

UNC HONOR SYSTEM EXTERNAL NEWSLETTER

COMPILED BY THE OUTREACH BRANCH OF THE UNC HONOR SYSTEM



Source: UNC's University Communications

WELCOME

Written by Katie Leonard

Happy (almost) April, fellow Tar Heels! Welcome to the first edition of the external newsletter. We hope you have enjoyed the semester and continue encouraging one another to persevere amid the final weeks of an unconventional school year. In reaction to the ever-changing status of the pandemic, this edition of the external newsletter concerns vaccination, midterm administration, and a closer look into the community standards violation process. Stick around 'til the end for a personality quiz and interview with longtime member of the UNC Honor System, Seth Alexander. We hope you enjoy!

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CAMPUS VACCINATION

Written by Emily Craig

The COVID-19 vaccine is beginning to become more and more widespread among our country, and UNC is starting to see some of its own receive the medication. As of right now, Groups 1-4 are eligible to get their vaccines; refer to the Carolina Together site to determine if you fall into one of these vaccine-eligible groups.

Sophomore Simon Palmore was able to receive his vaccine early due to his work volunteering at the Orange County Health Department Vaccination Team. "I think that as the spring goes along it will be easier and easier for students to receive the vaccine through any number of different avenues, and I hope that students will take advantage of the opportunities they find!" said Simon. "The more people that are vaccinated, the safer our communities will be."

UNC Honor System Attorney General Katie Crisp got her vaccine due to her work as a DSAG. "I'm very scared of needles, so at first I was nervous but then the nurse administering my vaccine was really nice and made sure it didn't hurt," said Katie. "Although I was super tired the next day!"

Junior Andrew Eusebio is receiving his vaccine this weekend because of his role in Army ROTC. "I'm getting vaccinated because it's my responsibility," Andrew told me. "Being a soldier is partly a duty to the nation and service. If being vaccinated brings herd immunity, then I'll do it."

Starting on April 7th, all adults will be eligible to obtain the COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccine is one of the best ways to protect our community from the virus; consider getting yours when the time is right! Visit the Carolina Together website for more information!

"The more people that are vaccinated, the safer our communities will be."

COMMUNITY STANDARDS VIOLATIONS

Written by Nikki Rafferty

Community Standards

Amidst the current COVID-19 pandemic, we as members of the Carolina Community are held to different standards than in previous semesters, which, among other things, includes abiding by the 3 Ws: wear a mask, wait six feet apart, and wash your hands. These are intended to keep the Chapel Hill community safe and stop the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, but as was publicized a month ago back by the rushing of Franklin street after the Duke game, not everyone is complying with the COVID-19 Community Standards. So how are we holding students who don't comply accountable, and is this something that falls under Honor Court's domain?

Process for the Accused

The University will be holding students accountable through what is called a COVID-19 Community Standards Administrative Process. The process will be handled by the Office of Student Conduct from start to finish beginning with OSC receiving a referral of a



Source: UNC's The Well

potential violation. From there, a Hearing Officer will be designated to review the report, and if there is a reasonable basis that a violation has occurred, an Administrative Meeting will take place. After the meeting, the Hearing Officer will reach a conclusion that there is either no basis to formally charge the student, that additional information is needed, or that a reasonable basis is found, in which case will either proceed into a Mutual Resolution or Administrative Hearing. A Mutual Resolution gives the Hearing Officer and student to resolve the case upon mutually agreeable terms consistent with this policy, while an Administrative Hearing provides a hearing in which the student can present evidence and witnesses. From here, sanctions are given which can include anything from a written warning to suspension or disenrollment from the University, depending on how severe the breach was.

Much like our own Honor System process, the factors of the gravity of the offense, the value of learning, the interest of equitable treatment, and other compelling circumstances are taken into account when deciding on these sanctions. I hope that cleared up what the COVID-19 community standards violation process looks like, and I hope everyone stays safe and healthy this semester!

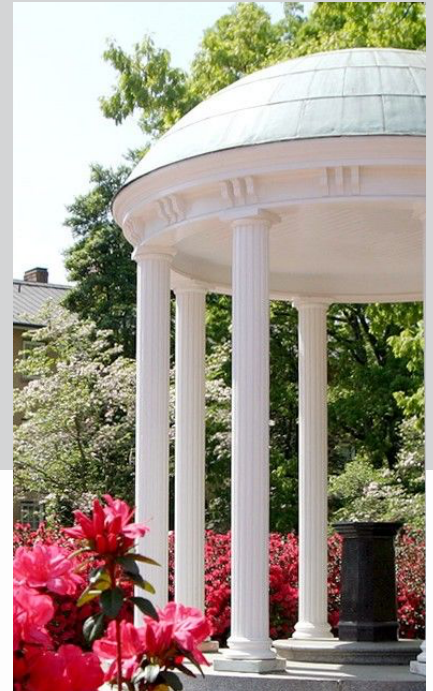
HONOR SYSTEM DEMOGRAPHICS

Written by Q Bobb & Sam Timmons

Here is the demographic breakdown of the Undergraduate Attorney General's Staff and the Undergraduate Honor Court Branches of the UNC Honor System for the 2020-2021 Academic Year!

**This data includes neither Graduate Attorney General's Staff nor Graduate Honor Court and does not include Honor System Outreach*

*** Approximately 77% of staff members took the survey*



Source: UNC Maps

	AG STAFF	HONOR COURT
MEMBERSHIP TOTALS	32	50
GENDER IDENTITY	61.5% Female 38.5% Male 0.0% Genderfluid	57.1% Female 38.9% Male 2.0% Genderfluid 2.0% Prefer Not to Answer
RACE & ETHNICITY	71.4% White 17.1% Asian 5.7% Black or African 2.9% Hispanic 0.0% American Indian or Alaskan Native 2.9% Prefer Not to Answer	64.6% White 11.8% Asian 11.8% Black or African 9.8% Hispanic 2.0% American Indian or Alaskan Native
HOUSEHOLD INCOME	53.1% \$150K+ 15.7% \$100K-\$149K 3.1% \$50K-\$59K 3.1% \$20K-29K 3.1% \$10K-19K 15.6% Prefer Not to Answer 6.3% I Don't Know	54.0% \$150K+ 18.0% \$100K-149K 6.0% \$50K-\$99K 6.0% <\$49K ---- 8.0% Prefer Not to Answer 8.0% I Don't Know
RESIDENCY	71.9% In-State 21.9% Out-of-State 6.2% International	80.0% In-State 18.0% Out-of-State 2.0% International

MIDTERM ADAPTATIONS

Written by Emily Craig

As March rolls to a close, so too does the halfway point of the spring 2021 semester—meaning, for UNC students, March was full of midterms. Chapel Hill professors are in a unique spot with exams in our online class format, as plagiarism and cheating are much more common than ever before. As a result, the structure of midterm exams has been carefully constructed to ensure no students have an unfair advantage. “To fully ‘cheat proof’ a foreign language exam at beginner and intermediate levels is nearly impossible these days,” said Professor Frederico Castellões, a Portuguese Professor at UNC since 2009. “A few techniques that we use is to be more specific on material content when asking questions or asking students to formulate sentences, i.e., ask for specific tenses and give specific targeted vocabulary.”

STEM Professors have gotten especially creative with exam composition, from increasing question difficulty but allowing students to use outside resources such as model kits, to minimizing the amount of questions students can view simultaneously. “We’ve gotten several emails about students stressing about being falsely accused of cheating,” said Dr. Joshua Beaver and Dr. Marcey Waters, who are Bioorganic Chemistry Professors at UNC. “However, our department has extremely clear evidence of when cheating is done and how it benefits the students. If you don’t break the Honor Code, then you have nothing to worry about.”

Exam proctors too are in an extraordinary position with virtual testing. Patrick Barley, a senior at UNC who works as an undergraduate learning and research assistant in the UNC Economics Department, spoke to how in-person proctoring compared to online. “My fellow ULAs and I spent most of our time helping clarify test structure, assisting students with any issues they may have, and monitoring students’ leaving and returning to the testing area. All of these come with unique challenges in the online environment of course,” said Patrick. “I would say the biggest difference is helping students takes longer due to us being unable to directly see their exam, unlike a physical paper exam, as well as not being able to easily call another ULA or TA over for help if necessary. Although, one advantage to virtual proctoring is being able to make a blanket announcement on a topic if I received multiple private messages with the same question from students.”



Source: UNC Campus Recreation



FEATURE: SETH ALEXANDER

Written by Katie Leonard

A few Thursdays ago, I met with Graduate Attorney General Seth Alexander over Zoom to chat about his six years with the UNC Honor System.

Seth joined the Honor System as a sophomore in his undergraduate years, serving as a counsel on the attorney general's staff. He has participated in various roles within The UNC Honor System and Committee on Student Conduct (COSC), eventually finding himself Graduate Attorney General.

An M.D. candidate and previous pre-med student, Seth's dedication to the Honor System may seem unconventional. However, he was motivated to join for two distinct reasons. First, Seth came from a family of Carolina graduates who had pride in what it means to be a student, a Tar Heel, here. "I wanted to be part of an organization that protects the integrity of what that means," he said.

Second, Seth argues that advocacy in the Honor System is relevant to medicine. The day most students come to the Honor System is one of the worst of their lives, whether students, faculty, police, or another reporting party. "You have a unique opportunity to stand in a place with that person," Seth said, "and advocate for them."

Seth is steadfast in his desire to build ability to advocate and provide support for people amid a foreign process. Over the better half of the last decade, Seth has advocated for changing COSC and the Honor System in a way that increases its accessibility to students.

As our time wrapped up, Seth had a message for the members of the Court, Attorney General's staff, and Outreach Branch: "If I could give one message to people working in the Honor System, it's that we have been given an immense amount of trust, and, for generations of students, we have protected that. It's sacred. You should remember that every time you walk into the office." Needless to say, the Honor System is lucky to have had someone like Seth advocating for Carolina students, year after year.

"We have been given an immense amount of trust, and, for generations of students, we have protected that. It's sacred. You should remember that every time you walk into the office."

PERSONALITY QUIZ

Written by Emily Craig

What kind of fruit are you?

1. What's your favorite subject at school?
 - a. Math
 - b. English
 - c. History
 - d. Science
2. Who would play you in a movie?
 - a. Timothée Chalamet
 - b. Robert De Niro
 - c. Margot Robbie
 - d. Meryl Streep
3. How would your friends describe you?
 - a. Funny
 - b. Serious
 - c. Kind
 - d. Cool
4. What's your color preference?
 - a. Blue
 - b. Red
 - c. White
 - d. Yellow
5. Choose an animal
 - a. Bunny
 - b. Alligator
 - c. Cheetah
 - d. Dolphin

*"To be nobody but
yourself in a world
that is doing its best,
night and day, to
make you like
everybody else means
to fight the hardest
battle which any
human being can
fight; and never stop
fighting"*

e. e. cummings

FINAL SUMMATIONS

Written by Katie Leonard

Thank you for reading this month's edition of the UNC Honor System Newsletter. We are grateful to all members of the Outreach Branch who contributed to this newsletter, including Emily Craig, Nikki Rafferty, Q Bobb, and Sam Timmons, along with Aisha, Amy, and Jordin at The Office of Student Conduct. If you would like to nominate an Honor System member for a newsletter feature or have feedback on this installment, please contact us at katie032@live.unc.edu. We wish you restful wellness days and a wonderful remainder of the spring semester. Thank you for reading!

If you answered mostly A... you are a PEACH!
If you answered mostly B... you are a BANANA!
If you answered mostly C... you are a BLUEBERRY!
If you answered mostly D... you are a GRAPE!

It's Official!



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