging to continue efforts to create an inclusive atmo-

sphere on campus. But the university didn't discipline Richards.

"We understand that when statements like those reflected in the video circulate on social media, the harmful impact reaches far and wide," FAU spokesman Joshua Glanzer said in a statement to the Sun Sentinel.

That's the right call, according to Adam B. Steinbaugh, a director with the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education, a group that seeks to protect free speech on college campuses.

"The First Amendment means that government officials can't make particular words unlawful to say, even if others find it deeply offensive," Steinbaugh said. "That doesn't shield the student from criticism or condemnation for his choices, but it does mean that the university can't punish him."

McKinney, the editor of the Paradigm, disagrees, saying a university doesn't have to tolerate racist comments."

# Wrestlers Face Off Against COVID-19

## Staff Report

Coming off a season that resulted in a NCAA Division II regional championship as well as a Mountain East Conference (MEC) championship, the Braves wrestling team had started light practices and weightlifting sessions this semester before they got stopped dead in their tracks by a COVID cluster.

It seems to have been the last straw for the university, which announced "the suspension of all athletic-related activity for teams with the exception of women's swimming and cross country until November 20." Track, football and volleyball clusters were previously announced one after the other in late October.

Wrestling is a winter sport, so

they had been attempting to get back in the swing of things. The team practiced safety guidelines such as temperature checks. They were working on building team camaraderie. Now they're isolating or quarantining.

Two wrestlers hoping to make the cut this year are brothers Abraham and Alberto Vargas-Perez. They said workouts had been good, and they really like the team they have so far.

"There is no one man above the team, and it really feels like a family," Abraham said.

He also said the wrestlers got challenging workouts despite the pandemic conditions.

"It's also been a learning experience to receive good coaching from Coach Johnson," Alberto explained.



Transfer wrestlers Alberto (left) and Abraham Vargas-Perez. Submitted Photo

Head Coach O.T. Johnson has led the team to two conference championships in the last three years. He was named MEC Co-Coach of the Year last season, his ninth as head coach of the Braves.

The Vargas-Perez brothers originally signed with Spartanburg Methodist College out of high school and wrestled one year under head coach Juan Stimpson, a UNCP alumnus who wrestled under, and later coached with, Johnson. Spartanburg Methodist eliminated their men's and women's wrestling teams over the summer.

"We're happy to have the opportunity to have our guys on campus and doing everything they can to make the most of the fall semester from an academic stand point," Head Coach Othello

Johnson said. "The guys only have to focus on their grades for the next week or so, and from there it's all training and getting ready for our only event of the Fall/Winter 2020 portion of the season."

That event is a dual meet against Belmont Abbey on Dec. 15 at home.

"Outside of that we are pushing them as hard as we can, given the limited time we have had with them and trying to build relationships with the new guys, like the Vargas-Perez twins and the other newcomers," Johnson said. "I believe having a longer winter break to spend with them is really going to help us build our team camaraderie."

Returning wrestlers enjoyed their championship ring ceremony on Oct. 29 in the Jones Center.



The Braves wrestling team ring ceremony on Oct. 29 in the Jones Center. UNCP Athletics/Willis Glasgow

## Volleyball Practice was On and Then Off Again

By LaRuth Anderson

Like basketball and football, volleyball is a sport that requires the players to touch the ball, whether it's passing, spiking or serving it to other players. This makes hygiene a top priority during the coronavirus pandemic. Head Coach Ellen McGill and her team worked hard to ensure a safe semester, even though competition has been postponed until the spring. Unfortunately, the university announced a

COVID cluster identified with the team on Oct. 23.

Players were required to wear masks at practice, but in general social distancing is a struggle.

"The girls are a unit. It's like one big family," Coach McGill said back in September.

McGill's athletes underwent daily screenings. Each day, her players were required to fill out a questionnaire and have their temperature checked by a staff member in Athletics.

"I was super excited

being able to get back on the court, even if it was just to practice," said senior Kaila Crowder. "I don't like to miss an opportunity to get better, so practicing really made me excited to compete in the spring."

Although the university transitioned to online last March, there wasn't an issue with recruiting for the new school year. McGill and her staff had started recruiting high school seniors during November of 2019. McGill said that

she's not expecting any new players until the Spring of 2021 and she, too, is still excited about the team's future.

The student body is also eager for competition to return to the Jones Center.

Like many freshmen, Zhaniah Carmichael is ready to see the Braves take on their opponents. "My brother told me so many positive things about UNCP athletics, I'm excited to see and experience it for myself," she said.

## Small Season, Big Wins for Braves Cross Country

Lakota Craft  
Contributor

One of the few sports in the Peach Belt Conference that was allowed to go through with any kind of competitions this season, cross country was maxed out at three events plus a championship tournament. The Braves men and women took full advantage of the shortened season.

The women's team claimed the top five spots at the Braves Twilight Event versus Francis Marion University on Oct. 2. The event was held at Grace P. Johnson Stadium, because Luther Britt Park in Lumberton was too soggy from recent rain. Riley Axe won her first career meet title in the 5K race with a time of 19:54.18.

Not to be outdone, the Braves men also had a perfect showing for the day. Hunter Levy earned the champion title in the men's 5k race with a time of 15:53:01 minutes.

Continuing their streak of success, the Braves competed in the Royals Cross Country Event at McAlpine Creek Park in Charlotte on Oct. 9. The women's team finished second in overall standings out of seven teams,

and the men's points put the team in fourth place. During the event Joshua Chepkesir earned top honors in the 8K with a personal best time of 22:30. Erman Jepleting's third place finish in the women's 6K with a time of 21:40 helped boost the team to runner-up status.

On Oct. 30 the Braves competed in the Tom Scott Open in Charlotte, where the women's team earned the top spot among four teams at the event after Jepleting finished as a runner-up in the 6K (21:11). The men's team tallied the second place win, thanks in large part to Chepkesir, who out-paced the 33-man field by 48 seconds (22:16).

At the PBC championships in Gainesville, Georgia, on Nov. 14 both teams took third place out of more than eight teams. The standout story from the event was three-peat 8K champion Joshua Chepkesir, who beat the PBC record from last year that was also set by him, coming in about 42 seconds ahead of the runner-up, with a time of 23:41.9. In the women's 5K, Valary Samoei was the highest placing Brave (ninth), with a time of 6:02.3.



Hunter Levy (279) ended up leading the pack vs FMU. UNCP/Willis Glasgow



Molly McCann in the Braves Twilight meet versus FMU. UNCP/Willis Glasgow

# Swim Team Has Reason to Celebrate

**Victoria Brousseau**  
Managing Editor

The UNCP swimming team decimated their opponent in this season's first meet against Converse College on Nov. 7, with an impressive 132-66 win, setting three new team records in the process.

Ketlyn Rodriguez Matos set two of the three records in the meet, resetting her own record in the 200 Individual Medley event from last season. Mariel Mencia Martinez also reset her own record in the 50 freestyle event.

The impressive win has left the team feeling confident and prepared for the coming season.

"We had a great start," said sophomore Jena Wise, citing hard work and intense practices as the winning strategy for the team.

Earlier this semester the Department of Athletics hosted a socially distanced ceremony for the team to receive their commemorative championship rings for winning the 2020 Mountain East Conference in Canton, Ohio, back in February. Attendance was limited to the athletes, coaches and athletics department staff.

"It feels really good. I wasn't expecting us to be this far this fast," said senior Mary Thorn. The team's first active season



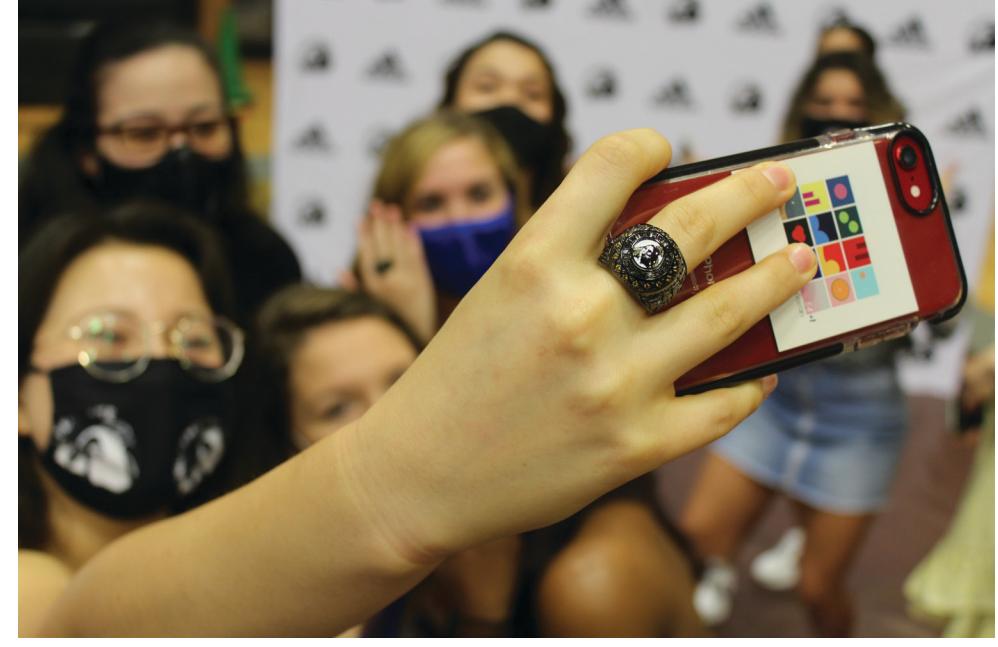
was in the 2016-17 season with nine swimmers. Just three years later, under new coaching staff and with a team of 17 swimmers, they secured a team conference championship.

The swimming program was put together by Coach Rhonda Blank, and Oscar Roverato took over for the 2018-19 season. He was named MEC Coach of the Year last year.

The Swim team will compete again in a tri-meet against Catawba College and Queens University on Jan. 7 in Charlotte. Junior Bianca Bateman said the team remains hopeful for their upcoming season, despite the pandemic: "We're all aiming for big wins."

**Above:** The UNCP swimming team poses after the first win of the season in Spartanburg, S.C. Submitted photo/Jaycie Knight.

**Below:** The team celebrates with a group selfie after receiving their conference championship rings on Oct. 24. PN/Tyrique Weston



## Golfers Try to Make the Best of An Emotional Season

Staff report

In October the Pine Needle reported that the women's golf team had been effectively eliminated although technically just "suspended." Then the Braves golfers were offered opportunities to represent UNCP and themselves at collegiate tournaments this semester and possibly next, with an anonymous donor funding their travel expenses and entry fees.

The reasoning: if they keep the number of competitions below eight days, they won't use up a year of D-2 athletic eligibility. They could still improve their records to attract schools where they might transfer or pursue graduate degrees.

All of the golfers jumped at the chance, for at least one, if not all, of three events on the East Coast.

At the Lee Ann Noble Memorial Tournament Oct. 12 - 13 in Dahlonega, Georgia, red shirt

sophomore Georgia Page finished tied for ninth place. Page was a new transfer to UNCP this year.

At the Flagler Fall Slam in St. Augustine, Florida, Oct. 26 – 27, the team finished fifth out of just seven schools competing because of the pandemic.

Freshman Lauren Martin finished tied for eighth place at the Savannah Lakes Invitational in McCormick, South Carolina, Nov. 1 – 2. Martin is transferring to Lincoln Memorial University in January. The team finished tied for fourth out of 11 schools.

With COVID-19 taking a toll on UNCP Athletics revenue, the women's golf program was an easy target for budget cuts. Overall, they have the third-highest expenditure per student-athlete at UNCP, after men's and women's basketball, according to Athletics Director Dick Christy.

Athletics leadership may



from left: David Synan, Elizabeth Ritchie, Georgia Page, Amanda Hamrin, Samantha DeBusk, Madison Deese, Toni Blackwell and Lauren Martin. Photo by Jackie Deese.

revisit the potential to field a team two years from now.

Before the about-face on travel this semester, graduating senior Samantha DeBusk recognized the suspension as an elimination as far as she was concerned. She said she will miss being around her teammates and that the team created a family atmosphere.

"When one golfer finishes a round, she goes to visit and cheer on another golfer who is still on the course," she said. "At the end of qualifying, the whole team could be found cheering on the last player."

Coach David Synan said he will miss the players because they kept him feeling young and inspired every day. As a coach for more than 15 years, he enjoyed engaging with the players at practices and forming lifelong friendships.

He said his main goal as their coach was to "develop young people into young adults." He thinks he achieved his goal by annually molding a group of

young women from strangers to teammates through golf.

Like many teams, the golf team had its challenges over the years. Indeed, the men's golf program was eliminated in a round of Athletics budget cuts that included women's tennis after the 2013-14 season.

One issue the golf team faced was not having an on-campus facility where they could play, so UNCP was paying greens fees on three area golf courses. The team's regional and national travel was also expensive.

"With this challenge, the team persevered, showing both effort and great attitude," said Synan, who is now out of a job.

Together the men and women's golf teams celebrate and remember 35 team wins, three Peach Belt Championships, two NCAA Division 2 Top 10 teams, 45 All-Americans, and many quality people.

Synan's advice to other student athletes is to enjoy what they currently have because nothing lasts forever.



# Braves Football Adapting to New Routines



Braves take over the practice field on Oct. 13 before COVID-19 clusters in Athletics shut down most activities. UNCP Athletics/Willis Glasgow.

**By Carson von Taborsky  
Staff Writer**

Before their coronavirus cluster was announced on Oct. 28, the Braves football team had just gotten back into team practices.

"We started out with three practices with helmets on and then went to helmet and shoulder pads until we were shut down," said wide receiver Tyshawn Carter. "Pads were sanitized after every practice. They limit the locker room by allowing all the offense inside the locker room at one time and then vice versa," he explained. Freshmen had been moved to the visitors' locker room.

Earlier in the semester, the coaching staff had been scheduling individual workouts for the players because of social distancing requirements. Head coach Shane Richardson said he was confident he could still keep his guys in shape.

"We are trying to establish a good rhythm and routine to get our guys into some workouts," Richardson said at the time. "There are obvious challenges when trying to get the athletes back into the swing of things, but we're working things out."

Linebacker David Salser said the players were being resourceful to get the best personal work-



Training outside the fence at the stadium. UNCP Athletics/Willis Glasgow.



Head football coach Shane Richardson (right) keeps an eye on practice on Oct. 13. UNCP Athletics/Willis Glasgow.

outs outside of the gym although they are not getting as much training and conditioning as they have in other off-seasons.

"The football athletes have a trailer full of football equipment near the tennis court that they can utilize in their own personal training," said Salser. "We can run sprints, do all sorts of body-weight exercise, and we can train movements in the sand areas at different apartment complexes."

Some players and staff worried that social distancing would impact team chemistry because of the lack of face-to-face communication.

"We've had to transfer to WebEx more to make up for the inability of face-to-face communication, but we have done a good job keeping up with our athletes," said Richardson.

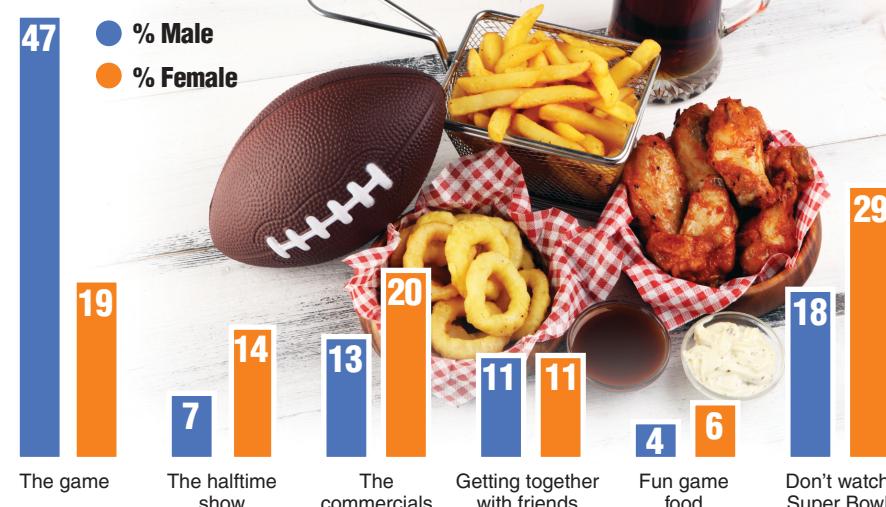
Despite the drastic disruptions, coaches and players were hopeful they'd be well prepared for their Week One matchup, whenever that may be. The Mountain East Conference, where UNCP is an associate member, has not announced a revised schedule.

*Assistant Coach Chi-emeke Worthington. UNCP Athletics/Willis Glasgow.*

## SUPER BOWL

### The best part of the game

What is the most important or enjoyable part of the Super Bowl experience for you?



# Shutdowns of Venues Have Economic Chain Reactions



Recording "Booger on a Bicycle" for the Halloween special "Ghost Light" at GPAC. Phillip "Mouka" Bullard Jr. on stage. Intern Karijah Pinkney (L) and director Lenea Barela-Lewis. Photograph by Samantha Darling.

By Mitchell Doub

Zach Smith is the stand-up bass player for the Asheville-based bluegrass band Town Mountain. He turned 25 recently and had planned on continuing his tradition of enjoying a "nice, juicy steak" with friends and family. Instead, he continued to shelter in place.

His birthday celebration is not the only casualty of the coronavirus. Town Mountain's next 22 shows have been canceled, and the band's promoter thinks the group could be out of work until next spring. Smith is looking at losing 75% of his annual income, and that is if he goes back to work in the Spring of 2021.

Town Mountain's lost income is just one result of their canceled shows: venues lose money, employees lose money, alcohol and food suppliers lose money, local restaurants, hotels, and gas stations lose money. It is a chain reaction like what's going on in entertainment-related business nationwide. Tens of thousands of canceled performances, thousands of closed businesses, millions of lost jobs.

Roy Cathey is a 53-year-old musician in Fayetteville, a child of 1970s classic rock, who has toured with a Boston tribute band, the rock group Gibraltar, and the Monsters of Rock Cruise. Like most performers now, he, too, is sheltering in place.

"2020 was supposed to be my big year, my breakout year," Cathey said in a phone interview. "I had three CDs due to be released, numerous big shows and the possibility of a European tour. Now I've had to fall back on my trade skills in the HVAC industry."

Cathey is currently the lead singer of The Fifth, "as in, a fifth of liquor, The 5th Dimension, the Fifth Amendment, anything with a

'fifth' in it."

"A huge chunk of my income is just gone. I'm missing an album cycle and tour income, I can't connect with my audience, I'm not releasing new music, uncertainty is ruling my life," Cathey explained.

A survey of 107 live entertainment-related businesses conducted by the online trade magazine Live Design at the end of July revealed that production companies, rental shops and similar theatrical entities had lost an average of 75% of their expected revenues since March.

Smith and Cathey hope that when things return to normal they can pick up where they left off musically and with life in general. Smith has been with Town Mountain for three years and it is the culmination of a dream.

"I grew up with music in my home. My dad has played bluegrass most of his life. When Town Mountain had a spot open up, I left college and jumped at the chance," he said.

"Playing on stage is such a rush. Before the pandemic, we had a chance to open for Tyler Childers at the Red Rocks Amphitheatre outside of Denver. Ten thousand people cheering you on and loving your music. Man, that was awesome."

Cathey has had many such experiences over the years. "I was playing 'Super Rock' in Manheim Germany with Aerosmith and Whitesnake, the most nervous I've probably ever been. Sixty-five thousand people focused on me and my band, their energy willing me to perform at my best. It was unbelievable."

In Pembroke, the executive director of UNCP's Givens Performing Arts Center, Dr. James Bass, said the loss of live performances is "a tremendous detriment to the students and the community." However, he's trying to focus on some optimistic impacts.

"Most arts organizations, GPAC included, have pivoted toward the creation of virtual content and live stream performances to stay engaged with their audiences," Bass said. "Some research is now coming out to suggest that this has been positive in many ways. For example, some arts patrons who may have never visited GPAC in person are enjoying a recorded performance of one of



Zach Smith is the stand-up bass player for the Asheville-based bluegrass band Town Mountain. Submitted Photo.

our talented faculty members in the comfort of their living room. When we do return to live performances, there's a chance that some of these new social media followers who have discovered us will now come and visit us for their first time."

The Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra has worked with UNCP music faculty this semester to produce educational online performances (see story on C2). They're able to pay their musicians out of a grant that would have covered in-person shows. Bass said a Robeson County Arts Council grant helps GPAC pay some artists for their virtual collaborations as well.

Bass said digital engagement has become a major part of arts distribution during the pandemic and is likely going to pioneer the arts' future. Artists need to learn how to successfully monetize it, he advised.

Zach Smith, the Town Mountain bassist, still had a steak for his birthday, "but without all the friends and family."

You can follow Smith at [www.townmountain.net](http://www.townmountain.net) and Cathey on Facebook as "The Fifth."

*Social distancing seat covers for GPAC audience space. Currently used to maintain social distancing for large classes. Photograph by Lenea Barela-Lewis.*



Roy Cathey, of Fayetteville, is a member of "The Fifth." Submitted Photo.

# Music Faculty Partner with Fayetteville Symphony



A scene from "Adventures with Arthur," featuring performances by Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra musicians. Image/screen capture.

By Alyssa Hernandez

Flute teacher Sarah Busman and her husband, Dr. Joshua Busman, have partnered with the Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra to produce a music series using videos to teach children about music during the pandemic. The series is called "Adventures with Arthur."

Sarah's inspiration to produce this series was her desire to help musicians who had live performances canceled because of COVID-19. Sarah said, "A lot of performing groups have done videos editing music while in their homes. I was looking to do something a bit different." "Adventures with Arthur" is funded by a grant that allows the musicians who participated to be paid.

Sarah has been a flutist with the Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra for nearly a decade.



She worked with the Education Director, Monica Thiriot, to make the series happen.

"Monica Thiriot contacted me

to see if we could do some cool videos that people could watch online to fulfill an education grant we were no longer using for in-person events," Sarah said. They landed on "Adventures with Arthur" because the Busmans' son Arthur was interested in learning about music.

The target audience for the series is anywhere from 3 years old to early elementary school, although Joshua Busman said, "I've heard of people of all ages who enjoy the series."

Sarah Busman, who has been an adjunct faculty member in the UNCP Department of Music for many years, hopes the series will teach kids about orchestral instruments and interest them in becoming musicians themselves.

"It's also important to me to

show everyone, kids and adults, that musicians are still working and playing even when there are not live shows," she said. The other hope is the series will help people understand that classical music can be enjoyable like all other kinds of music.

"I hope that Sarah and Arthur can show people just how fun and engaging orchestral music can be," said Joshua, who also appears in the videos. He teaches music history and music theory in the Department of Music and is Assistant Dean of the Esther G. Maynor Honors College.

The first season of "Adventures with Arthur" just finished this past July. The series can be accessed on the Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra's website, YouTube and Facebook.



Sarah and Dr. Joshua Busman. Submitted photo/Mary Schneider.

## DON'T ROB ROBESON COUNTY OF MORE LIVES.

**These main causes of traffic deaths can be prevented:**



SPEEDING



NOT BUCKLING UP



DRINKING & DRIVING

# Theatre Electives Take Students Behind the Scenes

by Ashli Rayam

UNCP offers electives related to theatre that many students may not know they can take. Two such classes are Stage Makeup (THE1640) and Wardrobe Practicum (THE2020).

Jamal Bennett, a senior currently enrolled in Stage Makeup, says he wishes he had known about the course sooner.

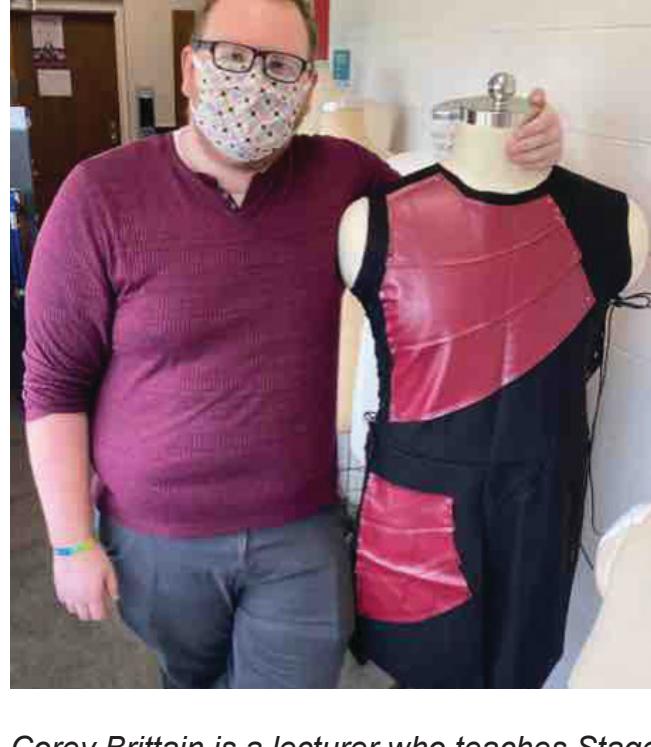
"On a scale of 1 to 10, it's an 8 or 9," he says.

Bennett thinks non-majors should take it to expand their liberal arts education. "You can learn something from all fields and all genres." Bennett is majoring in political science, so the course opened his mind to new ideas.

Right now the course is offered in a semi-hybrid format, which means students go to class face-to-face in alternating weeks and practice the techniques they've learned asynchronously at home.

The course is taught by Corey Brittain, a lecturer in Theatre.

"I do think students enjoy taking the stage makeup class," Brittain says. "The class provides entertaining hands-on learning experience, and students get a break from lectures and homework."



Corey Brittain is a lecturer who teaches Stage Makeup and Wardrobe. Submitted photo.

One of the foundational techniques is creating an old-age look that's great for playing characters on stage or even for Halloween.



Students learn how to make fake wounds. Keturah Starks took the course in a previous semester and is shown here with facelift-inspired makeup. Jamal Bennett (R) enjoyed class this semester despite the pandemic conditions for instruction. Submitted photos.

## 'Wonder Woman' may go to HBO Max shortly after theater opening

By Lucas Shaw and Kelly Gilblom, Bloomberg News/TNS

"Wonder Woman 1984," the only big movie still scheduled to debut in theaters this year, may appear on AT&T Inc.'s HBO Max just a week or two after its release, according to people familiar with the matter, a move that could help the new streaming service add subscribers quickly and keep cinemas open at the same time.

AT&T's WarnerMedia is in the final stages of deliberations over the fate of the film, which is currently scheduled to open in theaters on Christmas Day. While the studio could delay the movie until next year, the quick-to-home-video release is another option gaining support, said the people, who asked not to be identified discussing internal deliberations. The plans haven't been set and could change, they said, adding that some cinema owners are open to the idea in this instance.

Releasing a movie such as "Wonder Woman 1984" at home so soon after it appears in theaters would have been unthinkable earlier this year. The movie was expected to be one of the summer's biggest hits, a follow-up to a film that grossed \$821.8 million worldwide in 2017. But the pandemic



Students work together in stage makeup class before the pandemic. Submitted photo.

"We also cover a variety of special effects makeup, such as bruises, burns and scars. I also teach how to cover your eyebrows entirely, which is often seen in drag and fantasy makeup," Brittain says. "With this course I'm able to teach skills outside theatre, such as highlights, shadows and contouring."

Brittain is also teaching the Wardrobe Practicum. He's been sewing for ten years and has a master's degree in costume design, and this is his second year teaching these two courses.

In Wardrobe students usually help out a current theatre production. They get experience in learning how to hand-sew, as well as using the sewing machine to alter existing clothing or to create clothing from patterns.

Both of these one-credit courses are offered again next semester, and there are no prerequisites to enrollment.



Stephon Richardson learned stage makeup techniques in a previous semester. Submitted photo.



has forced Hollywood to rewrite its playbook.

New WarnerMedia chief Jason Kilar is looking to accelerate subscriber growth at HBO Max, its six-month-old competitor to Netflix and a key focus for future growth. An online release of a big DC Comics superhero movie right after Christmas could fuel sign-ups. The service finished the third quarter with 8.6 million active users. Together, the HBO pay-TV network and HBO Max have 38 million U.S. customers and 57 million worldwide.

While theaters have criticized studios for releasing new movies at home so soon after they appear in theaters, they may be willing to relax their objections in this case. More theaters risk closing for the rest of the year if Warner Bros. delays "Wonder Woman 1984," an unwelcome thought for chains already teetering on the brink of insolvency. Additionally, in exchange for shortening the time between the film's theatrical and online release, Warner Bros. may make a payment to theater owners, the people said.

Gal Gadot returns as the Amazing Amazon in 'Wonder Woman 1984.' (Clay Enos/Warner Bros/TNS)



# Road Trip to Wilmington, N.C.



View from the Provision Company restaurant. PN/Photo Mitchell Doub

**By Mitchell Doub**

Students will soon be pulling out their sweaters as the holiday season quickly approaches. Is there time to hit the beach one last time in 2020? Of course there is! Students need to look no further than the Wilmington/Carolina Beach/Southport area, to get that one last sunshine-and-surf getaway of the year. Even with today's Covid-19 restrictions, students can see the world if they wear-masks and practice social distancing.

Watch the weather and pick a weekend when it will be sunny and warm, and plan on leaving campus by noon. Students should head for 6301 Oleander Drive in Wilmington. The Original Salt Works restaurant is a start for lunch. This place has been serving locals and tourists for decades and will not disappoint, with burgers, hotdogs, fries, grilled cheese and more. The Original Salt Works is a great way to start the day.

After lunch, students should travel towards Water Street in downtown Wilmington. The street

has plenty of metered parking along with the adjoining streets. Walk along the riverfront and enjoy the shops in The Cotton Exchange (use masks and social distancing, please), the stores on Market Street, or just get lost going in and out of historic streets and alleyways that have served residences since the 1700s.

If students want to tour a historic home, they can purchase tickets and tour the Bellamy Mansion or the Cornwallis House (where British General Lord Cornwallis stayed before he ventured to Yorktown). More mansions can be seen from the sidewalk by turning onto Market Street and then onto Front Street. If students want a "hands-on" experience, cross the bridge by car and visit the battleship USS North Carolina that lies across the river. The battleship is a fascinating look at life on a floating "city," where over 2,000 sailors lived during World War II. The ship closes at 5:00 p.m. and tickets are \$14.00 for a self-guided tour that currently requires masks. No cash is being accepted during the

pandemic, and admittance to the gift shop is limited.

Next, students should head for Carolina Beach Avenue North. There is ample metered parking throughout Carolina Beach. Students could head to the Carolina Beach boardwalk where they can stroll along the newly renovated walkway or get access to Carolina Beach and spend a while enjoying the beach.

Students should then head to the Fort Fisher visitors center. Fort Fisher is an important Civil War site, for this was where the last major Southern fort/port was captured at the end of the Civil War. Students can tour the visitor center and grounds for free as they imagine over 20,000 Union

forces storming the fort in the spring of 1865.

Continue down the road to the state ferry towards Southport. Students can park their car on the ferry and enjoy the 25-minute, \$7 ride to this historic but active fishing village.

Students are probably hungry by now and should head over to The Provision Company restaurant. Students can see the quaint town and Victorian architecture along the way. It's a Southport institution with outdoor seating and great views of the water, complete with seafood as well as the landlubber choices. After supper, you will be ready to make your 1.5-hour trip back to Pembroke. What a day!



The Bellamy Mansion in Wilmington, N.C. PN Photo/ Mitchell Doub.

## Yosemite: One of the "15 Places You Should Go"

**By Mitchell Doub**

*While many of us wouldn't dare to travel by airplane right now, a cross-country road trip is not out of the question, especially if the destination is the great outdoors. Pine Needle contributor Mitchell Doub starts his series, "15 Places You Should Go," with a look at Northern California.*

Have you ever seen a place so beautiful that it takes your breath away? A place that left you speechless as you took in its majesty and you were just glad to be alive, at that time, at that place? That place, for me, is Yosemite National Park.

Located in northeastern California, in the Sierra Nevada mountains, Yosemite (pronounced Yo-Semmity) is the most beautiful place I have ever visited. Sheer rock faces, thousand-foot snow-fed waterfalls, a wildflower-filled meadow split by a crystal-clear river: these are the images Yosemite leaves in the minds of four million visitors each year.

If avoiding crowds is your main objective, late May, early June, late August or any time in September may be your best bet. The waterfalls are one of the main attractions, so the May/June timeframe may be a good choice because melting snow

will have the falls running wild. If possible, try to spend your nights in the park. There are hundreds of campsites, tent-cabins (with or without baths) and park-run hotels.

Yosemite became a national park on Oct. 1, 1890. It was the original inspiration for our national park system, having been formally protected with a land grant by Abraham Lincoln on June 30, 1864. That was the first time the U.S. government had protected land simply for its beauty.

You can marvel at 200-foot tall sequoias in the Mariposa Grove and splash in 50-degree mountain-cooled streams on hikes that range from easy to difficult. You can rock climb, bird watch, fish for mountain trout, picnic every day or simply marvel at the results of a massive glacier slowly plowing its way through a rocky mountain range. What was a river is now a beautiful waterfall, the 2,425-foot tall Yosemite Falls, one of Earth's tallest.

The whole place is like heaven on earth.

Dr. Jane Haladay, a professor in the Department of American Indian Studies at UNCP, agrees.

"The sheer size of that park

is stunning—the grandeur, the vastness of natural landscapes, and diversity is overwhelming, in a good way," Haladay says.

"Woodlands, camping, a beautiful natural lodge, all the way down to pitching your own tent."

Now for the bonus: Before or after enjoying Yosemite, venture south and also visit Kings Canyon and Sequoia National Parks. Kings Canyon is almost as beautiful as Yosemite but on a smaller scale. The big advantage: the crowds, or rather, lack thereof. My family and I drove right in during the middle of July, found a parking spot, and started hiking.

At Sequoia National Park the massive trees are simply awe-inspiring. The largest trees in the world reside here, led by "General Sherman," widely regarded as the largest living thing on earth by volume. You almost fall over backward as you crane your neck to look up in an attempt to see the tree's canopy. Many of these giants were alive when Jesus was born, and some sprouted when the Egyptians were still building pyramids.

When you feel comfortable traveling by air again, you can either fly into the San Francisco

or San Jose airport, and while you are in the area, spend a few days in the city of San Francisco, where you will want to do the following:

- Ride a trolley car.
- Take a boat ride to Alcatraz Island and tour the prison that held the likes of Al Capone and Robert Stroud (the "Birdman").
- Drive down Lombard Street, "the crookedest street in the world."
- Shop and eat in Chinatown.

Dr. Scott Hicks, a professor in the Department of English, Theatre & Foreign Languages, is a San Francisco fan.

"My family and I had the opportunity to visit San Francisco several years ago. What we liked most was the wonderful food, from dinner in Chinatown, to gelato, to the wonderful bakeries," Hicks says. "We loved the walkability of the city and the beautiful parks, such as Golden Gate Park and Crissy Field."

After the city, if you want to see woodlands again, drive across the Golden Gate Bridge and head north to Muir Woods, where you can compare the redwoods to the sequoias you left behind. Enjoy!

Kings Canyon. PN/Photo Mitchell Doub



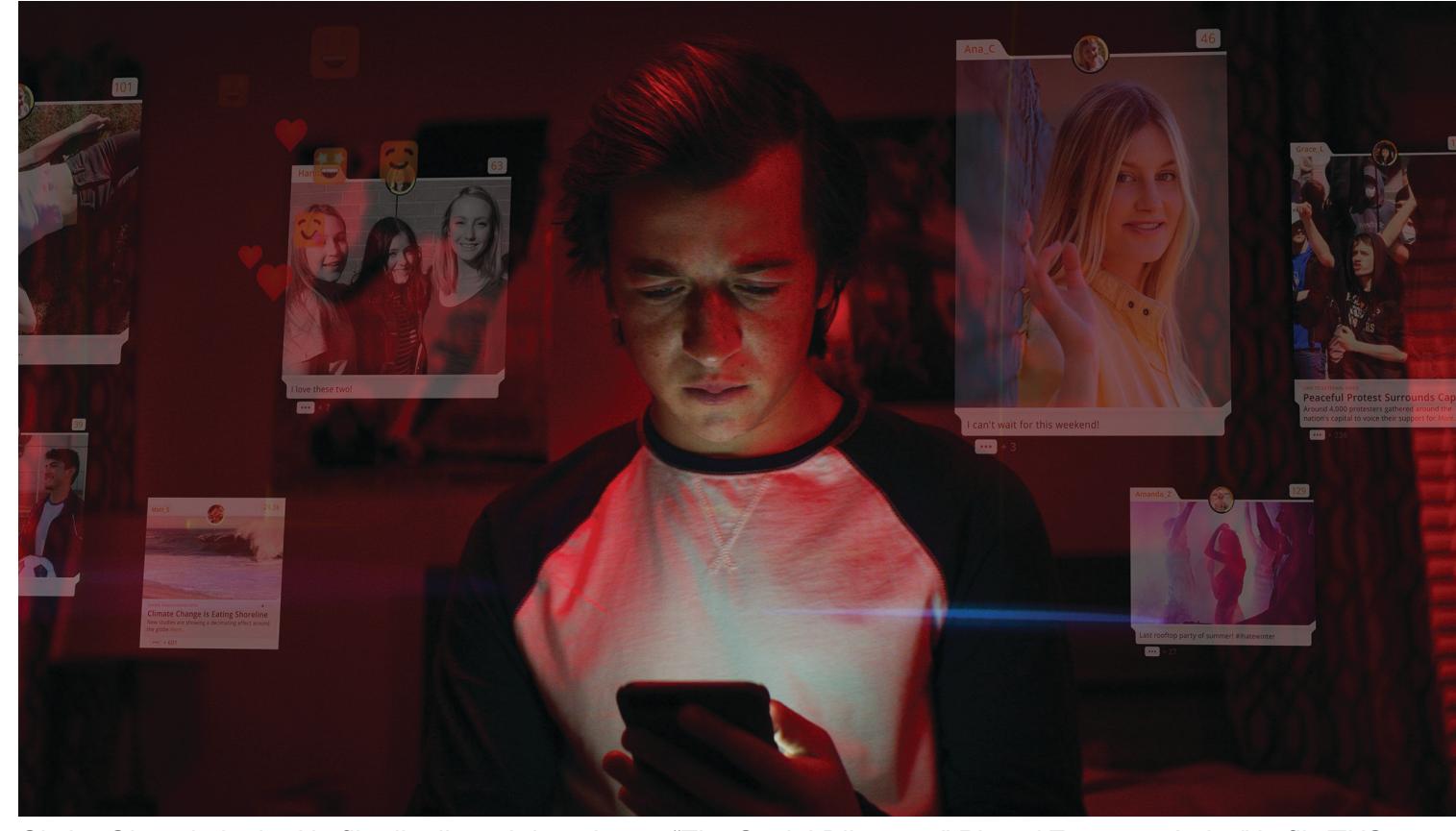
# Netflix Documentary Reveals the Dark Side of Social Media

**Sara Fox**  
Campus Life Editor

Released last January, the Netflix docudrama "The Social Dilemma" is still trending. The film discusses the negative consequences that social media have had on the world. In the 94 minute film, former employees of some of the biggest social media platforms come forward to share the secrets of the industry that some may find disturbing.

The featured tech experts in explain that the business model of these companies is to keep users engaged for as long as possible. It has become a joke on Twitter to ask how the app is still free, implying that the content is so good that users should have to pay for it. However, the services that users view as free are not. They are paid for by advertisers who pay the company to play their ads. Justin Rosenstein, a former engineer for Facebook and Google and co-founder of Asana, said "Our attention is the product being sold to advertisers."

The competition for the attention of the consumer has led tech



Skyler Gisondo in the Netflix-distributed docudrama "The Social Dilemma." Photo/Exposure Labs/Netflix/TNS.

companies to manipulate their users into staying online longer. It is for this reason that companies develop algorithms that will generate content for each user based on the posts, videos, and pictures they view. Tristan Harris, former Google Design Ethicist and Co-Founder of the Center for Humane Technology, equates the situation to gambling. The antic-

ipation of getting a notification will keep a person checking their phone. "That's not by accident," Harris states in the film. "That's a design technique."

This has led to people spending more time on their phones than before. Priscilla Contreras, a UNCP junior, said she believes that people are addicted to social media. "Everyone wants some sort of reassurance and attention for their satisfaction," said Contreras.

The addiction to phones is a precursor to more troubling problems. The CDC states that since 2009, the rate of teenage girls per 100,000 admitted to hospitals from non-fatal self-harm is up 62% for girls ages 15-18 and 189% for girls ages 10-14. Suicide rates are up 70% for girls ages 15-19 and up 151% for girls ages 10-14. Patterns point to social media as the cause.

"Social media can deplete

someone's self-esteem if they put much of their time, energy, and self-worth in the responses they get from their posts," said UNCP senior Brandie Purcell, who believes that social media directly affects self-esteem levels.

Contreras agrees that self-esteem levels are affected by social media. She suggests, "We want to be seen as living our ideal lifestyle" and keeping up the appearance of perfection "can be all-consuming."

"The Social Dilemma" provides tips for viewers who are looking to break the addiction to their phones, such as turning off notifications to help lessen the urge to check one's phone and for phones to not be taken into the bedroom at night before bed.

"The Social Dilemma" is available for streaming on Netflix. Directed by Jeff Orlowski. Written by Orlowski, Davis Coombe and Vickie Curtis.



Former Google design ethicist and co-founder of the Center for Humane Technology Tristan Harris testifies before the U.S. Senate in the documentary "The Social Dilemma." Image/Exposure Labs/Netflix/TNS.

## "Among Us" are Players of the Game

**Savanna Rudolph**  
Copy Editor

Even though "Among Us" was released in the year 2018, it only became popular when several well-known streamers and YouTubers played the game online, bringing this somewhat obscure game to light. Ever since then, its popularity has skyrocketed, and has become a game that brings people together for a fun time.

In a group of four to ten people, most are given the role of crewmates, people who go around completing their tasks without getting killed by "Impostors." An Impostor's goal is to kill all of the crewmates before they complete their tasks.

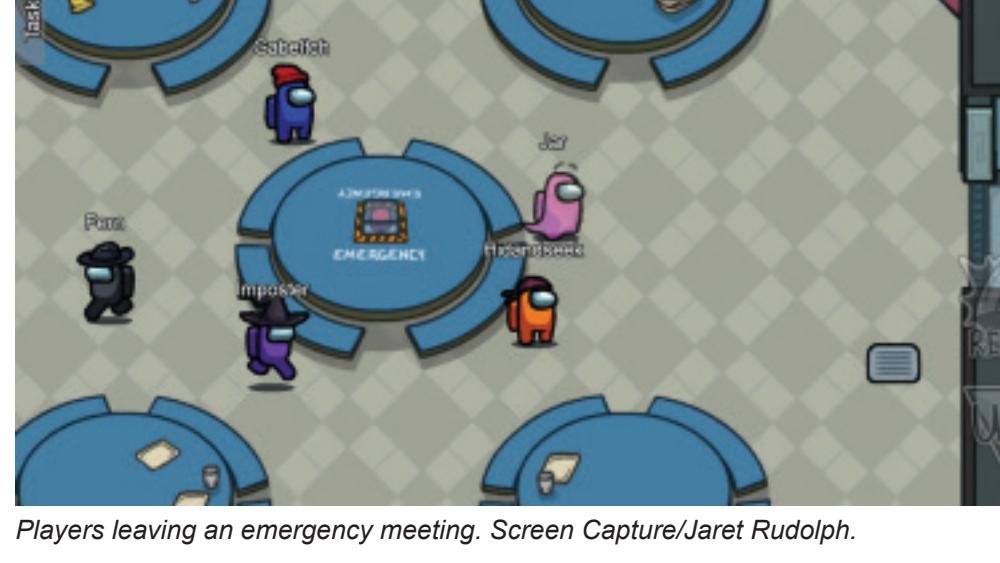
When a body is found, players can report the body and start a group meeting. If players see something strange, such as a player jumping in and out of

vents, an ability only granted to the Impostors, they can press the emergency meeting button.

When a meeting starts, everybody discusses who has been the most suspicious or who could have had an opportunity to kill someone. If the Impostors are unlucky, they can get pointed out immediately. Then everybody votes on who should be thrown into the void of space, or a lava pit, depending on the map. Players can also skip the vote if they don't have enough evidence.

The game ends when either the crewmates finish their tasks, kick out all the Impostors, or the Impostors manage to kill all the crewmates.

Chandler Allred, dean of UNCP's Phi Sigma Nu fraternity, found out about the game from watching people playing it on YouTube. During one of the



Players leaving an emergency meeting. Screen Capture/Jaret Rudolph.

fraternity's interest meetings, they all played the game together and it was his first time playing. Allred says, "It's addicting," having once stayed up till 3 a.m. playing and warns it's safer to play it during the weekend to make sure work gets done and not to interfere with school.

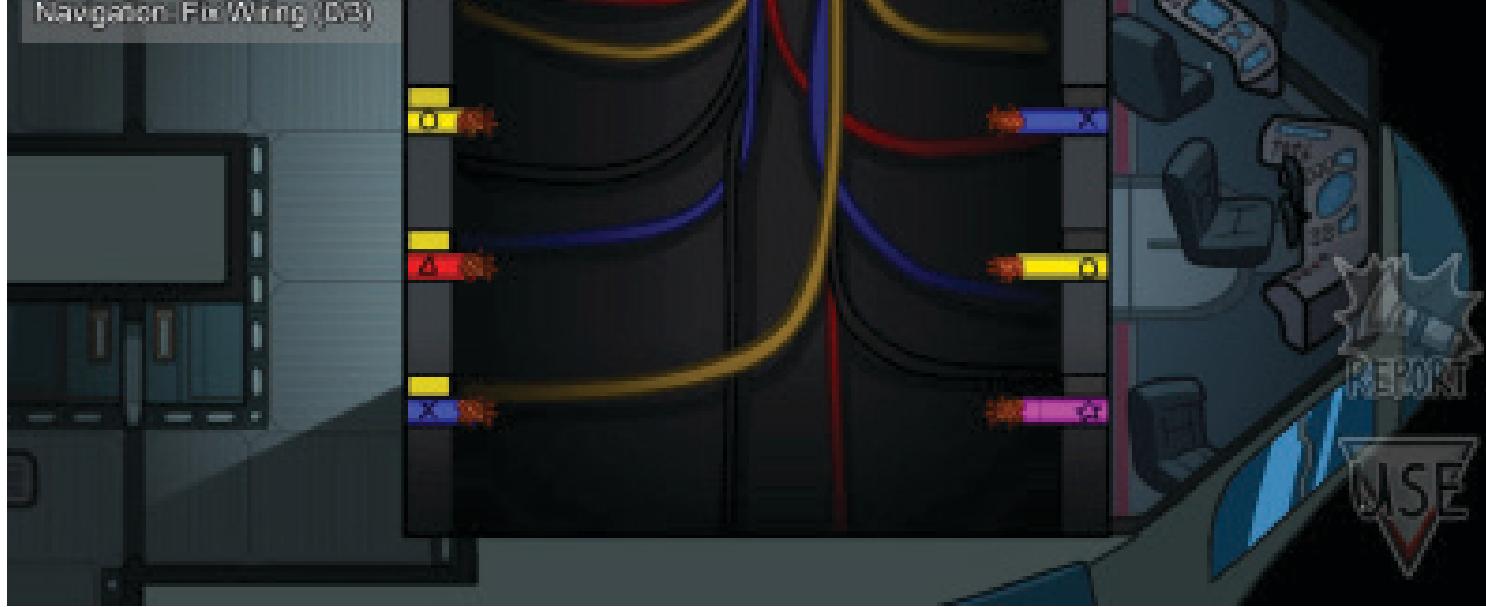
Allred has even played with

people from other factions that he hadn't met before. "It improves critical thinking and team bonding," he says. He plays his phone since it is free on mobile, but there is a version available through Steam for \$5.

InnerSloth, the developers of the game, have announced that they plan to improve the original product rather than create a second version. Some updates have already been made, such as a version accessible to color-blind players.

One of the frequent tasks required of crewmates in the game is to connect colored wires. Before the update there was no distinction between the wires aside from their color. Now there are symbols that indicate a difference between the wires.

The new version of the game allows colorblind players to tell the difference between the wires. Screen Capture/Jaret Rudolph.



# Lord of the Flies: A Must-Read for All Young Adults

**By Mitchell Doub**

You are 11 years old. You and your prepubescent classmates are flying home five miles over the crystal blue Pacific Ocean when the plane makes an emergency landing. The kids flee the jetliner and make it to the island they crashed next to, but every adult died. There is no food, no water and no tools. What do you do?

This is where the author, William Golding, begins his 1954 novel, "Lord of the Flies." Ralph, Jack, Piggy, Roger and Simon are the oldest boys (11-13 years old). The rest of the other kids are all between the ages of 6-10. The boys know little about survival, and with no adult supervision, they don't even know that it is good manners to leave camp to use the bathroom.

Early on, Ralph emerges as the main protagonist. The senior officer of a proper British military school, Ralph attempts to create order and democracy by making it so that whoever holds the conch shell should be heard. Piggy, the secondary protagonist, is chubby, has poor eyesight, and is easily moved to tears. Jack, the primary antagonist, clearly wants to be a leader, but reluctantly accepts the initial popular vote that narrowly elects Ralph as chief. In return, Ralph appoints Jack to

be the head of the hunters. Jack eagerly accepts and starts to train his choir to hunt using sharpened sticks as spears. It is at this moment, when Ralph releases a part of his power to Jack, that things take a turn.

Jack and his hunters start killing pigs, and the group becomes more powerful as everyone relies on the protein that the roasted pigs supply. Jack begins recruiting more of the castaways to be hunters, eventually setting up the first major confrontation with Ralph. Jack recruits the boys tending the signal fire to join him, and after the smoke dies out, a ship passes the island. With no signal fire, the ship sails past the island. Ralph is furious and confronts Jack, who responds by taking the hunters with him and starting his own "tribe" on another part of the island. Ralph, Piggy, Simon, and the twins Sam and Eric, are all that remain of the original society. The scales of humanity are now tipped in favor of the antagonist.

"Lord of the Flies," at first glance, is a simple story about a group of children stranded on a deserted island. Or is it more? Sara Goldsberry, a senior at UNCP, was introduced to the book in the tenth grade by her English teacher. "The book as a whole has a greater meaning," she says.

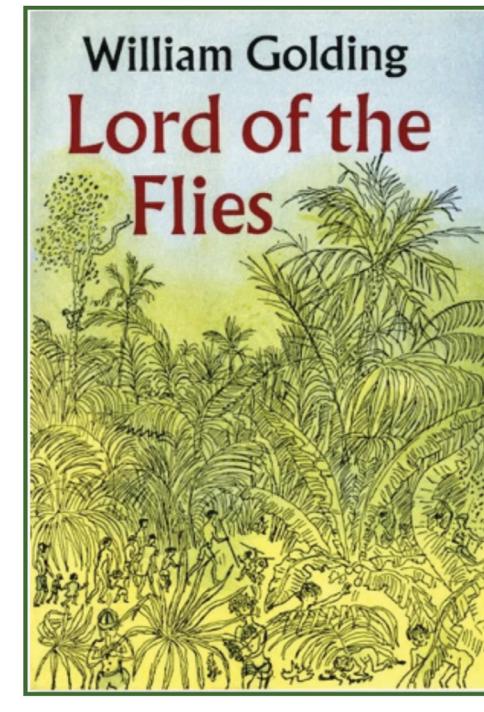
"One of my favorite things is how smaller details help contribute to it. They help make it an even better form of storytelling. For example, Piggy was the voice of reason. He insisted on using the conch, which symbolized order, and what happens to his character was the official fall into chaos," Goldsberry says.

"When I first read it, I felt that the book's meaning is that anyone can be pushed to extreme limits. The book right now is, for me, about a battle between emotions and logic, and how we use each as a part of human nature."

Darren Chiott, a financial aid advisor at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, read the book in his youth. "I found it thrilling and scary. There was no control. I don't know if it's meant as a metaphor for society, but it held my attention. Is it an allegory? A story is never just a story, it always means something else," he says.

"I think it may be an argument about the inherent evil of man. The boys are presumed innocent, yet within a short time frame, they become brutal. It is the struggle of men trying not to be animals," Chiott explains. "I loved the book. It's an intense dive into humanity, it exposes us for what we are. It is the loss of innocence."

"Or it might be organized religion terrorizing mankind, as



Dust jacket of the 1954 edition of "Lord of the Flies" Photo/Faber & Faber, London Website.

to mold him to the tenets of the Church."

Over the decades, "Lord of the Flies" has become an international bestseller and is a common read in U.S. schools. It has been added to "Modern Library 100 Best Novels," to "Time" magazine's list of "100 Best English Language Novels," and in 2019, BBC News listed it as one of the most influential novels of all time.

An uncommon, yet intriguing freshman term paper theme, is "The Time I Lost my Innocence." For these [fictional] children, that time was on this island. Each reader also loses a bit of their innocence as they finish "Lord of the Flies."

## 'Veep' showrunner shares Selina Meyer's advice for Vice President-elect Kamala Harris

By Yvonne Villarreal  
Los Angeles Times

"Veep" is the TV comedy that, particularly in recent days, feels more like a documentary.

Though it ended its six-season run last year, the Emmy-winning HBO series, which starred Julia Louis-Dreyfus, has seen a resurgence in mentions on social media over the last week as the final phase of the election began to feel like it was ripped from an episode of the political satire.

Many noted the parallels between Trump campaign gripes and plot developments in the show's "Nev-AD-a" and "Mother" episodes, in which then-presidential incumbent Selina Meyer (Julia Louis-Dreyfus) calls for a recount of votes in the Southwestern state after an Electoral College tie — only to backpedal on the messaging when it becomes clear that absentee military ballots will not trend in her favor.

By Saturday, there was a more notable resemblance to "Veep" in our real-life process: the election of a female vice president, Kamala Harris — who breaks boundaries not only as the first woman in her role, but also as the first Black and Asian American person to be elected vice president.

The Los Angeles Times reached out to "Veep" executive producer David Mandel, who served as showrunner for the comedy's final three seasons, about the presidential election's wild final days. Speaking Saturday from Los Angeles (the conversation has been lightly edited for length and clarity), Mandel shared his thoughts on the show's resonance, what advice Selina Meyer might offer to Harris, and whether political comedy can recover from the Trump presidency.

**Q:** Where were you when you heard (Joe) Biden had been named the president-elect?

**A:** Funny enough, I woke up to it. I've not been sleeping much since Tuesday. I'm not the best sleeper to begin with, but I definitely had sort of shifted into,

like, It was very enjoyable.

**Q:** Has there been a text chain going with any of the "Veep" cast members?

**A:** No, no text chain. A little back and forth with some people. I actually just talked to Julia about a minute ago. And don't get me wrong, we're quite happy, but we were like: "OK, so Georgia. Got two Senate seats (still in contention) there ..."

**Q:** People have referenced "Veep" quite a bit in recent years, as it relates to the current administration. But this week especially, people couldn't help but note the parallels — the Nevada storyline,

the recount, etcetera. What's gone through your mind this week, seeing how things have played out?

**A:** The funniest thing to me, just conceptually, is "Veep" seems more popular now than when we were actually on the air. I feel like more people are discussing it than when we were actually on regular HBO on Sunday night. We're getting more relevant — maybe not for good reasons, but we're getting more relevant. In terms of what's gone on, honestly, I do take a little pride in it. We took the non-humor part of "Veep" very seriously. We always

had just fantastic consultants, from both sides of the aisle: our version of a disputed election. ... What would really terrible people like think and do? And here we are. That being said, watching some of the Trump people demanding the votes be counted and watching other Trump people demand they not be counted, it was just creepy. It was funny but it was creepy. Even I was a little freaked out.

**Q:** Saturday's "Four Seasons Total Landscaping" situation also sparked a lot of confusion and

*VEEP Continued on C8*

## NATIONAL BESTSELLERS

### HARDCOVER FICTION

1. "Fortune and Glory" by Janet Evanovich (Atria) Last week: —
2. "A Time for Mercy" by John Grisham (Doubleday) Last week: 2
3. "The Sentinel" by Lee Child and Andrew Child (Delacorte) Last week: 1
4. "The Return" by Nicholas Sparks (Grand Central) Last week: 3
5. "Three Women Disappear: With bonus novel Come and Get Us" by James Patterson and Shan Serafin (Little, Brown) Last week: 4
6. "The Wonder Boy of Whistle Stop" by Fannie Flagg (Random House) Last week: 7
7. "The Book of Two Ways" by Jodi Picoult (Ballantine) Last week: 8
8. "The Evening and the Morning" by Ken Follett (Viking) Last week: 9
9. "The Invisible Life of Addie Larue" by V.E. Schwab (Tor) Last week: 13
10. "The Searcher" by Tana French (Viking) Last week: 10

### HARDCOVER NONFICTION



1. "Clanlands: Whisky, Warfare, and a Scottish Adventure Like No Other" by Sam Heughan and Graham McTavish (Quercus) Last week: —
2. "A Republic Under Assault: The Left's Ongoing Attack on American Freedom" by Tom Fitton (Threshold) Last week: 3
3. "Modern Comfort Food: A Barefoot Contessa Cookbook" by Ina Garten (Clarkson Potter) Last week: 2
4. "Greenlights" by Matthew McConaughey (Crown) Last week: 1
5. "The Best of Me" by David Sedaris (Little, Brown) Last week: —
6. "Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents" by Isabel Wilkerson (Random House) Last week: 6
7. "Untamed" by Glennon Doyle (Dial Press) Last week: 4
8. "Guinness World Records 2021" by Guinness World Records (Guinness World Records) Last week: 7
9. "Killing Crazy Horse: The Merciless Indian Wars in America" by Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard (Holt) Last week: 8
10. "Blackout: How Black America Can Make Its Second Escape from the Democrat Plantation" by Candace Owens (Threshold) Last week: 14

Here are the best-sellers for the week that ended Saturday, Nov. 7, compiled from data from independent and chain bookstores, book wholesalers and independent distributors nationwide.

Source: Publishers Weekly  
Graphic: Staff, TNS

# UNCP Offers Alternative Methods to Exercise

By LaRuth Anderson  
Social Media manager

Campus Recreation has found alternative methods to keep students healthy, which include exercise classes offered over Instagram Live and the fitness center reopening by reservation-only.

Josephina Gonzalez is a senior Zumba instructor at UNCP and has been teaching this aerobic favorite since last year.

"Zumba is an exercise fitness that is embedded with all types of rhythm all around the world," Gonzales says. "Due to classes being online, I have received a lower participation rate, but I still have several people who view my Live, which is amazing."

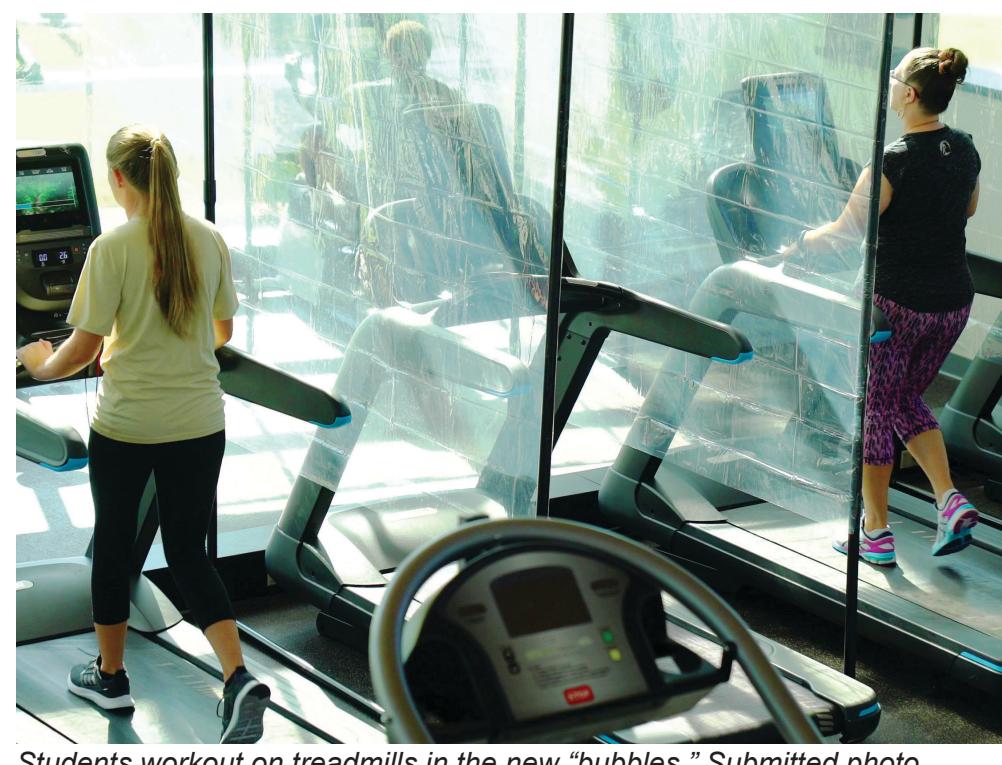
If you miss a class, you can

go back and watch it because the videos are saved on Instagram. Because Gonzales enjoys reacting to body language, she misses the atmosphere that her classes provided before the pandemic restrictions made face-to-face classes impossible.

Along with Instagram Live streams, Campus Recreation has reopened the Campbell Wellness Center so students can use the exercise machines, but with strict guidelines. According to facilities assistant Chinedu Osourji, the main priority is keeping the facility hygienic for users.

"Currently our limit is 15 users at a time, and our slots have filled up pretty quick," Osourji said.

The Campbell Wellness Center is restricted to student users only. Modifications were made by



Students workout on treadmills in the new "bubbles." Submitted photo.

spacing the equipment out, building cardio "bubbles" to try to con-

tain dispersion of the virus, and providing several new cleaning stations. Students are subjected to touch-free temperature detectors aimed at their foreheads before they can use the facility.

Director of Campus Recreation Justin Winans said he thinks the semester went well, considering the circumstances, especially the need to be flexible with their programming. "It has definitely given our student employees a different perspective on how we serve our students," he said.

There's a protocol for all who enter that can be found on the campus recreation web page: <https://www.uncp.edu/campus-life/campus-recreation/campus-recreation-covid-19-plan>

If students wish to access workouts virtually they can visit @uncp\_campusrec on Instagram Monday through Friday for a daily session.



Golfer Madison Deese, a freshman from Pembroke, gets her temperature checked by a Campbell Wellness Center student employee. Submitted photo/Campus Recreation

## Emerge Sports Takes on Pembroke

By Carson von Taborsky  
Contributor

Former UNCP student and basketball coaching staff member Kalen Eddings made his debut as the owner of the basketball training facility Emerge Sports Performance through a coaching clinic on Saturday, Sept. 26. The coaching clinic marked the first time the doors would be open to others. Nearly 20 coaches from all around Robeson County came out to see what the gym has to offer. Eddings manages to have several coaches from large universities come out and share advice on how to take the game of basketball to the next level. Some of these coaches are from universities including Houston, Memphis and UNCP.

Eddings always dreamed of having a training facility of his

own. Eddings said about his childhood dreams, "I remember, as a little kid, I would draw blueprints of buildings like the one I'm in now."

In the past, Eddings did a years' worth of interning at Elev8 Sports Institute, training and coaching athletes, followed by two more years of being a graduate assistant at Pembroke for the men's basketball team. It wasn't until this past year Kalen was given a head coaching job for a local high school team.

The gym opened in October for youth aged 8 and up. Eddings expects big things from his pupils and himself. "We hope to have a sports complex... with more courts, weight rooms, and even a physical therapy area for rehab. Ultimately, we're looking into expanding Emerge Sports to the next level."



Right: Basketball entrepreneur Kalen Eddings. PN/Carson von Taborsky

## Bosu trainer can add a balance element to Exercise Training



By Jeff Banowetz, Tribune News Service

When it comes to exercising at home, most people focus on the big piece of equipment they need — a treadmill, stationary bike or weight-lifting system. And while you'll probably spend the bulk of your time on these, they shouldn't be the only part of your workout.

Balance training can help promote flexibility and strength while helping to avoid muscle imbalances that come from spending too much time doing one activity. Bosu's Nexgen Home Balance Trainer is an excellent tool to have in any home gym to help promote overall fitness and work on developing those little-used muscles throughout your body. Shaped like a half dome with a soft top and a stable base, the Bosu trainer can add a balance element to a wide variety of exercises. The top is divided into four quadrants with a grippy surface to help you execute specific moves, whether you're stepping on top of it or using it as a platform for push-ups, lunges, or stretching.

*Home Balance Trainer can add a balance element to exercises. (Eric Wagner/Handout/TNS)*

# Recycle, Reuse... Refill?

By Audrey Bishop

Have you ever wondered what happens to your trash after it is collected or taken to the dump? It's no great secret that the nation's landfills are filling up quickly, and the world's oceans are also a dumping ground for billions of pounds of trash per year. One way to help make a dent in the problem is to recycle, reuse and compost when possible. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the average consumer generates about 4.0 pounds of waste per day, and only about 32% of that garbage, called municipal solid waste, gets recycled or composted.

Recycling is easy on campus. There are blue bins everywhere. Larger bins in buildings don't require separation of acceptable materials, while smaller cans around campus sometimes are designated for glass or plastic. What you probably didn't know is that you can also compost.

Composting is a process of managing the waste from fruits and vegetables so that it decomposes naturally into an organic material that can be used as fertilizer. According to the EPA, making compost keeps those materials from crowding the landfills and releasing methane, one of those polluting "greenhouse gases." Normally you need a yard where you could put an appropriately designed bin or start a compost pile.

Becca Nenow, who recently

started a "zero waste" consumer goods business in Boone, North Carolina, says college students who want to try composting yet live in a residence hall or apartment should try keeping a gallon bag, preferably a reusable one, in a minifridge or freezer to fill with food scraps throughout the week. Types of compostable things include fruit and vegetable peels, eggshells and coffee grounds, but no meat, dairy or oils. The UNCP Campus Garden, located adjacent to Pine Cottage on the north end of campus (Ernest Lowery Road), has compost bins where students can drop off their food scraps.

In addition to recycling and composting, Nenow is a big fan of reusing packaging.

"I would emphasize finding reusable alternatives to recycling when possible, especially reusable non-plastic items like a metal water bottle, glass food storage for leftovers in the fridge, metal containers for packing food for lunch and snacks," Nenow said. This past summer she founded Resupply, a type of shop known as a "refillery."

Refilleries have become a way to help control the number of waste products that are being thrown away into our landfills. A refillery typically sells household products, sometimes in bulk, in containers that you bring to the store yourself, such as glass jars. Nenow has been running pop-up events in western North Carolina since August to sell locally



Students can bring some types of food scraps to the composting bins at the UNCP Campus Garden. Submitted Image/Pariya Clark.

sourced shampoos, soaps, detergents and deodorants. If you pay a deposit, you can use containers that she provides.

If you live in Durham, you can buy similar products in bulk at Fillaree on Guess Road and then refill them there or at several other stores in the Triangle that carry their brand. In the South Charlotte area, you can order from Ekologically, which also offers free classes on Zoom about a zero-waste lifestyle and runs a blog about sustainable practices.

On campus you can refill your reusable water bottle at a "hydration station," which is a glorified water fountain where you don't have to awkwardly tilt your bottle. These hands-free motion-detecting dispensers are actually the only water fountains that aren't locked right now because of the coronavirus pandemic. Being resourceful and mindful of the things you purchase, and the

packaging they come in, can help limit the amount of waste.

Developing these habits and understanding how effective it is for the environment is essential for the sustainability of the ecosystems all around us.



Personal bottles can be refilled at water fountains on campus. Submitted Image/Pariya Clark.

## Veep continued from p. C6

fodder online. President (Donald) Trump tweeted that his lawyers were holding a press conference at the "Four Seasons, Philadelphia," which he later corrected to ... the "Four Seasons Total Landscaping." The building was located next to an adult book store.

**A:** It was like some sort of exquisite cherry on top. I'll be sending our Emmys to the writers of the Trump administration because again they really outdid us. In no episode of "Veep" was there ever a press conference in a strip mall with a porn shop on one side and whatnot so, again, you just have to acknowledge your betters too and all I can say is just kudos on a really perfect ending to this.

**Q:** You've tweeted about some things playing better on the small screen than in real life. How would you critique this election week if it were written as a "Veep" spec script?

**A:** I've got to be honest with you, I feel like if we had like taken this to a table read ... don't get me wrong: People would have been like, "Oh, I love the laughs; I love that thing with the Four Seasons, that was good." There were definitely some strong moments, but it felt like it needed more story. I'll simply say a few too many scene after scene after scene of people watching a guy standing in front of a map, reminding us that they're still counting votes. Many years ago, when I first went to work at "Seinfeld" for Larry David, one of the main things I learned from Larry was: In every scene, the story needs to move forward a little bit. And this story was not moving forward enough. Before we started shooting, we would have been, like, can we come up with a B story or maybe a C story to sort of get a little more story going in there? There wasn't enough happening for a couple of days.

**Q:** And yet we were glued to the TV.

**A:** Yes, just glued to those



Julia Louis-Dreyfus in 'Veep.' (Justin M. Lubin/HBO/TNS)

map guys: "This could be red and this could be blue or it could be red, or it could be blue. Let's look at this county again, just up we've got some movement. We see 85% are reporting ... oh wait, news just in, we're now at 86% of the votes have been counted."

**Q:** As Julia noted in a tweet on Saturday, a female vice president is no longer just a fictional character. What do you think Selina would have to say to Kamala?

What advice would she have?

What would she think of her?

**A:** I want to be very clear about this: Selina Meyer would hate Kamala Harris. There's just no question about how much she would hate her. She would hate her intelligence, she would hate to know how much people like her, how popular she is. So I don't think she would readily give advice — but if truly pressed, perhaps in the middle of the night and a little drunk, maybe. Some of the things Selina would hate about her ... Kamala is so readily ahead of where Selina ever was. She has a really great incredible staff around her that I'm sure will only get better. Mainly, Selina would say, don't hire Amy Bruckheimer — that would be her key, key piece of advice. And definitely don't hire Mike McClintock.

Number two, (the show's) President Hughes basically put Selina on the ticket to be a woman and then that was it, and I believe as Ben (Cafferty, the fictional White House chief of staff) said to her once, "And you've done that, relatively OK." I think one of the great things about President-elect Biden — boy, that feels good to say — is that he was in that job. That's where (he and Harris) are

starting on this relationship. And so that's only going to be get better. And by the way, again, Selina would be incredibly jealous of that.

Finally, Selina spends so much time trying to sort of justify her job and the terrible tasks that Hughes gave her. And unfortunately, this is a giant job that Biden-Harris have in front of them. They've already called for a coronavirus task force on Monday — like, we can't wait for the 21st of January. This starts now. So there are 18 different top-of-the-list items that need to be dealt with: the economy, unemployment, the virus, fixing the environment, fixing our international relationships. The two of them, but certainly the vice president herself, is going to have her plate full with real, actual agenda items in a way that Selina Meyer never had.

**Q:** What about Selina's bag man, Gary? Would he be trying to join the Harris team?

**A:** I think Gary, if he could get the job, would be in seventh heaven because he would be able to worship her very similarly (to how he worshipped Selina), but it wouldn't just be all one-way. I think (Harris) would be very respectful of Gary, which would of course then send him into a higher state of orbit, if that was possible. Plus, I think he would be quite taken with her hair. It would just be really something special for Gary to get four years of that hair. And, I mean, the sneakers with the outfit — he would just be really thrilled.

**Q:** You've talked before about ending "Veep" at a time when the news cycle around the current administration was its own TV show at times. Where do political comedies go from here?

**A:** Well, it sounds silly, but we've spent four years of talking about how Trump, the Trump administration, and his family have just constantly destroyed the norm. The phrases "I've never heard a president do this, say this, whatever" were broken

records. For comedy to work, you need the straight line. You need what it's supposed to be. You need: This is the situation that you're expecting; a president is supposed to say this, therefore, isn't it funny when our TV president said blank? But it only works when the person who is the president does, for lack of a better word, what he's supposed to. So, we can, under Biden, just get back to a certain level of normalcy — where a day or two go by and you don't actually think about who the president is. ... Wouldn't that be glorious? Then you can begin to get back to jokes and satire about what if and what if. If we can get back to a little bit of normalcy, a little bit of straight line, we can then start making punch lines.

**Q:** At this point, many of us have watched a lot of election coverage. Who were the on-air personalities you were fond of?

**A:** I've become quite enamored with John King on CNN. I definitely spent a lot of time with him calmly retelling what the situation was. They need to figure out some new colors on that map. There was a lot of like: In 2016, this was red but then this might be red, but now let's turn it blue. Now, let's turn red. There's got to be some grays or something, they should get some other colors to help make it a little more clear. But I found him to be a very calming influence. I think there was some really exciting sexual chemistry between him and Wolf Blitzer — that was enjoyable.

And then the other guy that I really just enjoyed, not just on election night, but also in the days since election night, especially when Trump has spoken out: Just a real shout-out to Jake Tapper for what I consider to be a very nonpartisan way — although I'm sure partisan people would disagree — to sometimes actually just say that what the president is doing is just wrong. The combination of Tapper and King with his map got me through this.