

# ROUNDABOUT

NC STATE STUDENT MEDIA

Spring 2023

## THE STATE OF THE ART ISSUE


### FEATURES


- 
- 02. Stewards of the Stage
- 09. Arts and STEM
- 17. Bricked-Up Ivory Towers
- 27. Who's Your Patron?





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# EDITOR'S NOTE

## ABOUT US

The newest NC State Student Media outlet, Roundabout is a glossy general interest magazine that covers student life, arts, and culture.

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## THE COVER

Meghan Larson, a first-year studying middle grades language arts and social studies, spray-paints in the Free Expression Tunnel on Jan. 23. Larson painted "Choose Peace" in the tunnel.

Photo by Emily Peedin

Dear dilettantes, pencil pushers and high school exiles,

Has anyone put any thought into doors? Who cares about doors? Typically, not me. However, the other day, I was in an unusually pensive mood and took a moment to admire the ingenuity of the weatherstripping on the door to my apartment building. This humble strip of vinyl, belabored day after day by the friction of numberless openings and closings, remains steadfast in its duty to safeguard my home from unwelcome heat transfer. Without it, temperature costs would swell, mold and mildew would sprout, and energy would be squandered. Such a little thing with so much impact. Think of all the other crucially important minutiae that go into constructing a building: the space between power outlets, the alignment of roofs, the density of water pipes. Think of all the crucially important minutiae that go into creating almost anything. Only through thoughtful, holistic consideration can we produce creations that are truly state of the art, whether those be apartments, doors or magazines like Roundabout.

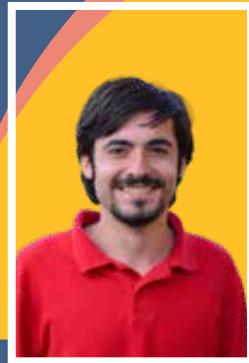
Having waxed lyrical about the necessity of comprehensive thinking, it behooves me to reflect on all the many superstars who made this issue happen. Earthshaking, avalanche-inducing applause for our indefatigable photo editor Emily Peedin, who painstakingly perused scores of photos to ensure only the highest quality were published. Blast open the Hoover Dam to release the tide of awesomeness generated by our design editor Josh Cobb, the mastermind behind this issue's spectacular layout. Play a deafening trumpet reveille for our military grade copy editor Audrey Javan, who conquers copy errors like Napoleon conquered Europe. Dethrone the King of England to make way for the regal Martha Collins, our illustrious adviser, whose counsel has saved us from folly many times. Recite a litany of praise for Zanna, Tim and all the other champions at the business office, who broke the record for the most ads sold in a Roundabout Spring issue.

Thank you to Patrick, our magnanimous leader. Thank you to the inimitable artists Alex and JJ, who went out of their way to help promote this issue. Many thanks to our interviewees, who generously let us into their spaces and perspectives. And finally, the most thunderous thank you of all goes to the Roundabouters who saturated this magazine with their creative efforts. Without y'all, we would not be a state of the art publication.

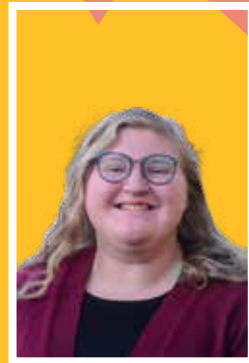
To the Wolfpack with love.

Gerbrand (Bran) Poster, Editor-in-Chief

# ROUNDAABOUT STAFF



**BRAN POSTER**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



**EMILY PEEDIN**  
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COPY EDITOR



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DESIGN EDITOR

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A wolf figurine sits in the lobby of Talley Student Union on Sept. 25. This figurine is one of many pieces of wolf memorabilia found in the building.

Photo by Emily Peedin

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# STEWARDS OF THE STAGE: THE ARTISANS WHO BUILD THE WORLD OF UNIVERSITY THEATRE

By Katherine Wan



Bean Hopper, a second-year studying marine sciences, as Reverend John Hale, William Kalland, a fourth-year studying finance, as John Proctor and Gabrielle Noah, a second-year in communications, as Elizabeth Proctor speak at the Proctor household during a performance of "The Crucible" in Stewart Theatre Oct. 18. "The Crucible," written by Arthur Miller, is a fictional play depicting the Salem witch trials.

Photo by Natalie Folsom



Large wooden platforms sit in wait inside the University Theatre Scene Shop on Nov. 4. This space is used to create all scenic pieces and props for the varying University Theatre productions.

Photo by Emily Peedin

SECTION 1 —

Torch-bearers,  
tradition-burners  
and other forces of  
creativity

# The Inspirations

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"Lights, curtains, action!" The curtains lift, the actors come out, and before long, they take their final bows and leave the stage. The actors whisk their audience into an entirely different world in the dark of a theater. However, the magic of theater couldn't exist without the tech and crew who design the show from the ground up. The actors may be in the limelight, but North Carolina State University's tech theater department is the real star of the show.

The puzzle pieces of a show must come together seamlessly, so it's no surprise that the lead faculty members of State's backstage technicians are there to support each other and their students every step of the way. From their very first meeting for a new show to the initial concept sketches to bringing the ideas to life, no member is left out of the process, explained Jayme Mellema, head of scenic design.

Technical director David Jensen agrees, and adds on to Mellema's ideas. "[W]e just tried to find that common ground that we can get to where it's, you know, doable and affordable. So can the shop do it and how can we get that idea, that vision of the show on stage?"

Mellema and Jensen comfortably bounce ideas off of each other, both collaborating in the process of set design, and the explanation of said process. Once the skeleton of the show is set, more of the details are fleshed out through character building and costuming.

Laura Parker, assistant director in costume design, said that she takes the world Mellema builds and figures out the psychological motivations behind each character, and what they would wear "in the context of the story."

Of course, NC State's very own students are a huge part of the enterprise, making up the majority of the volunteers and paid students in the theater shops. Some students come into the program to fulfill a few credits or to discover what they might be interested in, and end up falling in love with the craft. Tech theater allows students to achieve hands-on experience, explained Jensen.

"People just want to do things. That whole Think and Do [thing]. People don't have enough doing opportunities, and they just want to come in and actually make something."

In many situations, students come in as complete beginners, and their skills and confidence gradually begin to blossom as they continue the activity. This extends past students' time here at State, as students have shared their appreciation for the theater faculty and the program. Parker shared her excitement from receiving messages from NCSU alumni.

"We'll get random texts from students who graduated like seven years ago, like, 'Look, I sewed on a button.' It's delightful."

After weeks and months of hard work, the tech theater department brings the show together, even with many obstacles and unintended setbacks. After all, the show must go on. Sketches and visions of bygone days now become reality. Meticulously crafted props are carefully positioned

into sets. The final touches on costumes of the characters are put in place. The final piece of the puzzle? Lighting, which is overseen by Patrick Mathis, assistant director of lighting and sound.

"It's cool because we inherit this beautiful world that has been populated and dressed a certain way. And we endeavor to breathe life into it, trying to give shape and definition that we can't get otherwise to the beautiful things that have been created," Mathis said.

Then, it's showtime, and all of the tech and crew can enjoy the fruits of their labor.

"What's even more fun is when you come in to actually see the show. Yeah and [you] get to see it on stage," Jensen said. "[T] here's your piece or pieces that you contributed to this entire production that took a massive team of people to do."

Tech theater is one of many amazing artistic programs that NC State has to offer. There are so many different outlets for creativity, opportunities for personal growth, and a community of like-minded people. No experience is required, and there are plenty of times every weekday for students to just show up. Mellema's advice for students who may have never done theater or don't know where to start? "Just do it... the best way to learn it is to just come on down and try."



Jay Lineberry, a fifth-year studying business administration and arts studies, sews a costume inside Frank Thompson Hall on Nov. 4. The University Theatre's next production of *Muse*, a play by Gaven Bell, will run from March 30 through April 2.

Photo by Emily Peedin



First-year assistant director Emma Fornes (left), studying management, answers questions made during the spring musical production meeting in Frank Thompson Hall on Jan. 17. The NC State spring musical, *Urinetown*, was performed at the end of February. Pictured right is director Danica Jackson.

Photo by Jeremy Byrne

For more information visit:

[theatre.arts.ncsu.edu/student-focused/backstage-and-shops/](http://theatre.arts.ncsu.edu/student-focused/backstage-and-shops/)

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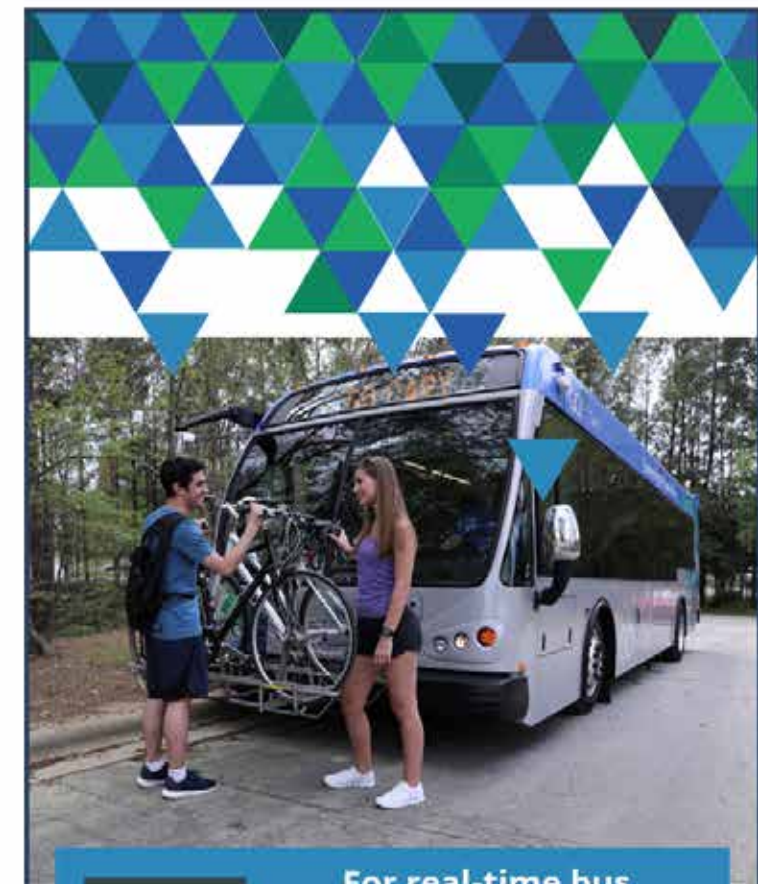
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# STATE OF THE ARTISTS

## CELEBRATING FEMALE ARTISTS FROM NORTH CAROLINA

By Katherine Wan  
Designed by Katherine Wan and Joshua Cobb

Women's History Month is a time to honor and commemorate great women of our past and present. Despite the prevalence of female artists, art has remained a male-dominated field throughout history. North Carolina is home to many phenomenal artists, many of them women. The theme of this year's Women's History Month is "Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories," and these women tell poignant stories of life, heritage and power through their works.

### Eleanor Layfield Davis (1911-1985)

Eleanor Layfield was an influential artist throughout the southeast known for her soft, impressionistic art style. She was raised in Raleigh, North Carolina, and graduated from Meredith College in 1932, although she didn't start developing her passion for art until the late 1950s around age 47. Davis based her first paintings off of floral designs, and later developed her skills by painting portraits and landscapes. Her paintings celebrated the beauty found in ordinary day-to-day life. She received several awards for her art, and art scholarships have been established in her honor.



### Rowena Bradley (1922-2003)

Rowena Bradley, born in Painttown Community, was a phenomenal weaver that carried down the waning Cherokee tradition from her matriarchs. She learned to weave from her mother and continued to weave her entire life, winning numerous awards for her innovative skills and patterns. Bradley's process included splitting rivercane into strips, then dyeing those strips using native plants. Although her patterns were influenced by her upbringing, she also incorporated some of her own design into her baskets.



### Britney Symone (1996- )

Britney Symone is a NC State alum, earning a bachelors in graphic design in 2019. Her work is primarily done through digital art, as she can then express herself no matter where she is or what supplies she has. She expresses themes of Black femininity and strength and challenges stereotypes of Black women, inspired by her own experiences as a Black woman in America. Her work has received awards from the university and has been featured in the African American Cultural Center.



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## BIKE, WALK, OR RIDE THE BUS

Students who commute by riding the bus, bicycling, or walking to campus can apply for the WolfTrails program at [go.ncsu.edu/wolftrails](http://go.ncsu.edu/wolftrails)!

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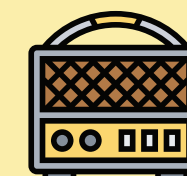
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# Arts and STEM:

## HOW OFTEN-SILOED DISCIPLINES CAN ENHANCE AND SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER

By Lindsey Sikorski

October 2022 marked the inaugural Arts & Your Major Month, a collaborative project developed with Arts NC State, the Arts Village and NCSU Libraries. The project organized presentations focused on how the arts and STEM, fields often considered highly separate from each other, are deeply intertwined and useful to combine. Events highlighted creative writing, graphic communication, entrepreneurship, artificial intelligence and photography alongside climate change awareness, natural sciences and more. I spoke with Arts Village Director Emily Kasprzak about her role in developing Arts & Your Major and some of her thoughts about how art and STEM practices are vital and supportive to one another.

Kasprzak became the Arts Village director in February of 2022. When asking village residents why they wanted to live in an arts-focused community, common feedback involved students pursuing STEM degrees who still wanted to regularly engage in the arts in meaningful ways. Aside from the issue here that traditional STEM curricula often leave little room for creative endeavors, Kasprzak knew there had to be people at NCSU working and researching in this interdisciplinary way who could help students see the possibilities of welcoming other disciplines into their work. This is where Arts NC State and NCSU Libraries came in to help bring Arts and Your Major to fruition. Even in its first month of life, the program has highlighted important connections between STEM and the arts. Here are a few key elements showcased.



**Matt Bertone, Director of the Plant Disease and Insect Clinic, points to an image in D.H. Hill Library on Nov. 3. Bertone received both his master's and doctorate degrees in entomology from NC State.**

Photo by Lindsey Sikorski

### Arts Enhancing STEM

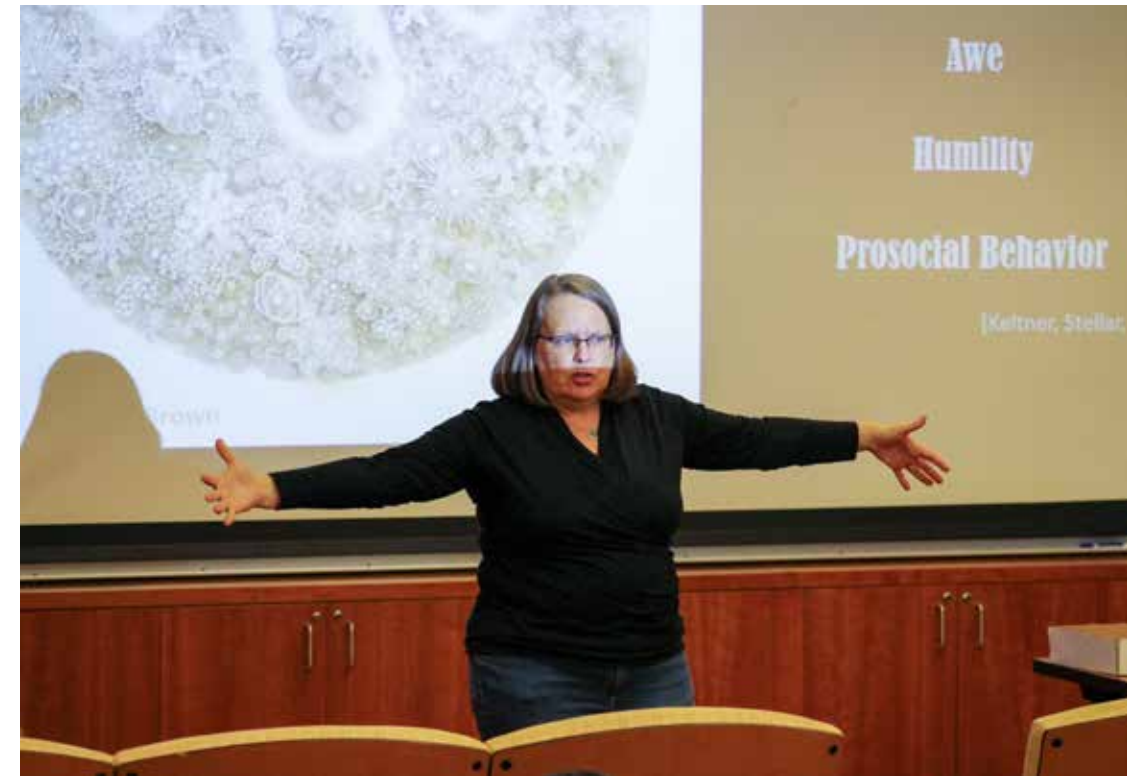


#### • Creativity

Regardless of discipline, employers often list creative thinking as a preferred trait in their hires. Flexing your creativity muscles can help you find alternative solutions to problems and expand the project tools at your disposal. Drawing or sketching skills can help planners and engineers communicate concepts to clients, practicing music can improve focus and concentration, and traditional studio arts can provide an artistic release to reset you at the end of a long day of calculations and analysis. Creative endeavors can also help you better visualize potential solutions to challenging problems and flesh out unique ideas.

#### • Risk-taking

Risks and artistic exploration are where innovation is born. STEM courses are often structured in a way that funnels students into producing results in one way: the right way. The inherent risk-taking in art and design — putting those first lines on paper, writing an initial outline, testing a new technique — can help STEM students get past the dreaded analysis paralysis. A first sketch will never be perfect, that outline will be revised, the new technique may not work out as you'd hope, but being comfortable attacking a problem from different angles and exploring fresh methods is critical to research and analysis in all disciplines.



**Jennifer Landin, a teaching associate professor at NC State, emphasizes to students the emotional connection art provides to the sciences in D.H. Hill Library on Nov. 8. Landin received her doctorate of philosophy degree from NC State and currently works in the Department of Biological Sciences.**

Photo by Lindsey Sikorski



## STEM Enhancing Arts



**Matt Bertone, Director of the Plant Disease and Insect Clinic, speaks to students about his utilization of macro photography in nature science in D.H. Hill Library on Nov. 3. Bertone's expertise is in arthropod identification/diagnostics and biodiversity.**

Photo by Lindsey Sikorski

### • Utilizing new technologies

Technology in art is not a new concept. Recently, exciting tools such as artificial intelligence are being used by artists to build out their visions. Design software is continuously updated to offer new features and capabilities, and mediums such as photography and videography change year to year based on the latest tools available. Understanding how these technologies function, even on a basic level, can help artists capture their work in new ways. Understanding basic coding languages and keeping abreast of relevant software can provide artists with new capabilities in their digital work or how they present and share their traditional studio arts.

### • Critical thinking skills

In the same way that creative and risk-oriented design processes can benefit STEM work, formulaic and analytical processes can benefit artists. Critically reflecting on and studying your work is important for designers of all disciplines, but it does not always come naturally. Taking an established step-by-step approach like those often used in math and science courses can help artists more thoroughly study their projects, bring new ideas to light or push through a creative block.

### • A Personal Note

I am a civil engineering student with a previous degree and work history in graphic design and communications. I am acutely aware how intertwined (and helpful) the arts can be when applied to STEM learning. Working many years with standard graphic design software prepared me well for learning programs such as AutoCAD, Python and Comsol. Every designer has their own process, mine usually beginning with “just put something on the page.” As unscientific as it sounds, this initial step has propelled me forward when I am unsure of myself in traditionally cut and dry courses like

Physics and Statistics. And while some family and friends think I am leaving behind my life as a designer for engineering, the reality is precisely the opposite. I found civil engineering to be one way I could continue working as a designer while learning new skills and exploring different opportunities in fresh contexts.

### • The Big Picture

There is no one-size-fits-all. Every Arts and Your Major presenter used artistic and STEM tools in a different way for dramatically different reasons. Plant Disease and Insect Clinic director Dr. Matt Bertone uses digital photography to facilitate his work in the biological sciences. MFA fiction candidate Holly Brantley shared applications of creative writing in STEM work. Event and Operations Coordinator for NC State Entrepreneurship Kenneth Proseus discussed the business and entrepreneurial aspects of a career in visual arts. Associate Professor of Computer Science Dr. Arnav Jhala discussed the crossover between digital art and artificial intelligence. Teaching Associate Professor Dr. Jennifer Landin shared how emotional art can better connect people to scientific issues such as climate change.

The potential for engaging art in STEM and vice versa is practically limitless. Chances are there is someone in your department who combines traditionally-siloed disciplines in their daily work. So, if you're feeling stuck or uninspired, perhaps a look outside the proverbial box is in order.

## SECTION 2 —

# The Chronicles

## Reflections and records of our campus's storied history

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- 17. Bricked-up Ivory Towers: A Closer Look at Our Campus's Architecture

# Powerful Paint: a Case Study of the Free Expression Tunnel

By Evie Shackles

1970s



Pictured here is an individual walking by the Free Expression Tunnel circa 1976. Behind the individual is a spray-painted message about boycotting class.

Free Expression Tunnel, 0002957, Special Collections Research Center, North Carolina State University Libraries, Raleigh, North Carolina.

1980s



Pictured here are some individuals sitting outside the Free Expression Tunnel circa 1980. Advertised on the walls is NC State's Agricultural Awareness Week, which is a week-long series of events that provide students with an opportunity to learn about agriculture annually.

Free Expression Tunnel, 0002964, Special Collections Research Center, North Carolina State University Libraries, Raleigh, North Carolina.

Some people see graffiti as a beautiful form of art. Others see it as an act of illegal vandalism. The NC State Student Government in the 1960s held the latter view.

Of course, their view makes sense when you think about the problem they were facing. Almost 30 years prior, three pedestrian tunnels had been built under the railroad to connect the north and main campus, but because of the political climate during the Vietnam War and the Civil Rights Movement, those clean white tunnel walls were being marred by painted messages and other graffiti. The NCSU Student Government saw this as unacceptable — they would not stand by while their campus was defaced.

But what could they do about it? Rules banning graffiti were hard to enforce. The tunnels were out of the way and hidden, meaning that a student could paint on the walls and get out before getting caught. The Student Government needed a creative solution.

That solution was the Free Expression Tunnel. The Student Government realized that they weren't going to stop the students from painting, but maybe they could restrict the graffiti to one area on campus.

The one area they chose was the westernmost tunnel, which connects Wolf Plaza to North Campus. This unprecedented initiative was a success. Graffiti in the rest of campus lessened considerably as all the paint was concentrated in the Free Expression Tunnel. The very first legal painting there was a huge red-and-white mural that covered the entire tunnel, created to honor US veterans.

Sadly, not all of the art in the Free Expression Tunnel was made with such good intentions. In 2008, offensive and racist messages about the newly-elected President Obama were found in the tunnel. When the messages were discovered, chaos ensued. Students all over campus held protests against the hate speech. The general public was in an uproar when they heard about it. Even the Secret Service came to investigate since some of the messages seemed to be possible threats against the President's life. Four students admitted to painting the messages, but in the end, they weren't punished. No one had gotten hurt, and since it was legal to paint in the Free Expression Tunnel, they hadn't committed any crime.

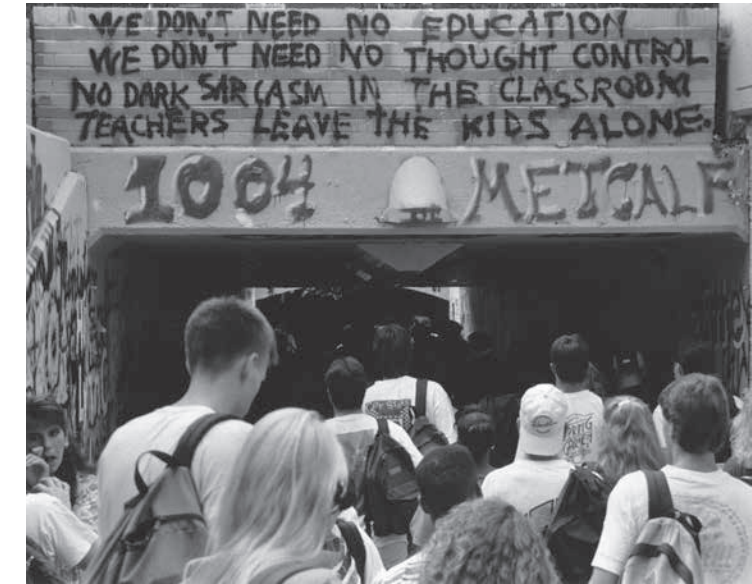
Some people were angry that the students got away with what they had done. Yet other people brought up the fact that the Free Expression Tunnel is for free expression. They said offensive speech is just one of the consequences of allowing people to say whatever they want.

Issues like this can make it seem like the Free Expression Tunnel backfired. Yet not everything painted in the tunnel has been bad. There are numerous examples of how the tunnel has been used for good.

Many of the messages in the tunnel are about diversity and accepting other people. Students use the tunnel to show off their artistic skills, advertise events on campus and cheer on the Wolfpack sports teams. The Free Expression Tunnel is also a place for local artists and musicians to gather, such as the NC State Cypher, a hip hop group that hangs out in the tunnel late in the evenings. Even people who hate graffiti cannot deny that the Free Expression Tunnel is a meaningful place for people on campus. As Maria A. said in a comment on Yelp, "It gives everyone the opportunity to express their creativity or thoughts."

The Free Expression Tunnel is one of the few places where you are allowed to paint anything you want on the walls. So what are you waiting for? Go grab some paint and make your mark on top of the marks of hundreds of other NC State students. If the history of the Free Expression Tunnel has taught us anything, it's that art and words are powerful. We all have that power, so let's use it.

1990s



Pictured here are students walking through the Free Expression Tunnel in the early 1990s. Lyrics to Pink Floyd's "Another Brick in the Wall," a song written about educational experiences from Roger Waters' own life, are painted above the tunnel.

Graffited lyrics from Pink Floyd's song "Another Brick in the Wall" above entrance to Free Expression Tunnel, 0000024, Special Collections Research Center, North Carolina State University Libraries, Raleigh, North Carolina.

2023



Colorful walls await future passersby at NC State's Free Expression Tunnel on Jan. 23. The Free Expression Tunnel was created in 1967 to reduce graffiti in other tunnels around NC State's campus.

Photo by Emily Peedin

FREE

# The Versatility of

Spring 2023

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# The Seamlessness of

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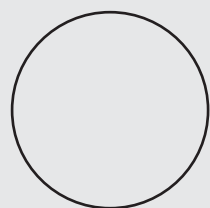
Glypha



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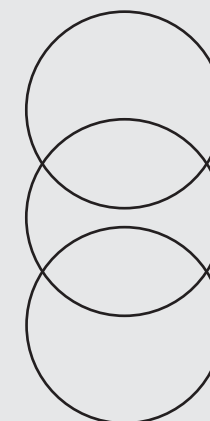


The NC State design team chose **Univers** and **Glypha** to be the university's official primary and secondary fonts because of their readability and versatility.

Adrian Frutiger created **Glypha** in 1977 as a contemporary take on the classic slab serif design. Its clear and balanced letterforms, geometric architecture and different weights and styles make it appropriate for a variety of purposes, from body text to branding. It has a distinctive appearance and feel thanks to its strong, block-like serifs and circular forms that make it legible even at small sizes. Definitely a worthy secondary font choice.

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# UNI



# VERS

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On the other hand, **Univers**, a sans-serif typeface with a clean, contemporary style and consistent design, was created by Frutiger in 1954. Designers may easily tailor it to available space thanks to its wide variety of weights and widths.

NC State selected **Univers** as their primary typeface because of its clear usability, professional appearance, and ability to be easily read. Businesses frequently employ **Univers** for corporate branding and other marketing applications. It is excellent at conveying messages, which leaves no doubt as to why NC State chose it.

Spread designed by  
Joshua Cobb

# 2023

# Bricked-up Ivory Towers



A CLOSER  
LOOK  
AT OUR  
CAMPUS'S  
ARCHITECTURE

By Max Nicely

STATE COLLEGE, so reads the iconic Yarborough Smokestack. Back in the day, North Carolina State University was called North Carolina State College of Agriculture and Engineering. Hence the State College written down the side of this smoke stack. When, in the 60s, the school underwent university-fication, the smokestack's name quickly became obsolete. Rather than change the name, though, which would have meant the demolition and reconstruction of an already out-of-commission smokestack, the Yarborough Smokestack remains a symbol of a bygone era. Students today get to walk by and feel the overwhelming tranquility of the retired pollution pipe. They can gaze with wonder at the way the smokestack sort of looks like a sausage squeezed through about 20 hula-hoops.

A smokestack, pictured on Feb. 18, stands on north campus near the Yarborough Plant.

Photo by Emily Peedin

For nearly 75 years, this entrance to the Reynolds Coliseum has welcomed the Wolfpack in celebrating several of NCSU's most beloved sports. Don't be fooled by this picture, though. Dispel all worry and rest assured, the building is still very much made of a lot of bricks. The '50s style concrete entrance really does pull a bait and switch on you. The Coliseum has a lot of quirks like that. For example, UNC's former basketball player Hubert Davis liked to mention how teams entered the court by going under the bleachers. They would have to sprint because the most charitable members of the Wolfpack liked to pour soda on them. We, in the business, call that good design.

Reynolds Coliseum, pictured on Feb. 18, is a multiuse arena located on main campus at 2411 Dunn Avenue. Reynolds Coliseum is home to the women's basketball team, gymnastics team, wrestling team, rifle team and volleyball team.

Photo by Emily Peedin



This is Holladay Hall: the jolliest place on campus! I mean, who wouldn't love to celebrate the holiday season in a building like this one, which used to house the entire college! Personally, the thought of kicking back and enjoying winter break in a mansion constructed by prisoners (true story) feels only a little weird. Back in the day, when virtually every class was taught here and students resided in the building, tuition cost just \$130. Just imagine it: living in such an elegant building without running water or electricity for just the cost of 6.5 Applebee's steak dinners. That's the life.



Holladay Hall, decorated with blooms on March 26, 2020, was the first building on campus and was central to the university's operation.

Photo by Sarah Cochran

When one thinks of the quintessential college building, there can be no doubt that Leazar Hall imbues every quality therein. Marvel at those columns, those bricks. Look with awe at the stairs which so gracefully invite students to this place of learning, this bastion of the American educational system. From 1912 to 1971, Leazar was the school's dining hall. Students would flock like pigeons in Detroit to the grub-pit hidden inside this building. They would coo as they hastily digested all manner of southern delights, such as corn, pork, beans and more corn. And then they would exit the building in a gluttonous haze, only to be reoriented to their surroundings by the inevitable realization: they were looking at bricks again. They could relax and resume their migration.



Leazar Hall, pictured on Nov. 6, provides classroom space for the College of Design at NC State. The building, which opened its doors in 1912, was formerly a dining hall.

Photo by Emily Peedin

Oh yes, Poe Hall, a beacon of the rugged individualism that makes America who she is; Poe Hall is the only building on NC State's campus that is not constructed from bricks. A child of '70s architectural trends, Poe Hall has a lot of things going for it, like the way rain makes the building's concrete exterior look like a dusty wet sidewalk. Or let's talk about how the building houses the education department here at State. Teachers are the future, and here at State, Poe teaches us all an important lesson: it's ok to be different, and it's ok to look like a cross between a parking garage and a refrigerator.



Poe Hall, pictured on Nov. 6, is home to the psychology department at NC State. The building is also home to the College of Education.

Photo by Emily Peedin

Welcome to SAS Hall! Home of NCSU's most nausea-inducing math classes. Personally, as someone who would rather write 20 papers than do just one calculus problem, I'm convinced that SAS stands for Sorrow And Sadness. The school wants me to believe that it's actually a reference to a "Cary based Technology Company," which seems dubious at best. To be fair, though, it's a nice building. It was constructed in 2009 and cost \$36 million. I'm pretty sure half that cost went to purchasing bricks alone: nice bricks.



SAS Hall, pictured on Nov. 6, is home to the mathematics and statistics departments at NC State. The building opened its doors in 2009 and is over 119,000 square feet large.

Photo by Emily Peedin

The famous NC State Memorial Belltower is a rallying monument for the Wolfpack. When the university wins games, achieves great things or wants to honor veterans on Veterans Day, or those fallen on Memorial Day, the tower is lit up red. The Bell Tower was originally constructed to honor fallen World War I soldiers, featuring a plaque honoring the 35 state alumni who lost their lives in the war. However, one of those alumni, George L. Jeffers, was mistakenly reported lost in combat. So, the plaque should really be honoring 34 alumni. Rather than replace the plaque with a correct one, which would have cost money, the school decided to etch over his name such that it now reads “George E. Jefferson,” which is meant to signify unknown soldiers from State. Personally, I wonder if any of the 75 or so George Jeffers on FaceBook know their name is being used as a stand-in for unknown soldiers. At least they can rest assured knowing their fellow Georges in arms are being properly memorialized for their sacrifices inside this very beautiful gothic bell tower.



The NC State Memorial Belltower, pictured on May 10, 2021, lies in wait. The Belltower is often lit red to honor special occasions and achievements of the university.

File photo by Aditya Penumarti

For 120 years Tompkins Hall has stood mightily on this campus. Throughout all that time the hall has changed considerably. It was originally a residence hall, but after a fire in 1914 all but destroyed the building, renovations altered the building's appearance dramatically. Note the Renaissance motifs invoked by the startling use of high ceilings, roof brackets, and the awe inspiring choice to put a bunch of windows everywhere. Today, the building houses the department of humanities and social sciences, and the college is spicier for it.



Tompkins Hall, pictured on Feb. 18, is home to the department of English at NC State. The building is located on north campus at 2211 Hillsborough Street.

Photo by Emily Peedin

SECTION 3 —

# The Appraisals

Assorted judgements,  
not for courtrooms but  
for fun


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# IGAVE THE DARK MY LOVE:

A REVIEW OF BETH REVIS'S INFECTIOUSLY GOOD FANTASY

By Audrey Javan



The Wasting Death, a plague that withers limbs to charcoal, cannot be cured. Nedra Brysstain, a native of a poor village in the north of Lunar Island, is desperate to stop this gruesome threat. She has been teaching herself alchemy — the transformation of one thing to another, in simple terms — with her grandmother's notebook, but even this is not enough to assuage the sickness. Luckily, she lands a scholarship to the prestigious Yūgen Academy in Lunar Island's capital where, upon bidding farewell to her family, she finds herself studying medicinal alchemy under the best master in the Academy. She makes a friend, makes an enemy and becomes embroiled in a scheme much larger than herself.

Meanwhile, Grey, a privileged boy from the capital, comes to study alchemy at Yūgen so he can escape his father's political career... but he can't escape the darkness of the world for long, especially not after getting entangled with Nedra.

*Give the Dark my Love* (2018) by Beth Revis is, at its core, about grief. About heart-wrenching loss and pain so deep you lose yourself in it. And perhaps, in losing yourself, you find something in the remnants that was better left hidden. Nedra starts out as a bright and passionate student who's making her family proud and even developing a romance. Alas, the plague ravages on indiscriminately.

So, too, ravages Revis's prose. From agonizing amputation scenes in Nedra's point-of-view to tense family breakfasts from Grey's, there's seldom a break for the reader to catch an emotionally unburdened breath. Even in quieter scenes, the threat of the plague boils, old history seems to loom, and rats are constantly being tortured for the sake of anesthesia through pain-transference. (If you don't like violence against rats, even acknowledged violence against rats, you need to steel yourself.) Even the fast-paced romance between Nedra and Grey does little to soothe the nerves, though it is nice to know that neither of them are entirely alone. All that being said about cruelty and heart-heaviness, the novel's chapters are such an easily digestible length that you can't help but finish just one more before bed. Whether or not this is good for you, I leave to your own discretion.

A double degree-holder from the NC State English Department, Revis proclaims her love for her home state — primarily the Appalachian Mountains — all over her website. However, there's nothing of North Carolina to be seen in *Give the Dark my Love*. Revis herself claims that the main inspiration came from *Fullmetal Alchemist*, a popular manga and anime series about alchemist brothers in the early 1900s. If you've read them both, you can see the connection. While reading, I picked up threads of Leigh Bardugo's *Six of Crows* (2015), as well. Though their plots aren't very similar, they share an industrialized vaguely 19th-century fantasy setting featuring the ramifications of a plague. Fans of the Grishaverse series can certainly find things to like in this duology.

What drew me to this book, though, wasn't necessarily anything about the setting, but instead the presence of necromancy. As a massive fan of *Grandmaster of Demonic Cultivation* by Mo Xiang Tong Xiu and a spinner of undead yarns myself, one could say I'm partial to the topic. When I heard that this book was not only about a plague and alchemy, but also featured necromancy, I was sold. And oh, did it deliver on the necromancy. The prologue, where the dead volley themselves horrifically at a ship coming to arrest a young woman, unhindered by bullets or head wounds, was a perfect taste of what was to come, and what I can only assume is continued in the sequel.

So history looms. The students are in uproar against the Emperor, circling the iron lump of a disgraced alchemist's statue in the courtyard. Will they repeat his long-dead mistakes, or is there another way? Nedra's psyche is pulling at the seams, ready to rip. Grey can't catch every piece of her — he doesn't know how.

# Wolfpack's Favorite Music 2022



By **Nada Elraddaf**  
Design by **Joshua Cobb**

Whether it be walking to class, cramming for finals or hanging with friends, music is a huge part of our lives as university students. It can serve to soothe nerves, regulate our mood and relate with others around us. To get an inside look at the Wolfpack's music mind, I spoke with a few students about their favorite songs and artists of 2022.

Eleanor Meinhold, Grace Meyer and Grace Taylor, first-years I met at Talley Student Union, all immediately agreed their favorite artist of 2022 was Taylor Swift.

Meinhold's favorite song was "Backseat Freestyle" by Kendrick Lamar. Meyer and Taylor's favorites were Taylor Swift's "Mastermind" and "Sweet Nothing," respectively.

These friends were quick to call themselves "basic" when they said they loved Taylor Swift, but I don't think it's basic to like popular artists and music at all. I think it's amazing that so many people around the world find so much love and meaning in the same piece of art. Everyone's relationship with music is different, and the same artist can feel uniquely special to thousands of people. Or, as evidenced by the massive success of her latest album, *Midnights* (3am Edition), tens of millions of people.

When asked what they thought the trendiest song of 2022 was, the girls were quick to say "Levitating" by Dua Lipa (or "Dula Pee-pee" the girls noted).

"But then it got canceled because of DaBaby," Meinhold said.

What happened? DaBaby was homophobic.

"I liked it in the beginning, but then it was overplayed," Meyer said.

"It was overrated, but I wouldn't say, like, 'ooh skip.' I would still listen to it," Meinhold said.

These songs go viral for a reason: they're insanely catchy. But once local radio gets their hands on them, they've already been played to death and are no longer even trending on TikTok anymore.

Speaking of TikTok, when the girls were asked if social media heavily impacted their music taste, their answer was 100% yes. According to them, they tend to listen to viral songs a lot because those are the ones that get on the radio.

"Indie songs that I wouldn't normally listen to go viral and I end up listening to them," Meinhold said.

I've noticed this, too. Smaller indie artists like Claro, Conan Gray and Cafune with songs like "Bags," "Heather" and "Tek It," blew up on TikTok and wormed their way into my daily playlists. I, along with many others, would have never discovered them if it wasn't for social media.

I was also curious about their preferred streaming platform, though I wasn't surprised when all three were team Spotify all the way. One of the girls started with Apple Music, but has since been consumed by Spotify Premium, as I would argue most of our generation has.

What I found to be fairly insightful was their opinion on whether or not their music taste was a big part of their personality.

"Yes, but no. I would say it's important because if you listen to fun music, you're a fun person. But I also think that obviously it's not the entire reflection of who someone is. But it can be sort of a dive into someone's own personal psyche. Like, I definitely would stalk someone's Spotify," Meinhold said.

I've never thought to stalk someone's Spotify, but now I'm curious to try and see what I can find out. I'm also going to go ahead and put my profile and playlists on private.

"I don't know, I don't think it's a main part of my personality. I listen to so many different genres that there's not a select reason why I listen to those," Taylor said. "It's like an indicator, but it's not decisive, like 'this is who you are.'"

Henry Farah and Shane Harrington were in line to vote in November's midterm elections when I asked them about their favorite music artists and songs of 2022.

Farah's favorite artist of the year was British record producer Fred Again, and Harrington's was at first Aluminum, an EDM group, but he later changed his answer to an electronic music duo called Odesza. Farah's favorite song was "Body Pain" by Arctic Monkeys, and Harrington's was "The Last Goodbye" by Odesza.

As for the trendiest song of 2022, both agreed that the Lizzo song that went viral (they didn't say which one) was overrated.

I can only guess they meant "About Damn Time"... or maybe "Good As Hell"? Lizzo has too many hits to count.

Harrington is a ride-or-die Spotify Premium user, whereas Farah primarily uses Apple Music and SoundCloud, but doesn't really care what platform he uses.

As a YouTube Music user, it's rare to find another brave soul standing against the Spotify Premium empire. I support any effort to break free from its shackles. Jokes aside, I actually do find Spotify Premium's chokehold on younger people to be fascinating.

Back to TikTok, Farah said, "I wouldn't say it influences [my music taste], but it definitely helps me find new songs than what I already like."

For predictions of top artists of 2023, Farah and Harrington agreed on Drake popping off.

"I wanna be safe and say Drake again," Farah said. "I mean, he just drops an album, it's like all over, it's like top of the charts." He also mentioned Taylor Swift if she drops another album. I'd be surprised if these predictions were not accurate.

Basic or not, our music tastes can say a lot about us. I wonder if some of the answers shared here are controversial. I invite you all to visit our website or Instagram page and let us know your perspective on Wolfpack's favorite music. Feel free to also tag us on an Insta story post of your playlist! Our handle is @ncsuroundabout.



# Who's Your Patron?

By Bran Poster  
Illustration and design by Joshua Cobb

Every artist has a patron, whether that be a wealthy philanthropist, an encouraging friend, or a cosmic deity. Take this quiz to discover who supports your artistic endeavors.

## Mostly Blue = Bill Gates

When you're one of the richest men on Earth, chances are that you'll pursue the finer things in life. Bill Gates is no exception, and he has amassed an art collection valued in the tens of millions. Your Microsoft expertise and Gatesian worldview has put you in the tech mogul's favor!

## Mostly Pink = Your Mom

Your beloved mom has always been there for you. Some say that you're overreliant on her, but who cares? Nobody cheers you on as much as she does. Your art mostly consists of splattered paint and kazooos, but your mother's love is blind!

## Mostly Green = The Medici Family

One of the most powerful families in the Italian Renaissance, the Medici climbed their way to the top through political intrigue and savvy business practices. They used their wealth to sponsor legends like Michelangelo, Botticelli and maybe you!

## Mostly Purple = Emperor Nero

The Roman Emperor Nero is a byword for decadence and tyranny, but unbeknownst to most, he was also an avid lover of the arts. He sang and played the lyre publicly, and connoisured theater performances, poetry and dancing. You are a true Roman maestro who would have been in Nero's good graces!

## Mostly Red = The Devil

The occult nature of your art has attracted the attention of dark powers. Satan himself is so impressed by your creations that he has conferred his demonic patronage on you. Whether or not you will benefit from it remains to be seen!

What do you hope to achieve with your art?

Malware protection

Talcum powder

Wedding presents for arranged marriages

Antagonize the Senate

Eternal damnation

How do you respond when another artist plagiarizes your work?

Hack their computer

Swallow their credit card

Buy them off

Assassinate them with a collapsible boat

Hex them

How would you describe your style?

Microsoft Office Pro Plus

Infant-astic!

Renaissance

Debauched

Infernal

Where is your art displayed?

Silicon Valley

Preschool

The Sistine Chapel

The Palatine Hill

Stone circles

How do you respond when someone compliments your art?

Smile awkwardly

Stare at them with goo-goo eyes

Buy indulgences on their behalf

Deify them

Demonize them

What's your favorite artistic medium?

Microsoft Paint

Finger painting

Fresco

Lyre strumming

Ritual bloodletting

What do you do when you do when you feel uninspired?

Divorce your wife

Have a temper tantrum

Buy a Tuscan villa

Host a gladiator game

Sacrifice a goat

What do you say to the haters?

"If you die poor, it's your mistake"

"MOMMY, THEY'RE BEING MEAN"

"What I have dreamed in an hour is worth more than what you have done in four"

"Mushrooms must be the food of the gods"



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NC State LIVE presents violinist and composer Daniel Bernard Roumain, performing with the Raleigh Civic Symphony. It's a free 50th anniversary concert on April 15.

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University Theatre's *Muse*

The Dance Lunchbox Series

*Bailey Knight: Colors of the Earth*  
at the Crafts Center

Music ensemble concerts

Panoramic Dance Project concert

*True Likeness* at the Gregg Museum

State Dance Company concert

CONTRA-TIEMPO and Arturo O'Farrill  
in a world premiere

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