



THE

SEAHAWK

November 16, 2017

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Stop Sucking

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Photo courtesy of UNCW Plastic Oceans Project

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Courtesy of Tom Stovall | Creative Commons

New Hanover County's expanding housing market leads to price increases

Tyler Newman STAFF WRITER | @TNEWMAN39

Throughout New Hanover County, rising home rates have been undercutting residents from Kure Beach to Castle Hayne. Local real estate markets have been surging as the development in Wilmington continues to expand at a rapid pace.

With a bustling downtown, an abundance of coastline and continuously expanding subdivisions, many prospective homeowners have been attracted to the region as of late.

However, with the growth of the metro area comes a change in home prices. The more the region grows and the more people flock to the city, the higher the prices go for homes.

The housing market has begun to stabilize following the Great Recession and there is a large number of new homes being built in the area with each passing year. These factors contribute to the rising demand for new living in New Hanover and surrounding counties.

In 2005, 6,491 housing units were sold in New Hanover County before sharply declining in 2006 and continuing to fall to a recession-era bottom of 2,523 in 2009. In 2016, 4,981 housing units were sold, a substantial increase from the recession era, according to the Cape Fear Realtors' annual Economic Report, published this year.

Steeper prices have been following in the footsteps of the recovering market. In October 2017, the average home price in the Wilmington metro was \$214,000. Just a year ago, the average home price was \$201,000.

In October 2007 — before the

Great Recession — the average home price in the Wilmington metro area was \$230,000. At its lowest point, the average was \$162,000 in a period from October to December 2011.

With a growing market and higher demand for living in Wilmington, it may take a larger amount of money for a prospective resident to move to the area.

The housing costs are not just affecting subdivisions and neighborhoods either. Apartment rent costs have increased a decent percentage from last year. The average price per month for rent in Wilmington has risen to \$925.

Rising rent costs are affecting students attending area schools, including the University of North Carolina Wilmington and Cape Fear Community College.

With steadily increasing costs of living in the Port City, some residents, especially the city's growing student population, are looking for cheaper alternatives to ensure stable housing.

According to a September report from Cape Fear Realtors, the average sales price for homes between Jan-Sept 2016 was \$251,159. For that same time period this year, the average sales price was \$261,651.

Those increasing numbers from 2016 to 2017 equaled a 4.18 percent rise in average sales price.

However, in 2016, 8,848 homes were sold in the region. So far this year, 7,767 homes have already been sold in the region. If the trend continues, 2017 will outpace 2016 in terms of homes sold as well as average sales price.

With numerous new housing developments appearing across the Cape Fear, it is no surprise that home prices are climbing upwards. From the massive RiverLights development along River Road to the River Bluffs development in Castle Hayne, New Hanover County is seeing a rapid influx in home construction and new communities.

According to a report from Wilmington Star News, however, when compared to other cities throughout the United States, Wilmington's average home prices are still fairly cheap.

Elsewhere in the tricity region, housing developments are being built at a reasonable pace in coastal Pender County and in the Leland area of Brunswick County. Brunswick County is the 37th fastest growing county in the United States; with a population of 107,431 in 2010, it was estimated to have risen to 126,953 in 2016.

The housing developments on the eastern side of Brunswick County draw residents that seek to live close to Wilmington, but sales prices can be steep on that side of the river as well.

The local housing market seems to be succeeding despite rising prices, with the average time that a home is listed on the market decreasing last year, falling 11 percent.

In a time of economic growth, the housing market throughout much of southeastern North Carolina appears to be on a successful upward trend. But that upward trend comes at a pricier cost for potential residents seeking to contribute to the future of the expanding Wilmington metropolitan area.

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Chancellor Sartarelli celebrates 70 years of UNCW's growth and excellence



"Chancellor Jose V. Sartarelli, left, poses with Sammy C. Hawk, right, at the 70th anniversary event held by UNCW." Photo courtesy of Jeff Janowski of the Office of University Relations.

Helen Rogalski MANAGING EDITOR | @HELENROGALSKI

Throughout the course of this semester, UNC Wilmington's campus has been especially busy celebrating the 70th anniversary of the university. As the celebration winds down, Chancellor Jose V. Sartarelli sat down with The Seahawk to discuss crucial points in UNCW's history and what comes next for the fast-growing campus.

Formerly Wilmington College, UNCW has slowly but surely made its mark as a well known and respected university, now home to more than 13,000 undergraduate students.

"When you look back, and I've been reading a lot about it, there were moments in time that were crit-

ical," Chancellor Sartarelli said.

Firstly, he praised the formation of the Marine Science program back in the 1970s. Chancellor Sartarelli beamed with pride as he discussed how UNCW has grown into "a real player in Marine Science facilities... Our center for marine science is one of the best on the East Coast."

According to Chancellor Sartarelli, the creation of various academic majors and departments was vital to the university's development. The founding of the Creative Writing program--which offers both BFA and MFA degrees--then, the creation of the Cameron School of Business and the many varying degrees it offers, and the founding of the Department of Psychology were all critical moments for UNCW. Similarly, hiring Dr. Antonio E. Puente into the psychology department helped grow the level of respect granted to UNCW by its peers. Dr. Puente is known for serving as the president of the American Psychological Association, the largest professional organization of psychologists in the country.

It has been crucial moments like these, Chancellor Sartarelli believes, that have made a lasting impact on UNCW's growth and stature leading up to this, its 70th birthday.

An in relation to growth, many UNCW students have taken notice to the fact that the student body seems to be expanding notably every year. However, the rate has been surprising to many.

The College of Health and Human Services within UNCW "has gone from about 1500 students back in 2010 to about 3,000." It has doubled in size over the last seven years, but Chancellor Sartarelli remains confident that this growth in numbers is not at the expense of quality.

Many students' common points

of frustration, however, include overcrowding across campus in places such as the library and parking lots.

"We are working very diligently on that [parking on campus]," said Chancellor Sartarelli. "You're going to see, probably by early next year, two more parking places on campus." Upcoming parking expansions include spots to the left and right of Wagoner Hall.

"As we're growing, we're going to have to have more classrooms, meeting places, space in the library."

Randall Library functions as a necessary common place for UNCW students, but it is oftentimes a major source of frustration due to the lack of room and resources. In fact, lack of tables and chairs in the library was a key platform issue of Student Body President Ottillie Mensah's campaign in the spring.

"That [Randall Library's last] renovation took place in '87," Chancellor Sartarelli said. "In 1987 we had 5,800 students. We've gone from 5,800 students to 16,500 with the same building. With the same 170,000 square feet. So, we have to do something different here, right?"

The chancellor reported that problems surrounding Randall library are on his radar. "I sleep, eat, and argue for the library everyday. I'm thinking of the library all the time," he said.

"I would like to be one of the top 100 or 200 national universities in the next 70 years," Chancellor Sartarelli stated, noting his goals of expanding PhD programs and introducing new programs like data science, coastal engineering and more.

"Today, we are educating the sons and daughters of the state, the nation, and the world."



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New Hanover County election results

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Elections took place last Tuesday, Nov. 7, across the country, allowing for new and old politicians to vie for positions in local, state and national politics. For New Hanover County elections, results are in with some incumbents reclaiming their positions and new politicians assuming roles as Wilmington public officials.

In the mayoral race, incumbent Bill Saffo won with 85 percent of the vote and a total of 8,894 votes. Political newcomer and Saffo's only competition, Todd Zola, earned 13 percent with 1,353 votes. Saffo has been the mayor of Wilmington for 10 years and will be up for reelection in 2019. Prior to being mayor, he was first elected to Wilmington City Council in 2003.

The three open seats in the Wilmington City Council went to Kevin O'Grady, Charlie Rivenbark, Clifford D. Barnett. O'Grady won the most votes, earning 17 percent with 4,897 votes, and Charlie Rivenbark came in second with 16 percent and a total of 4,684 votes. O'Grady and Rivenbark are both incumbents of the city council.

Barnett earned the third open seat, winning 15 percent and 4,412 total votes. Barnett has never held public office before but has been

involved in other aspects of the local community. He won a Razor Walker Award, which is given out by UNCW to members of the community. Deb Hays was close to Barnett, also earning 15 percent of the vote; however, Hays had 4,317 total votes.

Elsewhere in New Hanover County, local elections were held for open positions in Carolina, Kure and Wrightsville Beaches.

The Carolina Beach mayoral race had two candidates: Joe Benson and Dan Wilcox. Benson won the position with 55 percent and 827 total votes. Only one seat was open for Carolina Beach Town Council and that went to LeAnn Pierce, who earned 22 percent of the vote.

For Kure Beach, Craig Bloszinsky won the mayoral race with 81 percent of the vote. Bloszinsky had 456 total votes, and his competitor, Chris Hald, earned 101. Kure Beach also voted on two vacant seats for town commissioners, and John Ellen and Allen Oliver won with 27 and 26 percent of the vote respectively.

Lastly, for Wrightsville Beach's mayoral race, Bill Blair won the race uncontested. He won 94 percent of the vote with 607 votes total. Blair began serving the Wrightsville Beach Board of



Casey McAnarney | The Seahawk | Created with Canva

Alderman in 2013 and has lived in Wrightsville Beach since 1987.

Two other seats were voted on for the Board of Aldermen. Hank Miller and Ken Dull won both with 34 percent each.

For more information on election results for Brunswick and Pender counties as well, checkout WWAY's graphic on the 2017 municipal elections. 



Bill Saffo, reelected mayor of Wilmington.
Photo courtesy of City of Wilmington



Joe Benson, newly elected mayor of Carolina Beach. Photo courtesy of Joe Benson for Mayor | Facebook



Craig Bloszinsky, new mayor of Kure Beach.
Photo courtesy of Town of Kure Beach.



Bill Blair, reelected mayor of Wrightsville Beach. Photo courtesy of Town of Wrightsville Beach

Department of Creative Writing celebrates eighteenth Writer's Week

Carey Shook CONTRIBUTING WRITER | @CAREYSHOOK

Each year during the last week of October, the UNC Wilmington Department of Creative Writing hosts Writers' Week — a series of events that brings in authors, pub-

lishers, alumni and professors to speak to the current MFA and BFA students studying creative writing, as well as to the public. These events include readings, panels, workshops and presentations from those currently working in the writing and publishing fields. Attendance peaked at over 150 people at multiple events throughout the week.

Writers' Week is an event that all creative writing students look forward to — especially the graduate and undergraduate students who are responsible for planning the week. There is a class that creative writing students have the opportunity to take in the fall if they are interested in planning the schedule. This year, the course was overseen



Tim Bass, BFA coordinator and lecturer of creative writing. Photo by Carey Shook.



The "Ethics of Voice" panel with Michael Ramos, Melody Moezzi, and Robert Anthony Siegel. Photo by Carey Shook.

by Mark Cox and Melissa Crowe, both professors in the Department of Creative Writing.

"I have taught the course three times now," Cox said. "This was our eighteenth Writers' Week. We've brought hundreds of writers to campus over the years, including at least eight Pulitzer Prize winners and five National Book Award Winners. Students and community members have been introduced to a deep and diverse field of literary talent."

Ross Gay, author of "Against Which"; Kristen Radtke, author of "Imagine Wanting Only This"; and publisher Julie Barer, among other notable writers and publishers, came from all over the country to attend this year's Writer's Week.

The students that take the course not only have the tasks of selecting authors and publishers who come, but also to select students that read for the MFA and BFA poetry, creative nonfiction and fiction readings. These readings tend to be the most highly attended events during the day since they allow students to read their work as professionals and show off the talent the creative writing department has.

Jess Cohn, who will graduate in December with a BFA in fiction and a publishing certificate, has overseen the selection process for the BFA reading for the past two Writers' Weeks.

"The hardest part of organizing the BFA reading is choosing the submissions," Cohn said. "You want to have a good range of genres for the one-hour limit of the event. There are so many amazing writers—especially this year—

so it makes it more difficult."

The keynote event with Ross Gay, National Book Award finalist and professor at Indiana University, had a lecture hall in Dobo Hall completely full.

"The chairs were filled, people sat on the floor, around the edges of the stairs, and stood in the hallway," said BFA student Tyler Whichard. "He broke down the slow, low-energy stereotype poetry readings are often given. He was alive, a born performer, with a voice you can't fall asleep on."

During the question and answer section of the reading, Gay was asked why he chooses to bring happiness and humor into his poetry.

"I want to explore the fullness of life, not just one aspect," Gay said. "I want to capture joy, not happy or sad."

Writers like Ross Gay, and all the writers and publishers who spoke at this past Writers' Week, inspired students.

"It's cool to listen to people who've had their writing published before," said Brian Capps, a BFA student. "Yeah, our professors have done it, but listening to people who are doing it right now is very inspiring."

Ricki Nelson, another BFA student, said, "It's very insightful. It makes me feel like getting published is possible."

Writers' Week will be back next fall to continue to inspire and educate students.



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Hollywood of the East

Wilmington's notable television and film appearances

Kyle Kissinger ASST. LIFESTYLES EDITOR | @KISSINGERKYLE

The state of North Carolina has earned the title of “Hollywood of the East” from the dozens of unforgettable television shows and films that have been produced here in the recent years.

Earlier this year, Gov. Roy Cooper reintroduced the tax incentive that had previously driven film production in the state, in hopes to reaffirm North Carolina's status as the Hollywood of the East. The NC Film and Entertainment grant would provide an up to 25 percent rebate on expenses and purchases while filming within the state. This rebate would cap out at \$5 million per feature film, \$9 million for a television series season or \$250,000 per commercial.

Wilmington has been the home to many productions since the early 1980s, as EUE/Screen Gems Studios — the second largest TV and movie production studio located east of California — is located here. Here is a look at some of the notable television shows and films that have been shot in the Wilmington area.

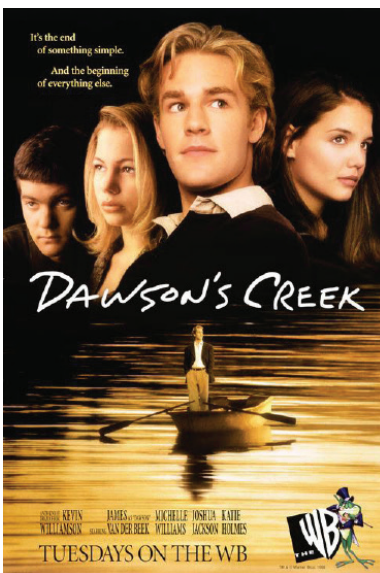


Photo courtesy of IMDB.com | The WB

“Dawson's Creek” (1998 — 2003)

“Dawson's Creek” was largely filmed in Wilmington — including Wrightsville Beach, Southport, and in studios at EUE/Screen Gems. Alderman Hall on UNC Wilmington's campus made appearances in the show, serving as exterior shots for Capeside High School. In April 2003, a bench was placed outside the hall commemorating the frequent usage of UNCW's campus for the show's filming. Due to UNCW's architectural uniformity, it was difficult for UNCW to double as another campus in the show when the characters reached college in the fifth and sixth season. Therefore, scenes were filmed at Duke University and around Franklin Street at the University of North Carolina.

“One Tree Hill” (2003 — 2012)

“One Tree Hill” could be considered Wilmington's crown jewel, as the filming of the show took place all across the Wilmington area for nine consecutive years. Some notable filming locations include Trask Coliseum on UNCW's campus, The Riverwalk and Cape Fear Community College. Since the show's conclusion, some of the filming locations have changed due to the test of time. For example, the Rivercourt has since been removed and replaced with a pavilion and Karen's Café has been renovated and now is an Outdoor Equipped. Many of these filming locations are covered in the scrawlings of quotes and messages of the show from fans, allowing “One Tree Hill” to live on forever in Wilmington.

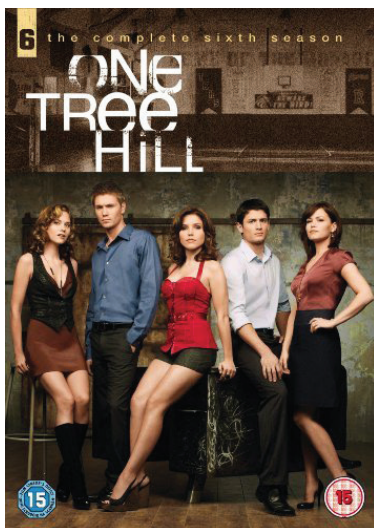


Photo courtesy of IMDB.com | The WB | The CW

“The Conjuring” (2013)

2013's hit horror movie “The Conjuring” was not just filmed in the Wilmington area, but UNC Wilmington's Lumina Theater — located in the Fisher Student Center — was utilized in a scene of the film. UNCW's George Zervos, who currently is an Associate Professor in the Department of Philosophy and Religion and a former Greek Orthodox priest, performed as a Catholic priest during an exorcism in a scene of the film. Director James Wan wanted “a man who could speak Latin and look like he could battle a demon,” and Zervos fit perfectly. The iconic house that is used in the film is located just outside of Wilmington in Canetuck.

“Iron Man 3” (2013)

If you were in the Wilmington area in early 2013, you might have caught a glimpse of stunt crews taking flight above the Cape Fear River. Unfortunately, not much of Wilmington is recognizable within “Iron Man 3” — much of the film was shot inside of Screen Gems Studios — but the film still remains the largest to ever be produced in Wilmington. Marvel also looked at Wilmington as an option to film “Captain America: The Winter Soldier” following the production of “Iron Man 3,” but instead decided on filming in Los Angeles.

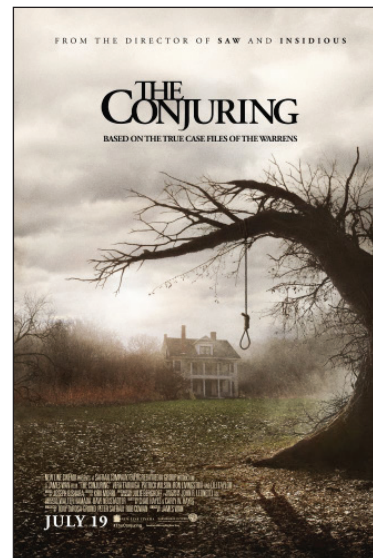


Photo courtesy of IMDB.com | New Line Cinema

“Revolution” (2012 — 2014)

While the pilot of this short-lived NBC show was filmed in Atlanta, the rest of the first season's filming took place in Wilmington. Production for the second season was shifted to Austin, Texas after the show had trouble finding locations to film at. Wilmington Regional Film Commission Director Johnny Griffin told the StarNews, “It's a good thing that the town doesn't have that many vacant buildings, but visually, they can only use a location so many times.” Filming took place primarily downtown, and in wooded areas outside of the downtown area.

“We're the Millers” (2013)

Downtown Wilmington had a heavy presence in the opening scenes of “We're the Millers.” Filmed almost exclusively on Front Street, Port City Java (known as Burklyn Cafe in the film) and Pender's Café made appearances in the film. David's (Jason Sudeikis) apartment was the building at 200 Front Street, and 100 South Front Street served as an exterior of a strip club.



Photo courtesy of IMDB.com | TNT

“Good Behavior” (2016 —)

TNT's “Good Behavior” is currently Wilmington's biggest production, as filming just wrapped late summer and season two premiered in October. According to StarNews, filming had taken place at Hugh MacRae park, Parchies Restaurant, Blue Post Billiards, Capt'n Bill's Backyard Grill, Reggie's Bar, Cape Fear Country Club and on several studio sound stages. Production had been based at EUE/Screen Gems Studios.

Tips, tricks, and stories of North Carolina's best thrift stores

Helen Rogalski MANAGING EDITOR | @HELENROGALSKI

Oversized button ups, mom jeans, vintage jackets, western style belts, ironic or distressed t-shirts. While these things can easily be found at places such as Forever 21, TopShop or Pacsun, there is the more environmentally friendly, affordable and dare I say authentic way of finding this season's trends.

North Carolina offers several unique, jam-packed and often funky smelling thrift stores across the state, many of which I have spent far too many hours -- and dollars -- in. Any of these stores can be hits or misses, leaving me with everything I could ever want or nothing at all. My advice: go in with an open mind, a good attitude and a plan to shower as soon as you get home.

GCF Donation Center & Store 709 S Kerr Ave, Wilmington, NC

The local Goodwill has been my staple thrift experience while at UNCW. My friends and I often go here when we need an outfit to match a party theme. The best examples I can give are the time I forced my friend to buy a bright orange mesh crop top construction poncho "just in case" she'd need it for a Halloween party last year. When shopping here, bring cash or a check, low expectations and enough confidence to shop through the men's, women's and children's section before finding something worthwhile. My most notable scores from here include a Tweety Bird embroidered men's extra large t-shirt, several mom jeans and cropped turtlenecks and quite a few vegetarian cookbooks.



GCF Donation Center & Store, 709 S Kerr Ave, Wilmington, NC. Photo courtesy of Chris Ingham

Various thrift stores in Calabash, NC near Sunset Beach, on Beach Dr SW.

If you are ever bored at Sunset Beach on a rainy day, hitting this seemingly endless strip of vintage, consignment, and thrift stores is way better than going to play putt putt. However, almost all of these stores close around 4 or 5 p.m., so plan accordingly. These various stores are great because they are unbelievably quirky. A friend and I once spent an entire afternoon hopping from place to place, trying on random wigs, hats and clothes and also walking away with some major finds that included vintage Russian space race patches, oversized denim jackets, button up men's shirts that are so ugly I consider them cute and a wall plaque of a sailor smoking a pipe.

Kiwanis Thrift Shop 503 W State St, Black Mountain, NC 28711

Kiwanis is close to Asheville and is by far my favorite thrift store. It is on the smaller size and run by a mob of sweet old ladies. The prices are considerably cheaper than the standard Goodwill but their content is high quality, reminding me more of an upscale consignment store. During a mother-daughter trip around the area last summer, my mom and I spent a solid two hours picking the store apart and making small talk. Walking away, our best purchases included Ralph Lauren and Tommy Hilfiger mom jeans, a vintage silk pajama set, an Anne Klein blazer, an array of floral items and, to the delight of my mother, a London Fog trench coat that was good as new after a trip to the dry cleaner. To this day I think about this store, all its charm, and most regrettably, a vintage leather luggage set that I couldn't bring myself to splurge \$150 on.

Goodwill Store, Outlet & Workforce Development Center 1616 Patton Ave, Asheville, NC 28806

This store is not for the faint of heart but it will offer an unbelievable experience. It is located in a giant glass building, half of which is a standard Goodwill, the other half a warehouse full of giant, dirty industrial bins for you to sift through. It can be gross, but it is also dirt cheap because the clothes are sold by the pound for somewhere around \$5. During my hours sorting through the clothes bins I scored three pairs of Levi's mom jeans, a Levi's denim jacket and a vintage sweatshirt saying "Hockey Mom" with a cartoon woman on it dressed with a black eye and missing tooth. Be prepared to be disgusted as well as aggressive here -- it makes finding things to buy that much sweeter.

PTA Thrift Shops 125 W Main St, Carrboro, NC 27510 and 103 S Elliott Rd #103, Chapel Hill, NC 27514

As a Chapel Hill native, I have visited these thrift stores for as long as I can remember. My brothers and I grew up donating our old toys and clothes to the one in downtown Carrboro and would search for costume possibilities around Halloween time. I never know what I'll find when I walk into the newly renovated Carrboro PTA as far as clothes go; it has been more of a miss the past few times I have visited it. Therefore, more than any other places on this list, expectations must be kept low for these. However, they consistently have a hefty record stock to offer, which never disappoints and is dirt cheap at something like five records for a dollar.

The PTA store in Chapel Hill has always had my back when it comes to mom jeans and shorts; they're cheap to buy and easy to alter if they don't fit just right. In addition, I have also found several Midwest-style leather belts there for cheap. Although most locals try to avoid them now, I'm still nostalgic for both of these stores and I visit every time I'm home.



Photo courtesy of Chris Ingham

Thrift shopping can be a gross, disheartening, frustrating experience. It can also be a spectacular one. I have found some of my best, most unique, widely complimented articles of clothing from places on this list. I have also watched as a friend tried on a prom dress in one of these, only to realize it had a large, crusty stain spewed across it. Regardless, thrift shopping is a unique and rewarding hobby if you take the chance, stay positive and maybe bring a buddy or listen to your favorite playlist while you're at it. Are we missing some of your favorite thrift stores across North Carolina? Let us know at theseahawk.org.

MY INKTOBER EXPERIENCE

Skylar Chadwick CONTRIBUTING WRITER | @THESEAHAWK

31 days, 31 drawings.

The Inktober initiative was created in 2009 by Jake JP Parker. He wanted to challenge himself to improve his inking skills and develop positive drawing habits. However, he soon realized that this challenge could be beneficial to other artists and introduced it to the public. Today, thousands of artists from all around the world participate in the initiative each October.

There are 4 simple rules to Inktober:

1. Make a drawing with ink
2. Post it online
3. Hashtag it with #Inktober and #Inktober 2017
4. Repeat every day of October



Parker creates a list of 31 prompts each year that artists can use but are not limited to. Many make up their own lists, stick to themes, or even tell stories one drawing at a time. The point of Inktober is to create good habits and to practice. No matter how cliché or unconvincing the old saying “Practice makes perfect” sounds, it’s true; potentially more so for those who are eager to express themselves creatively. Practicing different techniques is crucial if you want to improve your artistic abilities.

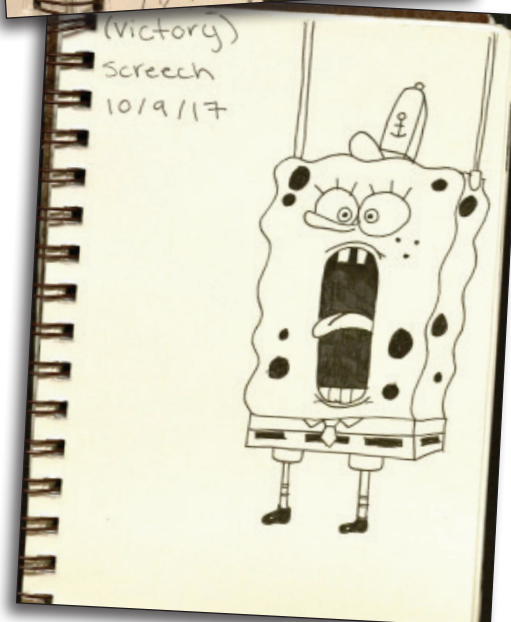
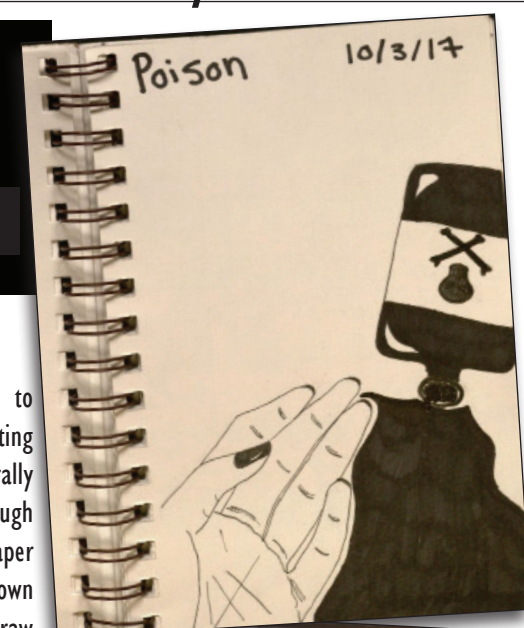
This past October, I took the challenge. For someone like myself who gets anxious at the thought commitment, calling this a challenge is an understatement. However, as an aspiring Digital Arts major, I figured this might be a good way to jump into practicing art more seriously. Making 31 drawings in 31 days sounded manageable. I was sure that I could make one small drawing a day without any problems. After completing all 31 days, I can say that this challenge did not only have pros, there were some cons as well.

Pros Inktober is a great way to get into the habit of thinking creatively every day. It forces you to take

some of your free time and devote it to both interpreting the prompts and executing them. Coming up with ideas comes naturally to me, but not feeling confident enough in my craftsmanship to put them to paper often holds me back. Having to sit down for thirty minutes to an hour and draw something simple and fun was a relief. The beauty of Inktober is that you can be as detailed or simplistic as you would like. I let go of my worries about not having adequate skills and just let my ideas flow. This was a good way to get rid of my anxieties about producing something insufficient. Even if a picture didn’t come out exactly as I thought it would, I could go back and critique myself about what I could do better next time.


Cons Being creative every day is hard. There were so many days where I had an exam or an event to run and I struggled with finding the time to think about the prompt or draw something interesting. What I thought would be a fun and productive activity sometimes became stressful and more of a chore. Some nights I would sacrifice one of the five hours of

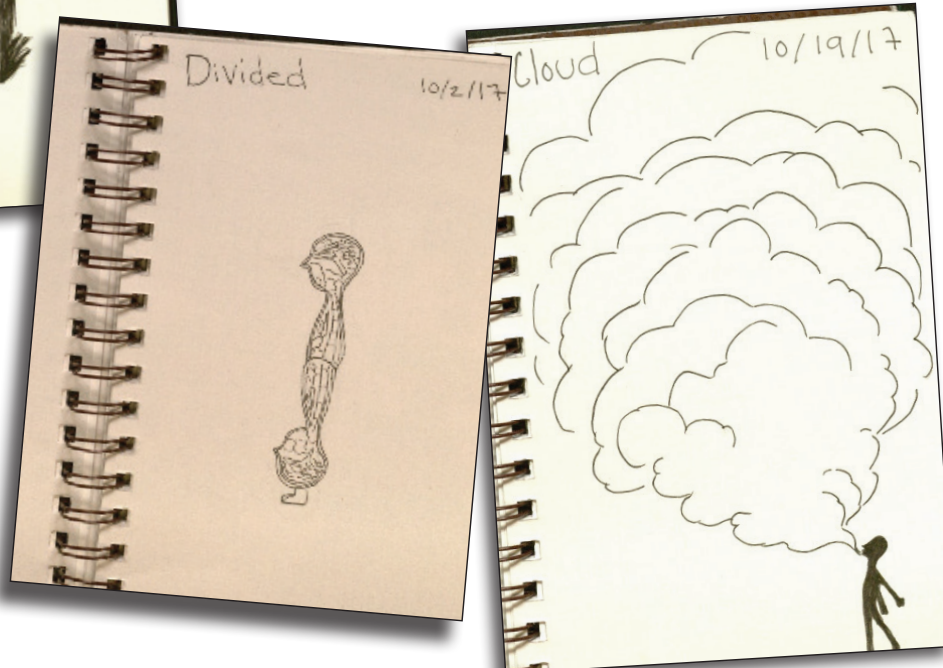
sleep I had to get a drawing done. Other days I would get lazy and draw something sloppily.



I regretted my lazy drawings immediately after I finished them.

Running out of ideas was a foreign concept for me. However, after nine or so days I began to blank on what to draw. My goal for this Inktober was to stay consistent with a ‘spooky’ theme (in homage to Halloween). However, after spending an hour thinking about what to draw for the prompt “screech,” I gave up on being creative and drew a scene from “Spongebob.” It wasn’t exactly my best work, but it saved me from spending two to three hours of thinking of what to draw.

I would suggest Inktober to anyone who wants to improve their artistic skills. If you’re interested in this challenge, you don’t have to wait an entire year. You can find tons of prompt lists online and get started on your own. All you need are the essentials: a sketchbook, a black pen and a little creativity. 



WHY UNCW SHOULD “STOP SUCKING”

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“Sea Turtle with Straw up its Nostril - “NO” TO PLASTIC STRAWS” is a video with which many people are now familiar.

With almost 15 million views on Youtube today, this video, first posted by an account called CostaRicanSeaTurtles in August 2015, follows the grueling process of removing a plastic straw from a sea turtle’s nostril. It takes almost the entire eight minute video to free the suffering animal from this man-made object.

If watching this video or reading the short description above makes you uncomfortable, you are not alone. Events like this are a result of our consumption of single-use plastic products — like plastic spoons and forks, coffee creamer cups and

especially straws — which often wind up in the oceans, where they negatively affect millions of marine animals each year.

“It’s a problem because we don’t see it, making it all too easy to forget that it actually is out there,” says UNC Wilmington’s Plastic Ocean Project (POP) president Riley Beveridge of the impact of these discarded plastic products. “Chances are every straw you’ve ever used is still somewhere on this Earth, and likely somewhere in the environment where it absolutely does not belong.”

Americans use 500 million drinking straws every day, according to the National Park Service website. We use these disposable utensils at an average rate of 1.6 straws per person per day. Based on national averages, this means each person in the U.S. will use about 38,000 straws between the ages of 5 and 65. Although straws are relatively small, that amount of waste quickly adds up.

“You don’t realize how many straws you use in a week, especially on campus, until you start thinking about it,” says Rebekah James, a UNCW sophomore double majoring in marine biology and environmental science. “Landfills are full of them, our oceans are full of them. They’re everywhere.”

While this outlook seems dismal, since the sea turtle video went viral two years ago, places around the world have mobilized to combat the prevalence of single-use plastic products and their presence in our oceans — including the city of Wilmington and the campus of UNCW.

In a city-wide effort to keep single-use plastic items out of the trash and the ocean, Surfrider Cape Fear chapter, Wilmington POP and Wrightsville Beach Keep It Clean created the Ocean Friendly Establishment initiative in November 2015. This initiative awards local restaurants a certificate if they agree to offer plastic straws only if customers specifically ask for them.

This simple policy of “straws upon request only” has been adopted by over 50 restaurants in and around the city of Wilmington, and may soon be instituted at UNCW.

In addition to the Cape Fear chapters in the area, UNCW also has chapters of both POP and Surfrider, and both are the first student chapters of their respective organizations.

Following in the city of Wilmington’s footsteps, UNCW POP wants to go even further than the straws upon request. One reform the group is working towards is “transforming UNCW into

partnership that resulted in the removal of 2.3 million plastic straws from use in the city; and even overseas in Cornwall, where locals are striving to become the first straw-free county in the U.K.



Courtesy of UNCW Plastic Ocean Project.

a plastic straw-free campus and making progress towards replacing all single-use plastics with sustainable alternatives,” says Beveridge.

To reach that goal, UNCW POP recently partnered with an organization called the Lonely Whale Foundation and launched a weeklong “Stop Sucking” campaign on campus. Beveridge says the aim of this campaign is to raise awareness about the global plastic pollution epidemic, and to inspire the UNCW community to be more proactive in reducing and hopefully eliminating our consumption of single-use plastics.

The Lonely Whale Foundation, co-founded by actor Adrian Grenier, campaigned against plastic straws at the first United Nations Ocean Conference, held in June 2017 to discuss the conservation and sustainability of the world’s oceans. Lonely Whale has since partnered with a number of corporations, policymakers, non-profits and more to positively impact the world’s oceans.

The very same “Stop Sucking” campaign in which UNCW POP is partnering with Lonely Whale has already spread to 40 countries, according to Lonely Whale’s website, but UNCW will be the first college campus adopting this campaign as a measure toward becoming 100% straw-free.

Initiatives similar to UNCW POP’s “Stop Sucking” have popped up all over the world, including in California cities such as San Diego and Monterey; the east coast cities of Pittsburgh and Fort Myers Beach, Florida; Seattle, WA — a Lonely Whale

Doing away with single-use plastic products does not mean no straws at all, though. UNCW POP’s current initiative involves replacing plastic straws with paper ones at every UNCW dining location, according to Beveridge. James suggests another alternative to plastic straws: Reusable aluminum straws.

“Having metal straws is definitely a conversation starter,” James says. “When I would use my straw in the past, people would ask ‘why do you do that?’ But recently people will say ‘oh yeah, save the sea turtles!’ So they have some kind of idea, which is pretty cool. It’s just something super easy to keep plastic out of the oceans.”

UNCW POP, The Lonely Whale, and countless other communities and organizations are doing their part to raise awareness of the profoundly negative effects of plastic, and striving tirelessly to make a difference by encouraging others to “stop sucking” and start taking care of their environment.

“Every one of us at UNCW has a connection to the ocean, whether we believe it or not,” says Beveridge. “It can be the air we breathe, the waves we surf, or simply the time we spend enjoying our beautiful beaches.”

With UNCW POP leading the charge, UNCW is setting a high standard for ocean-friendly campus involvement and is on its way to being a front-runner for change in the Wilmington area.



Used straws collected during a beach sweep.
Courtesy of UNCW Plastic Ocean Project.

Wilmington native Buehler returns to her home town to play basketball

Tanner Lindsay STAFF WRITER | @tannerjlindsay

Julia Buehler, a native of Wilmington and graduate of Hoggard High School, made her dreams a reality this past fall when she transferred from Appalachian State to return home and play women's basketball as a walk-on for UNC Wilmington.

"It's been a really good transition," said Buehler about the transferring process. "I really like the coaching staff and the environment has been great. It's really positive and I enjoy coming to practice every day and working really hard."

Buehler, a former three-sport standout for the Vikings, had an impressive career during her time at Hoggard. She was a four-year letter winner and scored 1,377 points in her basketball career. During her senior year, Buehler averaged 15 points and four assists per game, received the John T. Hoggard Female Athlete of the Year award and was selected as 2015 Mideastern Conference and NCBCA District Player of the Year. She also guided her school to the 4A East Region championship and Mideastern regular season and conference titles.

"She's a winner," said UNCW coach Karen Barefoot. "She comes from a winning program right here at Hoggard and she plays so hard and she's tough and has a great attitude to go with her good IQ. She's a great leader and brings maturity that helps us understand it's okay

to make mistakes. We want her to be a part of this team."

Competitive basketball was not initially a part of Buehler's future. She originally signed a scholarship to play lacrosse at Gardner-Webb University and had every intention of playing lacrosse, but that all changed when her coach resigned.

This led Buehler to apply to other schools. She eventually decided on Appalachian State and told her coach she was interested in walking on. She impressed during the tryout and earned a roster spot.

During her time at Appalachian State, Buehler appeared in nine games off the bench before deciding it was a time for another change. After transferring, she contacted Barefoot and expressed in being a member of the team. Barefoot said she was unable to offer Buehler a scholarship, but brought her on nonetheless.

Buehler accepted the offer and made the team as a walk-on. "It's just always been a dream of mine," said Buehler. "Growing up I always used to come to the women's games. I'm just so lucky to have this opportunity to be back and put on the uniform and play for UNCW."

UNCW began their season on Oct. 30 with an 81-37 exhibition




"Julia Buehler, right, faces down a defender in UNC Wilmington's 81-37 win over Greensboro College." Photo courtesy of UNCW Athletic Communications

win over Greensboro College. During the game, you could see the love and support the city of Wilmington had for Buehler.

"People from the community have reached out to me and are excited to see me here," she said. "I'm really excited to be back and I really want to give back to the community."

Barefoot envisioned Buehler being a "great role player" and someone who can "do a lot of the little things" that will help the Seahawks, who begin their regular season on Nov. 12 with a home game against UNC Pembroke.

Staff Writer Tanner Lindsay can be found on Twitter @tannerjlindsay. Any tips or suggestions should be forwarded via email to uncwseahawksports@gmail.com. For video updates from The Seahawk, subscribe to our YouTube channel. 

Roy Halladay, former MLB Cy Young winner, dies at age 40



Photo courtesy of Yong Kim | Philadelphia Daily News/Tribune News Service

Philadelphia Phillies pitcher Roy Halladay throws against the Washington Nationals in the fifth inning at Citizens Bank Park in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on Wednesday, September 4, 2013. The Nationals won, 3-2.



Justin Verlander
@JustinVerlander

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Shocked and saddened... gone way too soon. One of the best ever. #RIPDoc

6:12 PM - 7 Nov 2017

Noah Thomas SPORTS EDITOR | @NOAHILM

Roy Halladay, a former pitcher in Major League Baseball who played 16 seasons for the Toronto Blue Jays and Philadelphia Phillies, died Tuesday, Nov. 7, when the small aircraft he was piloting crashed into the Gulf of Mexico. He was 40.

Known for his superior, technical approach to the game, Halladay was a two-time Cy Young Award winner in the National League — an honor bestowed upon the league's top pitcher each season. He was an eight-time All-Star, twice led MLB in wins (2003, 2010) and threw the 20th perfect game in the history of baseball on May 29, 2010, against the Florida Marlins when he struck

out 11 of the 27 batters he faced that day.

Upon the news of Halladay's passing, tributes poured onto social media from throughout the baseball world. "#RIPDoc," a reference to Halladay's nickname that alluded to the Wild West gunslinger "Doc" Holliday, was used as a tag for those remembering the deceased pitcher.

Halladay set the bar in the late 1990s through the 2000s for excellence in pitching. After he concluded his career in 2013, he continued the philanthropic lifestyle he enjoyed as a player — during his time with the Blue Jays, he was nominated several times by the organization for MLB's

Roberto Clemente Award due to his work with underprivileged children. It was written into his contract with the team that \$10,000 of his annual salary be donated to the Jays Care Foundation.

He is survived by his wife, Brandy, and their two children, Ryan and Braden. He was loved by his family, friends, and fans both inside and outside of baseball. He will be remembered for what he gave to the game and the lives he touched all over the world.

He will be missed. Rest in Peace, Doc.

-The Seahawks Sports staff 



Get in formation: UNCW club hockey's trek down Chancellor's Walk

Brian Carpenter CONTRIBUTING WRITER | @bostonfan17856

UNC Wilmington's club hockey team has become known on campus for its unique way of promoting its weekend home games at the Wilmington Ice House.

Known by the team as the Flying V formation, the team uses any sort of transportation is has (roller blades, bicycles or skateboards) to go down Chancellor's Walk and let the student population know about their upcoming home games for that weekend.

Most Fridays during the fall, shouts of "hockey game!" and fliers can be seen up and down the main part of campus, courtesy of the hockey Seahawks.

The Flying V formation draws inspiration from the popular hockey movie "The Mighty Ducks" which

is a formation used by the team in the movie as a way for them to enter the offensive zone.

The club hockey team usually does three Flying V formations a week when they have a home game, two on Thursdays at 11:15 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. and one on Fridays at 11:50 a.m.

"We picked these times specifically because it is right when people are getting out of class, so it maximizes our audience," said assistant captain Bennett Clark. "It can be embarrassing at times and people stare at us, but it is a lot of fun when a good group of guys shows up and it makes Friday nights way more fun."

The team takes the same path each time they do the formation, starting with a team meeting at Wagoner Hall. They then move all the way down

Chancellor's Walk, past Morton Hall and pass in front of the library on the other end of campus. They then head towards the student union and finish back down Chancellor's before stopping at Wag once again.

With the team not receiving any promotion from the athletic department nor the ACHA (American Collegiate Hockey Association), it needed a way to get fans interested in the team and encourage them to come out to support them. The team decided the Flying V was the best way for them to get the fans to the game.

"Some people hate us for it, but the fact that we are so into our team, the sport and winning, I think a lot of people enjoy it and are so happy to come to our games," says captain Tyler Evangelous.

"It's an atmosphere that you don't get at UNCW."

Fan support means a lot to the team, and for the club hockey team, it is especially impactful for the players, many of whom have never played in front of a massive amount of people before.

"Being a freshman, I have never played in front of fans before in my life," says defenseman Tyler Feast. "My first game here with all the fans cheering, it was ridiculous. I was pretty nervous."

The Flying V Formation has been a team tradition for over a decade and is something that every player participates in. With home games scheduled throughout the remainder of the season, the team is prepared to do another formation and pack the Ice House once again.

"I'm glad that we have such a good backing from our fans and that they support us and we get a good turn-out for all our games," said Evangelous.

Contributing Writer Brian Carpenter can be found on Twitter @bostonfan17856. Any tips or suggestions should be forwarded via email to uncwseahawksports@gmail.com. For video updates from The Seahawk, subscribe to our YouTube channel.



Suggs ready to make her mark on the court in year two

Lanre Badmus STAFF WRITER | @LONNYBADMON

The women's basketball program at UNC Wilmington ushered in an all-new era with the hiring of head coach Karen Barefoot in May.

Barefoot promised big changes. One of those changes was naming walk-on sophomore Lacey Suggs a co-captain and giving her a much larger role to work with after appearing sparingly last season.

"I think she's going to be an important part for us because she is the spark," Barefoot said. "She could be a great sixth man, but she could also start or finish a game...when I saw her come out for the team, she fit my style. Her effort is limitless."

Suggs, a native of White Lake, N.C., was a four-sport athlete at East Bladen High School and a four-year letter winner for the Eagles. She led East Bladen to a 106-11 record during her high school career, won three conference championships and a pair of sectional titles.

She was named the 2015-16 player of the year by both the Wilmington StarNews and the Fayetteville Observer in her senior season after averaging 22.4 points and 9.3 rebounds per game, and she finished her high school career averaging

18.5 points and 7.1 rebounds a game.

As a result of these exploits, as well as those in volleyball, softball and soccer, Suggs was a runner-up for the North Carolina Female Athlete of the Year in 2016 and a spot at UNCW last season.

However, she only scored two points in three games for a team that struggled under former head coach Adell Harris. It's not easy for walk-ons to have massive impacts on their teams, but Suggs persevered through the frustration of a lack of playing time.

She credits her teammates, as well as her general fondness for the university, as factors that led her to remain a Seahawk when it seemed easy to transfer elsewhere.

"I stayed mainly because of my teammates," Suggs said. "They had my back. I enjoyed playing with all of them, and I stayed because I liked it here at UNCW."

Despite being unable to make much of a mark, Suggs' hard work, tenacity and resilience made her a popular and respected figure in the Seahawk locker room. As a reward, she was named a co-captain of the squad along with seniors Madison Raque and Jenny DeGraaf. Although she is only

a sophomore, Suggs is ready to take on the challenge.

"It was an honor," Suggs said of being a co-captain. "I was shocked, actually. But it's an honor for my teammates and the coaches and staff to nominate me, and I'm ready to take on the role and the responsibility ... I just got to keep everyone in check and make sure they're doing what they're supposed to."

Suggs started in UNCW's 81-37 exhibition trouncing of in-state DIII opponent Greensboro College on Oct. 29 at Trask Coliseum, notching 15 points on 5-of-10 shooting from the field as one of three Seahawks in double figures.

She grabbed seven rebounds and collected three steals to add to her effort. She said the game was a great start to the season and something to build on for the games ahead. Should the team do just that, there's no limit to how far they can go.

"I think we can go all the way," said Suggs. "Obviously, we're coming from last year to this year, but I honestly feel like we can go all the



Lacey Suggs (13) heads to the hoop in UNC Wilmington's 81-37 win over Greensboro College on Oct. 29, 2017. Photo courtesy of UNCW Athletic Communications.

way — if we put in the time and the effort."

The Seahawks will get a chance to put what they've learned to the test on Nov. 12 when they open the season with a home contest against UNC Pembroke.

Staff Writer Lanre Badmus can be found on Twitter @LonnyBadmon. Any tips or suggestions should be forwarded via email to uncwseahawksports@gmail.com. For video updates from The Seahawk, subscribe to our YouTube channel.





College loneliness: not alone in feeling alone

Vanessa Dickerson STAFF WRITER | @nessadickerson

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Before leaving for your first day of college, there are a mix of different emotions. Excitement is an overwhelming one because of all the new friends and experiences you're about to embark on. What if after getting to college, that expectation of having a group of friends doesn't happen immediately?

That happened to Emery Bergmann at Cornell University. Bergmann is a freshman at Cornell University who made a short film about her transition to college life that has since gone viral. Her video has over 200,000 views. In her video "My College Transition," she points out that she sees people walking in packs and it seems like everyone has found their place but her. She also mentions that she tried joining clubs and putting herself out there, but she had little to no success.

I have to say that my experience at UNC Wilmington has been very similar to Bergmann's. I am from North Potomac,

Maryland, a town outside of D.C. which is about a 6-hour drive from here. I was so excited to come to Wilmington and attend school here. I had come here on vacation with one of my friends multiple times and fell in love with the city. I had met great friends in Wilmington before starting school here, so I figured it would only get better after classes started.

It hasn't exactly happened that way. I've called my mom more times than I can count in tears about wanting to leave UNCW because I didn't feel like I fit in. I would feel even more alone sitting by myself at Wag and watching everyone else around me sit with a big group of friends. I sit alone in pretty much every class I'm enrolled in.


With that, I decided to join both The Seahawk and Teal TV to meet some people who had similar career interests as me. While that has helped with perfecting my craft at what I plan to do for the rest of my life, I still haven't found that group of friends at UNCW that everyone else seems to have. I have plenty of friends off campus that I see at work and on the weekends, but I haven't found my "place" as a Seahawk yet. I also continue to go back to Maryland frequently to be with friends and family where I feel like I belong.

This is my first semester, and while I may not be a fresh-

man, I know that we are all going through this experience together. I know that I'm not alone with feeling alone on campus. I think this idea that college is supposed to be the best time of your life puts pressure on some to find those friends right away. While it may come easy to some, it doesn't come as easy to others.

While watching Bergmann's video, one part that really stood out to me was how much her phone and social media make things worse.

"I know social media is fake and stuff and that people are picking and choosing their favorite parts of their life to show you. But like I don't know, it gets to you," Bergmann said in her video. This couldn't be truer.

I am guilty of this myself. Social media only shows a glimpse of someone's life, and that glimpse happens to be the best parts. But if you are feeling alone, seeing everyone on social media having the best time with their new college friends can be hard. I've decided to have the attitude that I will continue to put myself out there and keep a positive attitude about it. I have great friends off campus that I see very regularly, but I will keep working to be a part of this Seahawk community and I hope others who are feeling alone will do the same. 

FSU banning Greek life: an appropriate punishment?

Vanessa Dickerson STAFF WRITER | @nessadickerson

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Andrew Coffey, a 20-year-old Florida State University student, was found dead after a fraternity party over the weekend, according to CNN. Coffey was trying to become a full member of the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity. After multiple attempts by emergency responders, Coffey sadly could not be revived after attending this party. Doesn't this story sound familiar?

Maxwell Gruver, an 18-year-old Louisiana State University student, was

found with a weak pulse the morning after a fraternity party in September of this year, according to Time.com. Gruver died later in the hospital and had a blood alcohol level of .495, which is more than six times the legal limit. Gruver was trying to be a full member of the Phi Delta Theta fraternity. It was later discovered that Gruver had to recite history of the fraternity and was forced to drink obscene amounts of alcohol if he got the answers wrong.

Tim Piazza, a 19-year old Pennsylvania State University student, was air lifted to a hospital after a pledge realized that he "looked f***** dead," after 12 hours of being in this unconscious state in February of this year. Piazza had fallen down a flight of stairs during a hazing party for the Penn State chapter of Beta Theta Pi. Piazza unfortunately succumbed to his serious

injuries and brain trauma.

FSU reacted immediately to Coffey's death by suspending all Greek life at the university. FSU President, John Thrasher, said in order for the suspension to be lifted, there needs to be a "new normal for Greek life at the university." This Greek life ban means there can be no new member events, council and chapter meetings, tailgates or any other social gatherings, according to CNN.

FSU finally reacted how every school should react. How many more young people are going to die before schools react in a big way? Penn State ended up banning Beta Theta Pi from campus after Piazza's death, but in the grand scheme of things, what does that solve? Louisiana State reacted in a similar manner.


Big state schools like Penn State,

LSU, and FSU have large Greek life populations. Banning the specific fraternities where hazing has led to a death is a start, but not nearly good enough. Other fraternities still participate in hazing, which leads to the possibility of this continuing to happen. FSU banning Greek life in general is a great step forward in rectifying this issue. It sends the message to all Greek life that this type of behavior will not be tolerated.

My heart breaks for the families of Coffey, Gruver and Piazza because none of them expected to drop their bright, intelligent and hard-working children off at college and never see them again after they attend a party. Thrasher hit the nail on the head by saying there needs to be a new normal for Greek life. This is true in general.

Greek life can be a great activity for students to meet new friends,

participate in giving back to the community and network. Instead, in some places, it has become a place where young people drink an unsafe amount of alcohol and participate in things they wouldn't normally do to seek acceptance into their fraternity or sorority.

Greek life is at a turning point this year with three deaths so far in 2017, which is three too many. Greek life has the opportunity to change their culture to be safer and more accepting. If FSU starts to lead the way on how these crimes should be punished, maybe more schools will follow. Those three young men who died should show students that Greek life may be fun, but can change their life for the worst if they participate in this harsh hazing. By participating in hazing they could end up getting criminal charges that will follow them forever or worse. 

UHart bully results in campus safety concern

Veronica Wernicke ASST. OPINION EDITOR | @itsveronica98

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I can't even imagine doing the things Brianna Brochu — a former Caucasian freshman at University of Hartford — did to her roommate Chennel Rowe to get rid of her. Let alone imagine having them done to me. For those unaware of the situation, Brochu committed horrible acts like licking her roommate's food utensils, spitting in her things, rubbing used tampons on her backpack, among a list of other horrific acts, according to New York Daily News. Brochu did all this in hopes of getting rid of her roommate, who just so happened to be African American. According to the same New York Daily News article, Brochu later

made an Instagram post after her roommate had chosen to move out, where she bragged about her acts and referred to her roommate at "Jamaican Barbie."

The incident took place for over a month and half, according to Brochu's Instagram post, but Brochu wasn't arrested until November 28 and was expelled from the University of Hartford that following Wednesday, according to New York Daily News. Rowe was initially unaware of the acts being committed, until others told her about the Instagram post. Later, Rowe would take to Facebook live to describe her experience. According to Allure, when Rowe went to the university with complaints she was initially asked to sign a "no contact agreement" between her and her ex-roommate. After Rowe's video had been viewed over half a million times, according to Allure, then the university expelled Brochu.

What I want to know is why it took so long to expel Brochu, and why the university thought

a "no contact agreement" was the appropriate response? I sure hope that if anything remotely similar happened at UNCW that expulsion would be the first step. This situation, as horrific as it is, will serve as an important example for other universities in the future and how they handle similar situations. The university should have gotten involved way earlier, and I'm curious to know if anyone who saw the post thought to share it with the university. Despite a statement on the university's website made by the university's President Gregory S. Woodward stating "Let me also be clear that I am confident the university has taken all steps to pursue this matter seriously, and will continue to do so."

Sorry, President Woodward, but I don't think you did. If you had, this situation would have been dealt with a lot sooner. When Rowe chose to move out, I would think the school would have been a lot more curious as to why she wanted to move out. Especially as freshman, the school should have made more of an effort to check in on the students and their living situations. Note since I am not a student at the University of Hartford, I'm not aware of what, if any, efforts were made like the one aforementioned.

I know at least in my UNI 101 class that my professor tries to check in every couple of weeks with my class to see how our roommate situations are going. So, maybe if the university had made similar efforts, this disgusting situation could have either never happened or at least stopped a lot sooner before more harm was caused to Rowe.

Drawing back to UNCW, like I mentioned earlier, I think our university can use this example as a learning experience on how to better handle similar situations. I have heard stories about problems with roommates, but most students that I know at UNCW have either gone to the said problematic roommate or tried to reach out to someone at the school to cease it. I hope that this situation will prompt UNCW to ensure even safer measures for students on campus, in addition to the already safe environment they provide. UNCW could better protect its students from situations like this by putting forth more of an effort to check in with living situations on campus.

Yes, we are college students and adults, but we are also immature and sometimes oblivious. So, a check in system would greatly benefit student's

safety and help address any roommate issues in a timelier manner. These check-ins could simply be an in-person meeting between roommates and either a counselor, RA or residence hall coordinator where any issues or concerns could be addressed, and overall serve as a healthy check in to see how the roommates are getting along.

UNCW and other universities alike can also make more of an effort when it comes to assigning roommates. As it currently stands, for UNCW at least, you can either choose random or search forever on Facebook group pages for a potential roommate. When you go random, you simply fill out a 10-question survey with questions about how you feel about drinking, smoking and other issues.

Now for me, 10 questions aren't enough to comfortably and accurately place me with someone who I'm going to live with for the next year. There are so many ways where you could agree or disagree on a question, but that doesn't mean you are the right fit to room together, because that questionnaire doesn't address enough. Granted, I was lucky this year and I have an awesome roommate who I get along with very nicely, but others like Rowe aren't so lucky. If UNCW changed this policy of randomly assigning roommates to better suit people and their fitting roommates, then that would better protect students from uncomfortable or horrible situations.

Due to this inefficient method of roommate placement, there are many students who experience on-campus roommate problems. Bad roommate experiences that UNCW students have gone through include incredibly messy roommates, roommates that burst in loud and drunk in the middle of the night, roommates that eat all of their other roommate's food without asking, roommates who steal and I even know someone who's roommate won't even talk to them. Now if UNCW fixed their approach to assigning roommates, then many of these situations could be avoided.

My thoughts go out to Rowe, and despite this being such an awful situation, I hope this calls on concern for universities' safety. I hope universities can learn from this, because at the end of the day, we are all humans, and we should all have the right to be and feel safe on our university campuses.

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Chaos in Catalonia:

Finding yourself where you started

Miriam Himes | Staff Writer



Photo courtesy of Miriam Himes.

The sounds and echoes of people banging pots and pans rush through my wide-open window. It's 10 p.m. in Tarragona, Spain and the Catalan people have begun their nightly protesting. I live away from the city center, but even people in my residence have their arms extended out of their windows, making grating banging sounds with whatever clamorous objects they have lying around in their rooms. It begins most nights around 10 p.m. and lasts for about 30 minutes. It's basically a big "FUCK YOU" to anti-independence people and an angry shout to the

Spanish government, like disgruntled teenagers yelling at their parents for forcing them to stay at home.

Upon coming to Spain, I was happy to get a break from the catastrophe of the Trump administration, American politics, and the worsening social climate but found myself in an almost equally toxic environment: Catalonia.

Police brutality, violations of human rights, harsh and toxic political speech from multiple parties and platforms, protests in the streets, strikes in schools and at work; this is the atmosphere I enter into as I live as an

exchange student in Tarragona, Spain, a city in Catalonia that is desperate to be free from the Spanish government.

Even after reading articles and articles about the fight for independence in Spain, living here and seeing the masses of people who are fighting so hard for independence here, I'm still struggling to understand why Catalonians want to be free so badly. Does it really go back to the Franco regime? Do you truly and simply just want justice for suffering that you endured so few years ago? Or is this attempted departure from Spain more centered in a nationalist, conservative movement

that rejects diversity and helping the poor? Whatever your stance, it's safe to say that emotions are running high and tensions between the people grow fiercer every day.

Last week, my American roommate attempted to go to classes during a school-wide strike. Catalonia enthusiasts created plastic barriers around the entrance of the school, allowing one small entrance into the classroom buildings. Upon approaching the entrance, my roommate was stopped and asked by a fellow classmate to not go to class: the students were protesting by not attending class. After several

minutes of impassioned persuasive dialogue, my roommate made it into the campus and attended her class.

I've had groups of Catalonia enthusiasts interrupt my class to talk to us about protests and strikes and what we can do to participate in the fight for independence, though only speaking in Catalan. Speaking in Catalan is elitist; it excludes anyone who isn't born and raised in Catalonia, thus rejecting immigrants and people of non-Catalonian descent. It's a class-fueled fight masquerading as persecution identity.

So what does an American have

to do with all this?

Honestly, not a lot. I've checked out some of the protests and been pleased when I've had class canceled due to voting for the referendum or because my professor is at a protest.

But in reality, it makes me miss America. The Women's March, #blacklivesmatter protests, gun law protests, anti-KKK and anti-neonazionalist protests; god, we are really fighting for the good stuff.

We're fighting against racism, sexual harassment, assault, Trump, white nationalists, police brutality, and more. We're fighting for a better future that celebrates diversity and sees people from all socio-economic, ethnic, and religious backgrounds in the media, in managerial positions, running companies, winning awards, and fighting for a better tomorrow. But here, for the Catalonia-independence enthusiasts

— it just seems like an upper-middle class fight to keep money with the rich and leave the poor to fend for



Photo courtesy of Miriam Himes.

themselves.

But while Catalonia has erupted into passionate chaos as Spain desperately tries to keep their tight fingers wrapped around her throat, I've been having a fairly typical study abroad experience. I've been acclimating to the Spanish way of life uncomfortably, the real American way. I've been frustrated and homesick and bitter because, surprise bitch, Spain culture is pretty different from the American way of life.

The culture clash (and even shock

in some cases) is supposed to be this good thing; it's supposed to offer travelers, wherever they come from and to wherever they go, moments of humility and fascination. Experiencing a culture so different from your own is supposed to be a gift that inspires you and quenches your wanderlust and curiosity for unknown worlds.

I think it does to some extent. But on the other side, through the unfiltered lenses of harsh authentic experiences, we find the unromantic and the uncomfortable. Because living abroad isn't as idyllic as everyone pretends and traveling abroad isn't a whimsical dream of fine dining, quaint towns, and famous monuments.

Perhaps it depends on what you're looking for or why you decided to leave your comfortable home, or even who you are as a person and how you interact with change — whatever your rhyme or reason, choosing to study abroad is a bold move.

Yes, it's amazing. La Sagrada Familia, the Eiffel Tower, the Tower of London, Park Güell, the snowy caps of the Alps over Lake Geneva — the world is a beautiful place with so much to offer. But it's not enough to

change you.

And perhaps that was my intention in studying abroad: to feel different, to be a different person.

But people are the same everywhere. Yes, racism and sexism looks different here. Nationalism looks a little different under the Spanish sun as well. Ordering a coffee even feels different across western countries. But people, at their core, are the same.



Photo courtesy of Miriam Himes.

I think this is the factor that has unsettled me the most. Maybe it's because of globalization or maybe it's just because humans are humans, rooted in our evolved primitive behaviors. Or maybe it's just because I'm the

same, even here in this new world.

No matter where you go, people still suck. The nationalists here in Spain share ideologies with those of the United States. The culture and languages are different, but people remain constant. I remain constant; depression and anxiety hid in my luggage and followed me on my amazing adventure around Europe.

Has it been worth it all? Will it be

worth it for you? Yes! But it's hard. Because I haven't changed, just the world around me has. I can't leave my baggage at the door; I've brought it with me and I have to interact with myself just as I did at UNCW. It's disappointing. You want new places to change you.

But sometimes, you don't change, and it's okay. You just endure and you don't chastise yourself for feeling empty in the most beautiful place in the world.



Photo courtesy of Miriam Himes.

What's happening on campus?

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Venue</i>
Nov. 16	6:30-8:30 PM	Ann Flack Boseman Scholarship Show This exhibit will feature the work of the Ann Flack Boseman Art Exhibition Award recipient, Barbara Anne Thomas. While her focus is painting, she also incorporates drawing and sewing into her mixed-media show, "Visual History of a Space."	Boseman Gallery, FUU
Nov. 17	5:00-9:41 PM	ACE Presents: The Trilogy of the Planet of the Apes Come see Caesar's evolution through the action-packed Planet of the Apes Trilogy! 5:00 PM - Rise of the Planet of the Apes 7:20 PM - Dawn of the Planet of the Apes 9:41 PM - War for the Planet of the Apes	Lumina Theater
Nov. 18	9 AM - 3 PM	Art for the Masses Continuing the community tradition of making original art accessible to everyone, Art for the Masses (AFTM) features art from up to 100 local artists. AFTM is free and open to the public with a requested door donation to help fund public arts projects at the university. The program is coordinated through Campus Life Arts & Programs and the Department of Art & Art History.	Burney and Warwick Centers
Nov. 22-26		Thanksgiving Break Enjoy some turkey and mashed potatoes this Thanksgiving! Have a fun and safe break!	
Nov. 18	11:30 AM - 1:30 PM	ACE Presents: Java Jam De-stress on the last day of class with some coffeehouse music and treats! Join ACE and Chris Pendergast for a relaxing acoustic set and FREE coffee and donuts!	Sharky's Game Room, FSU
Dec. 1		Battle of the Bands Application Due Think your band is the best at UNCW? Battle it out with other student bands during Homecoming week February 9th. Applications are due December 1st and must include a setlist, tech rider/stage plot, and photo of band. Email ACE Concerts Chair, Hannah Williams with any questions at hhw1181@uncw.edu	