



PROO ONIAN

VOL LXXXI, ISSUE 5

CHAPEL HILL HIGH SCHOOL'S NEWSPAPER

JUNE 2016

Major building overhaul planned for high school



PHOTO COURTESY OF TODD LOFRESE

Assistant Superintendent Todd LoFrese shared a building footprint that shows a possible conceptual floor plan for the new facility. The plan, which was developed by the Educational Specifications Team, will bring the school to current construction standards.

Staff members are brainstorming major renovations to the Chapel Hill High School campus, including knocking down the current A and D-Buildings.

FORREST PRATSON AND ELI ROSE

Chapel Hill High School will be replaced with a new building that is estimated to be completed by 2021.

The new school is being designed by Moseley Architects, the group of architects who designed Carrboro High School, Northside Elementary School and several other schools in North Carolina.

The new project is intended to solve key issues with Chapel Hill High School, including security concerns, chronic moisture

and mold issues and major traffic concerns.

A tentative design flips the current Chapel Hill campus. The A-building will be replaced with sports fields and the main academic building will replace the D-building and language trailers.

“Our plans are to build the new building first and then deconstruct the A-Building,” Assistant Superintendent Todd LoFrese said. “This will minimize the need for temporary classrooms. There would be ongoing construction

that we, of course, will need to account for.”

In the current design, the gyms and Hanes Theatre will remain where they are. Both buildings will also receive major renovations.

Despite the building being redesigned, it will not operate at a higher capacity for students. However, the renovation is supposed to be coupled with an addition to Carrboro High School

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Forcella announces coming retirement

SAM NIELSEN

Tom Forcella announced his retirement from his position as superintendent of Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools (CHCCS) May 25. He will officially leave the post on August 1.

Forcella said he decided to end his 42 years working in education to spend more time with his family.

In a statement sent out in an email by the district, Forcella commended the school district staff.

“I want to thank the entire staff for the spirit of cooperation you have afforded me over the last five years,” Forcella said.

During five years as the superintendent of the district, Forcella has worked toward racial equity in education and the implementation of changes in teacher compensation. Both missions involved the development of Project ADVANCE, which is intended to base pay-raises for teachers around performance rather than experience.

Forcella sees Project ADVANCE as a vital step in reducing the district’s achievement gap.

“The implementation of Project ADVANCE is critical to the district’s desire to lower the achievement gap,” Forcella said. “The research is clear that if schools understand data, are trained in equity topics and are able to implement best instructional practices, achievement gaps will close. Project ADVANCE is designed to do just that.”

He regrets that he was not able to work more closely with district staff and students, some-



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO CITY SCHOOLS

Tom Forcella has held the position of Superintendent of Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools for five years and has been in education for 42 years.

thing that the small size of school districts in Northeastern states allowed him to do.

“I was a superintendent in Maine and Connecticut for 17 years prior to my arrival in CHCCS. Because school districts in the northeast are much smaller, it afforded me the opportunity to work more closely with teachers and principals,” Forcella said. “I wish I could have found a way to spend more time interacting with staff and students.”

Forcella hopes to continue having some involvement in education by either consulting or teaching at the university level. He retains interest in “systemic organizational change in schools,” he said, with a focus on promoting instructional excellence.

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Students pause during exams to enjoy canine company

DAN KLEISSLER

Amidst the widespread stress and sadness that accompany exam season, Chapel Hill High School Student Government attempted to bring back some happiness to the student body.

Through paws4people, a nonprofit organization that, since 1999, has been dedicated to educating people about the abilities and roles of service dogs in society, Student Government arranged for puppies to visit the school every few weeks.

Paws4people trains assistance dogs for children with various disabilities and for veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

"We saw that ECHHS and CHS had the puppies come to their schools. We thought it was a great cause, so we reached out to them to see if they'd be willing to come to CHHS," senior representative Paige Jones said.

Treasurer Reagan Roeber felt that the puppies would help to bolster student body involvement after several Student Government events were cancelled this year.

"After the difficulties that we faced with administration and not being able to put on events for the student body, we thought it was a good alternative," Roeber said.

However, not all students were permitted to attend the events and play with the puppies. Student Government viewed the puppy play days as rewards for school involvement.

When the puppies visited, qualified students who had filled out an event card called a "puppies pass," were allowed to play with, pet and feed the dogs.

Students could complete their passes by attending school events



PHOTO CREDIT: DAN KLEISSLER

Student Government members and juniors Nat Romaine, Kris Chellani and Adam Lenox and senior Reagan Roeber pet dogs on campus, along with senior Julia Perkins and sophomore Anne Crabill.

or buying materials to support paws4people.

Student opinions of the requirements varied.

Senior Katharine Esterley supported the requirements needed to play with the puppies. As the president of Tiger Roar, the club that rallies school spirit, Esterley believes that such rewards motivated students to participate more in the school community.

"I think that, as the year ends, kids don't attend as many events. I think Student Government had a great idea, as more kids will involve themselves at school because everybody loves puppies," Esterley said.

Other students disagreed with Esterley.

Junior Sarah Litzinger felt that Student Government asked for too much as they required a completed pass in order to attend puppy events.

"I thought it was a good idea, but the requirements were a little too much to see puppies," Litzinger said.

Student Government representatives responded to the mixed opinions by removing the restrictions on attendance for the third event.

Sunny Westerman, as the Program Coordinator for UNC PAWS, works in part at the Puppy Development center to socialize

paws4people's assistance dogs in training with the help of volunteers from the UNC Center for Excellence in Community Mental Health. Westerman said that the process of socializing is good for both the dogs and the students.

"Participants express feelings of happiness, calmness and a sense of pride when helping socialize puppies," she said.

Westerman has witnessed the program grow to include more and more high school students.

"Students are welcome to hold fundraising events or supply drives to help support the program," Westerman said.

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History club plans project

BERRY RIGDON

A Chapel Hill High School club based on social studies is planning a project to celebrate the history of the school.

Rho Kappa National Social Studies Honors Society is a nationwide organization that has hundreds of branches in high schools across the country.

Chapel Hill High School is one of the newest additions to the Rho Kappa network, which is dedicated to excellence and achievement in social studies courses.

To be admitted into the honors society, students must be juniors or seniors, have taken at least four semesters of social studies courses and have a grade point average of at least 3.0.

The Rho Kappa chapter at Chapel Hill recently announced that it is working on a project to commemorate the history of Chapel Hill High School.

The club is run by co-presidents Ryan Kleissler and Nina Ehara, with help from social studies teacher and sponsor Holly Loranger.

Kleissler believes that a school that has been around for as many years as Chapel Hill deserves to be praised.

"[We want to] look into the past of CHHS and the role it's played in the community," Kleissler said. "The club gives you national recognition for desire and skill in social studies."

The club is creating the project, which will go on display next year, to commemorate this year's 100th anniversary of Chapel Hill High School. The project will celebrate the history of the school and the achievements of alumni.

The main focus of the project is to create a presentation that will be displayed in the main hallway of the A-Building.

The presentation will likely include a video and a large foldable chart.

Each member of the club is researching a decade to honor a specific time period.

Kleissler chose to research the 1940s, in order to show the role of Chapel Hill in World War II and the early stages of integration with all-black Lincoln High School.

"North Carolina had major military bases in it during the war and played a vital role in the training of the airborne," Kleissler said. "I wanted to see how Chapel Hill High and Lincoln High contributed."

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Art class brings second Easter in protest of HB2

NICK ELSTON

In early May, what appeared to be a second Easter turned out to be an art project created to make a statement about recent North Carolina legislation.

A group of six students in Art 3 and 4 classes distributed plastic eggs around campus.

Rather than candy, though, the eggs contained facts about House Bill 2 (HB2)—legislation which was signed into law on March 23 by North Carolina governor Pat McCrory.

Junior Yen Nguyen was one of the students involved in the project.

"We put facts about how HB2 was created, how the meeting was called and what it was in response to, as well as how it affects people now that it is in place," Nguyen

said.

Each egg contained a fact and its source on a slip of paper.

According to the class's project statement, the feeling a student got when not finding candy in an egg was meant to represent the "disappointment and betrayal citizens of North Carolina felt when their protections under municipal laws were taken away."

Nguyen hoped that the project would add a voice to the chorus against HB2.

"[HB2] is very damaging to the lives of many people," she said. "I think it is something that everyone in North Carolina and outside of North Carolina should care about."

On the day of the presentation, the eggs were dispersed across

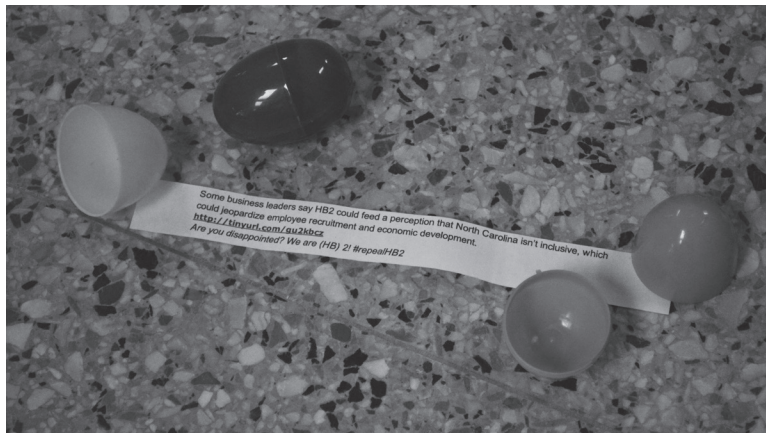


PHOTO CREDIT: JARED WEBER

A group of Art 3 and 4 students distributed eggs with slips of paper inside across campus as part of a demonstration against North Carolina's House Bill 2.

the school, with especially high concentration directly outside the A-Building.

In their statement, the group also noted that while the mess the

project created on campus could be seen as representing the fallout of HB2, the students involved cleaned up afterwards.

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Arabic language class allows students more credit options

GRACE NEWTON

While many Chapel Hill High School students choose to complete their language credits by taking Spanish or French classes, some students have begun enrolling in Arabic courses.

The course is offered through North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS). Students take the class online during a free period.

The course requires no prerequisites and consists of two levels: Arabic I and Arabic II. The classes focus mainly on the spoken language and communication in Arabic.

While students must complete a series of modules in order to learn the content of the class, they must also take part in conversation sessions. The sessions take place twice a week on a virtual classroom application called Blackboard Collaborate.

Each conversation session lasts a period of 45 minutes, during which students have the chance to interact with a language coach who helps them to improve their speaking and complete their classwork.

Senior Sydney Davis is



PHOTO CREDIT: GRACE NEWTON

Junior Lauren Alston works on an assignment for Arabic II on her computer in the library. Alston hopes to someday use her Arabic skills for a career in International Business.

currently enrolled in the course. She was introduced to the class by her counselor.

Davis hopes to earn a major

in social work in college. After taking four years of Spanish, she decided to begin working to broaden her language abilities in

order to better prepare herself for a career as a social worker.

"There's a lot of humanitarian work to be done with refugees

from the Middle East," Davis said. "I think learning Arabic would put me in a better spot to contribute to that humanitarian work."

Junior Lauren Alston recently completed Arabic II. After finding out about the class in a search for electives on NCVPS, Alston decided to take Arabic. She now plans to minor in Arabic during college.

"I wish to pursue a career in International Business, which often includes the Middle Eastern countries," Alston said.

Alston claims the class is different from other language classes in that most students must start over completely by learning the alphabet, something not necessary for English-speaking students enrolled in French and Spanish classes.

While the Arabic class is significantly different from the more common language courses, Alston noted that the class is similar in other ways, as well.

"It focuses on helping students be able to communicate in the language," Alston said.

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Gates says goodbye, Ocampo says hello



PHOTO COURTESY: JARED WEBER

Donna Gates, the longtime receptionist for the counseling office, will be retiring at the end of the school year.

JARED WEBER

Donna Gates' favorite phrase to use at work, often with stressed out students and staff, is "It's all gon' be all right."

After 32 years of work for Chapel Hill Carrboro City Schools (CHCCS), the guidance office's receptionist and student record keeper will be carrying her message into retired life.

Gates will continue to work for Chapel Hill High School Student

Services for the remainder of the school year and most of the summer, before retiring August 1.

Gates initially accepted the position at Chapel Hill for fiscal reasons.

"In this state, your retirement is based on your highest four years," Gates said. "So, if you're a 12-month employee, your retirement goes up."

However, as the four years passed seamlessly, she became more comfortable with the school environment and began to enjoy her job.

"This has been my ideal job," Gates said. "Once I got with the school department I was like, 'Yeah, yeah I can talk here, I'm good with this.'"

Despite her retirement from education, though, Gates is not finished working just yet. She already has a part-time job working at The Cedars of Chapel Hill Retirement Community.

As she puts it, she has "things to do."

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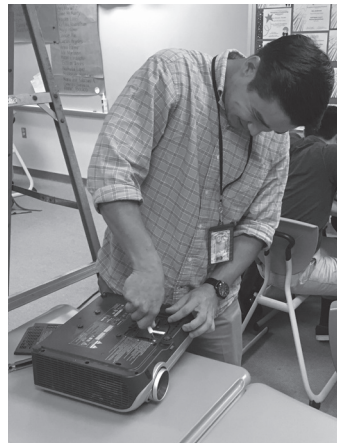


PHOTO CREDIT: ELI ROSE

New technology assistant Carlos Ocampo fixes a projector for Spanish teacher Ken Stewart.

NICK ELSTON

In mid-March, Chapel Hill added a new technology assistant to its staff.

After graduating from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-Chapel Hill), Carlos Ocampo joined the two other technology assistants at Chapel Hill.

"I basically just troubleshoot hardware [and] software problems for teachers,

students and basically anyone in the building who runs into any problems with any technology," Ocampo said. "I'm kind of like the first responder."

Ocampo credits the kindness of people at Chapel Hill for making his transition to the school a smooth one.

"I haven't met anyone who hasn't been friendly or helpful, even the students. Everyone is really nice," Ocampo said.

Ocampo grew up in Sanford, North Carolina, where he graduated from Lee County High School before enrolling at UNC-Chapel Hill.

"There's a very diverse group of kids here compared to a lot of other schools in North Carolina," Ocampo said of Chapel Hill.

In his free time, Ocampo enjoys spending as much time outside as possible. His hobbies include sports like soccer, basketball, golf and fishing.

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Leduc earns essay honors

JENNA NICOTRA

Junior Anna Leduc recently placed second nationally in the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History annual essay contest.

The topic of the essay for this school year was the American Civil War. Teachers chose and submitted well-written essays to the contest.

The winner is awarded \$1,000 and an additional \$500 is donated to the school they attend. The individual who comes in second place receives \$750.

The top three contestants in the high school and middle school categories were flown to New York City for the annual Lincoln Prize Dinner. Each student brought along two guests and a teacher.

Leduc flew to New York with her mother and grandmother.

On the second day of the trip, the winners toured the institute's record vaults, which are filled with primary source material from the Civil War.

"We were able to see so many amazing historical artifacts; even James Madison's hair," she said.

APUSH teacher Anne Beichner chose three essays, including Leduc's, from her class and submitted them to the Gilder Lehrman Institute.

"I was already so thrilled Mrs. Beichner had chosen to submit my essay from the class,



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNA LEDUC

Junior Anna Leduc poses after placing second nationally in the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History Civil War Essay Contest.

and finding out I had placed was just so surreal. I would not have traded those three days of NYC adventuring for the world," Leduc said.

Leduc was honored and surprised at her result, describing her experience as "uplifting."

Along with the cash prize and paid trip, the student with the top entry from each school also receives a Gilder Lehrman publication to recognize their achievement.

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Seniors earn service credit through janitorial work



PHOTO CREDIT: SAM NIELSEN

Senior Antonio Green sweeps a hallway to earn service learning hours.

DAN KLEISSLER

Students at Chapel Hill High School close to finishing their graduation requirements now have a unique opportunity to earn the volunteer hours necessary to walk across the stage at graduation.

In the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City School (CHCCS) district, students need to complete 25 hours of service-learning based volunteering over the course of high school. However, students within the Occupational Course of Study (OCS) program have alternative graduation requirements.

The OCS program is a curriculum designed to prepare students with learning disabilities for adult life. Focused on vocational learning, students work through a standard curriculum, along with extensive job training and multiple work experiences.

Before graduation, an OCS student is required to complete 150 hours of school-based training, 225 hours of community-based training and 225 hours of paid employment.

When OCS teachers Kara Miller and Emily Colehower took control of the program at the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year, though, they found the students were unprepared and far from finished with their requirements.

"Getting things off the ground and getting things started was the biggest obstacle," Miller said.

After the previous program coordinators retired, little evidence remained of them providing the students with service opportunities. The students had hours, but Miller did not know how they had gotten them.

Miller was able to implement some of the lessons she learned

while teaching in Rockingham County to help the Chapel Hill students earn hours. In Rockingham, students were able to work with the janitorial staff in order to fulfill their in-school training requirement. Miller saw this as an opportunity to provide work experience for her new students.

"I only had a very short time to do it [because] we really didn't get started with it until January," Miller said.

OCS students began working under the supervision of janitor Anthony Little, who acted as their boss. After working to aid the janitorial staff for a period, each student reported to Little, and their work was assessed.

"They're getting to learn those skills here so that it's not as harsh when they start working," Miller said.

Senior Antonio Green, an OCS student who came to Chapel Hill this year after PACE Academy closed down, was able to work with the janitorial staff to earn service credit.

After his old school closed, Green moved to Chapel Hill, but was left without enough hours to graduate. English teacher Michael Irwin suggested he work with the janitorial staff.

"I do this every single day so that I can have enough hours," Green said of his time spent sweeping and mopping. "It's kind of fun."

Miller remains in contact with four graduates, all of whom are employed, who report that the lessons they learned in their OCS training prepared them for the jobs they now hold.

"I do whatever I can to help the kids," said custodian Anthony Little. "They are the best kids I know."

Little acted as a boss for the students, working to show them how a professional workplace operates.

"I gave them instructions and showed them how to do it. They caught on from there," Little said.

Little has been impressed by the character of his students, and has enjoyed having the opportunity to work with them.

"They say 'yes sir, no sir' and have real good manners."

Little is hesitant to open the program to the entire student body. While the OCS students are training for specific jobs, he fears that the program might become disorganized if all students were allowed to work.

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Prom venue relocation provokes disarray

GILLIE WEEKS AND KRISTINA KIM

Two days before prom, the "officialchhsprom2016" Instagram page posted a message about limited space at the Governor's Club, the venue for the dance, that alarmed many students.

"The fire marshal has given us a maximum number of people, so we are only able to sell 60 more tickets," the post said.

The limit caused worry, especially among students in the senior class who could have missed out on their final prom before high school graduation.

"A lot of the reactions we got were completely understandable. People were worried about their senior prom, and they had a lot of questions, which we tried to answer as best as we could," Junior Class Council President Marin Wolf said.

After hearing about the limit, senior Nick Zelasky was unsure whether he would be able to get his tickets on time. Still, Zelasky recognized that Junior Class Council was not completely at fault for the discontent.

"Overall, I feel like they could've done a better job organizing ticket sales, but I know they can't do anything about the cap limit," Zelasky said.

In past years, prom was held at the Sheraton Hotel. However, this year, Junior Class Council changed the location, a decision that received support from the

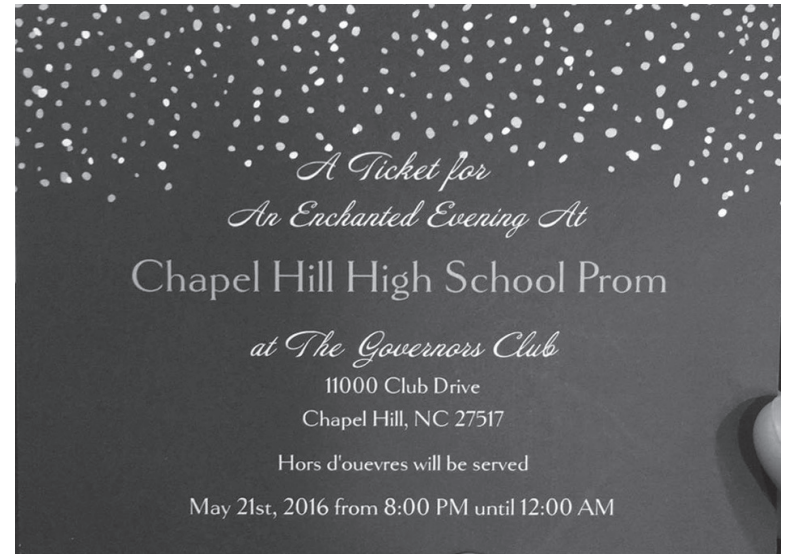


PHOTO CREDIT: ELI ROSE

Prom tickets were in high demand during the days preceding the dance, after students learned that ticket sales would be capped due to the size of the venue.

student body, since the Governor's Club is considered a nicer venue.

Still, many students blamed the lack of tickets on the new location.

The cap for the amount of people was the same as before. However, the junior class this year is larger than last year, and it became evident after the first week of ticket sales that many more students wanted to attend prom than predicted.

Junior Class Council quickly reacted to the negative response to the limited amount of tickets left by raising the cap from 400 people to 500 people, and by removing seating space at prom so that every junior and senior at

Chapel Hill who wanted to attend were able to. In the end, 477 people attended prom.

"Everyone pitched in to fix the situation, answer questions and deal with the students who were rightfully angry and worried," Wolf said.

Despite the fixes, the confusion surrounding ticket sales still affected a few students' abilities to attend prom.

Junior Lundy Fine tried to buy a ticket on Friday afternoon, a day before prom. However, the money collected from ticket sales had already been sent to the bank, so it was too late for her to purchase a ticket.

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REDESIGN, from PAGE 1

which will house some of the extra students from Chapel Hill.

A group of teachers, students, parents and administrators, called the Educational Specifications Committee, met with the architecture firm in order to help develop designs for the school that would address all major concerns.

The renovations will be part of a three-phase plan that is aimed at addressing the major issues of the educational facilities in the district. Phase one includes renovations to Glenwood Elementary, Phoenix Academy and Lincoln Center, in addition to Chapel Hill High School.

Math teacher Aaron Ideus, one of the teachers involved in the planning process, recalled working with the committee to create what they viewed as the ideal school design.

"We started out by doing some educational planning to figure out what we want for the future as far as a building design," Ideus said. "We also got to dream a bit about what we would want to see in a perfect school."

Ideus would like for the new design to include more

collaborative spaces outside of classrooms for student use.

"Now, there aren't really very many [collaborative] spaces other than the library, so having more small group or class type spaces is important," Ideus said.

Collaborative spaces would allow more "freedom for students to study and not be forced to take so many classes that they don't have a lot of interest in," Ideus said.

One point of contention among committee members was that not every teacher would have their own classroom in the leading design. The new building would work on a shared classroom-basis, in which teachers would teach in various classrooms throughout the day and carry their supplies between teaching spaces.

Ideus understands the reasoning behind the need for shared classrooms, but noted that there are drawbacks to the idea as well.

"I see both sides of the fence," Ideus said. "I wish there was the ability to build a new building with everyone able to have their own classroom, but at the same time, then we are just wasting space."

Drafting teacher William McSwain, another member of the

planning committee, explained that classroom sharing would be regulated so that classes would be grouped by type.

"The main idea for having flexible classroom spaces is that classrooms that share a lot of the same infrastructure, like math and english, would be able to have exchangeable spaces, giving [teachers] more flexibility for planning," McSwain said. "But, things like lab spaces that have larger physical needs, like a science classroom, wouldn't be converted into an english classroom the next period because it would just be unfeasible."

McSwain added that "the same thing would be true for Career Technical Education (CTE) labs or the foods lab."

Biology teacher William Richards, who also served on the specifications committee, pointed out that not having individual classrooms would make it harder to hire teachers.

"I have been on the hiring committee for science teachers and the first question they usually ask is 'Will I get my own classroom and can I see it?'" Richards said. "I just do not want the teachers 15 years from now to curse our names."

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Growing up with the Taylors on Morgan Creek Road in Chapel Hill

JARED WEBER

There's a pasture in the countryside I used to call my own.

If brothers Martin and David Perlmutter want to visualize James Taylor's lyrics from "Anywhere Like Heaven," the eighth song off of his second album, *Sweet Baby James*, all they have to do is look out the front window of their own childhood home.

"When he talks about the pasture in the countryside ... That's what he's talking about—across the street," Martin, Chapel Hill class of 1976, said.

Across the street and in the surrounding North Carolina woods is where Taylor fostered his creativity and made many memories. The center of it all, his childhood home at 618 Morgan Creek Road in Chapel Hill, valued at \$1.5 million, will soon be up for auction.

The Taylor family lived in the house from when it was built in 1952 until 1972, when parents Trudy Taylor and Isaac Taylor divorced and sold it. It was then bought by Jim and Pat Johnston in 1974. Their daughter, Shelley, put the home up for auction after her mother passed away in 2014.

The Perlmutter family has lived across the street from the former Taylor home since 1956.

A different time in Chapel Hill

When the Perlmutter brothers and the Taylors were growing up together in 1950s-1960s, Chapel Hill, it was a much simpler time



PHOTO CREDIT: JARED WEBER

Chapel Hill alumni and brothers (left to right) Martin and David Perlmutter stand in front of the childhood home of their former neighbor, singer James Taylor. Taylor attended Chapel Hill High School for the second semester of his junior year. The property is expected to be auctioned off to the highest bidder soon after a sold-out public tour of the home is held June 4.

to be a kid.

At the time, David Perlmutter, Chapel Hill class of 1971, said, there were only three television channels available in Chapel Hill. With no electronics gluing the kids indoors, the outdoors and woods were their playground.

"We didn't have internet, and there were no computers; these woods back here were our playground," David, a 63-year-old writer for *The Charlotte Observ-*

er, said. "It was a totally different time."

The Perlmutter's favorite memories with the Taylors were made racing go-karts around the neighborhood, building tree houses in their yards and camping out by the creek.

"It was a time when you could leave home on your bikes at sunrise and not return until after dark, and nobody got worried," David added.

Helen Perlmutter, the 90-year-old mother of the Perlmutter boys, remembers baking cookies for the kids.

"If anything I baked lasted longer than 24 hours, I knew it was no good," she said.

Growing up with James

The Perlmutter's remember James Taylor as a very creative, contemplative young man from

the start, as shown by his hobbies.

"When it snowed, he never made snowmen. He made ice sculptures," David said. "He would carve his mother's garden hose into a flute and play it."

However, while Taylor was pensive, he was also caring.

Martin, a 58-year-old business owner, remembers when the sprocket fell off of his Hot Rod go-kart, Taylor fixed his chain.

"He would always put me on his shoulders. He was a tall guy, so I always thought I might fall off, but I never did," Martin said.

'Like driving back in time'

As Helen Perlmutter readies to welcome new neighbors for just the third time in the past 60 years, the family feels fortunate to see the house still standing.

News that the auction would take place came as relief.

"There was a lot of talk about developers coming in, taking that house down and tearing up all of this property," David said. "I [would] be in the fight to save it."

At least for now, he knows that Morgan Creek will remain just as he remembers it.

"Luckily, there hasn't been a whole lot of development around here," David said. "When I turn on this road over here, it's like driving back in time."

Tickets have sold out for a public tour of the home and property on held June 4. The auction is expected to be held soon after.

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Ehara funds relief efforts for hometown

MILLY AMES

While driving to school on a regular day in April, senior Nina Ehara heard a piece of news on the radio that was, for her, anything but regular.

Her hometown of Kumamoto, Japan had been struck by a 7.3 magnitude earthquake and 11 subsequent aftershocks, resulting in at least 2,035 casualties.

Ehara, who lived in Kumamoto until moving to Chapel Hill in 2012, thought of her friends and family who live in the town.

"The faces of my friends and family in Kumamoto immediately flashed across my mind," Ehara said. "I was terrified, and wished that they were alive from the bottom of my heart."

Together with the Japanese Language School of Raleigh, of which Ehara is an alumnus, she set up a Razoo crowdfunding page to help raise money for those affected by the earthquakes. So far, the page has raised nearly \$500.



PHOTO CREDIT: JARED WEBER

Senior Nina Ehara displays her Razoo crowdfunding page, which she set up for her hometown of Kumamoto, Japan after it was struck by a 7.3 magnitude earthquake April 16.

The main earthquake struck the city on April 16, killing 35 people and injuring at least 2,000. More than 91,700 residents have been evacuated since the disaster.

"The Kumamoto earthquakes have completely changed the lives of those affected forever; it's not something that affects people temporarily," Ehara wrote on her crowdfunding page. "So many

people are still unable to go back to their houses because they are destroyed or collapsed."

Though none of Ehara's family members who live in Kumamoto were seriously injured during the earthquakes, some of her cousins were forced to leave their homes and sleep in their cars for various safety reasons.

"I'm working on this project mainly for the affected Kumamoto children," she added. "Support for children aged elementary to high school is often overlooked and insufficient after a major earthquake like the Kumamoto earthquake, so I would like to raise money primarily for the affected Kumamoto children so that the sufficient and proper support will be provided for them."

Ehara plans to make further efforts with relief projects when she returns to Japan this summer to start a gap year.

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Views of the Taylor property



A June 4 public tour of five-time Grammy Award winning singer-songwriter James Taylor's childhood home and property has now sold out of tickets.

The home, located at 618 Morgan Creek Road in Chapel Hill, and its accompanying 23 acres of land will be sold by professional auction firm the AuctionFirst soon after the tour.

The home itself consists of two buildings: the family's home and a two-bedroom guest house. The property is being refurbished in the weeks leading up to the tour and auction.

Michael Rogers, president of Rogers Auctioneers, explained the steps in preparing property for an auction.

"You want to try to get out all of the information you can, so that people can make a reasonable decision about how to approach the property as a buyer," Rogers said.

Orange County opts for treatment over arrest with Misdemeanor Diversion

GRACE NEWTON

The Orange County Criminal Justice Resource Office (OCCJRO) established a Misdemeanor Diversion Program (MDP) for juvenile delinquents this April.

The MDP allows individuals in the Orange County area to eliminate one minor offense from their record. The program applies to only 16 and 17-year-olds who have no previous criminal offenses on their record.

In order to be eligible for the program, the offender must have committed a misdemeanor crime. Examples include: marijuana possession, larceny, shoplifting, underage possession of alcohol and simple assault (assault that is not aggravated).

Sex offenses, firearm offenses and traffic offenses have been excluded from the program, meaning any misdemeanor crimes of the type will not be covered in the MDP.

The crime committed by the offender must be deemed a misdemeanor by the officer carrying out the arrest in order for the culprit to qualify for the program.

The MDP allows a 90-day diversion program to serve as a substitute for arrest. Instead of arrest, the offender will be required to complete community service or address their individual therapeutic needs.

The new program will allow only one offense to be extracted from an individual's record. The diverted offense will never be visible to colleges or potential employers.

The new law was implemented April 15 by the OCCJRO.

Criminal justice resource manager Caitlin Fenhagen is a strong supporter of the MDP.

"[North Carolina] is only one of two states that prosecutes 16 and 17-year-olds in adult criminal court. The consequences of arrest and prosecution

in the adult system have significant direct and indirect impacts on a person," Fenhagen said. "These consequences create lifelong barriers to education, employment, housing and many other benefits many of us take for granted."

Fenhagen says the county hopes to extend the program to 18 through 21-year-olds at some point. The program was modeled after Durham's misdemeanor program, which currently applies to 16 through 21-year-olds.

"Until [the state] can pass legislation that will raise the age of juvenile jurisdiction up to 18, I would like to see the MDP model expanded to include additional offenses," Fenhagen said.

The new program will apply to any crimes committed at the high school as well.

School Resource Officer Gary Beneville will be able to enforce the program when needed.

"I think the program will be a great opportunity for some students who are willing to learn from their mistakes," Beneville said. "As an offender, you are not guaranteed MDP. It is at the discretion of the officer."

While there is fear that the new program could increase crime rates, Beneville believes differently.

According to Chapel Hill criminal law attorney Lynn Norton-Ramirez the inclusion of certain traffic offenses, excluding DWI's, would benefit the program.

"While we should continue to fight to amend the statute and increase the age for criminal responsibility from 16 to 18 years, Orange County teens can now join Durham County teens in catching a break," Norton-Ramirez wrote in a blog post.

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Burt's Bees keeps it green

SAM NIELSEN

Beeswax lip balm is not just a novelty; Burt's Bees—a company headquartered in Durham and known for skin-care products made with beeswax—sells beeswax lip balm with the goal of improving bee and human health around the world.

"Our mission as a company is to connect people with the wisdom, power and beauty of nature," public relations manager Patrice Sherman said. "So, whether that's through the personal care products we make out of natural ingredients or sustainability efforts and community outreach we do with a variety of partners ... we try to keep mindfulness of nature top of mind."

The company was founded by Roxanne Quimby and Burt Shavitz in Maine in 1984. In 1994, the company moved its headquarters to Durham.

"The demand for our products was growing and [the company] needed a larger space to keep up with that demand," Sherman said, "and it was also looking for an environment that had a lot of nature, to continue to help focus on that natural health and beauty."

Burt's Bees has had no shortage of like-minded partners to work with in the Triangle area. One organization, Bee Down-

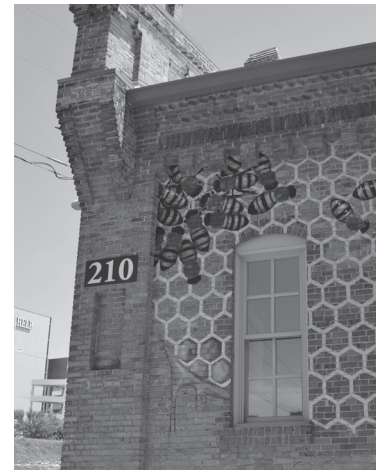


PHOTO CREDIT: SAM NIELSEN

The facade of the Burt's Bees headquarters in downtown Durham currently has a mural of a bee hive being painted by Matthew Willey.

town, helped install rooftop hives in the American Tobacco Campus, where Burt's Bees's main office is located.

Chapel Hill High School band teacher John Carmichael likes Burt's Bees for its use of natural ingredients.

"I like it because it is all natural, and it's made locally," Carmichael said.

The products also provide practical benefits for Carmichael.

"It's the most hydrating product of its type that I've encountered. I'm a musician, so I have to play trumpet," Carmichael said. "More than a piano player, I'm interested in how my lips are, and I use this product."

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Who makes the best biscuit in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro area?

The biscuit is a southern cooking staple. Almost everyone loves a flaky, buttermilk biscuit, and there are numerous restaurants in Chapel Hill that make their own from scratch daily. However, with so many options in the area and only so little dough to spend on breakfast, Chapel Hill students have, for the most part, been split on whose biscuit is best. Proconian staff writer Paul McLaughlin put aside his preferences and sampled biscuits from five local restaurants, hoping to settle the debate once and for all.

Honorable mentions:

Bojangles'



"Despite being a fast food restaurant, Bojangles' still makes some of the best biscuits in the South. Their biscuits not only are delicious, but stay intact. Additionally, you get great value for your buck."

\$0.89 for one biscuit

Calvander



"Calvander's biscuit is very buttery, light and crumbly. While I would not recommend eating it by itself, it is a cheap and quick option for someone in need of a quick bite to eat at lunch, as the store's location is close by."

\$1.17 for one biscuit

RISE



"RISE definitely seems to be a fan favorite. Although I would go to elsewhere first—it is a bit pricey at \$1.50 each—the size of the biscuit definitely matters. RISE makes a very large, tasty biscuit."

\$1.50 for one biscuit

Time-Out



"Time-Out makes an amazing biscuit that is even larger than that of RISE. With a great mix of fluffy dough and a light, buttery outside, Time-Out's biscuit comes a close second to my eventual biscuit champion."

\$1.39 for one biscuit



And the award for best biscuit in town goes to ...



Sunrise Biscuit Kitchen

"Featured on the Travel Channel's *Food Paradise* and widely believed to be a Chapel Hill classic, Sunrises's biscuit is rightfully famous. Although their biscuits break apart easily, they are huge. Top it with fried chicken, egg, cheese or other toppings."

\$0.89 for one biscuit



NC colleges rank among best for black students

Top 10 Best Colleges for African Americans by *Essence* and *Money* Magazine (in-state colleges have been emboldened):

- 1) Princeton University (Princeton, NJ)
- 2) Harvard University (Cambridge, MA)
- 3) **Duke University** (Durham, NC)
- 4) Cornell University (Ithaca, NY)
- 5) Florida A&M University (Tallahassee, FL)
- 6) Spelman College (Atlanta, GA)
- 7) University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, PA)
- 8) Yale University (New Haven, CT)
- 9) **North Carolina A&T University** (Greensboro, NC)
- 10) University of Maryland, College Park (College Park, MD)

MILLY AMES

Seven North Carolina colleges made the first ever list for the 50 Best Colleges for African Americans jointly created by *Essence* and *Money* magazine.

The list was compiled based on federal data collected over the past year by *Money* magazine. Over 1,500 four year colleges were analyzed to form a list of schools that provided the best opportunities for African American students based on graduation rates, affordability, earning potential and representation.

The North Carolina schools to make the list included: Duke University (third), North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (ninth), University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (22nd), Davidson College (30th), Elizabeth City State University (37th), North Carolina Central University (43rd) and Winston-Salem State University (48th).

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-CH) was the ranked the ninth best pub-

lic college in the country, second in the state behind North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (NC A&T).

Chapel Hill senior Quaniece Fish will be studying at North Carolina Central University (NCCU), the 43rd ranked college on the list.

NCCU is also well-known for being the nation's first state-supported liberal arts college for African-American students.

Fish plans on majoring in psychology and minoring in criminal justice to pursue her dream of becoming a forensic psychologist.

"North Carolina Central University has so much to offer when it comes to student services, including nonremedial tutoring, women's center, placement service, day care, health service and health insurance," Fish said. "I have a few friends who attend there, and they love it."

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Lifeguarding a common job for Chapel Hill students seeking summer work

BRENDAN HOLLY

Many Chapel Hill High School students take up jobs over the summer to pay for bills, build up their savings or make some spending money. Some students take up jobs as lifeguards at local swimming pools.

Chapel Hill students work at the Homestead Aquatic Center, Hargraves Community Center, the Exchange, the University of North Carolina Faculty-Staff Recreation Association, Tennis Club and the Chapel Hill-Carboro Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA).

Juniors Derek Whisnant and Kyra Crider both lifeguard at the Exchange Pool.

"Lifeguarding is mostly just enforcing pool rules, talking to patrons and some general pool maintenance and cleaning," Whisnant said.

Most pools have three types of jobs: lifeguarding, desk work and maintenance.

Much of the work employees complete depends on which shift they work.

"If you open the pool you have to clear the skimmers, of all the leaves and bugs from overnight, and, if you close the pool, you have to clean bathrooms," Crider said.

The majority of shifts last around four hours and students can work any day of the week. Pool managers are typically understanding of other time commitments with high school students.



PHOTO CREDIT: BRENDAN HOLLY

Chapel Hill junior Kyra Crider watches over swimmers during a lifeguarding shift at The Exchange Pool. Crider is one of numerous Chapel Hill students who will lifeguard this summer as a part-time job.

"Lifeguarding is definitely a really good job, pretty rewarding and not very physically taxing," Whisnant said.

The process of lifeguarding certification includes various written and physical tests and has a minimum age limit of 15 years old. Most certification courses are run through the Red Cross.

"We were tested on our scanning skills as well as basic saves, backboarding and CPR," Crider said.

While Whisnant and Crider both expressed satisfaction in pool work, senior Jesse Chen expressed a different opinion.

"All you do is sit on a chair and watch kids swim in a stuffy room, and I often find myself

struggling to stay awake," Chen said. "The only good ways to pass the time are to twirl your whistle on your fingers or maybe sing if you're brave enough."

Chen is a guard at the Homestead Aquatic Center, about five minutes from Chapel Hill High School by car.

Some of the less desired duties assigned to lifeguards at Homestead Aquatic Center include "cleaning up [vomit], checking locker rooms, washing the deck [and] checking chemicals [levels]," Chen said.

Junior Baxter Sobolewski shares Chen's sentiments, saying he blew through 12 seasons of *Family Guy* during his breaktime.

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"My daughter took the SAT this spring after completing Moore's Test Prep. She went in on test day with a great feeling and less nervousness than she expected and came away with a great score!"

Former Carrboro mayor suggests name change

GILLIE WEEKS

Former Carrboro mayor James Porto recently proposed to change the name of the town he once led, due to the controversial history behind the current one.

Carrboro is named after Julian Carr, who owned the Alberta Cotton Mill in modern-day downtown Carrboro, although the town had three names prior to the current one: West End, Lloydville and Venable. Carr brought electricity, infrastructure and business to Venable and the town changed its name in his honor.

The dissension around Carr is that he openly promoted white supremacy. In 1913, at the opening of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Silent Sam statue—which has been the subject of controversy in recent years for its commendable depiction of a Confederate soldier—Carr made a speech in which he proudly stated that he whipped an African American woman.

Porto believes that Carr's name no longer represents the town's values and, therefore, should be changed.

"Every time I think or say 'Carrboro,' I see the image of Julian Carr whipping a defenseless female slave on UNC campus," Porto said.

So far, changing the name of Carrboro has not been formally proposed to the Carrboro Board of Aldermen. In order for



PHOTO CREDIT: GILLIE WEEKS

Former Carrboro mayor James Porto recommended in mid-April that the town change its name. Carrboro is named after Julian Carr, a well-known white supremacist who brought electricity and business to town in the early 1900s.

the board to consider the name change, the idea would have to be presented to the Carrboro aldermen in the form of a petition.

"Changing the name of the town will never change the history of persons like Julian Carr, [whose] history led to what Carrboro is today," mayor Lydia Lavelle said. "Over the past few decades, the town of Carrboro has become known as a progressive, forward-thinking, human rights-oriented community."

Although most disagree with Carr's racist values, many citizens agree with Lavelle and are opposed to a name change.

"White supremacy may have been what Julian Carr stood for, but our town has changed," junior

Jessica Tornai said.

Porto suggested changing the name of Carrboro to Paris, based on the town's nickname, "Paris of the Piedmont."

"The culture of small independent shops, the urban greenery, the celebration of food and social gathering, the availability of alternate means of transport and the home for a creative class," Porto said. "All that makes Paris, France unique can guide the development of Paris, NC."

Lavelle has said that she does not think that the name change is very likely because she does not see wide community support for the switch.

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Email Josh Rose for details or reservations: jandjrose1@gmail.com

Congratulations to all of the graduating *Proconian* staff members—Milly Ames, Nick Elston, Nathan Guskiewicz, Chloe McNeal, Sam Nielsen, Forrest Pratson, Jeff Richardson, Berry Rigdon, Eli Rose, Sarah Taekman and Jared Weber.

A sweet 16: Four years of news

While current Chapel Hill seniors were taking classes and building their resumes, their time in high school was being defined by local, national and international news stories. To chronicle each of the past four years, Proconian pulled four old articles from its archives to relive the old news and observe the aftermaths they created.

2012-2013 Forever Young, Still Right



Throughout the 2012-2013 school year, Proconian printed a regular column that left a lasting impact on many students' lives. Garrett Young-Wright, a staff writer and self-proclaimed five-star college basketball recruit, penned *Forever Young, Always Right*, in which he imparted upon readers his wisdom concerning how to play basketball at the highest level, how to "catfish" people online and other useful things. One time, he even listed every animal he could kill with his bare hands. We caught back up with the man himself, now a rising senior at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

GARRETT YOUNG-WRIGHT

I get calls everyday from NBA teams and professional teams overseas trying to sign me. I've had to change my cell phone number multiple times.

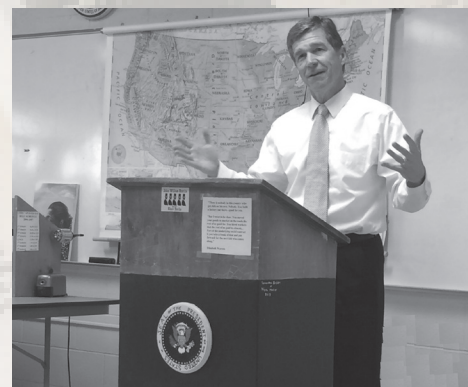
I promised my mother I would get my degree, so I am focused on maintaining my 2.0 GPA so that I can one day give her that diploma, hug her and then head toward the riches, chartered flights, free food and, of course, the groupies that await.

I'll be a senior in the fall at UNC-Chapel Hill, so I've only got one more year until my destiny is realized. In the meantime, I continue to hone my skills whilst playing for the men's club basketball team. We were undefeated in games in which all my pregame demands—three bottles of Evian, seven shelled oysters and a pound of elk jerky—were met. Some say I'm a prima donna, but then I dunk on their face and say "Stop, don't you ever talk about the best," and then they don't say it anymore, because they can tell that I don't like it.

So, have I made it big yet? Yes. Do I have a ring yet? I have many cool golden rings. I also bought the original ring from *The Lord of the Rings* and put it on my credit card, as I assume I can pay it off once my career begins. As far as an NBA championship ring, that is to be continued.

Gubernatorial candidate Cooper visits Chapel Hill

2013-2014

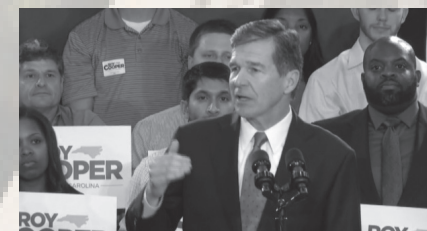


FRANCES REULAND

North Carolina Attorney General Roy Cooper came to Chapel Hill High School and addressed a group of about 60 Honors Civics and AP U.S. Government students in early February.

"His talk taught civics students a lot about the attorney general's office and gave students a personal connection to state government," social studies teacher Jennifer Ballew said. "Students are more likely to follow the news and be active participants in democracy when they feel elected officials care about their needs and concerns." — *Proconian*, December (CHECK) 2013

After holding the office of Attorney General for 16 years, Roy Cooper has set his sights on the seat of governor.



Cooper announced his candidacy in mid-October 2015, and will run against the incumbent, Pat McCrory.

Junior Harrison Broun supports Cooper's decision to run, especially after McCrory came out in support of House Bill 2.

"HB2 has stopped many businesses from coming to North Carolina," Broun said. "[Cooper] can't do a worse job than Pat."

2014-2015 Students spread awareness, for the most part, with internet challenges



ELISE MATERA

"Thank you for nominating me for the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge. I'd like to nominate..." Many Chapel Hill students heard this phrase repeated over social media this summer, as the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge became a phenomenon.

More important than screaming and shivering friends, though, were the conversations and donations that the videos sparked.

People around the world participated in the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge, a campaign to raise awareness and funding for the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Association (ALSA). The loose rules of the challenge were: either dump a bucket of ice water on your head or donate to ALSA.

Internet challenges have continued to flood the timelines and news feeds of Chapel Hill students over the past two years, some more novel than others.

A few viral ones have furthered the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge's charitable message, including the 30 Day No Makeup Challenge, in which some female students did not wear makeup for a whole month, and the #22Kill Challenge, in which students took videos of themselves doing 22 push-ups to honor the 22 American veterans who commit suicide every day.

"If doing 22 push-ups [can] help raise awareness to save a vet's life, I'm all for it," junior Garrett Liebe, who completed the challenge, said.

The challenges that have picked up the most steam though—like the Kylie Jenner Challenge, in which girls suck into a shot glass trying to plump up their lips to look those of the reality television star—offer less charitable messages.

Students snap in style with Snapchat geofilters

2015-2016

KRISTINA KIM

Chapel Hill students can now show school pride in their snapchats.

Junior Kethan Galloway created a Snapchat geographical location tag, or Geofilter, that is unique to Chapel Hill High School.

The ability to submit Geofilter designs was opened to the general public in 2014.

Galloway initially came up with the idea to make a Geofilter as he was signing up for Tiger Roar, a school club centered around promoting school spirit.

"I wanted to help make students feel more proud of our school in a way that hasn't been done before," Galloway said.

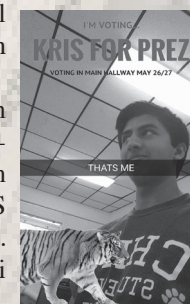
After Kethan Galloway created his Snapchat geographical location tag, or Geofilter, other Chapel Hill students followed his lead by creating their own.

Sophomore Jonas Todd designed the 'Tigers' Geofilter that first became available in early February.

"[Geofilters] promote school spirit and give students another way to support and represent Chapel Hill High School," Todd, who created his filter in math class, said.

Later, in May, juniors Kris Chellani and Adam Lenox, while running for Student Government president and vice president, respectively, created their own Geofilters encouraging fellow students to "VOTE KRIS 4 PRES" or "VOTE ADAM 4 VP" on the voting days.

After votes were counted May 27, both Chellani and Lenox had won their elections.



Congratulations Class of 2016!

Avery Acierno: NC State University	College	Robert Fernald: NC State University
Maggie Adams: UNC-Chapel Hill	Anna Castellano: UNC-Chapel Hill	Aden Fischer-Brown: Gap year
Nick Agusta: University of Tennessee	Carol Centeno: William Peace University	Quaniece Fish: NC Central
Zachary Allen: UNC-Wilmington	Sanne Chamberlain: UNC-Wilmington	Jasmin Flack: Columbia University
Armoni Alston: California State University, Sacramento	Emily Chang: Duke University	Ismael Galvan: U.S. Army
Kaelah Alston: NC-A&T	Darius Charkhesht: US Navy	Luis Gamez: Durham Tech
Milly Ames: New York University	Georgie Chase: Appalachian State University	Florence Gester: University of Liege
Evan Amico: UNC-Chapel Hill	Charlie Chavez: Advanced Technology Institute	Katie Golding: UNC-Greensboro
Justin Anthony: UNC-Charlotte	Holly Cheek: UNC-Charlotte	Darshan Gove: Davidson College
Patrick Aris: UNC-Chapel Hill	Quentin Cheek: Wake Tech	Liz Greer: UNC-Asheville
Rohan Arora: UNC-Chapel Hill	Jesse Chen: Appalachian State University	Nathan Guskiewicz: UNC-Chapel Hill
Lucie Arricastres: UNC-Chapel Hill	Sydney Chen: UNC-Chapel Hill	Alexa Hankins: NC State University
Garrett Ashley: University of Mississippi	Gabriel Chew: Appalachian State University	Alex Hansen: Brigham Young University
Monicah Atwater: Alamance Community College	Robert Chianese: Caldwell Community College	Hersheal Hargraves: Alamance Community College
William Babcock: Elon University	Catherine Cho: Duke University	Paige Haskins: University of Mary Washington
Grace Baldauf: Trinity College, Dublin	David Cho: UNC-Charlotte	Kyle Healy: Gap year
Emma Baldwin: Bates College	Deil Cho: United States Military Academy at West Point	Nick Hebert: UNC-Chapel Hill
Emily Ball: UNC-Wilmington	Alex Clarke: Gap year	Steven Heine: Allegheny College
Stephanie Barajas: Durham Tech	David Collazo: UNC-Greensboro	Julia Heinly: Furman University
Ayn-Conner Barnett: UNC-Asheville	Markale Cordova: UNC-Charlotte	Sophie Heins: William Woods University
Christian Barnhill: Alamance Community College	Marija Crook: Oberlin College	Kaitlin Hendershot: Emory University
Jenna Bateman: NC State University	Rachel Danner: Brown University	Blake Hirth: East Carolina University
Sam Bauers: NC State University	Steini Davidson: UNC-Chapel Hill	Hansac Ho: NC State University
Masiel Bautista: UNC-Chapel Hill	Sydney Davis: University of Kansas	Henry Hogan: Appalachian State University
Camden Bergey: NC State University	Hope Davison: Gap year	William Holloway: Gap year
Will Berner: UNC-Chapel Hill	Kamrin Dean: NC State University	Kaitlan Hollowell: Guilford College
Max Blackburn: Colorado College	Cynthia Dela Cruz: Durham Tech	Kyle Hornik: Queens University of Charlotte
Olivia Bloom: UNC-Wilmington	Claire DeSelm: University of Notre Dame	Ari Horwitz: UNC-Chapel Hill
Angela Bobadilla: Durham Tech	Jared Devon: University of Leuven, Belgium	Myles House: UNC-Asheville
Annie Bocko: UNC-Chapel Hill	Luke Dicker: Suffolk University	Julia Htoo: Alamance Community College
Eric Bonilla: East Carolina University	Deshawn Dixon: Chowan University	Johnny Huang: NC State University
Nia Bowers: Spelman College	Elise Dixon: Virginia Tech	Josh Huemmer: Alamance Community College
Chloe Boyd: UNC-Chapel Hill	Iain Dixon: NC State University	Ian Hufford: Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Morgan Brandewie: Emory University	Connor Doble: UNC-Charlotte	Makaylah Hunter-Toney: NC-A&T
Gabi Brenman: NC State University	Liam Doyle: Durham Tech	Mohamed Hussein: Work
Chase Brown: University of Dubuque	Neal Duncan: UNC-Charlotte	Shanaya Jeudy: East Carolina University
May Burgard: UNC-Chapel Hill	Morgan Durant: UNC-Greensboro	Blake Johnson: UNC-Chapel Hill
Zach Burkett: Collin Community College	Haley Easthom: College of Charleston	Erica Johnson: UNC-Chapel Hill
Raven Burnette: Durham Tech	Nina Ehara: Gap year	Noah Johnson: NC State University
Jackson Cabell: UNC-Chapel Hill	Lily el Naccash: Duke University	Brian Jones: Denison University
Hannah Cable: UNC-Chapel Hill	Nick Elston: UNC-Chapel Hill	Lexi Jones: UNC-Greensboro
Matt Cadena: Marine Corps	Jacob Engel: Rice University	Paige Jones: UNC-Chapel Hill
Nayeli Campos-Franco: UNC-Greensboro	C.J. Eron: University of Tampa	Sarah Jones: NC State University
Valeria Campos-Diaz: East Carolina University	Jose Escobedo: UNC-Pembroke	Abu Kamara: UNC-Greensboro
Vanessa Campos-Diaz: East Carolina University	Katharine Esterley: UNC-Chapel Hill	Abby Kameny: University of Maryland, College Park
Jamesha Cannon: NC Central	Lopaz Evans: Durham Tech	Anna Grace Kelley: UNC-Chapel Hill
Robert Carmichael: Appalachian State University	Antonio Fabian: Durham Tech	Claire Kern: UNC-Chapel Hill
Edith Carreto Lazaro: Alamance Community	Serena Fearington-Robinson: UNC-Greensboro	



Chapel Hill seniors will leave town next year, living all over the country and globe while studying and working to achieve their goals. Below, all graduating seniors' post-graduate plans, provided they responded to our survey, are listed alphabetically.

Daniel Kleissler: UNC-Chapel Hill	Santiago Ocoro-Tomalin: Gap year	Nick Soluri: Union College
Ryan Kleissler: George Washington University	Marco Orellana-Portillo: Durham Tech	Celeste Spector: Goucher College
Jackson Knowles: University of Oregon	Sam Orenstein: Brown University	Kennan Staelin: UNC-Asheville
Dillon Kopec: Roanoke College	Nazy Ortiz: Wake Technical Community College	Abigail Stern: Agnes Scott College
Connor Korfas: Denison University	Jacob Owens: Greensboro College	Joy Stouffer: UNC-Chapel Hill
Valeri Kozarev: NC State University	Julie Park: NC State University	Connor Stough: UNC-Pembroke
Mimi Kramer: Tulane University	Alex Parks: Cleveland Institute of Music	Maxwell Sylvestre: Durham Tech
Claire Lancaster: UNC-Chapel Hill	Anna Passannante: Williams College	Natalie Szogas: UNC-Chapel Hill
Samantha Lane: Emerson College	Carlos Patino-Rivera: UNC-Greensboro	Jessi Szymczak: UNC-Chapel Hill
Carly LeMoine: New York University	Casey Patterson: UNC-Greensboro	Lauren Taekman: UNC-Chapel Hill
Hillary Lin: NC State University	Austin Paugh: Work	Sarah Taekman: Case Western Reserve University
Gabby Litzinger: Wayne Community College	Morgan Paul: Elon University	Annelise ter Horst: UNC-Chapel Hill
Avery Logan: New England Conservatory of Music	Julia Perkins: Gap year	Nikki Thai: UNC-Charlotte
Leanna Long: Saint Anselm College	Tierra Perry: East Carolina University	Abigail Thomas: UNC-Greensboro
Bryna Loranger: Tulane University	Jonathan Phillips: Davidson College	Natalie Thomas: NC State University
Lu Lue: Appalachian State University	Patrick Porter: UNC-Wilmington	Sandrena Trowers: UNC-Greensboro
Hogan Malek: Durham Tech	Harish Prasad: Elon University	Max Understein: University of Colorado Boulder
Meghna Mandava: University of California, Berkeley	Forrest Pratson: Duke University	Asu Uras: East Carolina University
Tristan Marquise: Central Carolina Community College	Hudson Price: Gap year	Timmy Valentin: NC State University
Diana Martinez Vargas: Alamance Community College	Louis Rabinowitz: UNC-Chapel Hill	Anjali Valentine: UCLA
Linda Martinez-Cervantes: Alamance Community College	Alexis Ramirez: UNC-Greensboro	John Vanderwoude: UNC-Greensboro
Hannah Mathews: UNC-Asheville	Blake Rasnake: UNC-Wilmington	Sydney VanOrd: Appalachian State University
Elizabeth McBurney: University of Texas	Jeff Richardson: UNC-Chapel Hill	Sanjana Vasudevan: University of Pennsylvania
George McBurney: Coast Guard Academy	Berry Rigdon: NC State University	Chris Volk: Virginia Tech
Ricki McDowell: Marine Corps	Decory Roberson: Working	Gabi Walata: Appalachian State University
Jane McMurry: Davidson College	Reagan Roeber: UNC-Chapel Hill	John Walden: Elon University
Chloe McNeal: Appalachian State University	Connor Rose: Durham Tech	Morgan Walton: University of Colorado Boulder
James Menache: UNC-Asheville	Eli Rose: Case Western Reserve University	Olivia Wander: NC State University
Lillian Menkens-Weiler: American University	Grace Rossie-Rehm: Davidson County Community College	Amelia Wang: University of Pittsburgh
Lisa Mercer: UNC-Chapel Hill	Gavin Rothwell: NC State University	Nathan Wang: NC State University
Shomya Mitra: Oberlin Conservatory of Music	I'Money Rushing: Work	Wenbo Wang: UNC-Chapel Hill
Matt Mogolowitz: UNC-Charlotte	Miriam Saavedra Gonzalez: Alamance Community College	Donya Weaver: UNC-Asheville
Emily Molina: NC State University	Nancy Saldana: Appalachian State University	Finn Weber: Harvard University
Arthur Mouw: Western Carolina University	Emily Sanfilippo: The American Academy for Dramatic Arts	Jared Weber: UNC-Chapel Hill
Tommy Mozier: Appalachian State University	Nick Sarbaum: UNC-Asheville	Thilini Weerakkody: Gap year
Makayla Muhammad: Alamance Community College	Robert Scoggins: Lenior-Rhyne University	Max Weintraub: NC State University
Maki Muramatsu: Durham Tech	Avery Scopes-Crafts: Emory University	Zachary Weiss: Elon University
Nicole Newhouse: Belmont University	Antonia Sereno: Elon University	Autumn West: Johnson C. Smith University
Trevor Newhouse: Western Michigan University	Neyha Shankar: Carnegie Mellon University	Rex Whisnant: UNC-Charlotte
Quinton Nichols: Durham Tech	Roberto Sibrian: UNC-Greensboro	Cameron White: UNC-Wilmington
Sam Nielsen: UNC-Chapel Hill	Hanna Siekierski: UNC-Chapel Hill	McKenna Willoughby: NC State University
Andrew Nyland: Virginia Tech	Jahfari Skyers: Durham Tech	Sammi Wong: NC State University
Jack Obringer: UNC-Chapel Hill	Shari Smith: UNC Charlotte	Albert Yam: George Washington University
	Victoria Smith: Clark University	Joyce Yao: UNC-Chapel Hill
	Victoria A. Smith: UNC-Chapel Hill	Harrison Young: UNC-Chapel Hill
	Justin Soll: Carleton College	Nick Young: Appalachian State University
		Shamim Zarei: UNC-Chapel Hill
		Nick Zelasky: NC State University
		Anna Zurliene: UNC-Asheville



SENIOR SPOTLIGHTS

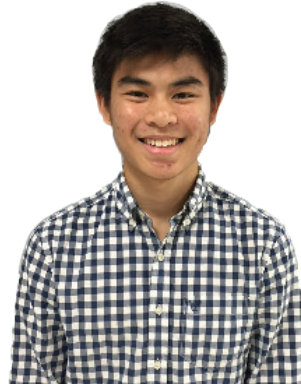
Every Chapel Hill senior will be elsewhere next year, challenging themselves in different ways to pursue and achieve their goals. Whether they are at prestigious universities, volunteering in foreign countries or serving our country, our students will be making an impact. Proconian interviewed nine seniors to show the diversity of the class of 2016's post-graduation plans.



Deil Cho

United States Military Academy at West Point

"I remember, when I was a freshman, I had a conversation with Alex Werden about him going to West Point, and the way he described it made me very interested. Then, in my junior year, when Drew Roeber decided to go, he and I had multiple conversations about the military and West Point, and our plans for the future and goals were quite similar, which made me want to look into it a bit more. Last summer, I attended SLE, which is a week up at West Point where I experience some of the stuff the cadets do. After that experience, I was hooked. The things that come along with becoming an army officer at West Point—like a free education, the prestige and honor—shouldn't be the reason why anyone attends a service academy. Those things are just some of the positive outcomes that come along with becoming an army officer. I know, for myself, I can confidently say that my goal is to become an army officer in the world's greatest army."



Jasmin Flack

Columbia University

"I wrote my essay about the achievement gap between wealthy students and underprivileged students—white students and minority students, pretty much. I was really excited when I heard I had been accepted to Columbia. I didn't really expect to get in, so when I did, I was really happy. Knowing I've been accepted to my dream school definitely makes me feel like the work I put into high school paid off. I've worked really hard these past four years, so it's just exciting to know that, if you do your best, you can achieve what you set out to do. I've talked to a lot of students who are going there and I'm sure I'll have a cool roommate. I'm really ready to get started."



Shamim Zarei

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

"Ever since elementary school—I moved to Chapel Hill from Iran—I've loved Chapel Hill. I also watched the Tar Heels' basketball team play in my fifth grade class, when they won the 2009 National Championship. Ever since that championship team, I was like 'I want to go to this school.' It just felt right. It was my dream school, so, as soon as I got in, I enrolled. As for a major, I'm going undecided but I'm leaning towards biochemistry or biology. I actually think it's nice that there are 48 other kids from Chapel Hill High School going to the school. If things don't work out or plans fall through, you can always hit up your old homies."



Nazy Ortiz

Wake Technical Community College

"I came to the decision to attend Wake Tech because I want to raise my GPA and, hopefully, attend either UNC-Asheville or App. State after my first year. Through this program, I just need to complete 30 hours of courses before transferring. I'm planning on just taking the required first-year classes at Wake Tech and then moving on to major in psychology. I've also been talking to a recruiter from the Peace Corps, so I'm thinking about doing their program once I transfer. I really did not want to attend Durham Tech, because I don't like the campus. I'm also not a fan of Alamance. I really like Raleigh and decided to move there for my first year, so I can get out of Chapel Hill, but still not be too far."



Kyle Healy

Gap year in Senegal

"Throughout my many years of French, I had always dreamed of having the opportunity where I could implement my language skills to help others. I found that opportunity in the form of taking a gap year to a French-African country: Senegal. My gap year is being run through the Global Citizen Year program, which many Chapel Hill alumni have done. During my eight-month stay, I will be doing apprenticeships in various fields, such as teaching, non-governmental organization aid and medicine. I'm really looking forward to leaving the country and broadening my experience in an international setting. Upon my arrival back home, I will be attending Appalachian State University."



Nia Bowers

Spelman College

"Honestly, I didn't know that Spelman was an all-girls school until I got in and did more research on it. It's also a Historically Black College and University (HBCU), so most students are African-American. I chose to go after visiting the school in person. There are a lot of advantages to attending an all-girls HBCU, in my opinion. You're surrounding yourself with a lot of women who are just like you, and you end up creating a really close bond. The school describes everyone as "Spelman Sisters," and we're all a part of this sisterhood. I think that's amazing because you'll always have someone to talk to if something goes wrong."



The Class of 2016 By the numbers*

326

Total # of students

Students attending private schools

69

153

Students attending public schools

Students attending UNC system schools

135

9

Students taking gap years

Students making military commitments

10

*As reported by students

IF I HAD A SUPER POWER...

Ever wondered what it would be like to wake up one day with supernatural abilities? We asked three seniors which, out of any possible super powers, they would want to be able to use.



"Invisibility"
- Chloe Boyd



"Mind reading"
- Nayeli Campos-Franco



"Transforming into a bald eagle"
- Camden Bergey





HALF MOON BAND RELEASES NEW EP

SARAH TAEKMAN

Half Moon Band, a student-run band, is releasing its first extended play (EP), “In Orbit EP” in June.

The Half Moon Band is comprised of seniors Nick Young (guitar and vocals), Jared Weber (violin and vocals), Chris Volk (bass), Jackson Cabell (guitar), Aden Fischer-Brown (piano and vocals) and sophomore Tucker Wright (drums). They started playing together as an official band in early 2015 for the school district’s annual talent show, Junior Follies.

The band’s music draws influence from country and folk musicians such as Zac Brown Band, “but with more of a modern feel,”

as described by Wright. Earlier gigs featured mostly covers, but the band has recently been moving towards producing original music.

“In Orbit EP” was recorded in mid-April and will be released in early June; it features five of the band’s original songs. The production of the EP was funded primarily via Kickstarter, with the band crowd-funding \$1,500 for production and distribution costs. The band produced 100 CDs for sale, alongside releasing its music to iTunes and Spotify.

Half Moon Band initially did not have plans to make an EP; the idea started with the creation of their first original song, “Just

Cool.”

“When we first formed the band junior year, an EP was not really ever expected to happen. At that time, it was mostly focused around Junior Follies,” Weber said.

The inspiration for the title of the EP hails from the band’s practice space. In 2015, lead singer Young built a basement which came to be known by band members and friends as The Orbit.

“We always practice there; a lot of [song construction] happened in The Orbit,” Wright said. “We saw the best option was to call it ‘In Orbit.’”

The band’s goal for releasing the EP was “just getting our mu-

sic out to anyone that wants it,” Wright said. With five of the six band members headed off to college or out of the state in the fall, the release of the EP was also for memory’s sake.

“We wanted to have something to remember high school and this band by,” Weber said. “It’s going to be really cool in 20 years to be able to listen to this CD and remember playing together.”

Wright describes the EP as a farewell of sorts.

“There isn’t going to be that much of Half Moon Band after this year,” Wright said. “But we’ll stay in touch and try to figure out when we can play together.”

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“In Orbit EP” Tracklist

- 1) Sunshine
- 2) Latch (cover)
- 3) Come Along
- 4) Wouldn’t Change a Thing (The Minion Song)
- 5) Dinner Bell
- 6) Caroline



PHOTO COURTESY OF ENENRA

Enenra: Chapel Hill students rock out

SARAH TAEKMAN

Half Moon Band is not Chapel Hill High School’s only student band—for those more rock and roll-inclined, there is Enenra.

The band is composed of senior Ariel Hoerter and juniors Ben Thornburg, Rick Davis and Ethan Kimberly. They have been releasing music on their SoundCloud and have played gigs at Junior Follies Local 506.

The name of the band is inspired by a Japanese smoke monster found in *Mortal Kombat*.

The band used multiple references to popular and retro culture in its Junior Follies performance, projecting video of old cartoons and bright colors on a screen behind them as they played.

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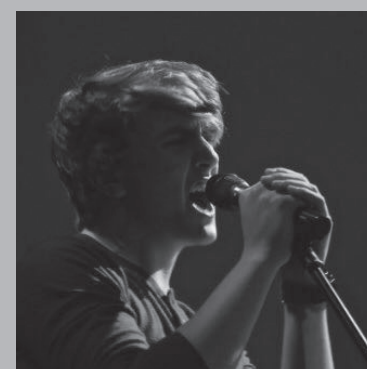


PHOTO COURTESY OF BEN THORNBURG

Chapel Hill mom takes on reality TV show *Naked and Afraid*

CHLOE GRILL

Stay-at-home mom and Chapel Hill resident Karen Coffee took on the challenge of participating in one of television's most popular survival shows, making her debut on the show in April.

Naked and Afraid, a reality show on Discovery Channel, drops two contestants off in an unknown wilderness destination, challenging them to survive for 21 days with only one item of choice each.

The catch? They must do it all while naked.

Prior to being invited on to the show, Coffee was interviewed multiple times, took psychological exams, FaceTimed with a psychologist and performed survival tests with an expert survivalist. Afterwards, she underwent multiple physical exams.

After all the required tests and training, she finally received the call affirming that she would be on the show.

Coffee has always enjoyed

being outdoors, so when she heard about the show, she thought it would be an experience she would enjoy.

"I had never actually seen the show prior to applying for it, but that didn't matter," Coffee said. "I knew it was a challenge that appealed to me because of my love for the outdoors. All my life, I preferred being outside hunting, fishing or doing something physical."

Coffee and her partner, Matt Alexander, were sent to the Philippines for the show and spent 21 days surviving in the country's tropical forests.

After experiencing a typhoon a few years before the show was filmed, the Philippines was full of rocky terrain, making foot travel extremely difficult for the shoeless survivalists.

While Coffee thinks the foot pain was the hardest part of surviving, she never thought about giving up.

"There was never any time

that I considered going home. [Alexander] and I made a great team and vowed not to tap out," Coffee said.

She knew all along that she would be able to complete the challenge. The experience gave her new positivity.

"The biggest thing I took away was the confidence that I can rely on myself to be independent, and that my positive mindset is something to be thankful for, as I don't believe everyone can be positive in times of stress and hardship," Coffee said.

Many Chapel Hill students enjoy the show because of how different it is from their current lives, including junior Niki Billman.

"I think the show is really interesting because, in today's society, we are very reliant on technology. It's appealing to see how people survive without it—or anything else—for 21 days," Billman said.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF DISCOVERY

Karen Coffee spent three weeks braving the wilderness of the Philippines—while naked. She had never seen the show prior to applying for the challenge, but the idea appealed to her due to her love of the outdoors.

Shakespeare's First Folio comes to Raleigh

FORREST PRATSON

William Shakespeare's original published collection of plays, commonly referred to as the First Folio, was exhibited in the North Carolina Museum of Art throughout May.

The First Folio was printed in 1623, seven years after Shakespeare's death. Shakespeare's play troupe, the King's Men, had the Folio published to commemorate his works.

The First Folio contains such works as *Hamlet*, *Julius Caesar* and *Macbeth*. The collection contains 36 plays in total, 18 of which had never before been printed.

The exhibit was put on by the Folger Shakespeare Library.

The King's Men printed an estimated 750 copies of the First Folio. Of

the original 750, around 235 still survive to this day. Folger Shakespeare Library possesses 82 of the remaining copies.

Folger is bringing the exhibit to all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The traveling exhibit is Folger's way of commemorating the 400th anniversary of the Bard's death.

Due to the way the Folio was printed, it was very easy to make mistakes. Each letter had to be placed by hand and painted on before a single page was applied to the printing press. No two copies of the First Folio are the same. The different copies were cross-referenced in order to minimize mistakes and compile the most accurate version of Shakespeare's plays.

The First Folio was popular and copies sold out quickly. The

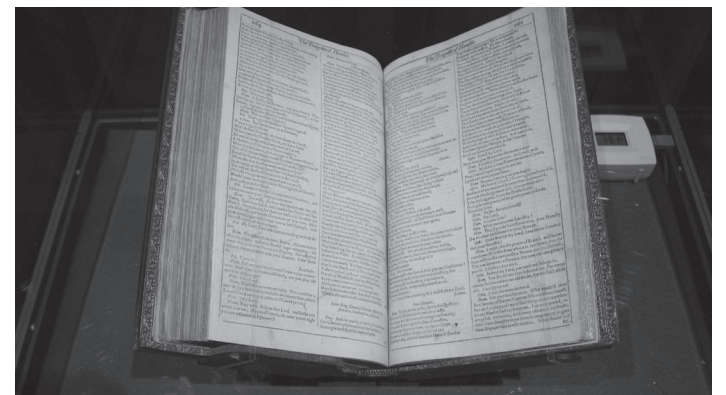


PHOTO CREDIT: FOREST PRATSON

The First Folio, which contains many of Shakespeare's most famous plays, was opened up to the "To be, or not to be" soliloquy from *Hamlet*.

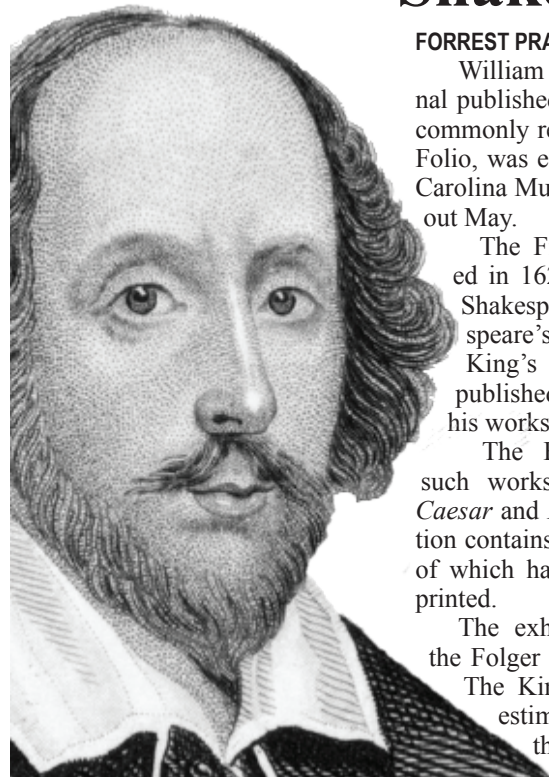
troupe printed second, third and fourth Folios, each new edition containing minor corrections and adding more of Shakespeare's plays.

At the exhibit featured in the North Carolina Museum of Art, the Folio was opened to what some call Shakespeare's most

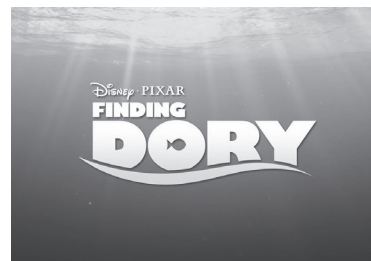
memorable words: *Hamlet*'s "To be, or not to be" soliloquy.

The museum put on several programs in conjunction with the exhibit that were geared toward both children and adults. The exhibit was free to attend and was at the museum until May 30.

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A season of excitement: movies to look out for in the summer of 2016



Finding Dory

Release date: June 17

Finding Dory is the sequel to Pixar's 2003 film *Finding Nemo*. Ellen DeGeneres reprises her role as Dory, a blue tang fish who, while reuniting with old friends, finds the true meaning of family.



Central Intelligence

Release date: June 17

Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson and Kevin Hart team up for this action comedy in which a mild-mannered accountant is lured into the world of international espionage.



Ghostbusters

Release date: July 25

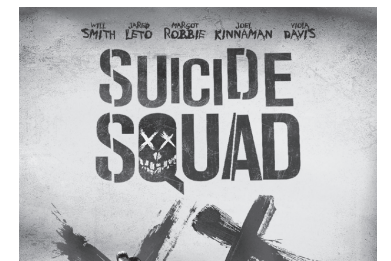
Four women set out to eradicate the ghost population in New York with wacky devices, crazy contraptions and old-fashioned humor in this revamp of the 1984 hit.



Jason Bourne

Release date: July 29

Jason Bourne returns in this continuation of the action series that began over a decade ago. After emerging from hiding, Bourne must evade the government to fulfill a personal vendetta.



Suicide Squad

Release date: August 5

Suicide Squad follows a group of imprisoned supervillains who are offered clemency by a secret government organization in exchange for their specialized skills.

A LOOK AT KEITH HENDERSON:

ELVIS TRIBUTE ARTIST



PHOTO COURTESY OF KEITH HENDERSON

Henderson performs and greets fans at a gig in 1978. His career in the Elvis tribute business began with a debut performance at Junior Follies his senior year, when his girlfriend gave him the idea.

ELI ROSE

Keith Henderson is not Elvis Presley, but if you watch one of his performances, you might get him and the king of rock and roll confused.

That is because Henderson, a Chapel Hill alumnus from the class of 1978, is a world-renowned Elvis tribute artist.

Henderson, a native of Jacksonville, North Carolina, was raised listening to the music of Elvis Presley.

"I have always been an Elvis fan. I was raised in an Elvis-loving family. The only records my grandma owned were Elvis records," Henderson said, describing the way he learned to sing. "I can't read music. I have no training, but in studying him so much, it became my sound."

The idea for the act came from his girlfriend in his senior year.

"After seeing [Elvis] in concert, my girlfriend, now my wife, said, 'You should do a tribute to Elvis at Junior Follies,'" Henderson said.

Shortly thereafter, Henderson started his career in Hanes Auditorium at the 1978 edition of Junior Follies.

Henderson's mother and grand-

mother made him an outfit, he cut and dyed his hair and everything was ready for his performance—until the morning of the show, when he came down with the flu.

"I had a 105 degree fever and could not even speak," Henderson recalled, but added that he was planning to perform nevertheless, until another complication arose. It began sneezing.

"They stopped the show and told the audience, 'Come back a month from today, and we will start over,'" Henderson said.

The weather delay may have saved Henderson's career.

"If that show had happened that night, I probably would have never done another performance because I was that bad off," Henderson said.

However, the delay gave Henderson time to recover his voice. The second time around, he was ready.

"A month later, the Wednes-

day before the show, I finally got over the flu," Henderson said. "So I performed, and it was very unique. The girls were screaming, and we had a big ol' time."

The show was a success, and Henderson quickly began receiving attention from agents.

"Each night I [performed], booking agents from all over the country were calling my father, wanting to sign me and book shows ... Junior Follies really started it all off," Henderson said.

Shortly after Junior Follies, Henderson performed in another show at Chapel Hill, this time as the only act.

"Right after the Junior Follies, we rented the building out, did the concert [and] sold out 1,000 seats. I was very proud," Henderson said. "WCHL recorded the show in its entirety and broadcasted it the next night. That was a first for them."

The performance was also a first for Chapel Hill's Hanes Theater, which was then called the Chapel Hill High School Cultural Arts Center.

"I was the first one to rent that building and do a concert there," Henderson said. "I have been doing shows ever since."



PHOTO COURTESY OF KEITH HENDERSON
Henderson still performs gigs in 2016.

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Tornai's sonnet wins competition



PHOTO CREDIT: SAM NIELSEN

Junior Jessica Tornai won a poetry competition for a sonnet she wrote.

BRENDAN HOLLY

Junior Jessica Tornai took home the top prize at the second annual All-High School Fiction and Poetry Contest in early May.

The contest, which is held at Open Eye Café, challenges students to write a fictional or poetic piece which they then read to the community. The competition is open to local high school students, and submission is free to all eligible writers.

The top three pieces from both genres are selected and awarded a prize. First place receives \$500, second place \$250 and third place \$100.

Tornai wrote a sonnet, entitled "Threaded Stories," that placed her above the competition, beating out multiple other high schoolers from around the area.

"The entire poem was meant to be a sort of metaphor for the seemingly pointlessness to life. How each person in their daily life works so hard for some unachievable goal, and, more often than not, they fail to reach it," Tornai said. "At the end of the poem I hoped to clarify that, although these struggles in life seemed pointless, the efforts from people throughout time has con-

tributed to the beauty of the story of the human race."

A sonnet is a 14-line poem that is written in iambic pentameter. Tornai's sonnet was a mixture of both Shakespearean and Petrarchan sonnet styles. She implemented a varied rhyme scheme and did not abide by either the octave or sestet form taken by the Italian Petrarchan style, or the triple quatrain or couplet form commonly found in Shakespearean style.

Tornai is a student in Thomas Drago's creative writing class.

"[Tornai is] very creative. She does an outstanding job painting pictures with her words," Drago said. "Poetry appears to be a natural outlet for her expression."

Tornai has taken Drago's creative writing course for one year.

"The best sonnets make the simple beautifully complex. I think [Tornai] does this with an extended metaphor that shows how we all tell stories with our lives," Drago said.

Tornai keeps a blog at jt-creativewriting.blogspot.com where she posts her other works, thoughts and opinions.

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Threaded Stories

they fall forever short of their sought end,
unfinished tapestries still on the loom
while lifeless hands alone in their dark tomb
lay still; their colored work will not extend
beyond the walls of their life lived and gone;
yet feverishly they worked, years abloom
spent always locked alone in that dark room;
it seems as though this life they did expend
though in their eyes it was not always so;
triumphant days they knew were soon to come,
if only passionately fingers wove
within closed walls the stories just their own;
yet it is never just one, but the sum
of all the gold that makes a cave a treasure trove

Thirty-five's a crowd: Chapel Hill's extensive list of valedictorians

SARAH TAEKMAN

Four years of extensive notes and questions, of 3 am papers, of giving it your best effort every single assignment, of being told it is just a grade. You get told you must be pretty special to have maintained those A's for four years—especially at Chapel Hill High School. Your hard work is epitomized by sitting on that graduation stage with the esteemed title of valedictorian.

Except when you are accompanied by 34 other people who have accomplished the exact same feat—and you only have a 15 percent chance of sitting on-stage and giving a speech, the title loses some of the specialness. But this is not necessarily a *bad* thing.

Chapel Hill High School, as of late April, had a total of 35 students slotted out to be valedictorians come graduation time. In the school, the title of “valuedictorian” goes to any student who has maintained all A's throughout their four years of high school, regardless of difficulty or quantity of classes taken.

People are angry. “Being valedictorian is no longer spe-

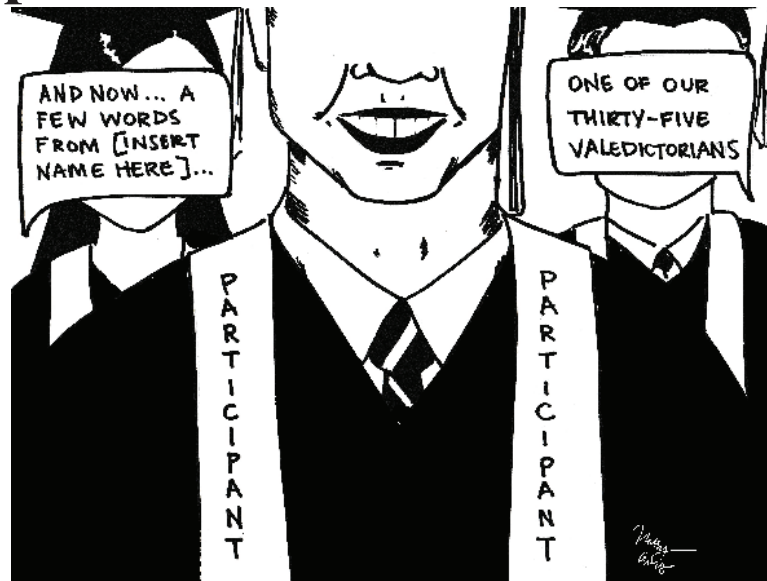
cial,” they cry. “You’re ruining an age-old tradition!”

We have two options for change: we can go back to the classic approach, where the highest-ranking student in the class is the sole valedictorian, or, we can follow Wake County schools in their attempt to eliminate the title all together and substitute in new ones.

The former will not work and here is why: the adoration thrown upon the title of valedictorian is poisonous. In an educational system that is becoming increasingly cutthroat, we start seeing kids who are willing to throw their social lives, their hobbies, their *health* down the gutter, simply for a title.

The reasons for wanting to be number one vary—college, prestige, parents or even just a desire to one-up fellow classmates. Regardless, the chase for the honor has evolved from a competition of academic pursuit into one of disregard for oneself and others.

If we reintroduce the importance of a ranking system in choosing valedictorian, we throw away student health and happi-



THE DEPRECIATION OF THE VALEDICTORIAN TITLE, BY MILLY AMES

ness—not to mention we would fail to recognize other student achievements. So, how can we maintain the prestige of being valedictorian without upping the pressure placed on students?

The answer? We cannot.

That leaves option number two: get rid of valedictorians and reward exceptional grades with Latin honors, where students can hold the designation of summa cum laude (“with highest praise”),

magna cum laude (“with great praise”) and cum laude (“with praise”) based on their weighted GPA.

The Latin honors system would satisfy multiple complaints about the current system: because it is based on weighted GPA, students that take only standard courses are on a different tier than those that take mostly APs; it does not devalue the title of valedictorian; GPA honors are no longer

competition-based; the summa cum laude students vote on who they want to speak at graduation as opposed to listening to an hour of speeches. The only issue with this approach is mounting the hurdle of parents that want to cling to tradition.

Chapel Hill High School is a school heavily rooted in tradition. With this year marking 100 years of history, some current students have parents and even grandparents that were Chapel Hill Tigers. Eliminating something as traditional as valedictorian is bound to have opposition.

But when you watch the 35 valedictorians at graduation, keep in mind that none of those students made it up there without sacrifice. There have been sleepless nights, missed parties and interests unpursued, all for the sake of making the grade and getting the title. Being valedictorian does not come without effort.

So, do we want to devalue their efforts by restricting the honor? Or, do we want to celebrate their successes accordingly?

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Rowan-Salisbury Board of Education defends HB2 with mace policy

SAM NIELSEN

The Rowan-Salisbury Board of Education voted May 9 to permit students to carry pepper spray on high school campuses during the 2016-2017 school year. The policy was repealed May 23 due to liability concerns, but the decision-making process used to pass it in the first place exemplifies the bigoted nature of our state.

Some board members who pushed for the decision reasoned that students might carry defensive sprays on campus by accident anyway, making the ban of such substances unfair. Others argued that students walking from their car to, say, a foot-

the decision on the basis that girls might soon have to be worried about transgendered students entering their bathrooms.

“Depending on how the courts rule on the bathroom issues, it may be a pretty valuable tool to have on the female students if they go to the bathroom, not knowing who may come in,” board member Chuck Hughes said.

“The bathroom is-

permission to use bathrooms for the gender they identify with, regardless of biological sex—a scenario in which Hughes believes that female students would benefit from bringing pepper spray into school bathrooms.

dents of the opposite biological sex are dangerous, and female students need to be on guard.

The transphobic sentiment is doubtless one shared by many North Carolina residents and may be one of the main reasons HB2 was passed in the first place. It is also reflective of the backward nature of our state. The belief that transgendered people are predators is ignorant and insulting.

The policy itself could be disastrous. In light of Hughes’s statement, transgendered students may have to fear a

blast of pepper spray any time they enter a school bathroom.

Furthermore, allowance of pepper spray on campus could lead to unpleasant—and potentially expensive—incidents. Imagine a student using mace on a teacher in a fit of anger. The student would likely be expelled, and the teacher could sue the

school board for negligence.

When it comes to our state, the decision of the Rowan-Salisbury School Board is a sign that—regardless of HB2’s future, North Carolina has a long way to go in regards to understanding and acceptance of contemporary views on gender.

The decision—and especially Hughes’s comment—incited outrage from community members on various social media networks. In response to criticism, Hughes insisted that he did not intend to call transgendered people dangerous but, rather, feared that “perverts ... would use gender identification as a pass to enter the bathroom of their choice.”

Whether Hughes is being truthful or not, his comment was bound to cause controversy, especially considering the conflict the law has already created. There may be some benefit to allowing pepper spray on school campuses, yet Hughes’s actions cast a pall over the policy. It no longer seemed like a practical move to improve student safety, but instead a paranoid response fueled by transphobia.

Fortunately, the school board rescinded its decision. Its main reasons seem to have been to avoid lawsuits and detract negative attention from themselves, but any reason is a good one, in this case.

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BLINDED BY IGNORANCE, BY MILLY AMES

ball game would benefit from having extra protection.

One board member supported

sues” in question are federal lawsuits being filed against

North Carolina for its controversial House Bill 2 (HB2). If the law is repealed, it is possible that students will have

How to be a Happier Human: Exercise

Whether you are looking for something to occupy your time with or are working towards that summer body, Proconian's Milly Ames and Gillie Weeks are here to help you find the type of exercise that will keep you feeling happy this summer. Here are their best tips for getting in shape—the



Gillie: Congratulations! You have made it through the stressful testing season. In order to destress from AP exams, finals and not having Milly and Gillie tell you how to be a happier human last issue, I highly recommend that you try doing yoga.

You may think that yoga is only for moms, but, it can be quite relaxing for all. Yoga is proven to reduce stress and it also increases your energy, which is what every sleep-deprived teenager needs.

Yoga has many additional health benefits as well, including increased flexibility and muscle strength, improved respiration, circulatory health and athletic performance.

Even though yoga can sound boring, try going to a class with your friends and make it a social activity. If you do not want to go to an actual class, you can even look up a yoga instructional video on YouTube and turn your living room into a yoga studio!



Milly: If your childhood was anything like mine, you most likely have a fair share of fun, maybe slightly uncomfortable memories of summer swim league. Although, also like me, you probably quit a while ago, swimming—even leisurely so—can still be a good way to get some exercise—and, fortunately for all, one piece and speedos are completely optional.

With warm weather rolling in, hopefully you have plans to be poolside with friends at some point this summer. If you are looking for a way to get the endorphins flowing, maybe skip the sunbathing and instead swim a few laps or start up a game.

If you are planning on taking a beach trip this summer, good news! Even just treading water and trying to resist the current is enough to get a good workout in. Just remember to stay hydrated, because even though you may not feel it, physical exercise will make you sweat—even in the water.



Gillie: If you are someone who prefers on-land physical activity, as well as hype music, then Zumba is definitely for you.

Zumba is a type of aerobic exercise featuring Latin American-inspired dance to pop music. So basically, Zumba is the best of both worlds: exercise that is not painful. This was a new concept to me.

Similar to yoga, you may think Zumba is just for moms; however, it is an extremely fun activity for all ages, genders and levels of dancing ability. As someone who falls in the bottom range of dancing abilities, I was definitely hesitant at first, but I eventually learned to love Zumba. Although you are exercising, you will not even know it since you will be having so much fun!

Most gyms offer Zumba classes. Classes include people of varying levels of experience and talent, so you will fit right in in the non judgemental atmosphere. So do some research, grab a friend and get Zumba-ing!

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Milly: If you know either Gillie or me, you know this issue would be incomplete without one of us mentioning running.

As cheesy as it sounds, after four years of high school with no off season, running has become less of a sport and more of a lifestyle.

Of all the forms of exercise mentioned, I will admit that running is probably the one that most people like the least. However, if you have the right people to keep you company, running regularly will become less of a chore and something you may come to genuinely look forward to.

Although the health benefits of running are almost endless, my favorite part is the feeling you get afterwards, commonly referred to as “runner’s high.” The endorphins generated through running will help you become more energized, awake and, most importantly, happy. So maybe before you write off running as not being the sport for you, give it a shot. You might surprise yourself.

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Elsa needs a girlfriend

GILLIE WEEKS

Fans of the Disney franchise *Frozen* have recently raised a question far more pressing than “Do you want to build a snowman?” Fans are now debating whether or not Elsa, one the film’s leading female protagonists, should have a girlfriend in *Frozen 2*.

The idea of Elsa becoming the first lesbian Disney princess began with a Twitter campaign using the hashtag #GiveElsaAGirlfriend. However, many supported the campaign, some were against it and countered with the hashtag #CharmingPrinceForElsa.

Elsa is the perfect princess to make this social statement, since her story of suppressing her power as the snow queen, but then finally accepting who she was with the song “Let It Go,” can be seen as a metaphor for coming out.

There are already countless Disney princess movies where a princess falls in love with and is “saved” by a handsome prince. Not only is it sexist that a princess always seems to be dependent on her prince, but it is also repetitive.

If Elsa were to have a girlfriend in *Frozen 2*, it would show the young generation that homosexuals should be treated the same as heterosexuals, and can be princesses just the same. It is important that society become more accustomed to the idea of

homosexuality in order to end discrimination, and a Disney movie could be just the place to start.

Although it is just a Disney movie, the people opposed to LG-BTQ+ rights may rethink their views if their favorite Disney character were lesbian. Adding characters who are not straight or cisgender could have a lasting impact on creating a more inclusive society.

Throughout the debate, some have proposed Disney create a new lesbian princess, rather than have Elsa come out as lesbian in *Frozen 2*. The issue with creating a new lesbian princess is that it makes her sexual orientation her entire identity. Elsa has already established who she is as a princess without being lesbian. Therefore, if Elsa gets a girlfriend, she becomes the “powerful, caring snow queen who is *also* lesbian,” rather than just “the lesbian princess.”

As homosexuality becomes more widely accepted, it is crucial that the same acceptance is reflected in the media. If Disney were to #GiveElsaAGirlfriend in *Frozen 2*, it would help decrease homophobia, as people would become more comfortable with homosexuality. Elsa could become an influential role model for homosexuals to become confident with who they are.

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A letter from the editors



Dear readers of the *Proconian*,

We remember the first time we sent an issue of *Proconian* to press.

It was a late October night, almost 1 am. A full moon was setting over Chapel Hill High School—check an almanac if you don’t believe us—as we tiredly exited the A-Building. Walking towards our cars, we almost robotically repeated one phrase over and over again in unison.

“One issue down, four to go.”

It feels like we always knew that we would be happy to have the *Proconian* workload off our shoulders when the school year came to a close. It certainly appeared that way in December, as we frantically attempted to balance college applications, mid-term tests and a newspaper.

But now that the final issue has been printed, we feel grateful.

Proconian has come a long way this year.

We have had the opportunity to conduct several high profile interviews, experiment with magazine-style design and create an online presence that regularly connects relevant school news to students through social media.

Even more importantly, we promoted diverse perspectives and inclusion during a year in which our state became notorious for lacking those necessary values.

While we are thankful we were able to put together this newspaper, we are even more grateful for all that *Proconian* has offered us.

Proconian has given us a system in which to improve not only skills, such as writing and communication, but also aspects of our character. Furthermore, it has undoubtedly influenced the courses we will follow throughout the rest of our lives.

Take newspaper class,

Jared Weber Sam Nielsen

PROCONIAN

The Pros and Cons of Chapel Hill

High School – Volume 81, Issue 5

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Senior Morgan Brandewie and soccer team finish the season strong

NATHAN GUSKIEWICZ

Talent can often be spotted early in an athlete's career. For senior Morgan Brandewie, this was certainly the case.

Four years after being given the Future Star Award her freshman year on Chapel Hill High School's women's soccer team, Brandewie was selected to play in the 2016 East-West All-Star game and received a lengthy list of recognitions for her senior season.

Brandewie was part of the varsity soccer team for four years and served as captain for the team the past two seasons. Along with her nomination for the East-West All-Star game, Brandewie was also a state champion in 2013, three-time All-Conference, two-time All-Region and this past year was named All-State, Big Eight Conference Player of the Year and Regional Player of the Year.

Brandewie began playing soccer at the age of three and has loved the sport ever since. She played on the Triangle United Soccer Association's Gold team for seven years and has played on the Capital Area Soccer League's (CASL) '97 team since freshman year.



PHOTO CREDIT: NATHAN GUSKIEWICZ

Senior Morgan Brandewie will be participating in the East-West All-Star game on July 19 after making it to the fourth round of the playoffs with the women's soccer team in her senior season. She is committed to play in college at Emory University.

Playing on the CASL team has been a big commitment for Brandewie, with about 20 hours of practice a week, game time and traveling across the country for games. However, Brandewie still makes time to play on the high school team.

"The high school team has reminded me how much fun it is to play soccer. CASL is a very intense environment filled with girls like me whose goal is to play

soccer in college. While the high school team takes soccer seriously, we also enjoy goofing around," Brandewie said.

Despite not being as serious as CASL, the high school team has played a major role in her development.

"Playing soccer at the high school has given me the opportunity to play positions out of my comfort zone and allow me to become more versatile. For CASL I



PHOTO CREDIT: SAM NIELSEN

as references and they have been my advocates on and off the field," Brandewie stated.

"[Brandewie] is arguably one of our best captains since I have been coaching here," Curtis said. "Her selection for the East-West All Star Game is a great honor for her and for our team. She will represent our school with class and do us proud."

Senior Emily Ball has enjoyed playing with Brandewie the past four years.

"She's a reliable player and never lets the team down. She doesn't lose the ball, is great in the air and has great technical foot skills," Ball said. "Playing with her the past four years has been a blast."

This year's women's soccer team was conference champions and made it to the fourth round of the playoffs, before losing a 1-0 game to Swansboro High School.

The East-West All-Star game will be played on July 19 at MacPherson stadium in Greensboro.

Brandewie will play Division III soccer at Emory University next year.

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Claire DeSelm signs with Notre Dame

CHLOE MCNEAL

After four years of swimming at Chapel Hill High School, senior Claire DeSelm is set to take her talents to the University of Notre Dame this fall.

Since starting at the age of six, she has swum competitively for over 12 years.

Swimming has always been a big part of her life, as her father, Rich DeSelm, is the head coach for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill swim teams, and her mother, Tracy DeSelm, was a notable high school swimmer herself.

DeSelm's success as a swimmer is the product of the hard work and dedication she has put into the sport over the years.

The future collegiate swimmer's success does not come as a surprise to her Chapel Hill swim coach, Steve Riegler.

"She has been a really great leader over the last two seasons," Riegler said. "The positive attitude and team-first attitude comes through on a daily basis."

The Chapel Hill swim team had a successful season this year, as the men's team won its third consecutive 3A state championship and the women's team placed second.

This season, DeSelm claimed many individual titles. She was the regional champion in the 200 individual medley (IM), the state



PHOTO CREDIT: NICK ELSTON

Senior Claire DeSelm signed to swim collegiately at the University of Notre Dame

champion in the 100 fly for the third year in a row and the 3A Swimmer of the Year.

"I won states the past two years. I didn't win this year, but that's okay; the girl that won is really amazing and I just did the best that I could," DeSelm said.

With the attitude that she has, it came as no surprise to many that in addition to her numerous athletic awards, she was named as the 3A Sportsmanship Swimmer of the Year.

Despite all of DeSelm's personal achievements, she finds the

most joy cheering on her teammates and enjoying the pride that comes with being a Tiger athlete.

"It's really important to have a team that you know is standing up for you and cheering for you," DeSelm said. "All of my best races have been when there's pressure to do well for the team, so it just makes the environment really fun."

When she is not swimming laps in the pool, DeSelm can be found running on trails in the woods or cooking.

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Tigers hit the Running Man



The Chapel Hill High School baseball team's Running Man Challenge went viral after being tweeted by popular accounts including Kent Murphy.

JEFF RICHARDSON

The baseball team made the most of the weather after its game with Northwood was cancelled on May 5, using the field to create its own version of the newest internet craze.

The Running Man Challenge consists of the 1990s hit "My Boo" by Ghost Town DJ's playing in the background, while players dance as if they are jogging.

"We normally like to use the tarp as a Slip 'N Slide when it rains," senior Sam Bauers said. "It was kind of spur-of-the-moment; everyone figured out what kind of moves they wanted to do, and it just happened."

The video was posted on Twitter by multiple players and, later, sent to an internet-famous baseball twitter account called

Kent Murphy, which posted it.

"We didn't think it was going to get further than everyone at the school seeing it," Bauers said. "Then, when it got a few thousand retweets and people started commenting on it, that's when it got really funny."

After being posted by Murphy, the video went semi-viral, receiving thousands of favorites and retweets.

Junior catcher Garrett Liebe came up with the idea to film the dance after seeing Orange's baseball team complete the challenge.

"We were talking about making a running man video a couple days before and, when the game got cancelled, the opportunity presented itself," Liebe said.

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Trail paving upsets runners



PHOTO CREDIT: MILLY AMES

Sophomore athlete Lena Cohen speaks to the Board of Alderman .

ALLIE VAUGHN

Members of the running community filled Carrboro Town Hall on May 3 to protest the plan that calls for 2,100 feet of paved surface 10-feet wide to intersect in three different areas with the natural trail used by the cross country teams and local runners.

Chapel Hill High school and Carrboro High School cross-country athletes, coaches and parents have displayed discontent with the paving project for the 1B section of the Bolin Creek Greenway's "Creekside" trail. The trail serves as the training trail for all of the area's high school cross country teams and many local trail running enthusiasts.

Chapel Hill High school cross country coach Joan Nesbit Mabe said in an interview that neither she, nor previous cross country coach Ron Olsen had been informed of the plans to pave the path of the 1B trail.

The Board of Aldermen later asked the Town Manager and Town Attorney to discuss with the stakeholders from the schools,

teams and other concerned citizens, as well as contractors hired for the project proposals that could be made to meet the concerns brought up in the May 3 meeting.

Planning Director Trish McGuire reviewed a minor design change to the project that would eliminate two of the intersections. The proposal was not enough to satisfy the people concerned on the issue.

"The Carrboro Board of Aldermen's resistance to listen to the needs of the people and their lack of value for high school athletic programs makes me feel like the local government is not a system in place to support the people, but rather a controlling body fighting against the needs of citizens to fulfill their selfish ambitions," sophomore Anna Stouffer said.

Despite the protests, the plan for the multi-use path will continue after the town attorney found that delaying the plan could cost the town up to \$400,000, along with future federal funds.

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Athletes sign to compete at the next level



Basketball Autumn West Johnson C. Smith University	Football Brian Jones Denison University	Swimming Claire DeSelm University of Notre Dame
Cross-Country/ Track and Field Max Blackburn Colorado College	Connor Korfas Denison University	C.J. Eron University of Tampa
Marija Crook Oberlin College	Albert Nyamayaro Fayetteville State University	Eli Rose Case Western Reserve University
Dillon Kopek Roanoke College	Connor Stough University of North Carolina at Pembroke	Sarah Taekman Case Western Reserve University
Harrison Young University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	Lacrosse Paige Haskins University of Mary Washington	Soccer Morgan Brandewie Emory University
Quaniece Fish North Carolina Central University	Kyle Hornik Queens University	John Walden Elon University
Anna Passannante Williams College	Volleyball Katharine Esterley University Of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	Wrestling George McBurney Coast Guard Academy

Tobacco Road FC plays first game



PHOTO CREDIT: PAUL MCLAUGHLIN

A new Durham-based Professional soccer club, Tobacco Road FC, arose out of a local amateur league team and attracted new fans from around the area.

PAUL MCLAUGHLIN

Tobacco Road Football Club (TRFC), a new professional club in Durham, played their first home game in the National Premier Soccer League (NPSL) at Durham County Memorial Stadium on May 20.

For years, TRFC dominated amateur leagues in the Triangle, rising all the way to the Triangle Adult Soccer League (TASL), one of the largest and most competitive amateur leagues in the United States. For most of the players, it is their first time playing professional soccer.

During its time in the TASL, TRFC was a model for success, as it captured 15 of 21 of the divisions biannual First Division

championships from 2005 until 2015.

In the home opening weekend, May 20 and May 22, a mixture of fans attended the first home games in the history of the club. Families with young children, families of the players, die-hard soccer fans and pickup soccer fans all attended and enjoyed the two games.

Head coach of TRFC and General Manager Cedric Burke is content with the team's performance, even though the team lacks a win so far.

Burke played at Duke University as a defender and played for the amateur team that preceded TRFC, which dominated in local leagues. The relationships he

made at camps and youth levels, as well as the ones he made while playing, helped him to find players to play for TRFC.

"A coach from Duke will send a player to me and will say 'work with him on this,'" Burke said.

In terms of strategy and coaching style, Burke said that this season is all about learning lessons.

Burke says he tries to implement things he did as a player into his coaching, such as high pressure when the opponent has the ball and playing to the whistle.

TRFC have played the best teams in the conference so far, which are ranked among the top ten in the nation, but have only lost once.

With a growing fan base, hungry players and coaches and dedication in the back of their minds, TRFC is hoping to expand popularity in the upcoming years.

TRFC tickets are seven dollars, with advanced purchases for adults, five dollars for children ages 5-13 and are free for those under 5 years old. Home games are played at Durham County Memorial Stadium in Durham.

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Spring Sports Playoff Recap

Baseball

The Chapel Hill High school baseball team finished their regular season with an overall record of 21-7 and a conference record of 9-3 and went into the state playoffs as a 15 seed. The Tigers upset Eastern Guilford in the first round but lost to West Brunswick in the second round. Seniors **Nick Herbert** and **Blake Rasnake** led the team in hits, while senior **Connor Stough** led the team in runs batted in. Senior **Justin Anthony** led the Tigers in pitching with seven wins and a 2.08 earned run average (ERA).

Men's Lacrosse

Heading into the postseason, the Chapel Hill men's lacrosse team had an overall record of 11-10 and 5-2 in conference play. After blowing by Northwood and Topsail in the first two rounds of the playoffs, the tigers faced first-seeded Jacksonville in the third round. The Tigers pulled out an 11-10 win by scoring six goals in the fourth quarter. They moved on to face local rival Carrboro, losing 4-2. Junior **Sean Voelkel** led the team in goals.

Men's Tennis

The Chapel Hill men's tennis team lost in the state quarterfinals to eventual finalist Fayetteville Terry Sanford High School 5-4. Three players qualified for the state tournament: senior **Jared Weber** and freshman Jerry Cai in doubles, and junior **David Mirzoyan** in singles. All three lost in the first round of the state tournament in Burlington, but all won conference championships in their respective events. The team will have five out of its top six players return next year.

Women's Lacrosse

After finishing with a regular season record of 14-4 and an 8-2 conference record, the women's lacrosse team headed into the state playoffs as a second seed and ranked 11 in the state. The Tigers had a bye the first round and beat Jacksonville in the second round by a score of 18-4. The team then had to face first-seeded Broughton in the third round and lost 16-12. Senior **Paige Haskins** and sophomore **Shannon Wulff** led the team in goals this season.

Local Karen students make their voices heard

A brief history of Karen refugees

BRENDAN HOLLY

In the middle of the 20th century, the nation of Burma underwent a drastic political shift when the Army Chief of Staff was ousted by militaristic Burmese national Ne Win.

The Karen, one of more than 20 ethnic identities found in the country at the time, were targeted by the new government in response to their violent protests against the military dictatorship.

Being outnumbered nearly 20 to 1, the Karen were defeated and sent to refugee camps as their villages were burned to the ground by the Burmese army.

By the late 1990s and early 2000s, many displaced Karen made their way to North America by their own means, or through one of the many aid programs set up by private organizations. This massive relocation is also known as the Karen Diaspora.

In their new places of residence, the Karen people formulated their own communities, attempting to preserve the culture they so fervently cherished from their homeland of Burma.

Today, there are more than 70,000 Karen immigrants or descendants of immigrants living in the United States.

Many Karen refugees living in Chapel Hill and Carrboro work at the Transplanting Traditions Community Farm.

Freshman Eh Ker Paw (left) and sophomore Kaw Hser perform at the A Capella Benefit Jam.



The faces of the Karen Youth Art Group

Nine Karen students in local high schools contributed to the Karen Artwalk as well as the creation of a children's book, to be released June 2, about Transplanting Traditions Community Farm.



Hen Moo



Hser Doh



Ree Ree Wei



Joey Ay



Living Stone



Kwah Poe



Hla Win Tway



Moe Shae Htoo



Lah Htoo Boh



PHOTO CREDIT: KRISTINA KIM

Carrboro High School junior Hser Doh observes art and photographs created by Karen students (above).

Karen students exhibit art, sing for fundraisers

KRISTINA KIM AND SAM NIELSEN

Students from the Karen Youth Group used their photographic and artistic talents to express themselves in the Karen Artwalk art show at FRANK Gallery on May 13.

The Karen Youth Group consists of nine high school artists. Most of them spent parts of their childhoods in refugee camps in Burma or Thailand. The group allows them to connect with people who have similar backgrounds and make art together.

Through photography, painting and drawing, the students have shared their life stories and Karen culture with the Chapel Hill community.

Junior Ree Ree Wei spent the first eight years of her life in a refugee camp. She first got into contact with FRANK Gallery when she came to North Carolina and began high school.

"A few years ago was my first year joining, and [FRANK Gallery] helped me learn how to take pictures and use Photoshop,"

Wei said. "Last year, I sold four pictures in their gallery and got some money off of that, so I hope it's the same thing for this year."

This was Carrboro High School junior Hser Doh's first Artwalk. He has been with the group for a few months, and has loved the experience.

"I love photography and this group. I have learned how to take good pictures, and we get to all talk together, too," Doh said. "They help me out with things, and I've made a lot of friends."

On May 14, the A Capella Benefit Jam was held, with a Capella groups from high schools in the district performing to raise money to aid Karen refugees. The event raised \$700.

"I think this is really great, because it shows that our community is supporting the Karen students and the immigrants and everyone else," Wei said.

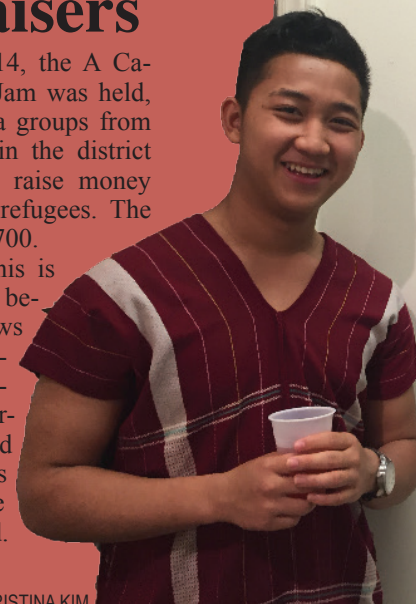


PHOTO CREDITS: KRISTINA KIM