Appendix C: Report from the Residence Hall Renaming Committee's Campus-Wide Survey

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Executive Summary

The Residence Hall Renaming Committee (RHRC) is a group of Residence Hall Association student leaders, Carolina Housing staff, and residents across UNC whose mission is to support the University's Carolina Next Objective 1.1 of "*invest[ing] in policies, systems, and infrastructure that promote belonging, community, and transparency throughout the University community*." The group aims to do so through educating on the history of residence hall names, highlighting the experiences of students living on-campus, and advocating for a more inclusive Carolina. In February of 2022, the RHRC operated a survey to examine the impact of residence hall names on students at UNC. 1,303 students responded, of which 1,200 lived on campus.

From the responses, three key takeaways emerged: First, an overwhelming number of students are in favor of renaming residence halls whose names are connected to slavery, the Confederacy, or upholding white supremacy; second, the reasons students are in favor of removal are primarily due to the negative impacts they personally experience (see Reported Negative Impacts on page 5) or the empathy they feel for their fellow students who are negatively impacted, and third, students of color are disproportionately negatively impacted by these residence hall names. Below is a detail of these key takeaways, followed by limitations and key recommendations. This report aims to increase understanding of the ways in which residence hall names connected to slavery, the Confederacy, or upholding white supremacy "demonstrably jeopardize[] the University's integrity and materially impede[] its mission of teaching, research, and public engagement; or significantly contributes to an environment that excludes some

members of the University community from opportunities to learn, thrive, and succeed", per the BOT policy for the consideration of the removal of names.

The Majority of Residents Are in Favor of Renaming Residence Halls

"I am in favor of renaming these buildings. I believe that students shouldn't have to come to UNC and be in an environment that sanctifies people who have oppressed their cultures. People whose wealth and power came on the suffering of so many others should not be rewarded for this with a place on a university building." – White, Hispanic or Latinx student

We asked students, "Are you in favor of renaming the residence hall you live in or other residence halls whose names are connected to slavery, the Confederacy, or upholding white supremacy?" As illustrated in Figure 1.1, an overwhelming majority of students (83.8%) want these residence halls to be renamed. While this holds true regardless of identity, Figure 1.2 demonstrates that students of color disproportionately favor renaming.

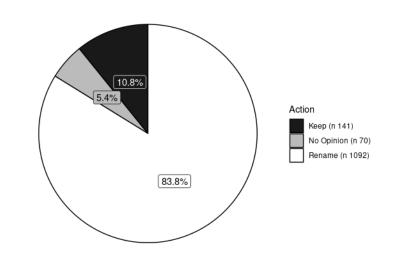


Figure 1.1: Keep or Rename?

All Responses (N 1303)

Out of the 1,303 students who responded to the survey, 1,092 (83.8%) were in favor of renaming, 141 (10.8%) of students opposed renaming, and 70 (5.4%) of students had no strong opinion either way.

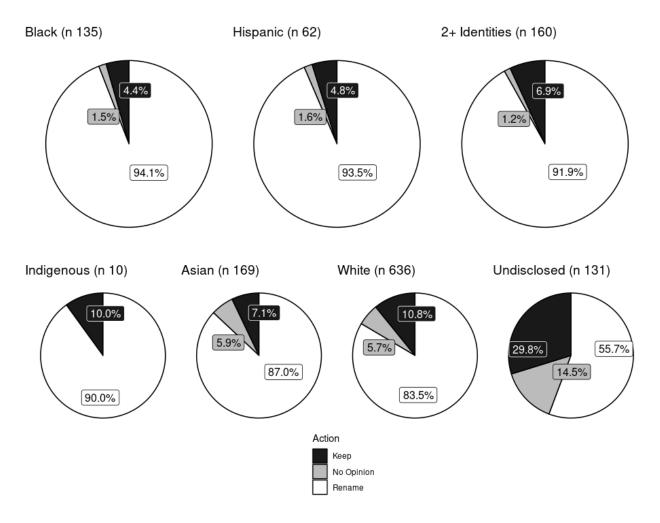


Figure 1.2: Keep or Rename by Identity

Across every identity, the vast majority of the students favored renaming residence halls whose names are connected to slavery, the Confederacy, or white supremacy. Specifically, 94.1% of Black or African American students, 93.5% of Hispanic or Latinx students, 91.9% of students with two or more identities, 90% of Indigenous students, 87% of Asian American students, and 83.5% of white students favored renaming these residence halls. Of the 131 students who chose not to disclose their identities, 55.7% favored renaming residence halls. It is evident that the overall student body wants UNC's landscape to change.

Reasons Behind Being in Favor or Opposed to Renaming

"Like many things of this campus, the names of these residence halls and their history can sink into our body in ways we do not yet recognize. The names of buildings may not be the direct reason why I'm not performing well or my mental health is not at its best but could definitely be a contributor when I hit a low point and I look around and don't see myself or people who look like me represented." – Black or African American student (A)

We asked students why they were or were not in favor of renaming residence halls whose names are connected to slavery, the Confederacy, or upholding white supremacy. When analyzing students' reasons, five categories emerged. These categories are: (1) negatively impacted, (2) empathetic to the experiences of those who are negatively impacted, (3) personally unaffected by building names, (4) unfamiliar or apathetic to renaming, and (5) fearful of the erasure of history. Table 1 demonstrates examples of responses for each of these five categories. Figure 2 displays examples of students' reasoning for keeping or renaming residence halls as described by those who favored renaming (n 895) versus keeping (n 130).

Code	Example
Negatively impacted	"I constantly struggle with feeling like I am a part of this university or a person that matters. Racist names of buildings definitely contribute to that." – Asian American student
Empathetic	"It's painful to think that my friends may feel unwelcome here." – White student
Personally Unaffected	"I've not personally had any negative experience because I don't think about it much." – White student
Unfamiliar or apathetic	"No, I don't care. It seems a weird waste of attention." – White student
Fear of losing history	"I'm not in favor of renaming buildings associated with these things because these things are an important and even fundamental part of our campus history and the history of our country." – White student

Table 1: Category Examples

208 respondents did not explain their reasoning for why they did or did not want buildings renamed; thus, they were excluded in analysis related to feeling. We also excluded the 70 respondents who did not have an opinion on renaming. Figure 2 illustrates the 1,025 students who were able to be categorized with a feeling and indicated if they were or were not in favor of renaming. These students primarily supported renaming due to the negative impacts they personally experienced or the empathy they felt for their fellow students being negatively impacted.

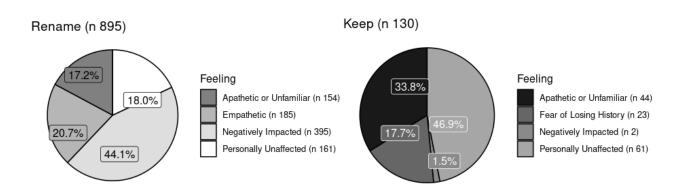


Figure 2: Reasoning Behind Preference

Of the 895 respondents who were able to be categorized based on a feeling *and* favored renaming residence halls whose names are connected to slavery, the Confederacy, or white supremacy, nearly half (44.1%) expressed being negatively impacted from living in or being around these names; respondents across all identities reported these negative impacts. 20.7% expressed having empathy for their fellow students who are negatively impacted. Finally, 18.0% reported being personally unaffected by residence hall names, and 17.2% expressed feeling apathetic to or unfamiliar with building renaming; even with little previous knowledge or personal impact, these combined 315 students were still in support of renaming. Interestingly, of the 222 total respondents categorized as personally unaffected, 72.5% still believed that these residence halls should be renamed.

Of the 130 respondents who were able to be categorized based on a feeling *and* favored keeping these residence hall names, nearly half (46.9%) expressed feeling personally unaffected by living in or being around them while 33.8% of respondents expressed feelings of apathy or general unfamiliarity with building renaming. Only 23 respondents (17.3%) expressed that the names of these residence halls should remain to avoid the erasure of history and 2 students reported negative impacts, yet ultimately wanted these names to remain.

Reported Negative Impacts

Below is a list of the negative impacts that students of all identities described in their responses. Of the 398 students who reported a negative impact due to these names, over a third (40.7%) identified as white. However, these impacts were disproportionately expressed by students of color.

- Increased difficulty focusing on their classes
- Feeling scared for their safety at the university
- Feeling that their lives are not valued or represented
- Feelings of being seen as inferior compared to white counterparts
- Negative impacts on the relationship between students and the university
- Negative impacts on students' abilities to form relationships with other students
- Negative impacts on students' mental health, including reported depression and anxiety
- Decreased participation in overall campus life, both extracurricular and academic
- Difficulty with deciding which residence hall to live in on-campus

Based on the BOT policy, if honoring a namesake "demonstrably jeopardizes the University's integrity and materially impedes its mission of teaching, research, and public engagement; or significantly contributes to an environment that excludes some members of the University community from opportunities to learn, thrive, and succeed", requests for removing a building name are more compelling. We argue that the above impacts fall well within this scope. Moreover, this policy only requires that some students are prevented from these opportunities; our data shows that many are. This list of impacts was informed by qualitative survey data (see Supplemental Information on page 9) and interviews with four students who shared the impacts they have personally felt from the names of buildings. These interviews have been compiled in a video titled "Residence Hall Renaming Committee - Survey Interviews" on the Carolina Housing YouTube page here: https://youtu.be/ISId1C9D4AY

Students of Color are Disproportionately Negatively Impacted

"I constantly ask myself how is this going unnoticed? Why is UNC not making an effort? It makes me feel inferior and insignificant. That my feelings do not and will not matter as long as I remain on campus." – Black or African American student (D)

"My ancestors were forced to build this campus, how would that make you feel?" – Black or *African American student*

We asked students, "On a scale of 1 to 10, to what extent has living in or near residence halls with names connected to slavery, the Confederacy, or upholding white supremacy impacted your wellbeing?" Figure 3 illustrates impact rating by identity, highlighting how these residence hall names impact students in varying degrees. The mean (listed in the legend of Figure 3) and median (displayed in Figure 3's box and whisker plots) impact ratings are highest of those identifying as Black or African American, followed by American Indian/Alaska Native, Hispanic/Latinx, and students who identify with 2+ identities. The groups with the lowest mean and median impact ratings are those identifying as Asian American, followed by white students, and finally, those who chose not to disclose their identity. The disparate impact levels between BIPOC and white students highlight the disproportionate impact that residence hall names connected to slavery, the Confederacy, or white supremacy have on students of color. For Black or African American students, this impact is especially visible.

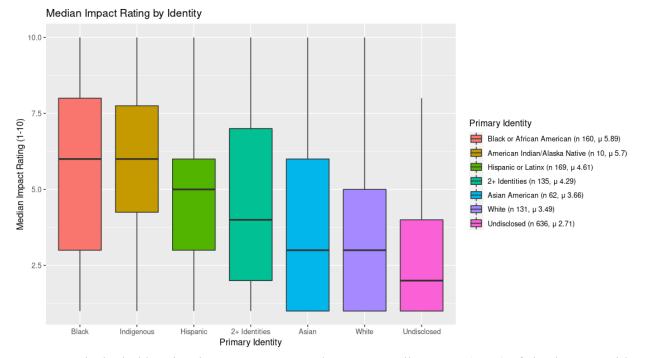


Figure 3: The Extent of Impact

Each shaded box in Figure 3 represents the Interquartile Range (IQR) of the data set with the line at the bottom of the box representing the first quartile of responses and the line at the top representing the third quartile of responses. The lines within the boxes represent the median ("med") answer of each identity group. The lines extending from the IQR boxes represent the highest and lowest impact ratings given by respondents in these groups. Every identity category, apart from those who chose not to disclose, contained at least 1 student who rated the impact on their wellbeing as a 10. This demonstrates the salience of this issue across all identities in our community.

Black or African American (med=6), American Indian/Alaska Native (med=6), Hispanic or Latinx (med=5), and 2+ identifying (med=4) respondents had the highest median impact ratings. The lowest median impact ratings were reported by respondents identifying as Asian American (med=3), white (med=3), and finally those who chose not to disclose any identities (med=2). As displayed in Figure 1.2, these three groups also had the lowest percentage of respondents in favor of renaming residence halls, although the majority were still in favor.

Limitations

Although we believe this data to have been gathered and analyzed with integrity and care, we acknowledge potential limitations to these results and suggest recommendations for future research. Since students opted in to take the survey, there is the potential for selection bias, as

those who completed the survey may have felt strongly as compared to those who did not choose to take it. Additionally, this survey asked students to share their experiences with their residence hall or the residence halls around them and so students had varying demarcations for what buildings counted as "around" them. Some respondents do not live in or directly next to buildings that may be recommended for renaming. While many want residence hall names connected to slavery, the Confederacy, or white supremacy to be renamed, future research could explore the nuances of which specific buildings meet that threshold for students.

Conclusion & Recommendations

"After removal of [the] white supremacist name in the residence hall [McClinton], I did not feel like my existence is proactively denied and unaccepted in certain places. Renaming process shows [the] university truly cares for students who are not necessarily predominant identities, and I appreciated that with my self-esteem and improved my mental health." – Asian American student

With data indicating that an overwhelming majority of students favor renaming residence halls named after those connected to slavery, the Confederacy, or white supremacy, there is strong evidence for the name removal and renaming of these residence halls. Students primarily support renaming due to the negative impacts they personally experience or the empathy they feel for their fellow students who are negatively impacted. Students of color, and particularly those who identify as Black, Indigenous, and Hispanic/Latinx, are disproportionately negatively impacted by living in or near these residence halls.

Of the 10.8% of students who favored keeping the names of these residence halls, nearly half (46.9%) reported feeling personally unaffected by living in or being around them, while 33.8% reported feelings of apathy or general unfamiliarity with residence hall names. This suggests that even for those who prefer to keep these names, at least 80.7% (n 105) would not be affected by renaming either way. In contrast, keeping the names would negatively impact a significant number of students (n 395) who are in favor of renaming.

Analysis of student responses reveals a troubling truth: because of these names, many students, both white and non-white, feel unsafe and uncomfortable, feel that they do not belong or are inferior to others in the community, experience negative impacts on their mental health, and have a damaged relationship with fellow community members and the university. We not only recommend the use of data gathered in this survey to support renaming residence halls, but also to **rename all buildings at UNC with names connected to slavery, the Confederacy, or upholding white supremacy**. In their responses, students talked about the negative impacts they felt from all types of buildings, including residence halls, academic buildings, and administrative buildings. Living in a residence hall named for a person associated with this legacy is a particular kind of harm: it is where students call home, where they eat, sleep, and build community.

However, all buildings contribute to UNC's overall campus culture and indicate who matters at the University.

Our community has already seen significant positive change directly resulting from the renaming of McClinton Residence Hall and the Henry Owl Building. One Hispanic or Latinx student living in McClinton wrote, "I have noticed since the name change that the community has been radiating with [the] positivity of inclusiveness and diversity, which is such a privilege to witness and experience." A white student living in McClinton expressed, "Before my building was renamed, I didn't particularly like or feel good about telling people where I lived. I feel more proud now and feel like I live in a place that reflects more the people who live here." There are only positive or neutral experiences in our data regarding the renaming of McClinton Residence Hall, with no students negatively impacted. This suggests that renaming has the potential to only improve our community as a whole.

While a small number of students against renaming residence halls expressed concern about erasing history, we believe that renaming buildings provides the opportunity to tell the history of unrecognized changemakers who contributed positively to the University. The names of these buildings have stood for many years; renaming allows more names to be learned and more stories to be told. Moreover, the story of Carolina's past will continue to be preserved in the archives, in faculty and student scholarship, and in the multitude of ways that campus and community stakeholders speak to our university's core values and recount the events in which those values were forged. The University and the Board of Trustees now possess an opportunity to forge a new chapter in UNC history: one where buildings are named for the kind of people we want to become. They have the support of the student body behind them as they prepare to be bold, brave, and create a better Carolina for all.

Supplemental Information

Below are key survey quotes that were used to inform the researchers' conclusions. The questions are listed in the same order in which they were presented in the survey. Quotes already listed throughout the report have been removed from this list.

What has been your experience either living in or being around residence halls named for individuals associated with slavery, the Confederacy, or upholding white supremacy?

[&]quot;As a Black woman attending a PWI, I become quite uncomfortable when being near the dorms that have names associated with slavery. It was hard for me to decide where to live next semester because so many

North Campus dorms are named that way, and I wouldn't feel right living there. Keeping these names seems to promote a lack of respect towards that Black community as well as other minority groups because it shows the lack of care the university has for our comfortability while being the smaller groups of people on campus." – Black or African American student

"It makes my friends and I sick. My ancestors are the ones who belonged to this land long before my other ancestors built this university without proper compensation. For the buildings to be named after those who oppressed them is abominable." – Black or African American, American Indian/Alaska Native student (B)

"Negative and triggering. It creates an unwelcoming and unsafe feeling for students of color on campus and is a reminder that this school was built on the back of students of colors ancestors. The unjust treatment and history of racism feels emboldened with these markers on buildings." – Black or African American student

"I've experienced [the] KKK being on campus and feeling uncomfortable by the lingering presence of white supremacy throughout campus. Specifically, I'm dismayed by the assigning of Battle Hall as the name of the African American dept building and the name's association with supremacy." – Black or African American student

"It has made me feel really uncomfortable at times. I lived in Morrison my sophomore year, and felt uncomfortable knowing how anti-Black the man they named the residence hall after was. It kind of made me feel unseen. Clearly, my feelings and presence on campus didn't matter much if UNC had no problem letting black residents live in dorms named after people who don't support them." – Hispanic or Latinx, Black or African American student

"It is dehumanizing and disgusting for me as a Black student when those who enslaved my ancestors are celebrated" – Black or African American student (C)

"It is very depress[ing]. Just thinking about how once I wouldn't have even been considered to go here and the people who would've made that decision are honored... it's terrible honestly." – Black or African American student

"We should change that, names and statues of racist individuals on campus does not make me feel safe or included in what is supposed to be a welcoming community." – Black or African American, Asian American student

"In my time at Carolina, I have experienced protests due to a racist statue, defacing a memorial for the Black pillars of this school, and I have seen local citizens around campus shouting racial slurs at Black students. UNC has been very complicit in making Black students feel unsafe and unheard by upholding white supremacy in a variety of ways." – Black or African American student

"Unfortunately, I don't have any particular experience to tell but simply saying the names of slaveowners all the time is triggering." – Black or African American, Egyptian student

"When I got to UNC, I was scared to look up any names of the buildings because I knew I'd be nauseated by the results. I don't know how at this day and age, this is still a debate. Upholding white supremacy is racist - there's no other way to put it." – Hispanic or Latinx student

"In an already pre-dominantly white school where things like name-dropping buildings is built into a lot of conversation, it can feel pretty othering and give our black students a feeling of perpetual discomfort in their time on campus, and that they don't have the power to express that discomfort. It feels like a microaggression that's compounded over years and years of being suffocated with historical figures that enslaved people that look like me." – Black or African American student

Are you in favor of renaming the residence hall you live in or other residence halls whose names are connected to slavery, the Confederacy, or upholding white supremacy? Why or why not?

"Yes, ABSOLUTELY in favor. As a black student on this campus, I DO NOT want to be calling my home one that is named after a slave owner or a white supremacist. This university needs to address its history head-on and truly take the action needed to make black students feel at home. I will NOT feel at home knowing that I am living in the legacy of someone who undervalued my ancestors as less of a human." – Black or African American student (A)

"Yes, personally living in a residence hall (Ruffin Jr.) named after someone who participated in white supremacy and acted in ways throughout their career to uphold it makes me very uncomfortable. Buildings should be named to honor people who have committed to enhance the world around them and our university, not bring others down and commit acts of atrocity." – White student

"I am firmly in favor of renaming these buildings. I am a Black student. Why must I go to classes in buildings named for men who toiled to keep my ancestors from going here? Toiled to keep my ancestors from voting? Men who fought a treasonous war to preserve the INSTITUTION of keeping my ancestors in bondage. The Confederacy was founded to preserve the right to own human beings." – Black or African American student

"Yes. The evils of white supremacy and upholding the system are not negatable regardless of what 'good deeds' they may have done for the university. By continuing to keep these names honored on buildings, this says from the university that they value the 'good deeds' of these men over the evils of white supremacy." – Black or African American student

"Yes, I am because as an African American it is already hard enough just being me I don't need names of white supremacist names looking down on me as I go to class." – Black or African American student

"Yeah, it's kind of weird walking into buildings where I know if these same people were alive today not only would they do everything in their power to keep me from attending--better yet, they'd want me enslaved to fatten their pockets." – Black or African American student

"Yes. This is a must. Having to live in a building whose name upholds white supremacy is simply disgusting." – Hispanic or Latinx student

"Yes, I am. I think that Thomas Ruffin Jr. needs to be renamed because it was initially named after Thomas Ruffin, who made the decision in North Carolina v. Mann, which allowed slave masters to have absolute power over slaves. The current name is way too similar to the previous one. Plus, I've never been able to figure out anything important that Thomas Ruffin Jr. did, which has led [me] to think that the building was only renamed after him out of sheer laziness." – White student

"Yes, because often the placards or statements made about these individuals fail to recognize how they have caused definite harm to certain people and groups, and uphold dangerous ideas of white supremacy that this university is built on. Naming the buildings after perhaps lesser-known figures would relocate the power on campus and show students that they are welcome at this university instead of being constantly reminded of the history of this university that the administration seems to filter through rose-colored glasses on the guise of "honoring history". After researching some of the people the buildings are named after, some of them didn't even go to this school. I would rather the names we put on buildings honor those that were formerly shut out of this university or contributed to this school in a positive way (other than large donations) so we can truly learn about history and how it impacts campus today." – White student

How has your wellbeing been affected, if at all?

"My mental health was affected. I feel like I will never belong at this university." – Black or African American student (C)

"I feel scared on campus and scared for other students." - White student

"Questioning if this university is still the right choice for me." - Black or African American student

"The upholding of racist names directly impacts my relationship with this university. I feel as though this university has no interest in caring for me or my fellow students. Again, the neglect is directly harmful." – White student

"The buildings should not be named for slave owners who did nothing but benefit from the enslavement of people. It has made me less enthusiastic about attending the school and look down upon the university. It is also very discouraging when I need all the motivation I can get to continue my studies." – White student

"It's a constant reminder that I am seen as inferior to my white counterparts" – White, Black or African American student

"I get anxious. I'm far away from home and I get scared that maybe I'll be attacked or something if there are people here who hold the same values as those with buildings named after them." – Black or African American student

"As someone with Cherokee ancestry, my heart is filled with pride every time I pass by the Henry Owl Building. Every day on my way home, I pass McClinton Hall and it makes me so happy. When I pass halls such as Graham, my stomach chums." – White, Asian American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Jewish student

"It is brought up quite a bit in class or with friends, so it definitely plays a part in the entire atmosphere of the campus." – White, Hispanic or Latinx, Asian American student

"A constant reminder that UNC admin/BOG/BOT often fights against, not for, students like me." – Black or African American student

"I constantly struggle with feeling like I am a part of this university or a person that matters. Racist names of buildings definitely contribute to that." – Asian American student

"It has a negative impact on my mood and satisfaction with the school and resident life." - White student

"It just felt like a little reminder of bad people and bad things that could happen to me." – White, Black or African American student

"It makes me think of what my people have had to go through in order for me to be here. It makes me angry. Constant anger is sickening." – Black or African American, American Indian/Alaska Native student (B)

"It's unnerving! I don't feel as welcome or equal to my white counterparts when I am expected to live in places that are constant reminders of oppression and discrimination on the basis of race and the ideals of white supremacy." – Black or African American student

"It's a consistent reminder that this space was not built for POC and other marginalized communities. It doesn't make you feel welcomed or valued outside of being part of a certain image the university attempts to uphold." – Black or African American student

"It makes me feel like I don't deserve to be here even though I know I do" – Black or African American student

"It makes me feel alienated on a campus that prides themselves on diversity and inclusivity." – Black or African American student

"I feel unappreciated and unseen being at an institution that still praises America's past sins." – Black or African American student

"Makes me feel rather unimportant as a student of color. That us feeling welcomed on campus is clearly not a priority to unc" – Black or African American student

"As a black woman, it reiterates the world we live in. We are struggling so much with identity and safety. Sometimes it feels like we will never be equal or safe in this world. Constantly having to evaluate the spaces I am in. The pressure of being black on predominantly white spaces is exhausting." – Black or African American student

"It makes me feel disturbed and unwelcomed. It's like their presence here 200 years ago is more important to the university than me and my other BIPOC peers and our presence." – Asian American student

"I feel as if the University does not care about its students, especially students of color - those being Black or Hispanic. I am within one of these categories and I feel like I'm not valued. Therefore, I feel 'lost' when I walk around campus." – No identity disclosed

"It makes me feel like this is not my campus as BIPOC person whenever I remember that it is still a part of this school." – Hispanic or Latinx, Black or African American

"As a white person, I obviously don't have the same relation to these kinds of realities as a POC would. For me, it's hard to see it affecting my friends, peers, and residents (I'm an RA). Seeing the toll it takes on them is where my well-being is affected." – White student

"It makes me painfully aware of how underrepresented my community is and how other communities are underrepresented as well" – Hispanic or Latinx student

"As a black student, knowing that the university is keeping these names on the building it's concerning. It almost makes me feel as if there could be a secret dislike for black students therefore, even though the community presents as safe, it has the potential to become very unsafe." – Black or African American, Asian American student

"Walking on this campus as an African-American makes me uncomfortable. How can I not be when I am constantly seeing remnants of white supremacy on my campus? This campus states how it strived for diversity and creating an inclusive space. What I have come to find out is that there is no meaning behind those words. If UNC wanted to, they would." – Black or African American student (D)

"The best way I can think to express my answer to this question is by saying that the discomfort I feel when I pass a building named for a white supremacist is less significant than the joy, excitement, and affirmation I feel when I hear someone reference "Pauli Murray Hall" for example." – White student

"It makes me feel like I do not belong here. As much as I work to be successful this school values those who despised and hate my kind." – Black or African American student

"It's painful to think that my friends may feel unwelcome here." – White student

"It has been troublesome to attend a university that refuses to change these names. By attending UNC and being associated with these buildings, it makes me feel as if I, personally, am upholding white supremacy efforts even now." – White student

"Negatively. It is not comforting to know that I live in a building named after a confederate soldier who massacred black Union soldiers and owned slaves." – White student

"Feeling comfortable on campus. I was lucky enough to live in Horton for a little while and the meaning behind Horton's name made me feel honored in a way." – Black or African American student

"I felt embarrassed to discuss where I stayed on campus and even sometimes going to UNC" – Black or African American student

"Refusing to rename residence halls and leaving the names of white supremacists have encouraged an aggressive white culture on campus that has impacted my safety, my pride in my school, and relationships with other students on campus." – White, Hispanic or Latinx student