

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2019
VOLUME 45, EDITION 9
ELON, NORTH CAROLINA

THE PENDULUM



EMPOWERED THROUGH FIREPOWER

The amount of active concealed handgun carry permits continues to increase nationally and locally

Anton L. Delgado | Managing Editor | @antonldelgado

GRAHAM — THE ROUTINE ring of a bell sends students to buses and math teacher Richard Miller to his car. Once his wheels roll past the middle school's grounds, Miller pulls over to unpack his trunk. Within moments, his 9-millimeter handgun is comfortably concealed by his waist.

On most days, the 57-year-old drives east toward Academy Sports + Outdoors, a sporting goods discount store chain, where he works part-time at the gun counter. The firearms most commonly bought by Miller's day-to-day customers are concealable semi-automatic handguns.

When not explaining algebra to his students, or selling bullets to his regulars, Miller is training locals how to conceal and carry handguns.

As of 2018 there were more than 17.25 million active concealed

handgun carry permits in the U.S., according to an annual report from the Crime Prevention and Research Center — a 273% increase from 2007.

North Carolina is a concealed carry and shall-issue state, which means that while a license is required for a resident to conceal carry a handgun, the individual does not need to demonstrate "good cause" to carry the weapon.

The North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation records the number of active permits in the state. For more than two decades that number has grown from fewer than 22,000 in 1997 to more than 654,000 this October. Every North Carolina county has shown an increase in permits in the last decade.

See **CONCEALED** | pg. 8-9



Cheryl Lawson watches as Richard Miller shows her how to load a handgun during a concealed carry class in Burlington on Saturday, Sept. 14.

ANTON L. DELGADO | MANAGING EDITOR

Refugees farming for change

Students visit Transplanting Traditions Community Farm to learn about Burmese culture

Kyra O'Connor

Elon News Network | @ko_reports

CHAPEL HILL — Sunlight streams through banana leaves, illuminating bamboo structures filled with vegetables and tools at the Transplanting Traditions Community Farm. Just down the path from where students disembarked from their vehicles were steaming pots of traditional Burmese dishes, children at play and volunteers chatting with local community members.

This incubator farm, also a cultural center for Burmese refugees, hosts community events as a form of local outreach.

Transplanting traditions: From Myanmar to Chapel Hill

On Oct. 12, TTCF hosted community members, all wanting to learn about Burmese and Karen culture.

TTCF is a cultural community space in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, where refugee adults and youth have



BEN MUSE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A youth coordinator at the Transplanting Traditions Community Farm speaks at the "Audio Bites: Short stories on culture" event on Saturday, Oct. 12.

access to land, healthy food and the opportunity to build relationships with other refugees.

Founded in 2010, the farm is made up of eight acres on which 155 refugee adults and children currently work. The farm has produced 600,000 pounds of food to date providing \$473,000 to farmers.

While the farm is not open to the public without an appointment, community members were able to tour the farm on Saturday and taste traditional Burmese dishes made with farm-grown vegetables and hear about Burmese culture from refugees working at the farm.

Also on Saturday, the farm's youth program presented its

summer project called Audio Bites: Short stories on culture and foodways from Burma, to the public. All proceeds from the event went directly to the youth program and added to its \$10,000 annual fundraising goal.

Storytelling as a form of activism

Audio Bites is a collection of audio stories gathered by eight young refugees this past summer. The stories explore identity, the experiences of first- and second-generation Asian Americans and use storytelling as a form of activism.

See **FARM** | pg. 12



NEWS • PAGE 4

Student researches Islamophobia in the U.S. airline industry



LIFESTYLE • PAGE 11

Young Musicians of Alamance create change through music



SPORTS • PAGE 14

A look at the loudest and most energetic Phoenix fans

THE PENDULUM

A PUBLICATION OF
**ELON NEWS
NETWORK**

Established 1974
Volume 45, Edition 9

Elon News Network is a daily news organization that includes a newspaper, website, broadcasts and podcasts. Letters to the editor are welcome and should be typed, signed and emailed to enn@elon.edu as Word documents. ENN reserves the right to edit obscene and potentially libelous material. Lengthy letters may be trimmed to fit. All submissions become the property of ENN and will not be returned.

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Ted Thomas, Olivia Parks, Taylor Truitt, Nyah Phengsitthy, Lily Mathais and Andrew Zagari contributed to the design of this edition. Matt Reichenbach, Thomas Denome, Nina Crocco and Maria Ramirez contributed to the copy editing of this edition.

EDITORIAL POLICY:

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.

CORRECTIONS POLICY:

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 top of the article. Corrections from the previous week's print edition appear on this page.

Contact
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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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CORRECTIONS

SUSTAINABILITY

In the text of the article “A university-wide commitment to carbon neutrality” Elon University’s goals were mistated. The institution wants to achieve carbon neutrality. Elon News Network regrets this mistake.

In the article “National movement gets support from Sierra Student Coalition” the infographic mistated the insitution. The Sierra Student Coalition’s goal is for the town of Elon to run on clean and renewable energy by 2050.

COMIC

FONICS



COMIC SAMS – SAM POROZOK

CALENDAR: OCT. 16 TO 30

ECONOMIC SUMMIT 4 P.M. to 7 P.M. LaRose Digital Theater 17	ELON LEADS 6:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. Ballantyne Hotel in Charlotte 17	SOCCER: ELON VS NORTHEASTERN 7 P.M. to 10 P.M. Rudd Field 19	SOCCER: ELON VS JAMES MADISON 1 P.M. to 4 P.M. Rudd Field 20	HR BENEFITS FAIR 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. Koury Athletic Center Concourse 22
GALA LATINA EVENTS 7 P.M. to 11 P.M. Lakeside Plaza 25	A CAPPELLA SHOW 1 P.M. to 11 P.M. Whitley Auditorium 26	SOCCER: ELON VS NORTHEASTERN 1 P.M. to 4 P.M. Rudd Field 27	SOCCER: ELON VS COFC 7 P.M. to 10 P.M. Rudd Field 30	ACROMUSICAL 7:30 P.M. to 9:30 P.M. Whitley Auditorium 30

Junior Sean Hess winds up to throw a ball at the “Dodge for a Cause” tournament. The teams that entered the event donated money to the American Cancer Society and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention on Friday, Oct. 11.

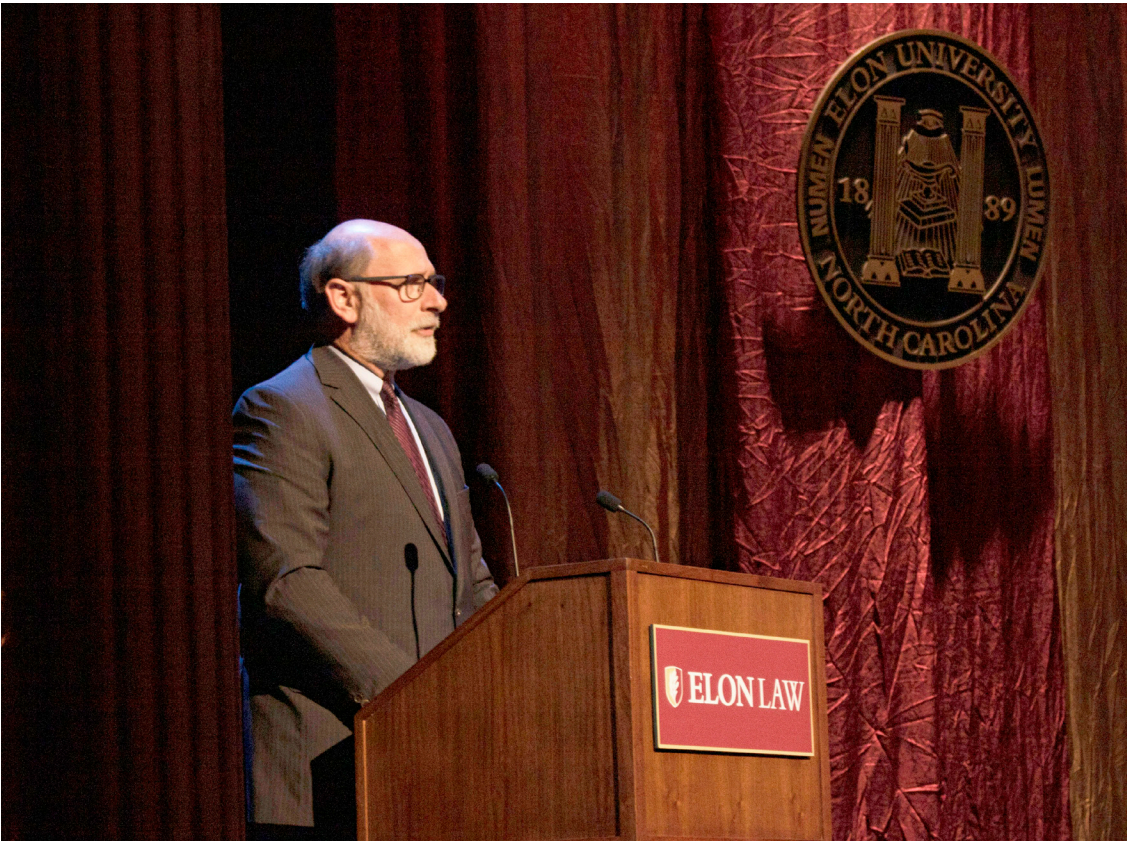


BEN MUSE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Freshman Kennedy Boston stands with the bisexuality flag draped around her during Elon University’s second annual Pride Fest on Friday, Oct. 11.



EMERY EISNER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Luke Bierman, dean of Elon University’s Law School, addresses the gathered crowd ahead of former U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara’s talk in Greensboro on Thursday, Oct. 10.



THOMAS DENOME | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Students sample different cheeses during Elon University’s Cheese Festival, on Thursday, Oct. 10 in the Global Neighborhood.



CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Quarterback Joey Baughman throws the ball at Rhodes Stadium during Elon University’s game against the University of Delaware on Saturday, Oct. 12. The Phoenix won 42-7.

Researching Islamophobia within the airline industry

Senior examines the effects of Islamophobia in the airline industry for Elon's multifaith scholars program

Marjorie Anne Foster
Elon News Network | @marjorie_fo

As the child of two commercial airline pilots, Elon University senior Sonya Walker never thought she would be studying her parents' industry while in college.

Her parents have been pilots for over 25 years and both were established in their flying careers when al-Qaeda, flew two planes into the Twin Towers on Sept. 11, 2001.

AL-QAIDA

a radical Sunni Muslim organization dedicated to the elimination of a Western presence in Arab countries and militantly opposed to Western foreign policy.

Having grown up in a town with fewer than 100 residents, Walker's exposure to different perspectives surrounding Islam and other religious traditions was limited.

It wasn't until Walker went to college that she saw how deeply that day affected her parents' industry.

"I never really understood the full scope of how Islam was viewed and treated in the U.S. because of the lack of diversity in my life at the time," Walker said.

When coming to Elon, Walker said she wanted to study Arabic in hopes of becoming a foreign correspondent but never expected that it would lead her to take an Islamic traditions class.

"From that point on, I knew this is exactly where I needed to be. I realized growing up I had an absence of all these traditions," Walker said. "I had no experiences or friends that identified with them at all. I had such a small bubble. For me, that was the gateway to becoming more of a global citizen."

It wasn't until her class discussed media representations of Islam in America that her "worlds clicked." Her background in news, her love for religious studies and her upbringing in the airline industry led her to become enthralled by "many practices of Islam."

In spring 2017, Walker was accepted into Elon's Multifaith Scholars program. The program is a two-year, closely mentored, experiential and academic program that aims to support multifaith leaders on campus.

Walker has worked alongside Ariela Marcus-Sells, assistant professor of religious studies, and Colin Donohue, director of School of Communications student engagement and alumni affairs, to investigate Islamophobia and racial profiling in the U.S. airline industry.

After conducting dozens of interviews with pilots, Muslims and Sikhs, Walker said her main observation is that the airline industry and passengers alike are still feeling the lasting effects 9/11.

"I don't want to speak for everyone," Walker said. "But I have heard several people, primarily Muslims, say that they allot for extra time in airports to get through security and that more often than not, they are 'randomly' checked."

In one interview with a college-aged Muslim, Walker said she was caught off guard by how casually he joked about having to get to airports hours in advance because he knew he would have to go through extra security checks, maybe even missing his flight due to the intense screening process.

Just two weeks ago, a flight from Alabama to Texas was canceled because the crew "didn't feel comfortable" with two Muslim men onboard after they waved to each other while stepping onto the plane. The two were placed on a later flight after being questioned and searched by the FBI and the Transportation Security Administration.

Charlie Walker, Sonya's father, said her project is worthwhile with the aim of decreasing racism in the airline industry.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SONYA WALKER
Top: Senior Sonya Walker interviews President Connie Book for her job with University Communications.



Center: Walker presents her research at Elon University's Undergraduate Research Forum last spring.



Bottom: Sonya Walker and Elon freshman Darsev Kaur at the Sikh Gurudwara of North Carolina.

in the program went to the Burlington Masjid to show their solidarity.

"I remember standing outside the masjid and being surrounded by people I knew and that I was friends with and that I felt personally connected to," Walker said. "I felt so present with them in that hurt and in that grief. There was also such a sense of hope that day because we were all together."

ISLAMOPHOBIA

The hatred, fear or prejudice of the Islamic religion or Muslims.

Amy Allocco, director of the Multifaith Scholar program and associate professor of religious studies, said local community engagement has brought students into new conversations that help them see issues from different perspectives.

Allocco said, it is this type of learning and working with differences that has made the program "exactly the kind of engaged and deep experiential learning that yields more informed, critically-minded and empathetic global citizens."

Burlington Masjid's Youth Coordinator Moneeb Sayed said he and his community continually look forward to working with those in the Elon program.

"We think that the Elon students are a wonderful and integral part of the community," Sayed said. "Without young minds like theirs and their enthusiasm to broaden their horizons and learn about the world around them, the world would be a dark place."

For Walker, she said this type of engagement and involvement with the community has made it possible for her to incorporate all of her passions and talents. Walker will be using her research to create a long-form journalism article in addition to an academic paper that will be presented in the spring.

Walker said she is grateful for the ways her project has broadened her mind, both academically and personally, and allowed her to go outside of her comfort zone due to the challenging nature of the topic.

She said her classes, research and friendships have encouraged her to hold different perspectives and accept people as they are.

Walker started a religious studies club in order to create a student-led space for people to come together and build a sense of community while studying and researching these difficult topics.

This semester will be the first time the club meets, and it plans to have regular meetings on Tuesday nights at Pandora's Pies for "Dollar Slice Night."

"My collegiate career has been so transformed by my research and by Multifaith Scholars," Walker said. "And we just want to bring those who aren't given the opportunity to have support like we have in the program."

Walker said she hopes the club will be a place for people to come to share ideas, show support and encourage each other in their own classes, projects and lives.

Walker is currently working on a long-form journalism piece that she hopes to publish in the spring. Additionally, she will be writing an academic paper where she will present at multiple outlets next year.

Her main hope is that people time to listen to other's experiences and stories.

"To take someone else's experience and put it in conversation with our own personal experiences is what makes human connection possible," Walker said. "I hope to connect people who otherwise might not know how. It's all about the human experience and helping people understand that we are all in this life together. That's everything to me."

"Change is hard. It's hard in any industry. But I would like to see racism go away everywhere, not just in the airline industry. It needs to happen," Charlie said. "I do think it's a great project, and I couldn't be more proud of her."

Despite Islamophobia in the industry, Walker said she is encouraged by the open-mindedness and compassion many pilots have shown.

"For me, there's this sense of hope," Walker said. "That you can experience something so tragic, but recognize that in 2019, things have to move forward. We have to move forward together."

Walker said her project has shown her pure hurt in ways she could have never imagined but has given her a glimmer of optimism, which she hopes to continue to cultivate and foster within the industry.

Beyond her academic research, Walker said the Multifaith Scholars program has been a place of mutual support and continual engagement with different religious groups in the area. Walker serves as a community engagement leader, working closely with the Burlington Masjid for a variety of events.

After the 2019 New Zealand terrorist attack, where 50 people were murdered in two separate mosques, Walker and others



I HOPE TO CONNECT PEOPLE WHO OTHERWISE MIGHT NOT KNOW HOW.

SONYA WALKER
SENIOR AND MULTIFAITH SCHOLAR



Ian Baltutis is running for his third term as mayor of Burlington.

The general mayoral election will take place on Nov. 5, polls open at 6 a.m.

Mackenzie Wilkes
Elon News Network | @macwilkes

Facing off in the general municipal election for mayor of the city of Burlington is incumbent Ian Baltutis '08 and first-time candidate Joey Cook Sr., a self-employed house flipper.

The two won the primary election on Oct. 8, with Baltutis carrying 68.84% of the votes and Cook with 19.99% — knocking Lisa Patrick, a self-described “housewife,” out of the race.

With the mayoral election being the only race on the ballot, voter turnout was low.

According to the North Carolina State Board of Elections, only 1,933 of the 31,318 eligible voters in Burlington turned out to vote in the mayoral primaries.

For the second straight primary election, Precinct 03W, located in West Burlington, had zero residents vote at that location.

Two city council seats are also on the Nov. 5 ballot, alongside Baltutis and Cook. However, the incumbents for both city council seats, Kathy Hykes and Bob Ward, are the only candidates running for the positions.

On the same day, residents of Elon will be voting to fill three Board of Aldermen seats.

Mayoral candidates and platforms

Baltutis — an Elon University alumnus — is running for his third term in office. He and his wife own several businesses in Burlington. Baltutis won the 2017 general election by 547 votes.

If reelected, Baltutis’ goals include expanding on the policies and initiatives he’s started in his current term.

“We’ve started to see the fruits of our labor in the expanded pedestrian improvements, the bus system expansion, greenways throughout the city, economic development projects,” Baltutis said.

The Elon-Burlington Greenway was conceptualized in 2017 and is expected to be completed in December 2019.

Cook, who was born and raised in Burlington and Saxapahaw, was inspired to run because of Baltutis’ mayorship. When Baltutis was sworn in as mayor he opted not to put his hand on the Bible, directly motivating Cook, at the age of 61, to run for office.

“I just feel like the big thing was

the mayor. He didn’t put his hand on the Bible, and I feel like he’s not really a Christian, and I want to get the Lord back into the city council,” Cook said.

Baltutis said he deliberately chose not to take his oath of office on the Bible because he believes it will help him better serve the Burlington community.

According to Baltutis, deciding to affirm his oath — instead of swearing his oath on a Bible — was “one of the most difficult decisions of my entire life.”

“Elected office is better served when you have a diverse representative group of people who can serve without being biased or [having] prejudice based on how they might affirm their oath or swear their oath,” Baltutis said.

Cook’s main goal if he is elected mayor is to help the elderly. He said that there are expenses for the elderly, and others don’t “realize how hard it is on them.”

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that as of 2018, approximately 17% of Burlington residents are 65 or older.

In his plan to implement this goal, Cook is relying less on city government and more on members of the community.

“It’s gonna take Christians to go out and do this. It’s something that we all have to do on our own,” Cook said.

Cook said the power of the city council is limited as to what it can do to help older people.

“I don’t think it’s nothing that the city could do,” Cook said. “Maybe cut the taxes on senior citizens.”

Addressing crime

Crime was one issue addressed by both candidates. The North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation’s 2017 annual summary report states that the index crime rate for 2017 was almost 3,000.

There were over 4,000 criminal offenses in Alamance County.

Baltutis favors programming as a preventive measure against crime.

He said implementing programs that target children at risk of committing crimes, as well as those with a criminal record could make Burlington safer.

“We’ve put some amazing programs into place like the youth solutions program where we’re trying to tackle crime and gangs at the earliest age possible to cut off that pipeline,” Baltutis said. “At the same time, there’s a lot of work that needs to be done on making sure that folks with a criminal record, have access to employment, education and housing.”

Cook wants to look to the Burlington Police Department as a way of deterring crime in the city.

BALTUTIS, COOK TO FACE OFF IN BURLINGTON MAYORAL ELECTION

“

I JUST FEEL LIKE THE BIG THING WAS THE MAYOR. HE DIDN'T PUT HIS HAND ON THE BIBLE AND I FEEL HE'S NOT REALLY A CHRISTIAN AND I WANT TO GET THE LORD BACK INTO THE CITY COUNCIL.

JOEY COOK SR.
SELF-EMPLOYED HOUSE FLIPPER AND CANDIDATE IN THE 2019 MAYORAL ELECTION

VOTER TURN OUT

6.17%

of eligible voters voted in the Burlington primary elections — 1,933 of the 31,318 eligible voters, voted.

PRIMARY ELECTION RESULTS

68.84%

of votes were for Ian Baltutis.

19.99%

of votes were for Joey Cook Sr.



Joey Cook Sr. holding his mayoral election campaign sign.

If elected mayor, he wants to stop crime before it happens, and his solution is to increase policing.

“What I’d like to do is have them there before it happens, riding around checking the territory,” Cook said. “Maybe have two officers in a car where they can watch what’s going on, and if they see something, they can stop it before it happens.”

Connecting the city

Baltutis wants transportation to continue developing in the city.

He pointed to the increase in sidewalks and the Elon-Burlington Greenway as projects that will help make getting around more accessible.

“Ultimately not everybody in the city owns a car,” he said.

“And it’s important to make sure that everybody has an opportunity to get safely to where they want to go and where they need to go in our city and not be biased toward just one form of transit.”

Cook said transportation efforts could be a solution for traffic and parking in the city.

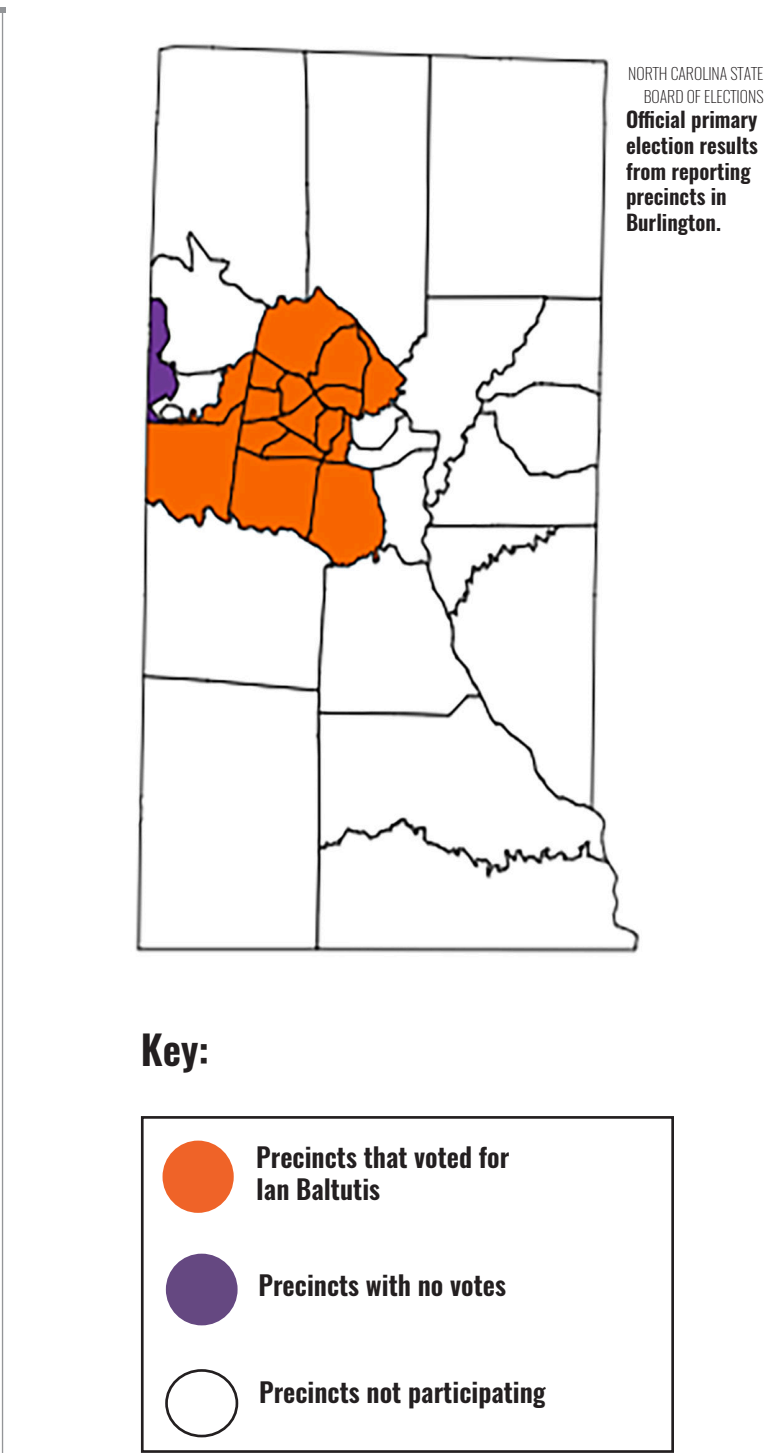
“The biggest thing is buses and sidewalks. That’s the big future of trying to cut down on traffic,” Cook said.

Cook is in favor of residents using the bus system and walking more to cut down on traffic congestion throughout the city and free up parking downtown.

Voting will take place Tuesday, Nov. 5, from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. across Burlington.

The deadline to register to vote in this election has passed.

Alamance County Primary Election Results



For many international students, the trip home isn't worth taking over fall break

Freshman Wenyi Yang, from Beijing, is staying on campus for fall break. Going home would mean a 13-hour plane ride, not including the time spent at the airport.

"It doesn't make sense for me to go home," Yang said. "I'll be home for maybe a day then have to go on the plane again."

Yang is one of approximately 25 international students staying on campus during fall break, according to the Global Education Center.

Senior Zoe Budsworth, an international student ambassador at the GEC, said this number is about average. In comparison to other breaks, Budsworth said that “a lot more people tend to stay for fall break because it’s such a short time.”

Budsworth is originally from the U.K., but her family now lives in North Carolina. As an international student herself, she said coming to the U.S. for college and transitioning to a different culture can be hard.

"I really want to make sure the international students coming really feel comfortable here from the get-go," Budsworth said, explaining why she became involved as an ambassador for international students.

Budsworth said she believes



American and international students enjoy the Halloween-themed “Local Friends” dinner hosted on Sunday, Oct. 13.

IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE... I'LL BE HOME FOR MAYBE ONE DAY, THEN HAVE TO GO ON THE PLANE AGAIN.

WENYI YANG
FRESHMAN

distance is the main reason why international students choose to stay during fall break. She also mentioned not having anywhere to go, catching up on sleep and getting ahead on studies as other reasons why international students choose to stay.

Since the dining halls will have limited hours, Budsworth said, “if people contact us and want to go on a shopping trip before the break, we’re willing to work that out.”

For those staying on campus

over break, Melody Harter, program assistant at the Center for Leadership and staff adviser for the Asian Pacific Student Association, is hosting an event.

On Saturday, Oct. 19, Harter will host "Weekend Wontons," a chance for international students to eat together, socialize and learn how to make a new dish.

As a Chinese-American, Chinese food is something that reminds Harter of her heritage.

"I wanted to bring a little bit of

BY THE NUMBERS

~25

international students are staying on campus for the four-day fall break, according to the Global Education Center.

home and fun here at Elon because I know, for international students, it's hard to travel or go home for such a short break," she said.

Harter described wontons as comfort food, comparing wontons to macaroni and cheese for Americans.

“Food is such a great way to get to know people, and if you’re willing to try it and to get to know people through something that’s important to them, it can help break down barriers and biases,” Harter said.

Yang said food is one of the only things she misses about home, and she was excited to hear about this opportunity at Elon.

According to Budsworth, even though events such as these haven't always existed, opportunities for international students are continuing to expand.

Budsworth said she highly recommends students go to the event on Saturday.

Having the time to sleep in and hang out with friends is something Yang is looking forward to.

She said she is excited for break — to stay at Elon and of course, to sleep.

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A stylized white microphone icon with three short lines radiating from the top, set against a red background.

AVAILABLE ON SPOTIFY AND APPLE PODCASTS

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MACKENZIE WILKES

SOPHOMORE, ENN RADIO HOST

A photograph of Mackenzie Wilkes, a young woman with short curly hair, wearing glasses and large headphones. She is sitting at a desk in a recording studio, speaking into a professional microphone mounted on a boom arm. Her hands are gesturing as she speaks. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

US pulls out of Syria leaving Kurds to fend for themselves



People look on as smoke rises from the Syrian town of Ras al-Ain in a picture taken from the Turkish side of the border in Ceylanpinar on Oct. 11, on the third day of Turkey's military operation against Kurdish forces.

The beginning of Turkish military involvement complicates the Kurdish fight for independence

Anton L. Delgado
Managing Editor | @antonldelgado

The Kurds, an ethnic minority group that claims land in Turkey, Iraq, Iran and Syria, are currently at war to form an independent state in the Middle East. During the rise and fall of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, the U.S. militarily supported the Kurds in their fight against the terrorist organization. After the fall of ISIS' last strong hold, the U.S. announced the end of its military support — leaving the Kurds surrounded by hostile nations no longer unified in the fight against ISIS.



Baris Kesgin

Turkey, a country that will lose its southeastern region if the Kurdish state is established, has deployed military units to defend its borders. The backlash of this military intervention and President Donald Trump's comments on social media have left the region in turmoil. Baris Kesgin, assistant professor of political science and policy studies, currently researches leadership and decision-making in Israeli and Turkish foreign policy. Originally from Turkey, Kesgin explains the complex history that has led to current unrest in the Middle East.

Q: What has brought about the current Kurdish movement to form an independent state?

A: This power struggle is among many different actors or their respective leaders. First and foremost, the costs are civilians. We have been witnessing one of the most horrible tragedies of humankind in Syria in the past many years — a tragedy that could have been eased if not resolved. Millions of human beings are affected by this ongoing power struggle: nearly a million are killed, millions are displaced and millions took refuge — Assyrians, Kurds, Turcomans, and others; Christians, Muslims and people of

other faiths. Kurds are a stateless ethnic group and are spread out in Iraq, Iran, Syria and Turkey. They also have diaspora communities in Europe and elsewhere. To some accounts, Kurds are the largest ethnic group without a state.

Most Kurds are in between two rivers, the Tigris and the Euphrates. The largest Kurdish population is in Turkey. Historically, Kurds have been oppressed by most of these regimes. For instance, Iraq's former dictator Saddam Hussein pushed about 1 million Kurds into Turkey in the late 1980s, early 1990s.

It is futile to think about Kurds as a homogeneous group in the context of the present-day debates. Kurds in Iraq have attained an almost independent status and were close to holding an independence referendum only a few years ago. The Kurdish community in northern Iraq has had the most potential for a modern-day independent Kurdish state. For the Turkish governments, an independent Kurdish state has been a red line.

Despite Kurds having seats in the Turkish parliament since the 1990s, Kurds in Turkey have long been discriminated politically and socially. To many Kurds in Turkey, Abdullah Ocalan is a major Kurdish figure. Ocalan led the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), which is recognized as a terrorist organization by the international community. Ocalan has been in prison since 1999.

Kurds in Syria are organized under the Syrian Democratic Forces and a military wing under this, the YPG. Turkey claims that the YPG is an affiliate of the PKK — hence are deemed as terrorists by the Turkish government.

Turkey is a treaty ally of the U.S. — both are members of NATO. The U.S. has also had an amicable relationship with various Kurdish groups and recently worked with the Kurds in Syria in the fight against the Daesh, also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria.

There are about 3.6 million Syrian refugees in Turkey. There were many civilian casualties on the Turkish side of the Turkish-Syrian border during the many years of the Syrian conflict.

Q: What role has the U.S. traditionally played in supporting the Kurdish movement?

A: The U.S. is involved in many, if not all, of the matters that involve Kurds in the present day. In the aftermath of the Gulf War, the U.S. led the efforts to create a no-fly zone over northern Iraq, which effectively led to the emergence of an autonomous Kurdish region inside Saddam Hussein's Iraq. This eventually brought about a pseudo-state there. In the aftermath of the 2003 Iraq War, Kurdish Iraq emerged as a relatively successful entity under the transitional, post-Saddam Hussein Iraq.

Q: What is the U.S.' current foreign policy toward the Kurdish movement?

A: It appears it is a policy of convenience. The U.S. likely lost all its credibility with the Kurds at this moment. That being said, to the actors involved, I don't think there is much surprise here thus far.

Q: How has the rise and fall of the Islamic State affected the Kurdish push for independence?

A: One may read that the rise and fall of Daesh provided an opportunity for an independent Kurdish state. However, the other side of the coin is that there has been a greater war fought in Syria — the one involving Iran, Russia and the U.S. In the earlier phases of the Syrian conflict, the U.S. pursued a distant policy under the Obama administration. However, simultaneously, it sought to delegate the regional balance and later the fight against Daesh to the Sunni countries in the region: Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Turkey.

Q: How is this involvement being received internationally and nationally?

A: The current Turkish operation into Syria is heavily criticized internationally. The Turkish government faces an uphill battle to convince any actor outside Turkey. There were few statements of support. I recall Pakistan as the only one. Domestically, this plays the nationalist tunes Turkey's President Erdogan has been voicing in the past years. For Erdogan, this operation serves his domestic political agenda. On another note, Turkish military has already been in Syrian sovereign

The History of U.S. and Kurdish Relations

1923

The U.S. originally backed the Treaty of Sévres supporting Kuridstan, but later supported the 1923 Treaty of Lausanne, dividing Kurdish-claimed land.

1963

After World War II, the U.S. armed the Kurds to fight the then-Iraqi government, but later supplied the country's new government with naplam, which was used against the Kurds.

1970s

The U.S. supported the Kurds in their fight against the Iraqi government. But then cut off all supplies. The Kurds were then defeated by the Iraqi military.

1980s

The Reagan Administration opposed international efforts to impose sanctions on the Iraqi government, which was accused of using chemical weapons against the Kurds.

1991

The Bush Administation supported the Kurds in fighting against Saddam Hussein but later stood by as Kurds were killed across Iraq.

1990s

The Clinton Administration protected Iraqi Kurds under attack from the Iraqi military, a U.S. enemy. But, at the same time, the U.S. supplied Turkey with weapons, later used against Turkish Kurds.

2007

The U.S. did not respond to Turkey's bombing of Kurds in Iraq.

2019

The Trump Administation pulled U.S. forces out of Northern Syria allowing Turkey to move into the region and attack Syrian Kurds.

territory since the Operation Euphrates Shield in 2016. There were major disagreements between the U.S. and Turkey during all phases of the conflict. Turkey occasionally voiced to topple the Assad regime. There was no such desire to intervene in Syria on the part of the U.S. In an attempt to fight Daesh, all countries aligned with various armed groups on the ground. The U.S. established ties with the Kurdish factions. Turkey aligned itself with some factions in Syria that many considered extremists. In doing so, until about two to three years ago, Turkey did not monitor its border with Syria closely. This, in turn, allowed extremist organizations to infiltrate into Turkey.

Q: How will current Turkish military involvement change the landscape of the Kurdish movement?

A: Turkey's occupation of northern Syria will surely change the landscape of the region. We have started to witness some major

changes already. First, Turkey expanded its presence south of its border. Second, the Kurdish forces are now reportedly cooperating with the Syrian military, and there are recent reports the Syrian government had assumed control in parts of these territories that were under Kurdish control. Third, there are reports that the Daesh/ISIS prisoners held captive have escaped in the midst of these events. There are legitimate worries that these former Daesh fighters will bring back the brutal Daesh terror, which the Kurdish forces and the coalition had successfully quelled.

Q: Will Turkish military involvement in Kurdish-controlled territory affect the approximately 500,000 Turks in the U.S.?

A: In recent spars between the U.S. and Turkey, there have been visa restrictions, sanctions on officials and interruptions to flights between the two countries. Such matters can possibly impact any and all.

CONCEALED CARRY HAND

CONCEALED | from cover

Life, laws and liberals

In the six years Miller has been a gun owner, he's acquired six guns — a rifle, a shotgun, a revolver and three pistols. But as a man who wants to "try them all," Miller says it's still "not enough."

The self-proclaimed born-again Christian and part-time concealed carry instructor, who doesn't conceal the wooden cross resting on his sternum, is praying for an Armalite rifle this Christmas.

"I didn't know anything about firearms. I didn't know anything about ammunition. I didn't know anything about different calibers. So, I just started researching and learning more about it and then I realized that there were other firearms out there I wanted to own," Miller said. "Then I just thought, I would really like to become an instructor."

Now, at least once a month, Miller and Crystal Mann, the instructor who taught him how to conceal carry, co-host classes as part of the Concealed Carry Alamance organization.

"There are a lot of stereotypes that go along with gun owners, especially from the South, but like any stereotype it's not true," Mann said. "And say what you will about the South, but no one retires and goes to the North."

The approximately eight-hour class costs \$80 in North Carolina. It covers state laws, federal legislation, basic firearm safety measures and includes a live fire exercise and a final quiz. Classes usually end with the notarization of participants' concealed carry permits.

Like every other county in the state, Alamance has shown a consistent increase of citizens with concealed carry permits — with 9,878 active permits as of Oct. 1, 2019, compared to 2,080 in 2009.

Miller's monthly classes, which he says keep growing, average 15 to 20 students from "all walks of life."

"In terms of demographics it's everybody," Miller said. "Male, female, old, young, gay, straight, everybody wants to conceal ... all races, everybody and I'm just happy to help."

According to John Lott, president of the CPRC and author of the annual concealed carry report, North Carolina is one of the few states that record demographic data of permit holders. The unique SBI data shows that in 2012 women constituted 21.3% of the state's concealed carry permit holders. Within the next five years that increased to 28.7%.

According to Beth Starosta-Desmond, assistant special agent in charge at the SBI, after a "recent review of [its] statues"

the bureau can "no longer provide" the public updated data regarding the demographics of permit holders.

Data taken from 1996 to 2016 categorizes Asians, American Indians and blacks as the racial minorities with the greatest number of concealed carry permits in the state.

In Lott's annual report, which is based on the same data, he wrote that in terms of concealed carry permit holders "the growth rate for blacks is still about twice as fast as that for whites."

Payge Tinnin, a black 32-year-old gun owner and resident of Alamance County, was one of the first students to arrive at Miller and Mann's concealed carry class on Sept. 14, 2019.

Despite being a legal gun owner, and having the right to openly carry her handgun, Tinnin felt that pursuing a concealed carry permit was worth it.

"Having a concealed carry permit will let me feel safe in a private way that won't freak people out at the same time," Tinnin said. "I've never wanted to call attention to myself and concealed carry is the best way to stay safe under the radar."

Tinnin attributes her interest

“

SAY WHAT YOU WILL ABOUT THE SOUTH, BUT NO ONE RETIRES AND GOES TO THE NORTH.

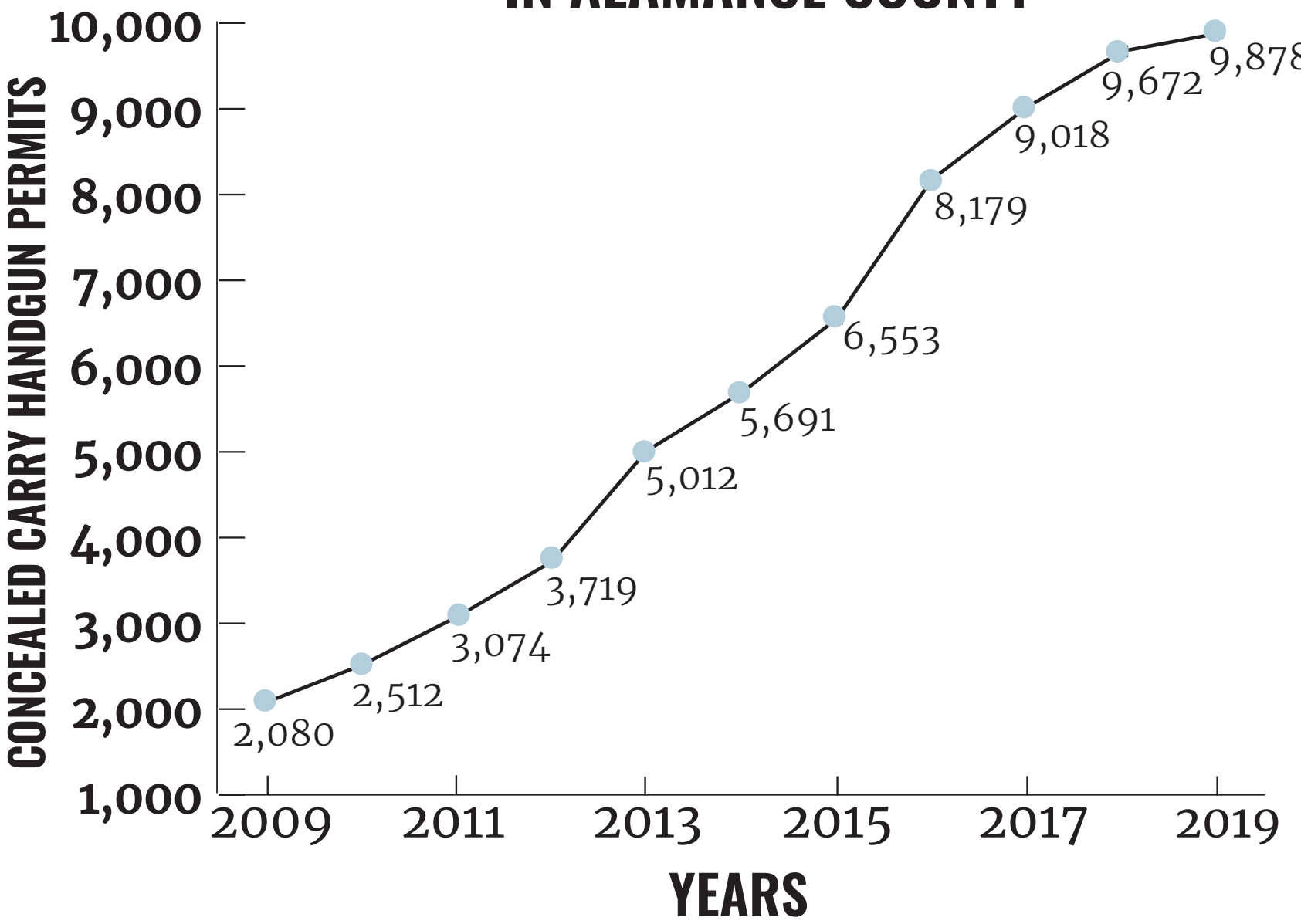
CRYSTAL MANN
CONCEALED CARRY INSTRUCTOR

To pass the shooting qualification for a concealed carry permit, at least 21 of 30 bullets need to hit the target.



According to Concealed Carry Alamance, individuals must shoot from three, five and seven yards.

CONCEALED CARRY HANDGUN PERMITS IN ALAMANCE COUNTY



GUN PERMITS RISE IN NC



Richard Miller shows Tom Shanklin, an Alamance County resident, the sight of a handgun during a concealed carry class on Saturday, Sept. 14.



A local Alamance County resident, who preferred not to be named, stands seven yards from the target and fires 10 bullets from his handgun during a concealed carry class on Saturday, Sept. 14.



Payge Tinnin, 32, looks at the photo Instructor Crystal Mann took of her during the shooting qualification exercise of the concealed carry class on Saturday, Sept. 14.

in owning and training with handguns to her two sons, whom she wants to be able to protect in any situation.

“I have two boys I need to be watching out for. If I’m ever in a dangerous situation I wouldn’t be able to fight someone off,” Tinnin said. “With a gun, now I stand a chance.”

The rationale of purchasing guns for personal safety and protecting loved ones is incredibly common, according to David Yamane, assistant professor of sociology at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, who studies gun culture.

Yamane is a self-proclaimed liberal and a concealed carry permit holder, who runs a blog titled “Gun Culture 2.0.” The purpose of his site is to understand the country’s shift from Gun Culture 1.0. — based on hunting and recreational shooting — to Gun Culture 2.0 — based on concealed carry and armed self-defense.

“Guns are commonly seen as an equalizer,” Yamane said. “If you are armed and trained correctly, all of a sudden size and strength, in any situation, stops mattering.”

In his 2017 study titled “The sociology of U.S. gun culture,” Yamane wrote that “the motivations for gun ownership are complex, the majority of gun owners today — especially new gun owners — point to self-defense as the primary reason for owning a gun.”

“People need to remember that power is empowering and firepower is even more so,” Yamane said.

Whatever the intention of carrying a concealed handgun might be, the jurisdiction of state and federal laws protecting the right to bear arms, even with a permit, ends on educational property in North Carolina.

Unpacking for class

Every morning, before driving to Wake Forest, Yamane, who usually carries a concealable semi-automatic handgun, has to lock his firearm in the car.

Miller has the same daily ritual on his way to class.

State law prohibits any person, including concealed carry permit holders, from carrying a firearm on educational property or at curricular or extracurricular activities sponsored by a school. A new law passed in 2015 allowed for firearms to be carried in a vehicle on school grounds. However, the person may only unlock the door to let someone in or out. If the firearm is being moved inside the car, the door must be locked.

“Being a responsible gun owner and concealed carrier means you have to always be completely aware of where you are, what you’re carrying and how you’re carrying,” Miller said.

According to Miller, abiding by these laws at Elon University, a campus that intertwines itself with the town of Elon, requires constant vigilance.

Private institutions, like Elon University, can determine

BY THE NUMBERS

9,878

concealed carry permits were active in Alamance County as of Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2019. In 2009, the county had 2,080 active concealed carry permits.

\$80

is the average cost for a concealed carry class in North Carolina.

21.3%

of concealed carry permit holders in North Carolina in 2012 were women.

its own rules in regards to the presence of firearms on educational property.

The regulations of Campus Safety and Police “strictly prohibit the possession of any weapons on university property or at university-related events. This includes any firearm, even with the possession of a valid concealed carry permit. This prohibition extends to firearms locked inside of vehicles, while on university property.”

Joel Thomas, a community liaison sergeant for Campus Police, said that all issued rules and regulations are meant to keep the community safe.

The only sanctioned firearms on campus are the ones on the waists of the 21 campus police officers. Thomas declined to comment on the necessity of these firearms.

According to Thomas, officers rarely use their firearms and mostly respond to cases that have nothing to do with guns.

However, last spring Kevin Li, who was a sophomore, was arrested for having a semi-automatic shotgun in his Danieleley apartment.

In an email to the student body about the incident, Jon Dooley, vice president of student life, wrote that Li “was taken into custody without resistance or incident and has been charged with felony possession of a weapon on campus.”

Li was later charged with a felony for knowingly carrying and owning a gun on educational property. He is no longer listed on Elon’s student directory.

Posts on Li’s personal Instagram account show that he had owned the shotgun for less than a month. On April 7, Li published a photo of himself shooting the shotgun with the caption “I decided if I really had to use a gun to protect my life, I might as well get something extremely effective.”

The incident at Elon University occurred a day after a gunman opened fire at the University of North Carolina Charlotte, killing two people and injuring four others.

Li could not be reached over social media or email. His case is still currently pending.

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GUNS ARE COMMONLY SEEN AS AN EQUALIZER. IF YOU ARE ARMED AND TRAINED CORRECTLY, ALL OF A SUDDEN SIZE AND STRENGTH, IN ANY SITUATION, STOPS MATTERING.

DAVID YAMANE
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY
AT WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY

OPINIONS



President Donald Trump points to the crowd at a rally in Fayetteville, North Carolina, hosted in support of then-Congressional candidate Dan Bishop on Monday, Sept. 9.

ZACH OHMANN | PHOTO EDITOR

Student thoughts on President Trump’s impeachment inquiry



Samantha Miller
Contributor

When talking about impeachment in any sense, it is important to focus on the fact that impeachment is a legal issue, not one based in politics. Impeachment does not mean that a president will be removed from office; it means something they did violated the oath of office. To best understand the motivation behind President Donald Trump’s impeachment inquiry, it’s important to know some of the people involved. These include Joe and Hunter Biden, Volodymyr Zelensky, Trump and the American people. Joe and Hunter Biden could be viewed as the “victims” in this situation, as Joe Biden was indirectly attacked by the president. Trump encouraged Ukraine to reopen an investigation into the company that Hunter Biden worked for, Burisma. Trump’s actions could be viewed as an

attempt to ruin Joe Biden’s presidential campaign. The interest in impeachment started because of a phone call. Trump called Volodymyr Zelensky, president of Ukraine, to discuss issues concerning foreign relations with Ukraine and Russia, as well as a closed Ukrainian investigation into Hunter Biden’s work while his father was the vice president of the U.S. The prosecutor working Hunter Biden’s case found no foul play, and the case was closed. That being said, Trump is insisting that Ukraine reopen the case. Additionally, during the phone call, he told Zelensky that it would be a “favor” for him to investigate the impact that Ukraine had on the Russian collusion in the previous election. While all of this is happening, Trump is dangling foreign relations

agreements over the head of Zelensky to make him compliant. Trump has not taken the impeachment inquiry lightly. He attacked Democrats such as Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and House Intelligence Committee Chair Adam Schiff with petty, vengeful comments. In a speech at the Values Voter Summit, he questioned Pelosi’s patriotism and made snide comments about Schiff’s appearance. Americans are affected by issues and turmoil in the government. We are unable to make direct change, and we put our fate in the hands of politicians. We often look to our government for examples of leadership and exemplary behavior. When our president acts unlawfully and goes against the oath of office, it raises questions about who we are trusting to run our country.

This is an investigation to find the truth, and the ability to find the truth should not be impaired by politics. When push comes to shove, no one should be opposed to finding the truth. If Trump truly believes that he is innocent, he should be willing to undergo an investigation. Not even the president is above the law, and the diligence of this investigation is proving that. If Trump is using the power of his presidency to conduct relations as he would a business deal to get what he wants, we must stop that abuse of power. We must hold Trump accountable, as he is the president of the United States, and that is exactly what this investigation is doing. As Americans, it is our duty to support the pursuit of truth in this investigation. We must remind him this is not Trump’s America; this is our America.



Daniel Dorociak
Contributor

If you have been following the news, it will be evident to you that the current impeachment inquiry into President Donald Trump is a rapidly developing story with new revelations surfacing every day. There are still several aspects of the president’s call with the Ukrainian president that have not been verified or fully released yet. Furthermore, there are several conflicting reports as to what actually happened. Therefore, as with many Americans, our opinion on this affair and how Congress should act going forward is based on the most up-to-date information and could change depending on future developments. First of all, we recognize that military aid was withheld from Ukraine. The reason behind this was to investigate corruption claims surrounding the war against Russian-backed insurgents. According to the Department of Defense reports, the funding was released in early September after U.S. concerns about corruption

were addressed and bipartisan congressional pressure was applied to the White House. We also acknowledge that the timing of the decision may have seemed suspicious in lieu of the leaked phone call between Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. Despite these suspicions, on Oct. 1, President Zelensky said “It is impossible to put pressure on me ... many people try to influence me, but I am the president of an independent Ukraine.” This interview came during a meeting with President Trump at the United Nations. Zelensky also said that he has never spoken to or met with Trump’s lawyer Rudy Giuliani, who has been very vocal about launching an investigation into Hunter Biden’s role on the board of Burisma, a Ukrainian gas company. Here we get to the heart of the matter: the Bidens. In 2014, both Hunter and Joe Biden were pictured golfing with Ukrainian gas executives. Although Joe Biden has said that he “has never

spoken” to his son about his overseas business dealings, this is in direct contradiction to Hunter Biden’s comment that he and his father did in fact discuss business ventures while he was an executive for Burisma. In 2016, Joe Biden even acknowledged on camera that while he was vice president, he successfully pressured Ukraine to fire top prosecutor Viktor Shokin while Shokin was investigating Burisma and threatened to “withhold \$1 billion in United States loan guarantees” if Shokin was not fired. Most egregiously, The Federalist, an online conservative magazine, reported that “the intelligence community inspector general admitted it changed its policy and its whistleblower form after an anti-Trump complainant alleged that Trump broke the law.” This, we believe, calls into question the motives behind the unnamed whistleblower and the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community, as well as the legality of the release of the call

in late August. The IGIC should be investigated for potentially committing a crime because releasing information before it has been declassified or deemed an “urgent threat” is a violation of federal law. That being said, we want to close by reminding our readers that individuals within the Democratic Party have been calling for impeachment since the first year of Trump’s presidency. And now that they smell blood in the water, they are moving in full-force to take down Trump. It is still too early to make any kind of final judgment on the legality of the president’s actions. However, considering current developments, we do not believe that President Trump should be impeached, nor do we believe that there is enough evidence to prove that he committed a crime. We urge everyone to do their own research and formulate their own opinion. Don’t let anyone, not a whistleblower, nor Congress, nor the media, think for you.



Jeff Lee
Contributor

LIFESTYLE



MAKING MUSIC & CREATING CHANGE

Children's music group provides students in Alamance County with a well-rounded education

Zoë Rein | Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

CHATTER FILLS THE ROOM as an assortment of about 60 elementary, middle and high students of the Young Musicians of Alamance program unpack their instruments in First Reformed United Church. The program serves children in Title 1 schools across Alamance county by providing music education.

While the group's main focus is teaching music, it also provides social support.

"To people looking in, what we do is we teach kids how to play music. What we really do is teach them social skills," Program Coordinator Beryl Aldeberan said.

The YMA, established in 2016, was inspired by a program called El Sistema in Venezuela. El Sistema provides free music education for kids in areas where families struggle to provide that education. YMA imitates the values of El Sistema by providing students in Alamance County with a strong support system.

"The main thrust of the program is to serve children who attend Title 1 schools. Those are schools that provide 85% or more free lunches to children," Aldeberan said. She said that approximately 90% of the kids in YMA attend Title 1 schools.

Aldeberan discussed the resources available to the students such as their own instrument. She said music education is important in a child's development, especially for younger children.

The program partners with community music groups such as a local steel drum group and Elon University. Currently, YMA is partnering with the Hawfield Jammers, a North Carolina dulcimer group, for a concert on Saturday, Oct. 19.

YMA also caters hot, healthy lunches and snacks during lessons in order to

alleviate possible food insecurity.

"On the outside it looks like cute kids playing violins, but what we're really doing is giving them a step up or opening a door that wouldn't be open for them in their present circumstances," Aldeberan said.

In its first year, YMA taught five to seven students. According to Aldeberan, the number of students in the program this year reached over 60, which is double its membership from last year.

With the influx of students, YMA finds itself in need of volunteer teachers, cooks, marketing assistants and general helpers. The large number of students complicates the planning process for lunches, bathroom breaks and tuning all the instruments, especially for the younger children.

"The biggest challenge has been getting enough time for some of the younger kids because you really have to go through and be explaining and have their attention," said Shelley Realini, board member and volunteer. "It's good to be able to break out into smaller groups when possible."

Despite the spike in membership, the program still aims to gather more members. Aldeberan said she wants to take the transition slowly and improve upon what the program already does.

"We want to expand and grow and do lots of new and exciting things, but we want to do it rationally with a plan," Aldeberan said.

Music teaching artist Sara Realini, Shelley's daughter, agrees with Aldeberan and said she wants to see the program grow its presence. Sara said she would love for YMA to become more visible in the community. A study, conducted recently, found that 70% of the community did not recognize YMA.

"To some degree, it comes with time and



PHOTO COURTESY OF YOUNG MUSICIANS OF ALAMANCE

Student members of the Young Musicians of Alamance perform and practice their instruments in 2019.

“

KNOW THAT WE'RE HERE.
KNOW WHAT WE DO. AND
IF IT IS SOMETHING THAT
TOUCHES PEOPLE, LET US
KNOW.

BERYL ALDEBERAN
PROGRAM COORDINATOR

BY THE NUMBERS

~60

children in elementary, middle and high schools are members of Young Musicians of Alamance.

getting ourselves really stable and letting people know that we're here," Sara said. "So much of Alamance County doesn't know we're here."

Several people currently involved with the program found it through family or school connections.

Students Wilmer Gomez and Ryan Smith joined because of recommendations from their friends.

Sara discovered YMA after playing Christmas songs during a volunteer position at North Graham Elementary School. Her mother joined the program as a board member and a volunteer during Sara's involvement.

According to Shelley, kids involved in the program often bring in younger siblings, which creates the age diversity.

"It's great to have a good mix of younger up through the older kids. It helps with sound, which is a little more advanced for the older kids," Shelley Realini said. She also mentioned the benefits of having older students teach younger students the importance of practicing and working hard.

YMA tries to make music a real possibility for the children of Alamance County, but it does so much more than that.

"There are so many social causes and so many things that are wrong with the world, and this is just our little corner of trying to help these kids get a leg up," Aldeberan said.

FARMING HOME AWAY FROM HOME

FARMING | from cover

Vera Fabian, farm manager at TTCF, said she hopes community members were able to learn something about the sense of home the farmers have created at TTCF.

“I hope folks listened to the stories our teens collected from their families and community and learned a little about what it’s like to have to leave your home because of violence,” Fabian said. “In the words of our youth, we can all learn to be a little more understanding and forgiving and not hold grudges.”

Refugee youth

Talar Hso, youth program coordinator and production assistant for the Audio Bites project, said the farm has helped her grow into her identity.

“The farm has helped not only to find my identity within my culture but by helping me stay connected,” Hso said. “You can lose your culture, your language, your food, but being here, I get to keep that and also share it with some of the younger generations.”

COMMON READING CONNECTIONS
Alex Wagner, author of this year’s common reading book, “Futureface,” has roots in Burma, similar to the refugees working at TTCF.

Hso, who has been in the youth program for four years, took an interest in TTCF after her brother got involved. As the program’s coordinator, Hso has helped mentor other youth and taken part in projects with Food Youth Initiative and Southern Foodways Alliance, both of which work toward food equality in their communities.

Student leaders in the youth program give tours of the farm, conduct cooking demos at farmer’s markets and hold conferences throughout the year. The goal of the program is to foster community and culture and give students a chance to grow their leadership skills — an asset for both themselves and the farm.

Sofia Thein, an intern at TTCF, said the farm helped her find her identity, giving her “an outside perspective” on her own culture.

Thein began as a tour guide on the farm and now works with Hso to mentor the “new youth.”

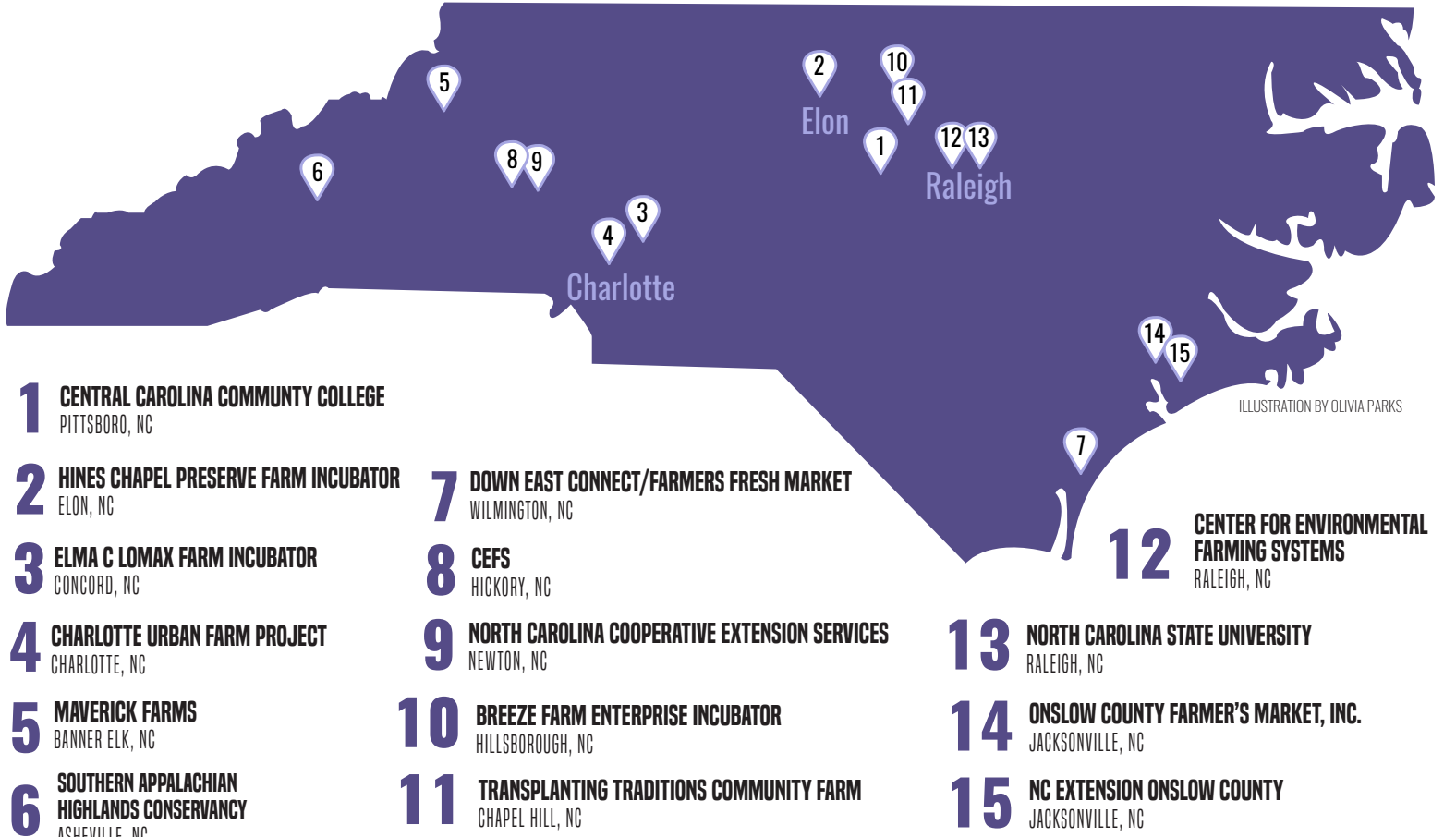
“I was just, you know, kind of a tour guide around the farm, and I also did demos and little conferences here and there, but I was pretty shy,” Thein said. “Now, I’m here actually mentoring the newer youth. I’ve gone to conferences, and now I see familiar faces, and now organizations are coming up to Talar and I and reaching out to us.”

Members of Colonnades visit community farm

Terry Tomasek, faculty director of the Colonnades neighborhood, planned a trip for Elon students to visit the farm after last year’s trip was such a success.

“Last spring, I heard about a farm tour that the Piedmont area farmers cooperative was

Incubator Farms in North Carolina



sponsoring,” Tomasek said. “Basically, you got a carload of people and you drove from one farm to the other, and they had online printed up a list of all the different farms, so I invited students to go with me.”

Tomasek also wanted to integrate this year’s common reading, “Futureface”, into the curriculum because of its tie to Burmese culture.

“I thought this is fabulous because the common read is an author who has roots in Burma, and she writes about that in the book,” Tomasek said.

On Saturday, nine students traveled with Tomasek to spend the afternoon touring the farm, trying Burmese cuisine and hearing the Audio Bites project.

Freshman Abby Saracino, who lives in Colonnades, said she heard about the trip in a neighborhood email from Tomasek and that her favorite part of the trip was listening to Audio Bites.

“Their program gave them skills that they will use for the rest of their lives and gave them insight into a culture they may have been born into, but wanted to learn more about,” Saracino said. “It helped them grow tremendously, and hearing them talk about that impact was inspiring.

FUNDS FOR FARMERS

\$473,000

were provided to farmers as a result of food production done at Transplanting Traditions Community Farm.

155

the number of Burmese refugees that work on the eight acres of the Transplanting Traditions Community Farm.

600,000

the amount of food, in pounds, that is produced by Transplanting Traditions Community Farm.



BEN MUSE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Above: Burmese children sit together at the Audio Bites Festival on Oct. 12.

Left: A Burmese family makes sticky rice at the Transplanting Traditions Community Farm on Oct. 12.

Saracino said she learned more about the conflicts faced by refugee youth after talking to Thein.

“Even when some immigrants, like the families of these youth, got to America, they continued to experience some of the conflict that was present in their home countries,” Saracino said. “One of the youth, Sofia, mentioned that the different ethnic groups of Burma had issues in Burma, and they followed her to the US. Even though the ethnic groups came from the same country and were in search of the same things in America, some feelings were hard to let go.”

Tomasek said she hoped students would walk away from the trip with a better

understanding of the community in which they live.

“It’ll be a new experience for many. It might prompt other thoughts about how they may become engaged,” Tomasek said. “For example, a student might not be able to get to Chapel Hill, but they may decide they want to do something with a farm, and they could do something with our Loy farm, which is right here at the edge of campus.”

ELON EATS

MaGerk’s Pub and Grill brings a Philly twist to Elon

MaGerk’s, now in its second year, serves pub style food inspired by other locations

Miranda Ferrante
Elon News Network | @ferrantemiranda

Just a 10-minute walk from campus lies MaGerk’s Pub & Grill. According to its website, the restaurant takes “pride in fresh, homemade ingredients.” The Philly-inspired restaurant offers a number of classic American pub-style dishes, ranging from signature cheesesteaks to “amazing nachos.” For those looking to feel “Philadelphia Brotherly Love in [both] the food and atmosphere,” MaGerk’s could be the place to venture to.

The restaurant opened at Elon University in 2018, which added to the chain’s four other locations, two of which are situated in Philadelphia and Baltimore. The website mentions that the restaurant is “thrilled” to be open on its “first college campus town like Elon — a close knit, family-oriented community!” The staff at MaGerk’s takes great pride in



MaGerk’s cook Desmond Ozenprepares bacon to be used in various sandwiches and other dishes.

CORY WELLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

the ability to create an enjoyable atmosphere for both families and college students alike.

The restaurant offers a number of Philadelphia favorites, such as the Philly cheesesteak, which allows patrons the option to substitute steak for chicken. Both cheesesteak options include chips and pickles as sides.

General manager Sammerah Qawasmy said, “we are known for

our cheesesteak, but what people don’t realize [is] how much prep goes into our food — our food is homemade.”

Qawasmy also mentioned that from their soups down to the salad dressings, the staff takes great pride in creating handcrafted foods. The term homemade speaks to both the quality of food and atmosphere MaGerk’s aims to provide for its

patrons.

MaGerk’s also offers various standard American meals, such as burgers, wings and its twist on mozzarella sticks, mozzarella triangles, which are lightly breaded, flash-fried and served with a side of marinara dipping sauce. The pub also serves a number of unique items including cheesesteak egg rolls, which the website states are “hand-rolled”

IF YOU GO
Location: 138 W Lebanon Ave
Hours: Monday to Saturday: 11 a.m. to 2 a.m.
Sunday: Closed

and served with “spicy ketchup.”

In regards to the intended atmosphere of the pub, Qawasmy said, “we try to keep a clean, up-to-date atmosphere and have a modern aesthetic.” Sophia Dejong, a server at the restaurant, said there is something special about the Philly vibe within the pub atmosphere.

“It’s a really fun, positive atmosphere with a bunch of college kids and people watching sports. It’s really great being here,” Dejong said.

In part, the lively atmosphere at MaGerk’s can be attributed to the Philadelphia undertones in both its food and service.

The atmosphere evokes a sense of “brotherly love” among the employees, which lets patrons feel at home. Customers can relax, watch sports games, converse with friends and enjoy food inspired by the Philadelphia location, all conveniently located near campus.

ELON WATCHES

Turner Theatre: Horror films and the right to vote

This week, the on-campus theater serves up a diverse set of movies and documentaries

Kaitlyn Andolena
Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

Us

Following his breakout blockbuster film “Get Out,” director Jordan Peele’s most recent horror film “Us” will certainly leave you even more unsettled than its predecessor. In toying with your anticipation and mixing in touches of light hearted humor, the thriller won’t leave you terrified by normal horror film standards. If you’re looking for a good scare, Peele’s impeccable use of startling imagery throughout the film will be sure to give you goosebumps.

The film’s complex plot, both jumping between the 1980s and present day, aims to serve as more than just a thriller. With extensive symbolism utilized throughout the film, its larger meaning aims to depict how America, whether back in the 1980s or today, remains divided.

Capturing the Flag

Anne de Marre’s documentary “Capturing the Flag” follows the current issue of voter suppression in nearby town Fayetteville, North Carolina leading up to the 2016 presidential election. The documentary is inordinately eye-opening in exposing you to the infringement of Americans’ Constitutional rights happening right now.

The film follows volunteers who work to uncover the tricky laws and tactics used by North Carolina’s government that make minorities’ ability to register to vote almost impossible — similar to strategies utilized by governments during the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s.

The documentary both educates and



inspires you to recognize the severity of voter suppression that still occurs close to home as well as reminds viewers to be grateful for the ability to vote. Overall, the film is well worth the watch for an informative and moving narrative about an unfortunately prevalent injustice that persists even today.

TURNER THEATRE

“CAPTURING THE FLAG”

Thursday, Oct. 24
7 p.m.

“US”

Friday, Oct. 25
8 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 26
8 p.m.
10:30 pm.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MONKEYPAW PRODUCTIONS AND PERFECT WORLD PICTURES

Scenes from Jordan Peele’s newest horror film “Us,” starring Lupita Nyong’o, Winston Duke, Shahadi Wright Joseph, Evan Alex, Elisabeth Moss and Tim Heidecker.

SPORTS

PHOENIX PHANATICS GROWS FROM RE-IMAGINED TAILGATES

Student support group for
Elon athletics continues to
increase in membership

Carter Horan
Elon News Network | @carterhoran

On any given Saturday morning, it isn't unusual to find students at Elon University still asleep. However, some students can be seen gathering on Bank of America Drive outside of Rhodes Stadium as early as 10 a.m.

Some of those early risers are the members of Phoenix Phanatics, the official student support group for Elon Athletics. The student organization is designed to promote school spirit and attendance at Elon athletic events.

Founded in 2017, the group has accumulated dedicated members that have stuck together through the ups and downs of Elon sports. You can find the Phoenix Phanatics leading chants and cheering on athletes at sporting events.

This fall, the Phoenix Phanatics have focused on tailgating both at home football games and away games. The Student Government Association helped fund buses in collaboration with the Phanatics to send students to football's opening game at North Carolina A&T.

The Phanatics provide free transportation, gear and food in order to advertise their events.

Junior Anna Daniel, co-president of the club, talked about her favorite part of being a Phoenix Phanatic.

"I'm always one to cheer. I love to get a little obnoxious, and it's nice to have a group who's right there with you," Daniel said. "Just in terms of my confidence and just being able to be who I am and enjoy sports, it's been really great to have them right there with me."

At home games, the tailgates begin just after 11:00 a.m. and run until game time at 2:00 p.m. The Phanatics provide free food and activities to get students amped for



ZACH OHMANN | PHOTO EDITOR

President Connie Book laughs alongside Phoenix Phanatic fans during Elon University's football game against the Citadel on Saturday, Sept. 7. The Phoenix won 35-28.

but many fraternities, sororities and other Elon clubs attend the tailgates. Tailgate popularity has grown in past years, thanks to the Phanatics.

North Carolina native and freshman Blake Dixon said he wanted to bring the competitive school spirit he had at Calvary Day High School in Winston-Salem to Elon.

"It's really important for the college experience to go tailgating and go to the games. I wanted to find the organization that I could implement my type of experience into, and that was the Phoenix Phanatics," Dixon said.

Dixon said he attends football and men's soccer games more than anything else because they fit into his schedule better than other sports.

"It can be fun if you make it," Dixon said. "That's how I'm

trying to approach Elon's athletics. I feel like some people don't make it as fun as it could be, and so I want to start a new wave of making it a fun experience rather than just people don't show up to the games."

The Phanatics have supported men's soccer with free pizza at games, women's soccer and volleyball with a casino night. Football and women's basketball have always gotten the highest attendance due to successful tailgates and because the women's team has earned a spot in the NCAA tournament two of the last three years.

Just last Sunday, the volleyball team took on the top-ranked Towson University Tigers at Schar Center with a 2 p.m. start time. While most students and community members stay in and watch football, over 300 students came to watch the match.

Sophomore Leah Daniel, an outside hitter on the volleyball team, loved the positive effect the crowd had on the game.

"Obviously, we couldn't do what we do without the people supporting us," Leah Daniel said. "In the games where we have more people come, it definitely shows because it gets us more energy and allows us to play at a higher level."

The biggest event for the Phanatics this year came on Sept. 28 when football took on James Madison University, a rivalry matchup during Family Weekend that was bound to draw a large crowd. Crowds packed Bank of America Drive, and although Elon fell to JMU, the attendance and support from the crowd didn't disappoint.

Thousands of community members, students and families came out to Rhodes Stadium in support of the Phoenix.

In addition, the Phoenix Phanatics have a public relations team that advertises all their upcoming events. Students can find daily posts on Instagram

BY THE NUMBERS

300

students, some were members of the Phoenix Phanatics showed up at Elon University's volleyball game against the University of Towson on Sunday, Oct. 13.

“

WE THINK IT'S A REALLY GOOD COMMUNITY TO ENGAGE WITH, AND IF YOU'RE CONCERNED ABOUT STUDENT SPIRIT OR YOU JUST LOVE ATHLETICS, THIS IS REALLY GOING TO THE SPOT FOR YOU.

ANNA DANIEL
JUNIOR

showcasing event themes and photos of the Phanatics cheering on their colleagues.

The account has generated over 500 followers and has accumulated consistent engagement from the Elon community. You can also find them on Twitter posting score updates and tearing down opponents.

Anna Daniel said that community building has been greatest benefit of joining Phoenix Phanatics.

"Our leadership right now is really focused on community building. We think it's a really good community to engage with, and if you're concerned about student spirit or you just love athletics, this is really going to the spot for you," Daniel said.

ZACH OHMANN | PHOTO EDITOR

SGA President Jack Johnson strikes a pose to hype up Phoenix fans during Elon University's game against the Citadel on Saturday, Sept. 7.



ZACH OHMANN | PHOTO EDITOR

Senior Jake Young and freshman Gray Aust celebrate Elon University's win against the Citadel on Saturday, Sept. 7.





Freshman defensive specialist Jordan Gower, a defensive specialist for Elon University's volleyball team, is the shortest player on the squad. But since her arrival on campus, she has proven that her height is no disadvantage.

Freshman Jordan Gower makes her presence known on the volleyball court

Caitlin Rundle
Elon News Network | @caitlinr_21

This year, Elon University's volleyball team features a squad with an average height of 5 feet 11 inches. The tallest player is 6 feet 3 inches, and the shortest player comes in almost a full foot shorter; freshman defensive specialist Jordan Gower is just 5 feet 4 inches tall.

Gower comes in from a four-year tenancy with her high school team in Raleigh, North Carolina, something head coach Mary Tendler said helped in her recruiting.

"Jordan is close to home. She plays for triangle, and so we've been able to follow her for a while," Tendler said. "We weren't sure if we were going to want another defensive specialist on our team, but it just kind of all fit, and we decided we wanted to get it. We looked at a lot of defensive specialists all throughout the country, and we felt she was the best one."

On her high school team, Gower collected over 1,000 digs in her career, later being named All-State Section in 2017 and 2018 as well as an Under Armour All-American Special Mention in 2018.

"The thing that she does really well is she can pass the serve," Tendler said. "Every time the ball comes to her, she just nails it. She's so quiet and calm, and that's how she plays, so there's not a lot of extra movement. She's just so consistent as a passer."

Transitioning to collegiate play was a challenge for Gower, she said, as it is for most freshmen athletes. The level of play is much higher compared to that of high

school play, but Gower said her upperclassmen teammates helped her through the transition.

"Everyone was super supportive coming in, and they helped all of us freshmen out whenever we needed it," Gower said.

Tendler said she was impressed not only by Gower's transition but by her willingness to play all over the court.

"We play a lot of different defenses, and so to learn that is hard, and we asked her to be able

“

SHE'S THE PERSON THAT THEY JUST ALL KIND OF GO TO AND SHE'S JUST A REALLY LIKABLE PERSON. SHE'S JUST SOMEONE THAT YOU WANT TO BE AROUND AND PRACTICE.

MARY TENDLER
HEAD COACH

to play it right back, middle back or left back," Tendler said. "She's got to learn three or four defenses and all the positions, but once she learned where to be on the court, then she was good."

This year, Gower and the Phoenix have had to play top-notch teams including Virginia Tech, James Madison University, University of Virginia, Wake Forest University and, just recently, Towson University — who in Colonial Athletic Association play has lost just two sets, one to Elon and the other to JMU.

Among these teams, Gower said her favorite game to play was against Wake Forest, where Elon pulled out a strong win against the once-undefeated Demon Deacons. Gower said it was especially important for the Phoenix because the upset came against an Atlantic Coast Conference team. The ACC is home to teams such as Florida State University, University of Notre Dame and Boston College.

As a defensive specialist, Gower's height actually comes into play less frequently than it would for the other players on the court.

"When an outside hitter or someone is front row, I come in for them in the back row. So instead of them playing defense, I play defense," Gower said.

Tendler also said her height did not come into question during recruitment.

"It's nice if you can have [tall] players even in the back row because balls that get deflected go higher, but she's really quick," Tendler said.

Gower certainly proves her height will not be an issue for the team. In the 73 sets that Gower has played this season, she ranks at No. 2 in digs with an astounding 194. Junior defensive specialist and co-captain Isabella Seman ranks at No. 1 with 208.

But Tendler said she hopes Gower doesn't stop there.

"We would like her to be louder on the court and be able to direct traffic a little bit," Tendler said.

"Eventually, she's going to get those leadership skills."

The Phoenix are currently 4-3 in CAA play. This past week, the Phoenix played the top teams in the CAA: JMU, Towson and University of Delaware.

The Phoenix lost to JMU and Towson but pulled off another upset against Delaware, grabbing the win in the fifth set. The second half of the season will end the same way, playing the top three CAA teams, except this time the Phoenix will not have the home court advantage on its side.

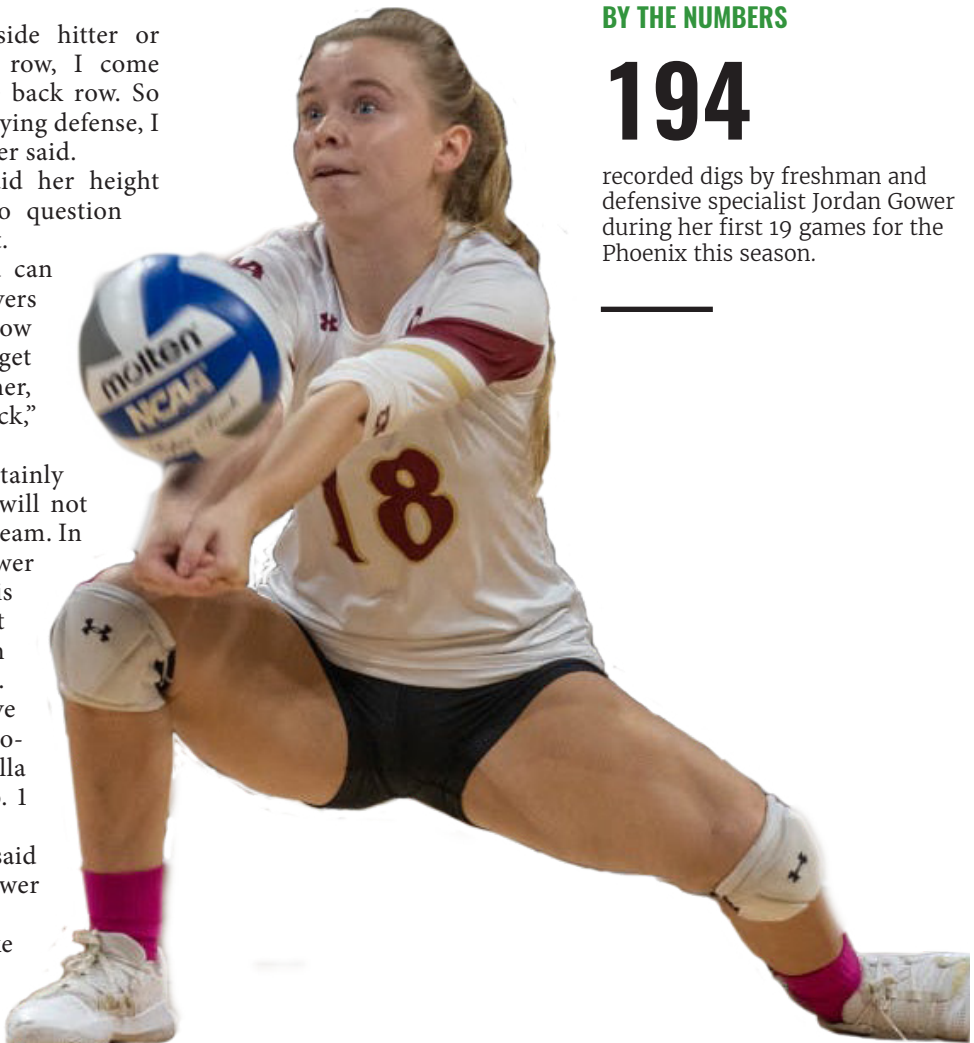
One thing that fans can count on for the remainder of this season is Gower's sunny disposition and the team's affection toward her. Tendler said she's one of the most likeable people you'll meet and that "everyone just loves Jo."

"She's the person that they just all kind of go to, and she's just a really likable person," Tendler said. "She's just someone that you want to be around and practice. She works hard, and she gets the job done. So I think everybody's just really confident in what she can do for our team."

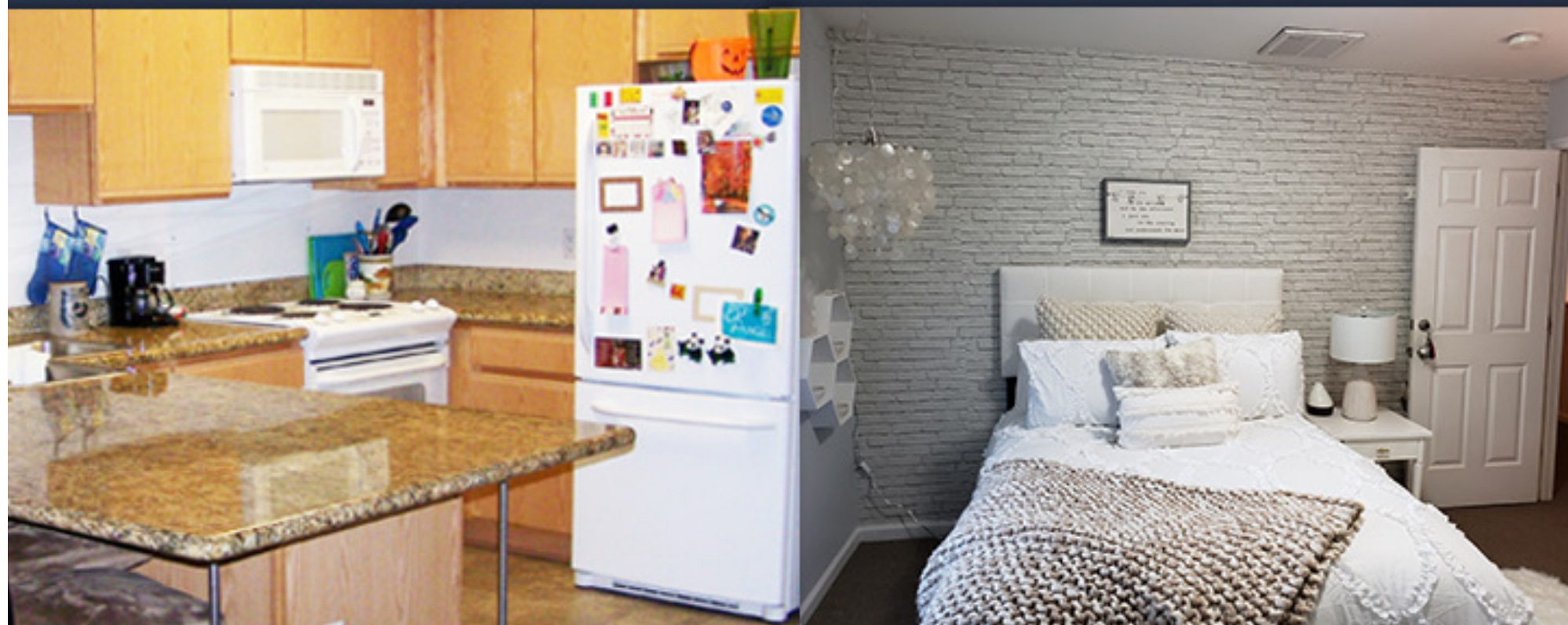
BY THE NUMBERS

194

recorded digs by freshman and defensive specialist Jordan Gower during her first 19 games for the Phoenix this season.



Freshman defensive specialist Jordan Gower prepares to hit the ball during Elon University's match against Winthrop University on Tuesday, Sept. 17. The Phoenix lost to the Eagles 0-3.

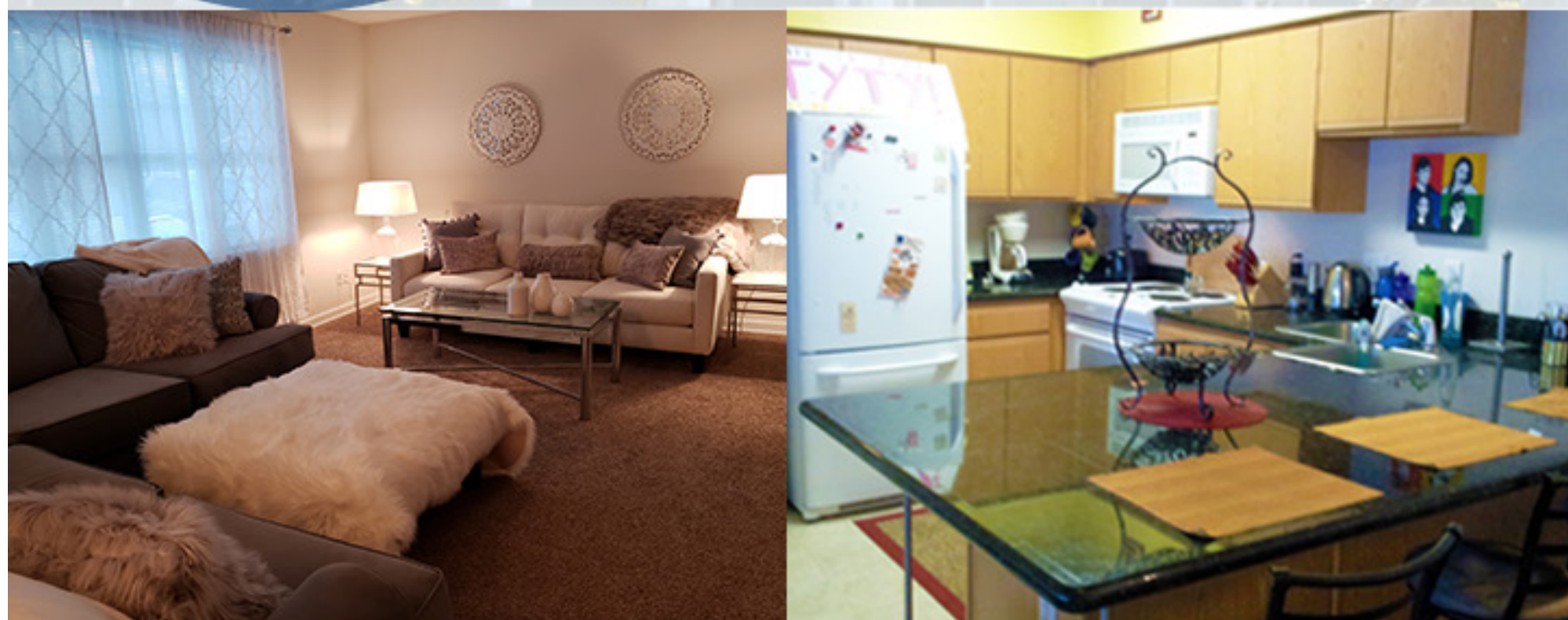


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