

SATURDAY, MAY 19, 2018
ELON, NORTH CAROLINA

THE PENDULUM

the commencement 2018 edition



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A look back at Connie Book's first semester as president



PAGE 5

Four-year engineering program to commence next fall



PAGE 12

Physical Plant prepares for graduation ceremony

THE PENDULUM

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ENN seeks to inspire, entertain and inform the Elon community by providing a voice for students and faculty, as well as serve as a forum for the meaningful exchange of ideas.

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ENN is committed to accurate coverage. When factual errors are made, we correct them promptly and in full, both online and in print. Online corrections state the error and the change at the bottom of each article. Corrections from the previous week's print edition appear on this page. Contact enn@elon.edu to report a correction or a concern.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Embrace the change no matter how hard it may be



Maria Barreto
Managing Editor
@maria_abarreto

Come fall 2018, the Elon University we've come to know this semester will be entirely different.

A different group of seniors will be preparing for graduation, President Connie Book will have a few months as university president under her belt, Rochelle Ford — the new dean of the School of Communications beginning June 1 — will be beginning her first semester in the position, the East Neighborhood will be functional and full of students and the ongoing construction around campus will be either completed or nearing completion. For our graduating seniors, they'll be months into their brand-new lives after Elon.

That's a lot of change. And

while change isn't always the simplest of challenges to face, it doesn't have to be scary.

When I first came to Elon, I wasn't expecting to meet people I know I'll stay friends with years beyond graduation. I wasn't expecting to have conversations with people whose views are the complete opposite of mine, and I definitely wasn't expecting those to be some of my favorite moments. I've grown so much since my freshman year that I'm sure my high school self wouldn't recognize me. And I don't think I'm alone in this.

It's no secret this has been a trying year for the Elon community. But rather than let the bad outweigh the good, we find the



“WHILE CHANGE ISN'T ALWAYS THE SIMPLEST OF CHALLENGES TO FACE, IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE SCARY.”

silver lining.

During the fall semester, the Elon unfortunately had to mourn the loss of two Elon students in as many months. Losing junior Breslin Wiley in October and then senior Harrison Durant in early December was a serious

blow to our community. But rather than self-destruct, our community came together.

Elon came together to not only remember Breslin and Harrison, but to also preserve their legacies. When the administration noticed their students weren't getting the help they needed, President Connie Book and former President Leo Lambert pulled in someone from the JED Foundation to analyze how Elon addresses mental health and find out how to improve upon it.

Yes, we've been dealt some rough cards. I can guarantee you it doesn't stop here. You will never stop being dealt bad cards, but it's what you do with them that counts.

CONGRATULATIONS

CLASS OF 2018

ELON NEWS NETWORK

CONTACT

WHEN WE PUBLISH:

The Pendulum publishes weekly on Wednesdays.

Elon Local News broadcasts Mondays at 6 p.m.

ELN Morning broadcasts Thursdays at 10 a.m.

ELN Online Exclusive broadcasts Tuesdays at 4:30 p.m

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COMMENCEMENT EVENTS: MAY 19 - 20

<p>7:30 A.M. CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST MacMahon Terrace, Inman Admissions Building</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">19</p>	<p>7:45 A.M. CANDIDATE CHECK-IN Alumni Gym, Koury Center</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">19</p>	<p>9:15 A.M. PROCESSIONAL BEGINS Scott Plaza/Young Commons</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">19</p>	<p>TBD RECEPTION FOR GRADUATES Inman Admissions Center Lawn</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">19</p>
<p>10:30 A.M. GRADUATION MASS Numen Lumen Pavilion</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">20</p>			

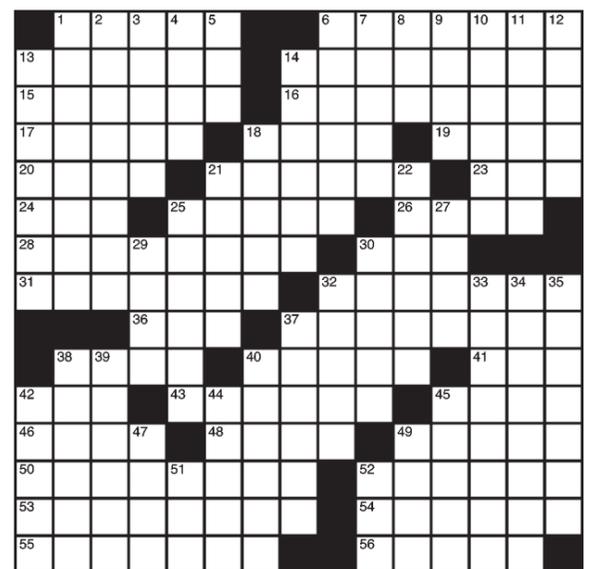
GAMES

FOR RELEASE MAY 19, 2018

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Begin another chapter, e.g.
 - 6 Gets high at a moment's notice?
 - 13 Country name on "The Woman in Me"
 - 14 Cell package
 - 15 Suppressed guffaw
 - 16 Art using locks
 - 17 Verbalize
 - 18 Double over?
 - 19 Grave
 - 20 Bit of tinnitination
 - 21 NBA great — Olajuwon
 - 23 MIT mentors
 - 24 Lilly of pharmaceuticals
 - 25 Insert into an email, as a video
 - 26 Buckets
 - 28 Hard-boiled genre
 - 30 Self-titled 2001 album
 - 31 Voter's choices
 - 32 Worried about losing one's place?
 - 36 Spree
 - 37 Source of trial figures
 - 38 Asian genre influenced by The Beatles
 - 40 Throws out
 - 41 Debt-laden Wall St. deal
 - 42 Small Indian state
 - 43 Hardware with elongated heads
 - 45 Awestruck
 - 46 Game with a 2210 A.D. edition
 - 48 Et —
 - 49 Arcade giant
 - 50 Retirement obstacle
 - 52 Hint at, with "to"
 - 53 Dessert analog to turducken
 - 54 Puts on
 - 55 George Carlin was the first, briefly
 - 56 Firefighter, at times



By Jeff Chen

5/19/18

- 3 Agents' gathering
- 4 Level with fans
- 5 — trumpet
- 6 Given a sentence to complete
- 7 Manuscript with dense notes?
- 8 Part of a historic 19-Across name
- 9 Hot rod?
- 10 Corrida combatant
- 11 Eponymous explorer of Australia
- 12 Intentionally overlooks
- 13 Make one's eyes pop out
- 14 Nickname for tennis star/prankster Novak Djokovic
- 18 Icon often pictured with wind-blown hair
- 21 Chinese ethnic group
- 22 Ringgit spenders
- 25 Unable to look away
- 27 Passing charge
- 29 Magical power
- 30 Yanks
- 32 Post-fall cabal

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

A	C	I	D	O	M	A	H	A	D	A	F	T	
L	A	T	E	T	A	P	A	S	E	B	B	S	
I	V	A	N	A	T	R	U	M	P	A	S	I	A
C	E	L	C	O	R	L	O	R	R	E			
I	R	I	S	H	I	K	E	T	U	R	N	E	R
A	N	C	H	O	A	N	T	T	E	T	R	A	
		R	O	U	G	E	I	S	A	I	A	H	
S	C	I	P	E	E	L	S	D	A	S			
T	H	O	M	A	S	C	O	P	S	E			
R	E	U	P	S	T	A	N	W	R	I	S	T	
I	A	N	T	H	O	R	P	E	E	S	T	E	R
S	A	Y	N	O	S	E	A	T	A	I			
A	L	E	C	I	D	A	T	A	R	B	E	L	L
P	O	L	O	C	O	C	A	S	R	A	U	L	
T	O	S	S	E	N	T	R	Y	A	M	P	S	

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5/3/18

- 33 Pressure indicator
- 34 Part of it was a 2016 campaign issue
- 35 Cheap smokes
- 37 Assange of WikiLeaks
- 38 Hum along, say
- 39 Scores, with "a"
- 40 City where Jake Blues was in prison
- 42 Some movie set techs
- 44 Hold-up targets
- 45 Hold-up man?
- 47 "Mayor" author
- 49 One not often hitting the high note
- 51 Leader with a jacket named for him
- 52 Elastic wood

LOOKING BACK AT PRESIDENT BOOK'S FIRST SEMESTER

Book looks forward to her next year as president, moving forward with Elon's Master Plan

Maggie Brown
Politics Editor | @maggieabrown

Just 65 days into her presidency at Elon University, Connie Book still maintains the same positive energy she showed on day one.

Since March 1 — her first day as president — Book has met with dozens of students, affinity groups and community members, ranging from LGBTQIA-identified students at Elon, to the board of trustees to local children at Elon Elementary. And to top it off, she traveled to Philadelphia to support the women's basketball team at the Colonial Athletic Association tournament and participated in fundraising events in Charlotte, Atlanta and Raleigh.

Book says she loves the high-pace action of the job and makes sure she is mentally, physically and intellectually ready to perform. To do that, she keeps up with her fitness routine and sets aside time every morning to read local newspapers — including *The Pendulum* on Wednesdays — and *The Chronicle on Higher Education*.

She takes this role seriously, and in order to do that, she said she has to be prepared.

"You have to be consistent and keep physical and emotional energy up," Book said. "I need to have enough awareness about all of these issues that impact higher education that I can think about Elon and what's our position."

In March, Book told Elon News Network she would "be doing a lot of listening" in her first semester to reacquaint herself to Elon after she spent almost three years as provost of The Citadel. Now, as the semester comes to a close, the summer and fall will be her action months.

She'll be attending a workshop at Harvard University this summer, which is designed to help newly appointed university presidents. She hopes the relationships she forms here will help make decisions and formulate ideas for the future.

When Book returns for the summer, she will continue to maintain and improve Elon University's strategic plan in the coming years. The goals outlined in Elon's plan are projected to be achieved in the next 20 years. Book won't be working alone to achieve these goals for the university.

"In strategic planning, you don't often have the answer and how to achieve it," Book said. "You just know this is an area you need to focus on, and then you get a group of smart people around the table and develop a strategy with objectives on how to do that."

Because of Book's previous experience at the university, she feels more obligated to finish Lambert's mission.

"It was very nice to have had relationships in place from that work and leave and come back and see how the work was progressing and to hear people talk about where they want to go next," Book said.

The plan implemented by former president Leo Lambert shows a 5-percent increase in diversity since 2010.

Book wants to be able to gradually increase diversity at the school, starting with recruitment. For undergraduate enrollment of the class of 2022, Book said the goal of the university is to offer more opportunities for financial aid and to recruit students from more diverse cities.

"That's the new plan. So where do we go from here? Where do we need to be? That will be an ongoing critical part of Elon's future because of the cost of private education," Book said.

All revenue beyond operating costs made by the university's new hotel, "The Inn at Elon," will fund scholarship opportunities for students. Book said she expects more people will want to attend the hotel knowing it benefits students directly.

"I do think people will — knowing it goes to scholarship support — people will say, 'Okay, let's all stay there rather than stay at the Hilton or the Hampton Inn,'" Book said.

Donors are one of the most important parts in building the university. Book said she hopes to prioritize growing endowment of the university in her presidency without taking her eyes off the students.

But Book said the key factor in the university's success overall has always been students — both prospective students and current students.

"I will need to prioritize ... that we are recruiting students and that they are our future," Book said. "We want to make sure that it's a good match with the students, that they embrace our mission and our values as an institution."



WE WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT IT'S A GOOD MATCH WITH THE STUDENTS, THAT THEY EMBRACE OUR MISSION AND OUR VALUES AS AN INSTITUTION

CONNIE BOOK
PRESIDENT OF ELON UNIVERSITY



MAGGIE BROWN | POLITICS EDITOR



Above: President Book in her office, discussing her goals for the future.

Left: Book is welcomed by faculty members and families at a tailgate in Jordan Gym.

Below: President Book, accompanied by Vice President Emerita Jo Watts Williams '55, and freshman class President Cam Waddell, plants her oak sapling.

GRACE MORRIS | NEWS DIRECTOR



JESSICA RAFFOGEL | ELON NEWS NETWORK

SPDC survey indicates rise in success after graduation

Data from nine months after the class of 2017 graduated shows where they are now

Alex Roat
Video Production Manager | @elonnewsnetwork

Data released from the Student Professional Development Center (SPDC) indicates that the class of 2017 was one of the most successful classes in Elon University's history.

FIRST DESTINATION SURVEY

The First Destination Survey is a questionnaire compiled by the SPDC, issued nine months after graduation.

The SPDC keeps track of graduate job offers and graduate school acceptances on a rolling basis, and graduates are also surveyed on graduation day, and several more times throughout their first few months after graduating. The data for this report is compiled from these results.

About 96 percent of graduates are either employed, completing post-graduate internships and fellowships, attending graduate school or working for a service organization. 84 percent of the class was employed nine months after graduating.

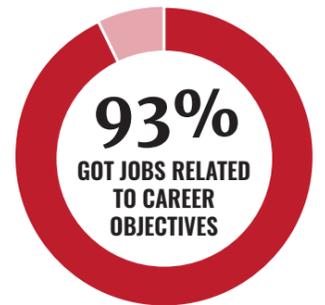
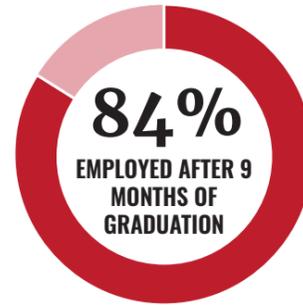
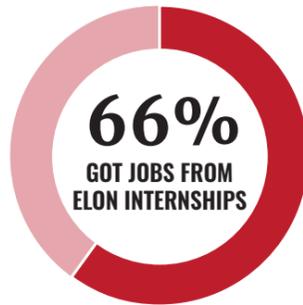
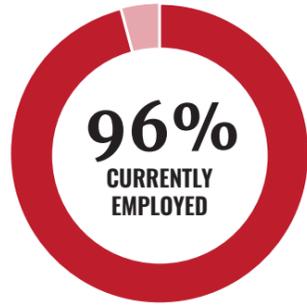
Roughly 24 percent of the class of 2017 were accepted into gradu-

The First Destination survey, conducted by the SPDC, issued nine months after graduation, was completed by 95 percent of Elon's class of 2017.

ate programs around the country, 93 percent of graduates said their jobs were related to their career objectives and only 2 percent of the class is still on the job market. About 66 percent of those surveyed said they acquired jobs from internships completed during their time at Elon, with companies such as CBS Corporation, the Coca-Cola Company, Duke Energy and the U.S. Department of State. Top organizations hiring Elon graduates include major economic corporations, from Bank of America and Goldman Sachs, to top media organizations, such as CNN and ABC News, as well as service organizations such as Teach for America and the Peace Corps.

The average salary for the class of 2017 is \$42,992, about \$1,875 more than the class of 2016.

The majority of the class



SOURCE: STATISTICS COURTESY OF THE SPDC
MEGHAN KIMBERLING | Design Chief



THE CAREER SKILLS THAT [STUDENTS] CAN LEARN WHILE AT ELON WILL CARRY INTO THE FUTURE AS THEIR CAREER JOURNEY UNFOLDS.

TOM BRINKLEY
SPDC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

has stayed in North Carolina post-graduation, with about 277 graduates remaining, with 17 percent in the Triangle and Triad regions. Following North Carolina, New York and Massachusetts host the second and third largest groups of graduates, respectively.

Tom Brinkley, executive director of the SPDC, believes the class of 2018 will show similar success.

"The overall job market across the nation continues to be strong, and unemployment is at a 17 year low," he said.

More than the past 6 years, post-graduate success rates have increased, rising from 61 percent for the class of 2012, to 84 percent in 2017, while post-graduates securing jobs in the desired fields have remained steady over the past two years.

AVERAGE SALARY

\$42,992

The average salary for the class of 2017 is \$42,992, about \$1,875 more than the class of 2016.

The First Destination survey began in 2012, with the development of the SPDC on campus, with the mission of following a student's four-year plan through to post-graduation.

"Our purpose is to help prepare students for life after Elon, whether they choose to enter the workplace or attend graduate school," Brinkley said. "The career skills that they can learn while at Elon will carry into the future as their career journey unfolds."

Reduce, reuse, recycle plastic bottles into caps and gowns

Seniors don sustainable graduation robes made from plastic bottles

Nina Fleck
Copy Chief | @elonnewsnetwork

It's no secret that Barnes & Noble College at Elon University sees an influx of students toward the end of the year not only to return rental books, but also to grab their caps and gowns in time for graduation.

WHO MAKES THE GOWNS?

Oak Hall Cap & Gown supplies GreenWeaver gowns, which use 23 plastic bottles on average to produce one gown.

bottles on average to produce one gown.

"Recycled plastic bottles are processed to remove impurities such as labels and caps. The bottles are then chopped into fragments called 'flakes,'" Oak Hall's website says. "Flakes are melted and then solidified into uniform pellets called 'chips.' Chips are melted again and extruded into continuous lament yarn."

After that, the post-consumer plastic yarn is woven, dyed and fixed into commencement-ready form.

The bookstore distributes the

A lesser-known fact is that for the past seven years, Elon's caps and gowns have been made entirely of recycled plastic bottles.

Oak Hall Cap & Gown supplies GreenWeaver gowns, which uses 23 plastic

bottles on average to produce one gown.

caps and gowns at no upfront cost to the student, thanks to the university. "Not everybody walks, so it changes year-to-year how much we actually hand out," said Carly Mayer, the store manager of Barnes & Noble College at Elon.

But according to the 2018 Spring Registrar's Report, approximately 2,000 undergraduates will be graduating on May 19.

In other words, upward of 50,000 plastic bottles were recycled to create enough caps and gowns for Elon's graduating class this year.

To put this figure in perspective, 1 million plastic bottles are



JESSICA RAFFOGEL | ELON NEWS NETWORK

Senior Ryan Corning gets a composite photo taken in his new cap and gown that is made out of recycled materials.

CAP AND GOWN RECYCLABLES

50K

plastic bottles were recycled to create enough caps and gowns for Elon's graduating class of 2,000 this year.

91%

of plastic waste isn't recycled, Laura Parker reported to National Geographic last July.

purchased globally each minute, Sandra Laville and Matthew Taylor wrote in The Guardian last June, and 91 percent of plastic waste isn't recycled, Laura Parker reported to National Geographic last July.

But as it happens, these plastic caps and gowns can be further recycled.

Mayer says recycling the caps and gowns is an option, but not many students have done so directly after graduation because of accessibility and the physical nature of having graduation under the oaks. She speculates that students might not remember the attire is recyclable after graduating.

RECYCLING PROCESS

1. Recycled plastic bottles are processed to remove impurities such as labels and caps
2. The bottles are chopped into fragments called 'flakes'
3. Flakes are melted and then solidified into uniform pellets called 'chips'
4. Chips are melted again and extruded into continuous lament yarn
5. Post-consumer plastic yarn is woven, dyed and fixed into commencement-ready form

"I think the thought is that it's one more thing in the way during graduation," Mayer said in regards to having recycling bins for the caps and gowns right after the ceremony. "It's something I'm working on for when we graduate in Schar Center. Then there's definite outlets whereas here, [under the oaks], everybody scatters. ... That's definitely something I'd like to do because otherwise, what do you need them for?"

In addition to Elon, approximately 350 schools around the country use GreenWeaver gowns, including neighboring schools Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

"Elon University went with GreenWeaver in 2011 and was one of the first in the country," said Mike Merritt, the Oak Hall representative for this area.

And according to Oak Hall, more than 4 million students have worn the GreenWeaver attire for their graduations.

passing the TORCH

Graduating seniors offer advice to underclassmen as a parting gift



Caroline Dean
Manager of Phoenix Flops
@elonnewsnetwork

College is a place where you can press the limits of your identity. You can mold your passions, press against your understanding and expand your beliefs. It is somewhere where you can test out different thoughts and process them with the people around you. You are surrounded by people who are willing to listen, collaborate and challenge you. But perhaps the most important out of all of those are the people that will challenge you. The people who will tell you when your arguments are incomplete, when your ambitions are

off base or when your passions need redirecting. Those are the voices that you should listen to with the most respect and attention. Be proud of the times that you experience failure, change directions and keep moving forward. College is about changing directions to find your true life path. So don't be afraid to mold, innovate and craft new versions of yourself. This is the time to be the most creative with your life, so expand your thinking and work to create the most incredible version of yourself that you can imagine.



Jackie Pascale
Former ENN Executive Director
@jackie_pascale

A lot of my Elon experience has been impacted by the opportunities I've taken and the friends I've made. My advice is to say no more and also to say yes more. Because this statement is confusing, let me explain.

Elon students are notorious for overcommitting and scheduling their days up to the minute. While this can be a good thing, it's OK to say no. Whether it's to helping your friend edit a paper or taking on a project, you know if you have enough time to

do this without getting overwhelmed. Don't overwhelm yourself! Your friend can go to the Writing Center, and the project will turn out better if someone else can dedicate 100% of their energy to it. Remember, you're a human who is not perfect, makes mistakes and only has 24 hours a day to work with. And sometimes, those 24 hours should be all about you.

However, challenge yourself. If you're passionate about something, then take on that project. If you do what you love, it won't feel like work. This can be a cliché statement about careers, but it also applies to your college work. Also, if there's a trip offered with friends or to a conference, go on it. You will never regret experiences with your peers and mentors. Some of my favorite college memories come from spontaneous day trips, nights staying in with roommates and in-depth projects I saw through from start to finish. I wouldn't have these memories if I didn't say yes.

So say yes, and say no. And soak up every minute of your undergraduate career. Speaking from experience, it flies by.



Rachel Hobbs
SGA Secretary
@elonnewsnetwork

I remember first coming to Elon and being so overwhelmed by how new everything felt. In particular, I remember the concerning feeling of not recognizing anyone. As the year went on, I made friends on my hall and got to know people through my involvement. I also started to realize that Elon is a small community and I would find myself saying hi to people I had class with or met once, even if we had never had a conversation. By the end of the year, Elon felt like home.

My advice to underclassmen is that if you already feel a sense of camaraderie at Elon, take the time to appreciate our community and this unique chapter of your life.

I really can't imagine another time in my life where all of my good friends will live within a 10-minute — or 10-feet — radius or when I walk in somewhere, I know I'll recognize a few friendly faces.

With that said, I recognize that some students may be struggling to feel connected. Being involved with SGA, I've heard from students who feel disconnected and understand how we need to keep working to further unite our student body. My advice for all students is to pursue your passions on Elon's campus so you can connect with other students who share that interest. More importantly, don't be afraid to get to know people outside of your usual friend group. It takes student leadership to truly bring a campus together.

It is both exciting and sad to realize that my friends and I will be scattered across the country upon graduation. I will miss Elon's people, but know that an Elon friend will never be too far away. As the famous saying goes: you can leave Elon, but Elon will never leave you.

From two to four: How Elon is expanding its engineering program

Program improvement enables students to chase their dreams even further

Anton L. Delgado
Elon News Network | @jadelgadonews

A new engineering program and degree are being offered at Elon University. The College of Arts & Sciences will be expanding its engineering options next fall, from a dual-degree program to a four-year program.

The school's new four-year bachelor's degree in engineering will allow students to stay at Elon and pursue their degree in engineering.

Scott Wolter, the director of the current dual-degree engineering program, is looking forward to the exciting development.

"We are providing this degree for our students because they basically conveyed to use their interest in staying at Elon and getting an engineering degree," Wolter said. "It was driven by student interest."

The current dual-degree program allows students study engineering at Elon for three years before transferring to another institution for an additional two years to complete their degree.

Wolter believes having students transfer to other institutions has not helped the program's growth.

"Many of our students fall in love with Elon and they don't



STEPHANIE HAYS | ELON NEWS NETWORK

want to leave," Wolter said. "They like different aspects of doing their undergraduate education at Elon. They like the small class sizes, the liberal arts environment. They just like Elon because it's a great place."

Freshman Noah Kagan is currently undeclared but is looking forward to declaring his major next fall. Having the new four-year option at Elon has made a world of difference in the aspiring engineer's life.

"I just want to finish the degree in four years because I don't have the funds to do an additional year of college," Kagan said.

The idea of leaving Elon and having to pay for an additional year of school to earn his degree worried Kagan, until the announcement of the four-year program in January.

"I am so excited to stay here and not have to move, I hate moving," Kagan said. "I've found so many friends here and I don't want to throw all of that away if I don't have to. By the time I would have had to transfer I would have already found my place at Elon and having to move schools would just not be the best situation."

Another of the new program's goals is to increase the

amount of student interest in engineering. In order to have more students like Kagan, excited to continue engineering at Elon.

For the last decade, the amount of student majors in the engineering department has been in flux. According to the Registrar's Fall Reports, in 2007 the major had 58 students, this grew to an all time high of 81 in 2012.

But since then the numbers of students majoring within the engineering department have steadily decreased, to an all time low of 22 in fall 2017. The program suffered another decrease

Sparks fly as freshman Shan Roy welds metal for his new electric motorcycle, "The 1.0." Roy plans to enroll in Elon's new four-year engineering program next fall.

this spring, with now only 13 student majoring in engineering at Elon.

But Wolter is confident these numbers will grow with the start of this new program.

"We know what we need to do, and we know what type of education our students need to succeed," Wolter said.

Another main goal of the program is to receive its Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) accreditation within the next four years. The ABET is a non-governmental organization that accredits education programs in applied natural sciences, engineering being one of those natural sciences.

"The important part of this change is that the program gets ABET accreditation," Wolter said. "We are pursuing that for the program and are in the process of getting this. The goal is that when we graduate our first students, we will be accredited."

The new program will offer a bachelor of science degree as well as allow students to concentrate in biomedical engineering, computer engineering, or design their own concentration.

This focus on student interest is a key aspect of this new program.

"Elon is such a great place to be a student or a faculty member," Wolter said. "We would talk to students and figure out exactly what their interests are. Whatever they are we will work with them."

TOP TEN STORIES OF THE YEAR

1 CONNIE BOOK NAMED ELON'S NINTH PRESIDENT

Eight months after Leo Lambert announced he would be stepping down as Elon University's president, the Board of Trustees selected Connie Book to become Elon's ninth president on Oct. 9, 2017. This day marked the end of Book's time at The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina, where Book was a provost and dean.

For Book, taking on the role of university president meant coming home. Prior to her role at The Citadel, Book spent 16 years as a member of Elon's faculty. In 1999 she joined Elon

as a professor of communications. In 2004, Book was promoted to associate professor and department chair. She was promoted again in 2006 to associate dean before working under Provost Steven House as the associate provost for academic affairs in 2010.

Becoming the first female to hold the title of president is a daunting task, but Book is up for the challenge.

"We're starting to have that sense of spring," Book said. "It's something new, and it goes very well with having a new president. I'm looking forward to all of it. I am so excited."



ABBY GIBBS | ELON NEWS NETWORK

2 COUNSELING SERVICES STRECHED TOO THIN

Of the college students who battle mental health issues, almost two thirds of them never seek treatment, and one in 12 will make a suicide plan at some point in their college career.

Elon University's Counseling Services is struggling to meet the needs of its students.

At Elon, 846 students used Counseling Services during the 2016-2017 school year — 13 percent of the un-

dergraduate student population. This percentage has risen 4 percent over the past ten years.

But some students said they do not feel like Counseling Services is equipped to serve a large amount of patients. "I don't think we're meeting the needs of the students," Dyson said. "If we're going to encourage people to use mental health resources, we also have to ensure that the resources they need will be there."



LAUREN DUNCAN | ELON NEWS NETWORK

3 UNCOVERING IDENTITY

Seniors Bear Tose, Arielle Watkins and Xena Burwell may be leaving Elon, but they are leaving behind a legacy our campus will never forget.

Tose, Watkins and Burwell are three of the eight students on campus who identify as "American Indian," according to the Elon Factbook. When the three were freshmen, the Center for Race, Ethnicity and Diversity Education held a meeting for the Native American Task Force. Members of the community had the opportunity to come together and speak on their experiences, a privilege this minority group doesn't always have on campus.

"There is no club or resource

rooms like there are for other identities," Burwell said. "We wanted to create a space for Native-identifying students to have that sort of space where they can have that camaraderie and resources to talk to other people who are going through the same experience as them."

Throughout the semester, the three seniors worked to establish a place on campus where Native American students can speak their truths. Burwell, Tose and Watkins successfully formed the Native American Student Association as a developmental organization on campus and got Indigenous People's Day formally recognized by Elon in place of Columbus Day.

5 THE ELEPHANTS IN THE ROOM

A year after Donald Trump was announced the 45th president of the United States, political views were still highly polarized on Elon University's campus, and Republicans sought out open dialogue.

Junior Maddie Pierce, public relations chair of College Republicans, felt she could not voice her happiness about the 2016 election results.

"As a female Republican, I was confronted by a new kind of judgment for being a Republican that I never faced before," Pierce said. "We just want to show people we are not the current administration," Pierce said. "Republicans on this campus are not monsters."

Unlike Pierce, ju-

nior Katherine Evans, vice president of College Democrats, has felt a greater need to have meaningful civic discourse about her political views. To Evans, the first step in mending bridges between the two sides is to remove emotion from the conversation and understand that not everyone has the same perspectives.

"You can't really live your life in a bubble surrounded by like-minded people," Evans said. "It keeps you from seeing other viewpoints and other ways of thinking."

While their opinions may not align, Pierce and Evans both agree to reach out to the other side and be open to discussion, aiming to encourage dialogue on campus.



LAUREN DUNCAN | ELON NEWS NETWORK

4 ELON MOURNS THE LOSS OF TWO STUDENTS IN TWO MONTHS

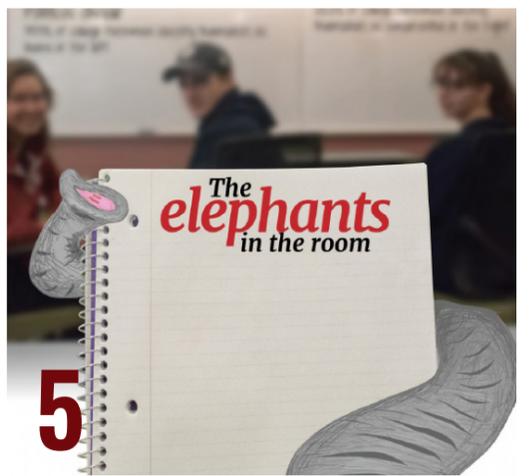
On Oct. 31, 2017, the Elon University community came together to mourn the loss of junior Breslin Wiley, who was found dead in his home on Oct. 28, 2017.

Just a little more than a month later, the Elon Community joined together once again to mourn the loss of another student, 23-year-old senior Harrison Durant.

As students, faculty and staff gathered in the Sacred Space in Numen Lumen Pavilion for the second time in as many months, University Chaplain Jan Fuller said the death was "far too soon."

On Jan. 5, 2018, President Connie Book and former President Leo Lambert released an email to the community announcing changes coming to Elon in regards to suicide prevention.

Lambert and Book said they will be expanding Counseling Services, opening three new counselor positions. This is done in the hopes that a higher number of counselors means students will be able to receive the individual counseling they need. Book is currently working to further expand other mental health service options, taking notice of how counseling services has since struggled to meet student needs.



STEPHANIE HAYS | ELON NEWS NETWORK



STEPHANIE HAYS | ELON NEWS NETWORK

6 NEW DEAN NAMED FOR SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATIONS

Rochelle Ford was named the new dean of the School of Communications. The selection comes after a five-month, nation-wide search for the next dean to replace Paul Parsons, who announced in October 2017 he was going to step down and return to teaching after being the founding dean of the school 17 years ago.

Ford is the chair of the public relations department and a professor at Syracuse University. Ford also

serves as a Provost's faculty fellow. Ford said she is excited about the new role and is ready to help the School of Communications excel.

"The faculty, staff and students have an amazing reputation already," Ford said. "But how can we make it even better? How can we sustain that? How can we make sure that we keep moving forward? And so I hope that it will be one in which we elevate what has already begun here."



CAROLINE BREHMAN | ELON NEWS NETWORK

7 SHOOTINGS CHANGE TEACHER EDUCATION

Just two days after a school shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, students at Alamance-Burlington Middle College received texts that Eastern Alamance High School was in a lockdown situation.

Not knowing whether or not it was a drill, Elon University senior student teacher Annaliese Jaffe struggled to calm the fear and anger both she and her students felt.

"After, I explained the situation, and they started taking a test. I sat down and realized I was also scared but also furious because my kids were scared," Jaffe said. That was when it really hit me, when I was in school and my kids were scared about it."

Jaffe is one of 50 student teachers from the School of Education currently working in one of 21 schools

within driving range of the campus now being forced to face the reality of having to possibly prepare for situations in case of school shootings.

The thought of having to implement gun safety measures and protect students as part of the responsibilities of being a teacher is terrifying to those seeking to go into this profession.

"The thought of having to sacrifice my life for a student hasn't made me not want to be a teacher, but it has made me realize that this is so serious," Jaffe said. "Teaching is a job you put so much passion and care and love into that it's crazy to think that your life could be at risk. From what we've seen on the news, teachers don't run, teachers stand in front of the bullet to save their kids. And that is terrifying."



PHOTO COURTESY OF SHOW US YOUR SHOES FACEBOOK

8 BURLINGTON 'DREAMER' URGES SOLIDARITY FROM STUDENTS

When Yazmin Rico was 13 years old, her family migrated to the United States, claiming Burlington as home. With hard work, determination and the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, Rico, now 28, is working toward her Master's degree at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Established in 2012 by President Barack Obama, DACA grants work permits and protec-

tion from deportation for people who came to the United States undocumented when they were 16 years old or younger. But this past September marked the beginning of an end of an era of opportunity for immigrants.

As Elon University, the largest university near Rico's hometown, began to address and fight for the issue, Rico posed a challenge to the students: Think creatively to show solidarity.



ANTON L. DELGADO | ELON NEWS NETWORK

10 MOLLY OFFSTEIN: ONE YEAR LATER

On March 6, 2017, Elon University junior cross country runner Molly Offstein was hit by a car while crossing University Drive at O'Kelly Avenue and sustained multiple serious injuries, including a traumatic brain injury. A year later, Offstein has made remarkable progress in her recovery.

During the four months after the accident, Offstein was placed in a medically-induced coma before finally waking up in July 2017. In this time a Facebook pages called, "Show Us Your Shoes" was creat-

ed to support Offstein throughout her recovery.

While she may be away from Elon, the community, including her cross country team, haven't stopped thinking about her.

"Everything we do now, we do for Molly," said sophomore Emily Smith, friend and teammate of Offstein. "Her name is still on her locker in the locker room, and she's still on our roster ... Everything we do — every run, every race, every practice — we think about Molly every time we do it."

9 THE LONE STAND OF A COMMON SOLDIER

Just 15 minutes from Elon University's campus, students can find themselves facing a confederate statue standing in front of the Alamance County Historic Courthouse.

The 30 feet high marble and granite statue was built to represent the 1,100 men from Alamance County who fought in the Civil War, but has done little else other than stir up conversation.

In mid-August, a debate sparked about the removal of the statue that caused activists on both sides to end up face-to-face in front of the courthouse. The confrontation did not end in violence.

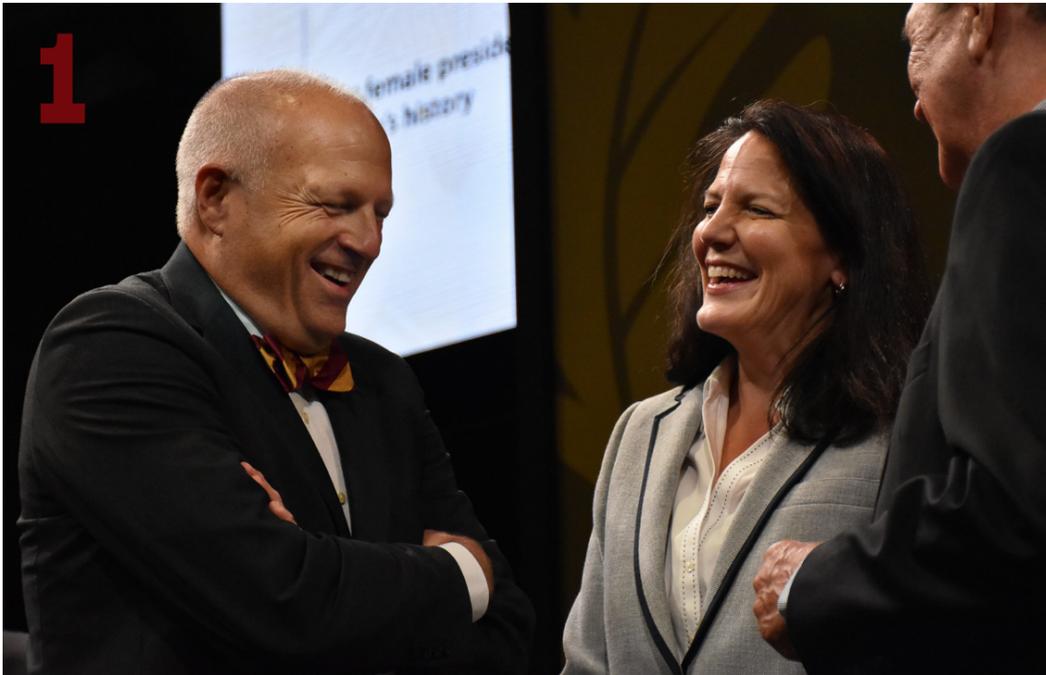
While the Alamance County Commission-

ers have agreed to keep the statue where it is and maintain it, Elon students are still divided on the issue.

But Elon junior Briya Ware challenged the commissioners' decision, calling out what the statue represented and stating there is only one true place for the common soldier to stand.

"It reminds us that we are not where we thought we would be at this time. They should all be removed. I am kind of extreme and believe they should all be destroyed," Ware said. "But for the sake of appeasement, if it is that big of a deal that this piece of concrete needs to remain standing somewhere, then I don't think a museum is a bad idea."

top 10 photos



CAROLINE BREHMAN | ELON NEWS NETWORK



CAROLINE BREHMAN | ELON NEWS NETWORK



ALEC MANDELL | ELON NEWS NETWORK



CORY WELLER | ELON NEWS NETWORK





2

CAROLINE BREHMAN | ELON NEWS NETWORK



3

CAROLINE BREHMAN | ELON NEWS NETWORK



6

ALEC MANDELL | ELON NEWS NETWORK



7

CORY WELER | ELON NEWS NETWORK



9

CAROLINE BREHMAN | ELON NEWS NETWORK



10

DIEGO PINEDA | ELON NEWS NETWORK

1

Former President Leo Lambert and President Connie Book laugh at a special Elon community gathering in Alumni Gym on Oct. 9, 2017.

2

The Elon defense rallies to tackle the ball carrier in the first half of their win against William & Mary on Oct. 7, 2017.

3

Fans standing in the Duke University student section reach out to Elon University guard Dmitri Thomson as he passed the ball to a teammate during the season opener versus Duke at the Cameron Indoor Stadium on Nov. 10, 2017.

4

Defensive back Efrim Borders celebrates after a touchdown during Elon's first home game of the 2017 season on Sept. 16, 2017, against Charleston Southern University.

5

Clark Beckham, the first runner-up in the 2015 American Idol season, opens for Jon Bellion's homecoming performance on Nov. 4, 2017.

6

Former President Leo Lambert laughs during an interview in his newly constructed office in the Martin Alumni Center on Feb. 14.

7

Assistant professors Charles Johnson (left) and Karl Green (right) throw glitter in the air during the rehearsal of the Department of Performing Arts' performance of Fallout.

8

Freshman Jack Snow sings during the Acapocalypse concert benefitting Camp Sunshine in Whitley Auditorium on October 21, 2017.

9

Wiley Kylie Coyote dances to music during a drag show performance at the Almaxce Pride Festival on Oct. 7, 2017.

10

Senior Kyra Gerber, who plays Ernestina Money in "Hello Dolly!," holds a solo note during dress rehearsal on Oct. 25, 2017 in McCrary Theatre.

The path to your future goals may be messy and that is OK



Olivia Zayas Ryan
Columnist
@oliviazryan

Here at Elon University, we love plans. We enter appointments, classes and even social events into our Google Calendars religiously, we freak out over our Four-Year Plans when we're just freshmen and we schedule our classes to work around other pre-scheduled things. If these carefully drawn out plans change, we of course get stressed and some of us often feel like our lives are falling apart. Dramatic, yes, but still the reality for so many of us who are rapped in this pervasive culture of schedules.

It might be scary to say it: but it's OK if you do not have a plan. It is OK to be unsure. And honestly, it's OK to be a bit of a mess.

When I was in high school, I was set on being a music major. I thought I was going to go to school in Nashville, be a songwriter and live out my lifelong dream of writing songs and performing. At 16, I thought this dream was my entire life, but as I grew and saw other opportunities, I ultimately made the decision to come to Elon, a small, private liberal arts college. I came to Elon very undecided about my future, with the hopes of finding a new passion, something that gave me the same rush that music once did.

But, once I got here, I would face other problems I didn't consider, leading me to feel more helpless and without a future than I thought I would.

If I'm being honest, when I was a freshman at Elon, I didn't think I was going to graduate. Being a freshman here brought up parts of my own mental illness that had not surfaced before, leading me to unhealthy coping mechanisms that distracted from my life here. After seeing my family in October of that year, my parents wondered if they should withdraw me from Elon for a year. The thought of leaving Elon terrified me because I was too scared to compromise my neatly crafted plan.

At that point in my life, I couldn't see my future beyond the next day. I was a mess: unhappy, unfulfilled and unmotivated. I didn't think I was going to graduate because I could only see the life I

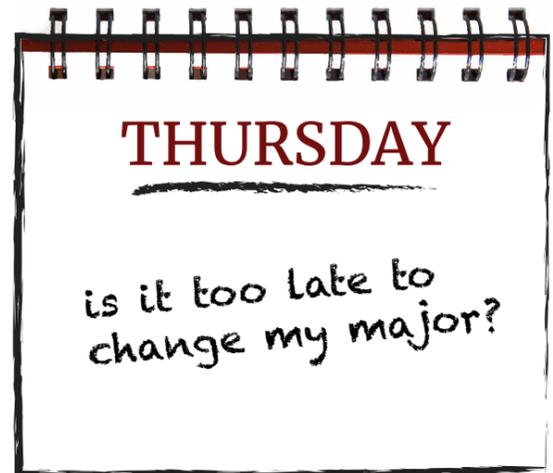
had then. I went from overplanning to having no plan at all, and the uncertainty in my future made being here so hard. I went from thinking I was going to be a strategic communications major to a journalism major to a policy studies major and now ending up with a job in strategic communications. Some of the friends I once thought I was going to take my graduation photos with I don't speak to anymore. My four-year plan didn't pan out the way I thought it would, both academically and emotionally, but I made it.

Now, I am graduating from Elon with an incredible job I wouldn't have dreamed of having back then. My plans changed, I didn't get here in the most perfect way, but I got here, and I am immensely proud that I did. So if you are an underclassman struggling right now, maybe you're not getting the grade you thought you would, your social life is harder than imagined or you're not loving your major as much as you wanted, that's OK. It's OK to stray away from the plan.

And to my seniors, I promise it is still OK if you do not have a plan. It is OK to be unsure.

As cliché as it inevitably sounds, graduating from college means closing a chapter in our lives, one that was filled with schedules and routines. As we embark on this next chapter, our plans may not always be so clear. We are going to need to adapt to new environments, new friendships and new experiences. All of this feels so scary right now, and it's natural to be worried about not if you don't have a job or housing or friends in the city that you will be moving to, it is all going to be OK.

You are not always going to adhere to the plan you set up for yourself. You are not always going to be perfect. The path to your goals or dreams may be messy and uncertain, but you will get there. As we graduate this weekend, please remember that no matter how much you may schedule and plan, our lives may end up differently. Embrace that uncertainty.



MEGHAN KIMBERLING | DESIGN CHIEF

CAMPUS VOICES

Looking toward a more politically & civically engaged Elon



Gabby Vance
Homecoming Royalty
@elonnewsnetwork



Spencer Wagner
SGA Executive Vice President
@spence_wagner

Some may remember when the Oak Room, located in the Moseley Student Center with a large couch and even larger bean bags frequented by students for naps, was the Oak Room: A space with formal seating, tables and an extended glass wall where the admissions sessions were held before the new Inman building. In that old room three years ago, the Political Engagement Work Group, which we were a part of, met for the first time. Joined by Bob Frigo, still a co-chair of the Work Group today, and other Elon "greats," we started the conversation of how to make Elon a more politically and civically engaged campus.

We were two of the first students selected to be on the Work Group. Our roles were an Andrew Goodman Ambassador & Elon Votes! Coordinator (Gabby) and a Student Government representative (Spencer). Since that

first meeting in a space that no longer exists, we have been proud members of this working group, a group that has put on Presidential Debate & Election Night watch parties, the Active Citizen Series, a partnership with Deliberative Dialogues and countless efforts at educating and registering students to vote under the leadership of the work group co-chairs, Bob and Carrie Eaves. The power of this group lies within the collaboration between students, faculty and staff to see where the civic engagement needs are on campus and ignite change.

We write today, as graduating seniors, to encourage the Elon community to continue, in their own ways, the work that we have begun towards a more politically and civically engaged campus.

First, what do those two words mean? What's the difference between "political" and "civic?" By political, we

mean activities that relate more to your own personal goals, beliefs and ideals – activities such as volunteering on campaigns and attending marches and rallies. By civic, we mean participating in general government roles such as volunteering, voting and attending public meetings and forums.

As Elon students, we all aspire to change the world, and the world needs Elon students to change it. But you do not have to wait until you graduate (though we are counting down the days) to make an impact or a change. You can vote, campaign for your candidate of choice, participate in marches & rallies, attend various events around campus, help your friends figure out when to vote or how to register and go to a public meeting of the town of Elon Board of Aldermen, Burlington City Council or Alamance County Commissioners, among many, many

other politically and civically engaging activities as an Elon student. We are fortunate enough to attend a university that wants its students to speak their minds, be heard and get involved. Not all institutions across the country, and definitely not around the world, allow students a space for engaging in diverse political thought and action.

There is a common misperception around the millennial generation and engagement. Today's generation of young people is debatably more politically engaged than ever before but in a different and unique form of activism. Young people today are generally more educated, supportive and self-expressive. These are qualities that directly align with those of voters. But we understand how the world of anything tangentially related to politics seems right now. When you saw the word "political," a few of you might have

contemplated not reading this op-ed. Each of you has probably heard someone in a class or on your hall say, "Politics is too divisive or corrupt for me." That, in itself, is a reason to run towards such activities to get engaged in, not away from.

When we both walk across the stage in less than two short weeks, we hope you all think of the Group that began this needed work on campus. While we have started to move forward, there is still much work that needs to be done. Each of you has that power by going to these events on campus and going to the polls in November.

We hope that you will work towards such goals and embrace, as well as help bring into light, a future at Elon where voting is normal, political conversations are civil and common and attending a meeting, march or rally is something to look forward to.

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GRACE MORRIS
JUNIOR



JOINING ENN WAS THE GREATEST DECISION I HAVE MADE AT ELON. NOT ONLY DID I MAKE AMAZING FRIENDS, BUT I LEARNED ABOUT MYSELF AND MY FUTURE IN JOURNALISM."

ALEX ROAT
JUNIOR

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PHOTOS BY STEPHANIE HAYS | ELON NEWS NETWORK

Creating commencement

Starting months in advance, graduation requires cross-department coordination to get pulled off

Stephanie Hays
Elon News Network | @sterphanerhers

For families, the Elon University commencement ceremony begins promptly at 9:15 a.m. For graduates, the call time for lineup is 7:45 a.m. For some Physical Plant and Aramark employees, chairs start getting wiped down and coffee starts brewing at 4:30 a.m. But for others, commencement and all the preparation that goes into it, began right after Spring Convocation.

Planning ahead

While the main bulk of planning begins in April, graduation is often on the forefront of many Elon employee minds.

“Commencement is always on the mind of I’d say about 20 people that work across the campus because they are always looking at commencement for ways we can make it better — make it safer and more comfortable for the guests,” said Patti Gibbons, associate director of Cultural and Special Programs.

Gibbons works to bring together the resources on campus necessary to put on graduation, including dining, Physical Plant, academics, security, cultural and special programs and teaching and learning technologies. All of these people are employees of the university who add commencement planning to their current jobs.

“We are very lucky and very fortunate to have staff that are so invested in this that they will do their regular 8-5 job but then they’ll do whatever it takes to get these events ready and to pull them

off and make them extraordinarily special for families,” Gibbons said.

Soon after commencement, a meeting is held where the ceremony is debriefed and people are invited to send thoughts and suggestions about ways to improve.

After that, it’s not until after spring break that preparation really kicks into high gear. The main logistics meeting for commencement this year was April 12, and after that, volunteers are recruited and assignments are handed out.

But for Physical Plant, the job starts even earlier.

“As soon as spring starts coming, we start doing things to get ready,” said Robert Buchholz, associate vice president for facilities management and director of Physical Plant.

While students are gone over spring break, Physical Plant workers begin inspecting flag poles and touching them up, replacing damaged flags, planting fresh flowers, freshening up pine straw and cleaning the pond.

And the week before graduation is when all the main set up gets done.

The Tuesday before graduation is when the stage went up and the grass got its final cut. Wednesday, the chairs began getting placed — all 11,500 of them. After finishing Thursday afternoon, other chairs were being placed in Alumni Gym in case of rain. Haggard Avenue was blocked off Friday night, and the final chairs were set up in the road. And then on Saturday — the day of commencement — the day kicks off at 4:30 a.m. with employees wiping down and drying off the chairs before the ceremony begins.

For student Physical Plant em-



THAT MAKES IT REALLY MEANINGFUL WHEN YOU KNOW THAT YOU’VE MADE AN IMPACT AND AN IMPRESSION ON A GUEST OR A STUDENT WHO’S ABOUT TO GO OFF TO THE REST OF THEIR LIFE AND DO GREAT THINGS. TO GIVE THEM THAT KIND OF SEND OFF IS A REALLY WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY

PATTI GIBBONS
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF CULTURAL AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS.

ployees such as junior Colleen Cody, getting to be a part of the preparation provides them with a different perspective, and a greater appreciation for the process.

“I’m behind the scenes to see how much work is put into setting up for graduation and then honestly I feel like I will appreciate it more next year when I graduate, seeing everybody else work behind the scenes,” Cody said. “I guess I just have a different outlook on what goes down.”

And while all of this occurs, catering is hurrying to get their preparation for the week’s events done as well.

“Our catering department kind of gears up after Spring Break and it’s kind of nonstop from Spring Break until graduation,” said Laura Thompson, resident district manager for Aramark.

With the large number of end-of-the-year events such as department luncheons and celebrations, the catering department — which has a cooking team of five chefs and four pastry chefs — is busy.

Senior week kicks off with the senior picnic and senior gala the Wednesday before graduation, both of which require food preparation in the days beforehand, with food orders and shipments coming in the Monday, Wednesday and Friday of the previous week.

Lemonade starts getting made that same Wednesday, the bulk of the food gets prepared Thursday, Friday is focused on receptions for the different schools and commencement morning kicks off at 4:30 a.m. with the brewing of 175 gallons of coffee until the continental breakfast begins at 7:30 a.m. But there are a lot of other de-

partments who also chip in to make things happen. Cultural and Special Programs and Teaching and Learning Technologies helps set up the sound system, speakers and microphones, environmental services helps wipe down all the chairs the morning of and Campus Police is involved to ensure the ceremony is safe.

“It takes a village to kind of pull off graduation,” Thompson said.

Securing diplomas

While the majority of the physical setup kicks off in the spring, the registrar’s office is thinking about commencement the moment seniors arrive on campus in the fall.

All seniors attend a graduation appointment in the fall to outline their last year, ensure they’re on track to graduate and get any exceptions to the curriculum made. And in the spring, the registrar’s office goes back to double check each student’s degree audit and ensure they’ve met all the requirements.

Diplomas are initially ordered based off of Winter Term, but last minute changes to majors, minors and GPA causes a final rush for reordering diplomas after final grades are submitted the Wednesday morning before graduation.

These diplomas are printed on Thursday in Virginia, and then driven back to campus. And then at 4:30 a.m. on Commencement morning, the diplomas are replaced and put in order so everything is updated for when the seniors walk across the stage.

Putting together the program for graduation also has to be done after final grades come in.



AUDIO/VIDEO BY THE NUMBERS

34

speakers for the main sound system on Scott Plaza. There are also four onstage monitors with a total potential of 6,400 watts.

32

LED lighting fixtures in the roof of the stage.

36k lbs

The stage roof is about 43 feet tall and has about 36,000 lbs. of concrete ballast.

17

There are 17 total microphones for the ceremony. There are eight in Whitley, two in front of Alamance, four wireless ones for readers, one for the brass fan-fare, an off-stage announcer microphone and a back-up microphone.



CATERING BY THE NUMBERS

For the continental breakfast on graduation morning, there will be:

170

gallons of coffee and 100 gallons of orange juice

2400

breakfast breads, bagels and mini muffins and 1200 donuts and 2,000 apples

“It’s a stressful time for us to make sure that everything is accurate in the program,” University Registrar Rodney Parks said. “We identify students who are in absentia, students who are walking, students who may be commissioned and may have a commissioning ceremony so that we can call them by their ‘first lieutenant’ in the brochure as well as other honors and awards that the students will get.”

Since Elon hands out the personalized diploma to each student on graduation day — and not just a blank sheet of paper — making sure the right one makes it to the right student is no small feat.

“The biggest challenge is getting everyone cleared,” Parks said. “There’s exceptions made to the curriculum, looking for creative ways to make sure they’ve met the number of hours, make sure the GPA’s correct, getting all the grades in. So that Wednesday is really our biggest challenge, our pressure point because at that point, we’re out of time.”

The morning of graduation, students are lined up alphabetically in Alumni Gym and role is taken to determine who is present and who isn’t, so the team from the registrar’s office can go into the stacks of diplomas and remove those who won’t be in attendance.

“It takes a good while to get all of them set up on the stage in a way that aligns with how you will walk so that all of that has to be accurate to if a student gets out of order,” Parks said.

But if students show up late, it’s a last-minute rush to figure out where they belong and ensure that their diploma makes it back into the stack.

While problems such as these can be solved with careful planning and organization, there are other problems that can be a little harder to control.

“Weather,” Buchholz said. “We haven’t had rain on graduation in a long time, but we’ve had rain leading up to it. And so it’s very hard to get everything set if it’s pouring down rain.”

Defining success

Despite all of the difficulties that can arise during the planning and preparation process, pulling off the event can be rewarding.

“When the students walk off and they have that diploma, they feel a sense of closure, of accomplishment,” Parks said. “They’re not waiting 12 weeks after graduation to receive it in the mail, it’s important for that day.”

For catering, making sure that the parents, families and faculty don’t notice the chaos behind the scenes is a big relief.

“When we’ve hit our deadlines, everything’s going off and we walk away feeling really good that day,” Thompson said. “There’s always going to be a curveball thrown at us and it’s how we react to that curveball. And for me it’s, we react to the curveball and the customer never saw it. So that’s successful.”

And for those in Physical Plant, getting to line the walkways and watch the students mingle with faculty and staff can be a touching moment.

“We’re holding people back so that you all can walk out and walk through the faculty,” Buchholz said. “And seeing the faces of everybody, a lot of people know dif-

ferent people and everything. They don’t know all of them but they’ve met quite a few and befriended in different places. You’ve got four years invested in it, and we’ve got four years invested in you.”

A change of pace

Next year though, there will be a shift in the way graduation is held. Instead of just one large ceremony with all majors that lasts nearly four hours, it will be broken up into three different parts: one ceremony for everyone with the different speakers on Scott Plaza, and then two separate ceremonies in Schar Center.

This change was made partly because the size of the graduating class, and also because with the hot temperatures, students and families were often out of their chairs once their names were called.

“Last year was very hot and in the ceremony, hardly anyone was in the chairs,” Buchholz said. “Most of the students had got up and were under the trees or gone. Most of the parents and everybody had gone.”

But regardless of where commencement is held, how many ceremonies there are, what the catering looks like and how many chairs need to be set up, the people working behind the scenes just want the day to be special.

“That makes it really meaningful when you know that you’ve made an impact and an impression on a guest or a student who’s about to go off to the rest of their life and do great things,” Gibbons said. “To give them that kind of send off is a really wonderful opportunity.”



PHOTOS BY STEPHANIE HAYS | ELON NEWS NETWORK

Top left: Greg Latham (orange shirt) with Mountain Productions helps set up the main stage prior to graduation May 16.

Middle left: Boxes of diplomas line the wall in the registrar’s office. These diplomas were ordered after Winter Term, but about 100 were to be reordered after final grades were submitted.

Middle right: Junior Colleen Cody cleans Fonville Fountain the week prior to graduation May 8.

Top: Keith Griffin (right) and Angela Monaghan place cheese and fruit on platters in preparation for the senior gala May 16.

Above: Dakari Purvis (left) and Brandon Purvis roll stacks of chairs in front of Powell to begin setup for commencement May 15.



TOP 10 SPORTS STORIES

1 Women's basketball returns to the NCAA Tournament

The Elon women's basketball team showed they were not just a one-and-done story. The team gathered up 25 wins for the second year in a row, including going undefeated at home in the last season at Alumni Gym. The No. 13-ranked Phoenix traveled to Raleigh to take on the No. 4 N.C. State Wolfpack in the first round. Elon picked a tough day to have their worst game of the season and fell 62-35.

2 Mike Kennedy gets win No. 700

The 1991 graduate of Elon, now in his 22nd year as head baseball coach, captured his 700th career win with a 5-4 win over North Carolina A&T on April 18. Kennedy's milestone win came in the middle of an eight-game winning streak for the Phoenix, which helped them get the season back on track after losing five of six games before the streak started. Kennedy currently has the seventh most wins among active head coaches in wins at their alma mater.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELONPHOENIX.COM

3 Track & field shines in last day of CAA Championships

Elon women's track & field needed a big push in the final day of the CAA Championships on May 6, and they certainly delivered. The Phoenix saw four medals make their way back to campus: junior Coralea Geraniotis won the 5,000 meters, senior Emily Dixon won her fourth-straight heptathlon, sophomore

Melissa Anastasakis won the 1,500 meters, and senior Bryanna Hames claimed first in the discus for the first time since her freshman year. However, the Phoenix fell just short of first place for the second year in a row as the Northeastern University Huskies edged them out by just a point and a half.



CORY WELLER | ELON NEWS NETWORK

4 Men's tennis Player of the Year

Junior Felipe Sarrasague was honored for his dominant performance this year by being named the CAA Men's Tennis Player of the Year. He was also named to the All-CAA singles team along with two other teammates. This is now the fourth time, all in the last six years, that an Elon player has taken home this confer-

ence distinction. Sarrasague won 20 singles matches this year, posting a 20-11 record. He also added 15 wins in the doubles section. Of the eight matches he lost in the spring, three of them came against nationally-ranked opponents. In his three years so far, Sarrasague has a total of 72 victories between singles and doubles matches.



CORY WELLER | ELON NEWS NETWORK

5 New coaching staff for women's soccer

Following a 9-6-4 season, Elon women's soccer made a change in coaching staff. The Phoenix named Neil Payne as the new head coach in February. Payne is coming off a three-year stint at Texas Tech University as the associate head coach. Payne helped the Red Raiders to two top-25 rankings as well as an NCAA tournament bid. Payne also brought on Paul Babba, who spent the past two years at Bryan University where he helped the Lions to their two most successful seasons in program history. The new coaching staff will attempt to help elevate Elon's play and win a conference championship, something the Phoenix have not done since 1999 when they won the Big South tournament.



STEPHANIE HAYS | ELON NEWS NETWORK



ERIK WEBB | ELON NEWS NETWORK

6 Nea Ikenna Nwokeji signs with Pittsburgh Steelers

The offensive lineman received the call of a lifetime on April 28 when he learned he would be signed to a deal with the Pittsburgh Steelers. The Elon graduate, who will now drop his MBA coursework to put on shoulder pads once again, received several accolades while playing in the Maroon and Gold, including being a team captain his junior year. The man affectionately known as "Ike" will begin his journey to make the official roster on May 11 when he reports to mini-camp.



CORY WELLER | ELON NEWS NETWORK

8 Football earns spot in FCS

For the first time since 2009, the Phoenix found themselves in the hunt for a national championship. In head football coach Curt Cignetti's first year at the helm, he helped Elon to an 8-4 record, including an eight-game win streak in the process. Elon hosted their first ever playoff game that year when the Furman University Paladins came to Rhodes Stadium. Elon beat Furman earlier in the year with a walk-off field goal but fell in the first round of the postseason, 28-27.

7 Elon men's basketball announces UNC will visit to open 2018 season

Elon and UNC will meet for the first time since 2011 when the Tar Heels make the 37-mile drive west to open the Schar Center on Nov. 9, 2018. Elon was hoping to land a big fish to ring in the new facility, and they managed to coax one of the teams most synonymous with college hoops in the country. The Tar Heels will step foot on Elon's campus for the first time in 68 years. A large crowd is expected to help break in the 5,100-seat arena.

9 Quade Lukes earns all-CAA first team honors

Freshman golfer Quade Lukes wasted no time getting adjusted in his first year at college. Lukes immediately made his mark as he posted a 72.10 scoring average over 21 matches this season. This is the lowest mark by any Phoenix golfer since the team's Division I era began. Lukes earned two top-five individual finishes in his campaign, complemented by five top-15 performances. While his season was cut short due to an injury, he helped steer Elon to eight top-five team placements.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TIM COWIE PHOTOGRAPHY



JACK HALEY | SPORTS DIRECTOR

10 Club baseball honors Breslin Wiley

The offensive lineman received the call of a lifetime on April 28 when he learned he would be signed to a deal with the Pittsburgh Steelers. The Elon graduate, who will now drop his MBA coursework to put on shoulder pads once again, received several accolades while playing in the Maroon and Gold, including being a team captain his junior year. The man affectionately known as "Ike" will begin his journey to make the official roster on May 11 when he reports to mini-camp.

ADVICE FROM FACULTY TO START YOUR STORY



MATHEW

ANTONIO BOSCH

DIRECTOR OF GENDER & LGBTQIA CENTER

Be OK with failures. You're not going to do everything perfectly. You're going to mess up. As seasoned adults, we mess up all the time. Commit to trying new things ... engaging in deep listening ... feeling instead of responding ... and reflecting on failures. Use all that to become a more informed and more authentic you. Trust in both your abilities and your adaptabilities.



LARRY MELLIGNER

DIRECTOR OF CAMPUS RECREATION

Self-care is the most important factor to having both a rewarding career and a fulfilling life. Figure out what you need to take care of yourself mentally, physically, spiritually, and socially, and whatever that entails, continuously work to make it a priority. As you go out into the world, I hope you find your purpose, do great things, be the leaders our world so desperately needs, and always remember that you can't pour from an empty cup. Congratulations, Class of 2018!



JON DOOLEY

VICE PRESIDENT OF STUDENT LIFE

I think back to my own college graduation 25 years ago this week, reflecting on what I wish I had known then. Here then, in no particular order, are the top five insights I would offer to the 1993 version of myself: 1) Find a way to use your gifts and talents to make a meaningful difference in the world around you. 2) Focus as much on who you are as a person as what you do to make a living. 3) Don't give up too easily on your first few jobs after college - you will learn as much from the bad supervisors and environments as you will from the good ones. 4) Always give other people the best possible interpretation, and avoid the temptation to make negative assumptions about their intent. 5) Be your own advocate in taking care of work-life integration - don't expect someone else to set those priorities for you.

As you head back out into the world with your Elon degree in hand, make us proud, never forget your alma mater and become the global citizens and informed leaders our world so desperately needs. Like a Phoenix, always keep rising and transforming.



COLIN DONOHUE

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS INSTRUCTOR

The first associate dean of the School of Communications used to tell students - and I was one of those students at the time - about the college of one. It centered on an intuitive central question: What will we do now, as college students, to ensure that we cultivate a natural predilection for inquiry and a thirst for sustained knowledge? He wanted us to develop those habits in college so that they would continue after college.

Think about it. Your coursework requires you to read, discuss and analyze. But once you graduate, who's going to push you to continue your learning? Well, that has to be you.

So attend a speaker. Watch a documentary. Join a book club. Participate in a social cause. Read a newspaper. Cultivate curiosity. Develop empathy. Embrace inclusive, productive dialogue. And remember always that your education can't - and shouldn't - stop, for tuition in the college of one is much cheaper, but admission is more challenging.

THANK YOU TO
ALL RETIRING
FACULTY