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ELON, NORTH CAROLINA

THE PENDULUM

BEST OF

2021

ACADEMICS

CAMPUS

FOOD & DRINK

PHYSICAL DISTANCE

STAFF PICKS

THE PENDULUM

A PUBLICATION OF
**ELON NEWS
NETWORK**

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Volume 50, Edition 16

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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.

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

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CORRECTIONS

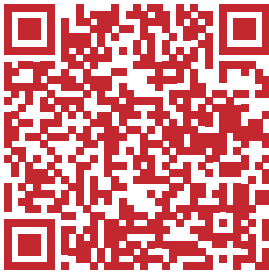
In the last issue of The Pendulum, in a story about the new dean of global engagement, Nick Gozik had his name spelled incorrectly. Elon News Network regrets this error.

SUDOKU

By Thomas Denome | @tddenome

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**SCAN FOR AN ANSWER KEY TO THE
JANUARY 20, 2021 CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

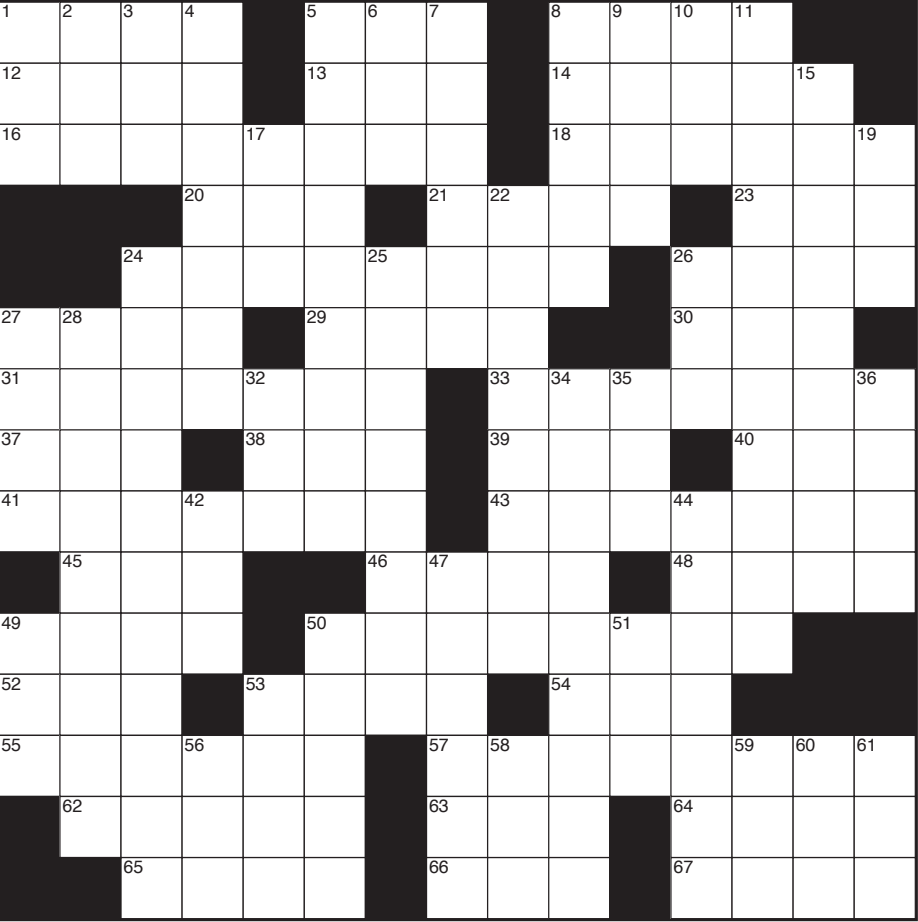


1. Open your phone camera
2. Focus on the QR code
3. Click the pop-up link

CROSSWORD

Earth, Wind, Fire ... and Water

By Thomas Denome | @tddenome



ACROSS

- 1 ____ John's
5 Hoop component
8 Remove, as a hat
12 Style
13 Pitching stat
14 Erasable computer chip
16 April 22 celebration
18 Illinois River city
20 Self starter?
21 Slog
23 Antiquity, in antiquity
24 Crashed
26 Norse capital
27 Cuddly coast mammal
29 Downs slowly
30 "____ alive!"
31 Sea sabre
33 ____ Night
37 Can you dig it?
38 Spirit
39 Yank's foe
40 Promise to pay
41 Sink
43 Laptop pioneer Adam
45 Experienced
46 Cottontail's tail
48 Like some golf balls
49 Plaster a building

- 50 Expensive ones are often heated
52 Piano piece
53 Women's clothing brand
54 Brazilian city, familiarly
55 Remove a fish from a line, say
57 Dunk variety
62 Gawk
63 Trumped-up story
64 Length x width, for a rectangle
65 Descent tools
66 R&B singer associated with Kendrick Lamar
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DOWN

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2 Resembling
3 Golf goal
4 Bug creation
5 Set right
6 401(k) alternative
7 Purple wildflower
8 Station
9 Kind of page
10 To's partner

- 11 Problem in California's Sierra Nevada mountains
15 Tool used for grinding wheat
17 Cool, once
19 Big deal
22 Glistening
24 Problem in California's Central Valley
25 The act of getting rid of
26 Black gold, Texas tea
27 Dundee denizen
28 Un-American sort?
32 "Tarzan" extra
34 PST dweller
35 Flow-goer
36 Shaded
42 Neighbor of Ger.
44 Old Turk?
47 Meanders on all fours
49 French vineyard
50 Candle holders?
51 Abet
53 Actress Spelling
56 Poison ____
58 Son of a son
59 Anger
60 Filmmaker Spike
61 Bucko

ACADEMICS

BEST MAJOR

Annemarie Bonner
Elon News Network | @annemarie_bon

THE STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS MAJOR at Elon University is the second most popular among students; about 500 undergraduates are enrolled in the program, according to the Elon University 2020-2021 Fact Book. The student body has voted Strategic Communications as the “Best Major.”

Associate professor of strategic communications Vanessa Bravo has been the department chair since last summer and a professor in the School of Communications since 2011. Bravo is fond of the major because it can lead students down many paths.

“There are many jobs compared to other areas because any organization can afford having the expertise of a professional strategic communicator because it is important for any organization to build relationships with publics,” Bravo said.

Junior Kait MacIntyre is a strategic communications major, a member of Live Oak Communications and the president of the Public Relations Student Society of America at Elon. She said her enrollment in the major has helped her form personal relationships with professors who have worked in fields such as public relations and advertising.

“A lot of professors in the strategic communications program are uniquely supportive in the way that they offer themselves their time, their educational background [and] their work history,” MacIntyre said.

The major currently has 18 faculty members, one of whom is Rochelle Ford, dean of the school of communications. Bravo appreciates how her colleagues have not only an academic background but also professional experience in various industries. She and her colleagues teach in the classroom but also advise students in several different ways.

“It involves lots of things that students see, but also many are things that students will never realize, but allows them to have the experience that they have in the School of Communications,” Bravo said.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS



MADDIE SHOSTEN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Associate professor of strategic communications Bill Anderson teaches COM 361 Strategic Research Methods in Johnston Hall during Winter Term 2021.

RUNNERS-UP

Second Place: Psychology

Third Place: Political Science

FUN FACT

There are currently 18 faculty members in Elon’s strategic communications department.

BEST MINOR

Jacob Kisamore
Elon News Network | @jacobkisamore

COLLEGE IS A TIME where young adults can explore their interests, and a minor offers students the opportunity to broaden their academic experience. Elon University offers 78 undergraduate minors, according to the Office of the Registrar, which require fewer credits than majors and can be combined with a major or degree program. This year, Elon students have chosen psychology as “Best Minor.”

Psychology has become one of Elon’s preferred minors, with 270 students currently enrolled, according to associate professor of psychology and chair of the psychology department Alan Scott. Students in the program must take Introduction To Psychology and then are free to choose from a list of psychology electives to fulfill the minor’s requirement of 20 credit hours. Among the broad selection of electives are behavioral neuroscience, social psychology, abnormal psychology and educational psychology.

“I like the flexibility within the list of available classes,” junior psychology minor Olivia Solis wrote in an email. “I can focus on what I want to take rather than what I have to take.”

One of the most appealing aspects of the psychology minor is the versatility it offers students, regardless of their major.

“I can choose classes that are more broad and focus on development, or choose classes that are more obscure and focus on abnormal psychology,” senior psychology minor Dominique Rousseau wrote in an email. “No matter the class, there will always be some topic I can pick out that will relate to my major.”

Scott believes the psychology minor will remain popular among students for years to come due to the work of the psychology department’s staff.

“We have excellent psychology faculty with diverse professional interests and specializations who thereby create and teach a diverse array of psychology courses and are passionate about and skilled at creating engaging educational opportunities,” Scott said.

PSYCHOLOGY



LUKE JOHNSON | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Psychology professor Katrina Jongman-Sereno teaches her PSY 371 Self Interest vs. Quiet Ego class in Long 302 on Jan. 25.

RUNNERS-UP

Second Place: Criminal Justice Studies

Third Place: Business Administration

FUN FACT

Along with the one required course, there are currently 32 psychology electives available for psychology minors.

BEST PROFESSOR

Gabriela Rivas-De Leon
Elon News Network | @grivasdeleon

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL science and policy studies Joel Shelton has been voted “Best Professor.” Shelton said that he views teaching as a vocation where he’s allowed to simultaneously juggle the roles of an educator, a researcher and a scholar. Shelton hopes to facilitate learning rather than just lecture his students, preparing them for their own futures in the political science field. “I’m really concerned with trying to help students equip themselves with a set of tools,” Shelton said. “Intellectual curiosity, a capacity for critical analysis, a concern for things outside of themselves; that will help them constructively engage with the world.” Junior political science and international and global studies major Tasia Theoharis said Shelton

arrives at every class excited to teach. She believes his dynamic, interactive style of teaching is what makes students love his classes. “Professor Shelton is the best type of professor,” Theoharis said. “He doesn’t take himself too seriously and relates to students but also expects students to make in-depth analyses and think critically about course content.” Although Shelton saw teachers as his role models growing up, it took time before he decided to become a professor himself. After graduate school and field experience in Washington D.C., Shelton said although he would always have a passion for politics, he knew deep down he wanted to teach. “I once had a mentor who told me, ‘You never teach the student you have in your classroom, today. You teach the person they’re going to be in 15 years from now,’” Shelton said. “I’ve always found that to be really moving.”

JOEL SHELTON



JOSEPH NAVIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Professor Joel Shelton teaches a class next to Lindner Hall in the Academic Village on Nov. 19, 2020.

RUNNERS-UP
Second Place:
Thomas Nelson

Third Place:
Beth McCain

BEST STAFF MEMBER

Kyra O’Connor
Enterprise Story Coordinator | @ko_reports

ADMINISTRATION WAS A LINE of work Jon Dooley fell into. Dooley started pursuing teaching and wanted to be a middle school social studies teacher. Now, nearly 25 years later, Dooley supports students in a different way, serving as vice president for student life at Elon University and the 2021 pick of “Best Staff Member.” Dooley is known by many students from his emails, a form of communication he said is unique to Elon University in its personal touch but is really only a small part of his job on campus. For Dooley, a good day is full of supporting and connecting with students. “Sometimes it’s helping a student solve a problem ... help them figure out how to navigate that. Sometimes it’s working with the student on something that they’re advocating for, a change they’d like to see, a program they’re trying to develop, something they’re trying to create,” Dooley said. “Other times it’s just a conversation over a cup

of coffee or lunch, just to hear about what their goals are and what they’re hoping for out of their academic career and their career afterwards in life.” Really getting to know “the person behind the emails” through her on-campus job is something sophomore and student worker in Dooley’s office Nyjah Rollins is thankful for. Rollins met Dooley during freshman move-in and since then, Dooley has been a positive influence on her time at Elon. “Even when he’s stressed and super busy, he always makes time to talk to me while I’m in the office and even when we see each other in other places on campus,” Rollins said. Dooley said he is touched to be thought of by the Elon community for best of, but thinks it is important to recognize that he “represents hundreds of people” at the university doing good work. “I think that that’s probably why my name popped up as people were filling this out, but ... I am no more special or deserving of this than hundreds of other staff at this university who really care about students,” Dooley said.

JON DOOLEY



CLARE GRANT | PHOTO EDITOR
Jon Dooley stands Under the Oaks on Aug. 10, 2020.

RUNNERS-UP
Second Place:
Colin Donohue

Third Place:
Brandon Sheridan

BEST CLASS

Quinn Corrigan
Elon News Network | @quinn_corrigan

IN THE 2020 US News World Report, Elon University was ranked #2 for best first-year experience. One thing that makes the Elon freshman experience is Elon 101 — an introductory class that all freshmen are required to take. Elon 101 was voted “Best Class” by students this year and covers topics from the honor code to graduation plans and general campus knowledge. Class sizes usually range from 15 to 17 students, allowing them the opportunity to enhance and develop relationships with other freshmen. This was something sophomore Adam Cheifetz appreciated about the class, and after having such a positive experience, he applied to become an Elon 101 teaching assistant — also known as a peer educator. “My transition to Elon was great,” Cheifetz said, “and I wanted to have the opportunity to help new first-years to have just as good of a transition as I did.” Elon 101 classes have both a professor and a peer educator. Although there is a basic curriculum, the structure of the class varies with each instructor.

Regardless, all classes focus on three main outcomes: “engage in academic planning, foster academic and personal success and connect with the Elon community.” Associate professor of education and director of the Elon Academy Terry Tomasek has been teaching Elon 101 for four years. She structures her class by first introducing the students to campus and then helping them navigate their future and build four-year plans. Tomasek has gotten an abundance of positive feedback on her Elon 101 classes and believes this is mainly due to the presence of peer educators like Cheifetz. “I think students enjoy having this near peer that they can bounce ideas off of or ask questions,” Tomasek said. As a peer educator, Cheifetz acts as a “lifeline” for the freshmen and is someone they can contact with questions related to their freshmen experience. “This could mean grabbing lunch to talk about something they are struggling with such as a roommate issue or it could be meeting up to show them where a building is on campus before classes begin,” Cheifetz said.

ELON 101



GRAYSEN SHIRLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
A group of freshmen work on their laptops in an Elon 101 class at Lindner Hall on Nov. 19, 2020.

RUNNERS-UP
Second Place:
Communications in a Global Age

Third Place:
Sociology Through Film

BEST APARTMENT

Courtney Weiner

Elon News Network | @CourtneyWeiner2

EXTRA SPACE, INDEPENDENCE AND community are a few of the reasons why Elon University students like living in The Station at Mill Point, the winner of “Best Apartment.”

Elon senior Kristin Chan said her time living in the apartments reminds her of the community she and her hallmates built while living in her freshman dorm.

“I know my neighbors well and all the people who live in my building,” Chan said. “We have a group chat together, and it has been so fun doing small, COVID-friendly activities.”

The outdoor space at Mill Point includes grassy areas, a beach volleyball court and a basketball hoop. Chan said this space makes for a greater sense of community.

“Something about having the buildings near each other and knowing people in different buildings really brings people together and makes us want to utilize the outdoor spaces,” she said.

Chan not only likes the community aspect but also the spacious apartment floor plan and the fact that it comes fully furnished.

“[Mill Point has] the nicest facilities and amenities on campus,” she said. “We are able to live on campus while still enjoying the freedom of having a private porch, a kitchen and our own room and bathroom.”

Senior Jenna Jones said she wanted to live in Mill Point because it is a safe place.

“Safety was one of my first priorities,” Jones said.

For Chan, Mill Point winning “Best Apartment” comes as no surprise.

“I have thoroughly enjoyed my experience living in Mill Point, and I wish I had the opportunity to live here before senior year,” she said. “It has been my favorite place to live on campus because of the independence, amenities and community.”

Students can apply to live in The Station at Mill Point through Residence Life for their junior and senior years.

THE STATION AT MILL POINT



Drone view of The Station at Mill Point apartments.

CLARE GRANT | PHOTO EDITOR

RUNNERS-UP

Second Place: Oaks Neighborhood

Third Place: Trollinger Apartments

FUN FACT

Mill Point is home to 318 students: 76 juniors and 242 seniors.

BEST RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD

Hope Suire

Elon News Network | @hopesuire

LOCATED ON THE SHORELINE of Lake Mary Nell, a community of 595 students call Global Neighborhood home. Across five residence halls, Global Neighborhood is made up of 67% first-years, 27% sophomores and less than 6% juniors and seniors. Global Neighborhood secured a first-place finish for “Best Residential Neighborhood.”

The Global Neighborhood oath encourages residents to aspire toward universal community citizenship and to invigorate residents to honor others.

English professor and Global Neighborhood faculty director Jennifer Eidum has lived in the community with her family since 2016.

“It’s wonderful to live where I work, especially when my commute is anywhere from one minute to eight minutes,” Eidum said. “Being able to be home for part of the day, head over to classes, come back and do laundry then attend meetings before dinner is a nice way to integrate my life.”

Aside from the beautiful scenery and walking path around Lake Mary Nell, Eidum’s favorite part about Global Neighborhood is the intercultural diversity. Previously a peace corps volunteer and now an English professor for nonnative speakers, Eidum feels that the multicultural community of Global invigorates her passions

and profession perfectly.

As faculty director, Eidum is responsible for organizing activities within the neighborhood that are socially fulfilling for residents but also serve as academic extensions. Eidum said her favorite event that she’s hosted was “Bagel Brunches,” which occurred pre-COVID.

“On late Sunday mornings, I would pick up bagels from Greensboro and would invite one floor at a time to my apartment to have breakfast. We would just hang out, discuss their interests and sometimes they would even play video games with my son,” Eidum said. “It was really casual, which gave students the feeling that they had a family away from home.”

Global Neighborhood community director Amanda Alberti oversees the neighborhood’s administrative details and supervises various offices across campus that provide students with the appropriate resources. Alberti, who lives in the Global E building, loves observing the growth and relationships made between residents throughout the year.

“We are trying to continue our films on the lawn as the weather gets warmer,” Alberti said. “We are also hoping to do a hall dance so the freshmen who did not get to have their senior prom, will finally be able to celebrate and even wear their outfits they already had picked out.”

GLOBAL NEIGHBORHOOD



Drone view of Elon's Global Neighborhood.

CLARE GRANT | PHOTO EDITOR

RUNNERS-UP

Second Place: Historic Neighborhood

Third Place: Colonnades Neighborhood

FUN FACT

The Global Neighborhood Association chooses a broad intellectual thematic focus related to global issues.

BEST FOUNTAIN

Ellis Chandler
Social Media Manager | @ellis_chandler

THE ELON FOUNTAINS ARE LOCATED around campus, spraying streams of water into the sky and serve as a social spot, a place to drop your loose change and a photo opportunity for those who visit.

The winner of “Best Fountain” is the Wallace L. Chandler Fountain, better known among the student body as the Colonnades fountain. It is named for Wallace Chandler ‘49, an Elon alum and life trustee on the Board of Trustees.

There are four fountains on Elon’s campus, but according to Physical Plant plumbing supervisor David Willis, Chandler Fountain requires the most daily maintenance. It holds 76,000 gallons of water, and is drained once a year for deep cleaning during the summer, Willis wrote in an email to Elon News Network.

Every day from 7 to 9 a.m., each fountain on campus has its water chemistry and pumps checked, and its filters, strainers and skimmers cleaned. Debris is removed from the water, the nozzles are adjusted on the display and the fountains are inspected for damage.

Since its installation in 2006, numerous improvements have been made to Chandler Fountain to increase its efficiency and sustainability.

“Chandler Fountain has had new modulating valves installed to increase motor efficiency, a wind sensor to decrease water usage and new high efficiency LED lighting installed in underwater fixtures,” Willis wrote.

He added that it is “very easy” to see when the fountains are damaged and advises students against entering them, even though swimming and wading in the fountains is now tradition for many.

“Do not get in the fountains,” Willis wrote. “The water is deeper than it looks, there are pipes under the water you cannot see, the grates on the bottom are sharp, and the nozzles are difficult to repair.”

Though theories have circulated since its construction, Willis wrote that the fountain is not in danger of sinking. Chandler Fountain remains a central campus view for all of Elon to enjoy.

CHANDLER FOUNTAIN



GRAYSEN SHIRLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The fountain in front of the Koury Business Center at Elon University on Jan. 24.

RUNNERS-UP

Second Place: Fonville Fountain

Third Place: Meditation Garden Fountain

FUN FACT

The fountains are checked and cleaned seven days a week, 365 days a year.

BEST LIVING LEARNING COMMUNITY

Graysen Shirley
Elon News Network | @graysenshirley

THE PERFORMING ARTS LIVING Learning Community at Elon University is a place where students interested in theatre, music, dance and arts administration can interlace engagement in creative talent with artistic expression. Located on the second floor of Global Neighborhood Building B, the LLC is open to all undergraduate students by application.

Members of the LLC are actively involved in theatrical productions, musical performances and dance recitals. Members also participate in annual coffee houses, a social event where students sing, dance, read poetry and perform dramatic skits in front of an audience.

Sophomore Tommy Truitt lives in the Performing Arts LLC and is pursuing a bachelor’s in fine arts in acting. He said it is important to live in a space that works to build a safe and supportive community which interconnects students’ creative passions with artistic exploration.

“It really just kind of stands for acceptance and encouragement,” Truitt said. “Anyone that has a performance or something like that, the entire LLC gets together to watch it, which is really nice just to have a supportive community and family with you at all times.”

In November 2020, members of the Performing Arts LLC gathered together to watch their fellow students perform in Collage, an online theatrical production by the Elon Performing Arts Department highlighting art within constraints.

In addition to supporting students in shows and performances, the LLC also participates in recreational activities that promote group bonding and the arts.

To celebrate Halloween, members painted pumpkins in the Global Neighborhood quad and watched movies in the common room on the second floor of Global B. Sara LiBrandi, a freshman in the Performing Arts LLC, said the activities were very fun and a good way to bring the community closer together.

Bonding and sharing a creative spirit with other members of the LLC allowed LiBrandi to feel part of a supportive group of people during her first semester of college.

“Living in the Performing Arts LLC has introduced me to so many people who can share the same passions as me,” LiBrandi said. “It’s been great for me to just really find my people and to find a community that I can actually thrive in.”

PERFORMING ARTS



RUNNERS-UP

Second Place: African Diaspora LLC

Third Place: Creative Arts LLC

FUN FACT

Students who come to print something on the second floor of Global B will often find members of the Performing Arts LLC dancing, singing and acting in the common room.

COURTESY OF TOMMY TRUITT

Junior Balazs David holds up a painted pumpkin during pumpkin painting night with the Performing Arts LLC.

BEST PARKING LOT

Grace Terry
Managing Editor | @gfterry9

PAST THE KOURY BUSINESS Center on the Elon University campus, nestled between Danieleley Commons and the Colonnades Neighborhood, lies a patch of gray. This area of land, while lackluster, is useful. The Colonnades parking lot offers a place for students to put their cars and serves a path connecting the main campus to the Danieleley Neighborhood.

The lot was voted the “Best Parking Lot” on campus by Elon students.

Sophomore Sky Allison parks in the lot every day, and she thinks the edge Colonnades has over other parking lots is peace of mind.

“It’s never hard to find parking,” Allison said. “I have lived all over campus. It’s been hard to find parking in other parking lots.”

Allison also enjoys the location of the parking lot, as most of her classes are in the Historic Neighborhood.

“It’s not that far of a walk,” Allison said. “But it’s enough that I get to see some of the campus and see people walking through and I never miss friends.”

Beyond that, the parking lot has played a part in several memories during Allison’s time at Elon. She remembers meeting up with friends while doing a walk for Alziehmer’s disease research with her sorority Sigma Kappa, and it also served as the end of her running loop when she used to run and walk 5Ks with her roommate.

Parking passes for the Colonnades lot are available for \$160 for the school year. Students who live in Loy Center or the Colonnades Neighborhood are eligible for a pass.

COLONNADES



JOHN LUKE FARAH | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Colonnades parking lot separates Danieleley Neighborhood from the main part of Elon University’s campus.

RUNNERS-UP

Second Place: McMichael

Third Place: Inman

FUN FACT

There are 502 spots in the Colonnades parking lot.

BEST INSTAGRAM SPOT

Becca Chase
Elon News Network | @BeccaChase12

FONVILLE FOUNTAIN — WHICH faces Alamance Building in Elon University’s Historic Neighborhood — stands out for its striking beauty even on a campus with no shortage of picturesque buildings and grounds. Students voted Fonville Fountain to be the campus’ “Best Instagram Spot.”

Rudy M. Fonville and Frances Turner Fonville ‘28 donated the funds to construct the fountain — commonly referred to as the “Alamance fountain” — in 1982. Prior to the fountain’s construction, the area was a parking lot.

Since its construction, the fountain has garnered iconic status as a meeting point, a place for quiet reflection and since the advent of social media, the go-to spot to capture the essence of Elon in a single image.

“It is always so nice to return from classes and pass by Alamance fountain on my way to the dorms,” freshman Georgia Ritter said. “It’s probably one of my favorite views on campus.”

Starting in the 1980s, taking a splash in the fountain during commencement emerged as an Elon tradition, according to Elon University Archives. Jumping into the fountain was well-loved but short-lived once the university moved to discourage the practice and by 1986, the Elon Student Handbook explicitly prohibited swimming or wading in Fonville Fountain.

Fonville Fountain was showcased in Spike Lee’s movie “He Got Game,” which stars Denzel Washington and former NBA shooting guard Ray Allen and features many former Elon undergraduates as extras.

The fountain’s iconic status has only grown with time.

“When I first toured Elon, I took a photo in front of the fountain with my parents,” freshman Natalie Iammarino said. “Now, whenever I pass a tour group near the fountain, it reminds me of that moment.”

Social media platforms will come and go, but as long as there is a need for a memorable backdrop that captures the Elon experience in a single image, Fonville Fountain will be in the frame.

FONVILLE FOUNTAIN



GRAYSEN SHIRLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Fonville Fountain is located near the Alamance Building in the Historic Neighborhood at Elon University.

RUNNERS-UP

Second Place: Wallace L. Chandler Fountain

Third Place: Lake Mary Nell

FUN FACT

Members of Elon’s class of 2013 staged a rendition of the “Friends” intro song in front of the fountain, garnering national attention and over 400,000 YouTube views.

BEST STUDY SPOT

Naomi Washington
Elon News Network

GLOBAL NEIGHBORHOOD COMMONS IS an amenity-packed hall situated in the middle of the neighborhood, hosting the Global Education Center, Argo Tea, the Great Hall and group study areas. In particular, Global Commons’ Great Hall gives students the opportunity to unwind from outside distractions and focus on their work. The building and its many spaces and study nooks was voted “Best Campus Study Spot” at Elon University this semester.

Known as “GloCo” across campus, the commons provides room for students to fully adhere to physical distancing guidelines. The Great Hall is the primary venue that students enjoy. There are tables with chairs and couches to choose from for comfort, soothing background study music, and, in the winter a roaring fire.

According to Elon sophomore Nadine Jose, Global Commons has a “super COVID-friendly” atmosphere because it is easy to spread out in the Great Hall.

“Studying at GloCo is also great because it is basically open 24/7,” Jose said.

Global Commons study spaces and the Elon Core Curriculum office, housed on the second floor, have served as a resource for students since it was built in 2014.

Argo Tea Cafe arrived on campus in the building the same year. While students are studying, they can grab a cup of tea from the cafe located on the first floor. Faculty Director of Global Neighborhood Jennifer Edium said they make great drinks and snacks.

Adjacent to Global Commons is Lake Mary Nell, where students can relax on benches, personal hammocks and yoga mats. Edium said that after more patio tables and umbrellas were put outside the lake, there were more students utilizing the outdoor seating areas than she had seen in previous semesters. There are areas all around the building to suit various study types.

“I think it’s such a great study location because it offers so many options — quiet spaces, group study spaces, a place to pick up a snack and a location that makes it easy to meet friends,” Eidum said.

GLOBAL COMMONS



Great Hall in Global Commons on January 14, 2020.

FRANCE O’CONNOR | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

RUNNERS-UP

- Second Place: Belk Library
- Third Place: Richard W. Sankey Hall

FUN FACT

The Global Commons hosts the Elon Ball every year.

BEST PERFORMANCE

Ellis Chandler
Social Media Manager | @ellis_chandler

CONCERTS AND CULTURAL EVENTS bring the Elon community to the Center of Performing Arts throughout the year and allow students to present their talents and hard work. This year all performances had to be transformed into a virtual experience, including the Fall Dance Concert, which was voted “Best Performance.”

The concert is presented each November by Elon dance majors, and the 2020 performance featured six original dance compositions that represent how dancers can work with limitations and find creative ways to move in given circumstances.

Assistant professor of dance and artistic director Renay Aumiller has been involved with the Fall Dance Concert since 2010 and decides how the show will look each year. She said the 2020 concert was by far the most memorable.

“We had to reinvent how we present dance during a pandemic,” Aumiller wrote in an email. “It was Elon’s first ever virtual Fall Dance Concert, and we were all adjusting to how we create in this new normal as we went. I think that’s what makes a performance stand out. Taking risks and trying something new will create experiences that are unique

and remembered.”

Elon junior Caroline Boothe was one of three student choreographers chosen to present work in the concert. She danced in two pieces — including one of her own choreography — and said that being able to work with the concert crew made the experience great.

“It was an amazing experience to work with someone and find the little grooves that made that dancer who they are, and it was even more inspiring to see the final product and how my dancer made it personal to them,” Boothe said.

Aumiller and Boothe both said that the concert went very smoothly because of the communication and collaboration among everyone involved.

“I hope people gain inspiration, mindfulness, entertainment and community by attending any performing arts concert,” Aumiller wrote. “With so much available online now, it’s easy to fall into our routines and patterns of social interaction. Live theater can stimulate the mind and introduce the viewers to how others view and experience the world.”

Both concert performances are still available for viewing online at elonperformingarts.com.

FALL DANCE CONCERT



“Enkindle” performed both days of the Fall Dance Concert.

COURTESY OF ELON PERFORMING ARTS

RUNNERS-UP

- Second Place: The Moment
- Third Place: Dancing in the Landscape

FUN FACT

The cast and crew of Fall Dance Concert was made up of 31 people.

BEST TRADITION

Miranda Ferrante
Lifestyle Editor | @ferrantemiranda

FEELINGS OF JOY ARE evident every year during Elon University's Festival of Holiday Lights, an annual tradition that celebrates the cultures and customs that comprise the campus community. Members of the Elon family reflect on the fall semester, observing luminaries that radiate in the heart of campus.

Elon students voted the Festival of Holiday Lights "Best Tradition" despite adjustments made to this year's celebration because of the COVID-19 pandemic. University Chaplain Jan Fuller said that after the stress of the past year, the campus needed an opportunity to gather while abiding by physical distancing guidelines.

"I love the festival because it transforms our beautiful campus into a magical space of peace for an evening," Fuller said.

Sophomore Caroline DiGrande — an interfaith intern with the Truitt Center — served as the co-captain of programming for the festival this year. She said her team took the many obstacles of 2020 and turned them into new programming that included seven stations throughout Historic Neighborhood featuring the use of light in various religious and cultural traditions.

DiGrande said that after working behind the scenes this year, the outcome of the festival was more rewarding. She said she believes the festival provided a safe and inclusive environment for the Elon community to gather and close out the semester.

"Where moments of peace and contentment come few and far between during a busy semester like this fall, this tradition brings rest and joy to the mind," DiGrande said. "Where we lacked in physical closeness this year, we made up in spiritual and cultural collaboration."

Sophomore Addie Holden said though she did not have her own luminary, she enjoys how unique tradition celebrates the holiday season.

"I love the luminaries," Holden said. "It's like a holiday for me. It's super fun going through and walking around to see how many people want to have their names on one."

Holden said the festival was the first time this academic year she had seen groups of people in one space. Holden believes the festival highlights all holidays and traditions, uniting the campus community.

"I just think it's a really cool way to celebrate the end of the semester," Holden said. "People needed the community to come together."

FESTIVAL OF HOLIDAY LIGHTS



JON SARVER | ENN FILE PHOTO

Students walk around the front of Alamance Building at the Festival of Lights on Nov. 7, 2020.

RUNNERS-UP

Second Place: Homecoming

Third Place: College Coffee

FUN FACT

Elon's Festival of Holiday Lights was reimagined in fall 2020 to abide by physical distancing guidelines.

BEST ORGANIZATION

Graysen Shirley
Elon News Network | @graysenshirley

ESTABLISHED AT ELON UNIVERSITY in 1987, Alpha Omicron Pi seeks to inspire ambition among the sorority's members and values character, dignity, scholarship and college loyalty. Alpha Omicron Pi is one of the nine panhellenic sororities at Elon and was voted by the campus community as "Best Organization."

Senior Katie McKeon, the chapter president of Alpha Omicron Pi, said members strive to promote lifelong friendship, inspire academic excellence, lead by example and serve on Elon's campus along with surrounding communities in the United States and Canada.

"Our motto is inspiring ambition, and I think that's something that every girl in our organization does," McKeon said. "We're involved in a bunch of different organizations. We're also always lifting each other up and encouraging each other to do things outside of just our own sorority."

Alpha Omicron Pi's philanthropic mission is to raise money and spread awareness of arthritis and related diseases. The sorority associates with The Arthritis Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to addressing the needs of people living with arthritis in the United States. This past year, members were able to participate in a virtual 5K race to raise money for the foundation.

Through their association with The Arthritis Foundation, Alpha Omicron Pi has been able to sponsor Cassidy, a 22-year-old with arthritis. Last fall, members were able to initiate her into the sorority as a fellow sister through a clause within their organization that states members may nominate someone to become a fellow sister if they do not have the organization at their school or were not able to have a college experience.

In addition to philanthropic work, members of Alpha Omicron Pi enjoy spending time together and engaging in sorority-wide activities that promote strengthening bonds of sisterhood. Sophomore Olivia Abbate said she has been able to stay connected with members of her pledge class through online yoga classes and by living in the on-campus sorority house with other sisters.

"Living in the house, I've found my best friends. I wanted these really strong friendships," Abbate said. "I think Alpha Omicron Pi's sisterhood really reflects the support and friendship you're able to make in the sorority."

ALPHA OMICRON PI



RUNNERS-UP

Second Place: Alpha Chi Omega

Third Place: Delta Delta Delta

FUN FACT

Alpha Omicron Pi is an international fraternity with several chapters located in Canada.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KATIE MCKEON

Two members of Alpha Omicron Pi, Katie Lorber and Katie McKeon, pose together during sorority recruitment.

BEST COFFEE

Sophie Rosenthal
Elon News Network | @sophrosenthal

FORMER ELON STAFF MEMBER Phil Smith and Ryan Vet ’13 realized that there was a niche to be filled on Elon’s campus. In 2014, they founded the Oak House, a coffee shop and bar mix located on North Williamson Avenue. This year, Elon students voted the Oak House “Best Coffee.”

“There really wasn’t anything like [the Oak House] around,” Smith said. “On a college campus especially, you’ve got those needs of morning coffee and then also people who like to have an afternoon or evening beverage in a social atmosphere.”

Smith and Vet were looking to create a place in which all different age groups on a college campus could feel comfortable. The combination of a coffee shop and a bar allows people who are under 21 to spend time in a social setting with people of legal age enjoying an alcoholic drink.

“It feels very natural to have a coffee in your hand and be sitting with someone who has a glass of wine or a beer in their hand because that’s the kind of place that it is,” Smith said.

On top of the community atmosphere of the Oak House, its products come from the community as well; its coffee and milk are all locally sourced. It uses coffee beans from Joe Van Gogh Coffee Roastery in Hillsborough — which is about 30 miles east of the coffee shop — and milk from Homeland Creamery — just 15 miles south in Julian.

Freshman Allie McGee is a frequent customer of the Oak House. She said she enjoys their coffee and sitting in the shop to study.

“I love the Oak House for the environment. I feel at home when I walk in, and I know that the coffee will always be amazing no matter what I get,” McGee said.

Although the Oak House was voted “Best Coffee” for their products, Smith and McGee both think that what makes the coffee shop special is the ambience.

“I think the drinks are great, but I really do think that a lot of what it is is the atmosphere,” Smith said. “It’s just very comfortable, and everybody feels like there’s a place for them.”

OAK HOUSE



FRANCE O’CONNOR | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Freshman Alexis Haupt studies over a cup of Oak House coffee.

RUNNERS-UP

Second Place:
Irazú Coffee

Third Place:
Dunkin’ Donuts

FUN FACT

Oak House has another location in downtown Durham. It opened in June 2019 and has the same model and products, plus locally made tea.

BEST SWEET TREATS

Erin Plamondon
Elon News Network

AN ELON STUDENT NEVER has to travel far to satisfy their sweet tooth thanks to Smitty’s Homemade Ice Cream’s convenient downtown location and selection of ice cream flavors. The Elon community has voted the beloved site as the university area’s “Best Sweet Treats.”

This year, Smitty’s will celebrate its 19th anniversary since opening its first location in Burlington. Smitty’s has since expanded, now with five locations throughout Alamance County — including the one in Elon, which was established in 2012.

The top selling flavor across all locations is vanilla, according to co-owner of Smitty’s Homemade Ice Cream Amy Nakhle.

“You can really tell a good ice cream by its vanilla,” Nakhle said. “We just have a really solid base, and it never gets old.”

Ordering ice cream or a milkshake is a staple, but the menu houses a lot more variety than one may think. Nakhle believes the fresh fruit smoothies and coffee blasts with homemade whipped cream are top sellers and a must-try.

Smitty’s is just steps away from the university, making it easy for students like freshman

Madi Rotermund without a car on campus to get a sweet treat.

“Smitty’s convenient location is a huge plus,” Rotermund said. “My go-to order is mint chocolate chip and I have a hard time trying something new because it’s so delicious.”

During an academic year lacking its usual activity, Rotermund said Smitty’s has nonetheless remained an easy option that allows her to connect with her friends.

“This semester specifically, it was tough at times to find places to meet up with friends and Smitty’s is always an easy, fun and affordable option, which I really appreciated having,” Rotermund said.

Like many small businesses, Smitty’s struggled financially during the pandemic, leading co-owners Nakhle and Tom Lambeth to sell the Elon location. Nakhle spoke highly of the surrounding businesses and said some beautiful partnerships have sprouted as a result.

“It was really quite a poignant moment when you see — and I can tell I’m getting emotional — when you just see how people believe in one another and really understand what the meaning of community is, and that it is about working together to achieve a certain goal that’s good for the whole,” Nakhle said.

SMITTY’S ICE CREAM



FRANCES O’CONNOR | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Smitty’s Ice Cream on Jan. 14.

RUNNERS-UP

Second Place:
Andy’s
Frozen Custard

Third Place:
Cold Stone

FUN FACT

Smitty’s has learned customers at its Elon location have adventurous palates. Brown Sugar Oatmeal was initially made as an experiential specialty flavor but, after a warm reception from Elon students, quickly became one of the standard flavors at all locations.

BEST OFF-CAMPUS RESTAURANT

Kieran Ungemach

Politics Editor | @kieranungemach

TANGENT EAT+BAR ON WEST Lebanon Avenue is anything but a run-of-the-mill taco place; after all, their slogan is “diverging from an original course.”

Voted “Best Off-Campus Restaurant,” the eatery opened in 2015 and attracts Elon University students, visitors and community members with its extensive menu that blends an array of cultures and cuisines together.

Owner Chris Brumbaugh, who also owns the neighboring restaurant The Root, hopes to provide a different eating experience for the community and offer a wider variety of food to the neighborhood, with help from a student body hailing from various places.

“We wanted to do something different but complementary for our second [restaurant] that was also unique for the area,” Brumbaugh said. “We make what we would like to eat, and having a well-traveled and adventurous audience nearby is essential to being able to offer interesting food.”

Just walking into TANGENT shows how interesting its food is. The blackboard menu hanging from the wall features items spanning from Asian cuisine fusions to American regional

classics.

“We do our best to remember good flavors we encounter on our travels and try new things in new ways,” Brumbaugh said, citing his favorite taco on the menu as the India-inspired turmeric-chickpea taco.

TANGENT’s open atmosphere doesn’t just come from their inclusive menu but also from the close-knit employee and customer experience they foster, according to employee Lindeman Edgar.

“The employee culture is more like a family, and that definitely translates to our customer interactions,” Edgar said, adding how TANGENT’s tacos have a unique ability to bring people together. “The menu is definitely a conversation starter — it makes people come out of their shell and try something new.”

Edgar is hopeful TANGENT’s popularity won’t have an effect on the uniqueness and essence that makes them stand out, a sentiment shared by Brumbaugh.

“We love to hear feedback from folks and we’ve evolved over the years to match market realities,” Brumbaugh said. “We’re proud to have created something that, in our opinion, helps make the community a more interesting and welcoming place.”

TANGENT EAT + BAR



GRAYSEN SHIRLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

TANGENT Eat + Bar is located adjacent to the Elon University campus on Jan. 9.

RUNNERS-UP

Second Place: The Root
Trackside

Third Place: Simply Thai

IF YOU GO

Where: 116 W Lebanon Ave
Elon, NC 27244

Hours: Mon. – Sat. – 11 a.m. –
9 p.m., Sun. – Closed

BEST ON-CAMPUS RESTAURANT

Trey Mead

Elon News Network | @trey_mead

EILON UNIVERSITY HOSTS A variety of retail restaurants across campus, but it seems the allure of Mexican cuisine is greatest to students, who have voted QDOBA Mexican Eats “Best On-Campus Restaurant.”

The chain opened its on-campus location in 2013 and has been a hot spot for students ever since. With everything from burritos to nachos prepared in front of customers, it is no surprise QDOBA is in high demand.

“QDOBA’s menu really speaks to our guests,” guest experience manager for Elon Dining Casey Claflin wrote in an email. “From the fresh ingredients, to the hand-prepared dishes and the highly-customizable QDOBA menu, our guests always can get a fresh, homemade meal just the way they want it.”

Located in Daniel Commons, QDOBA is on the way to classes for many students living in Daniele Center. And for sophomores Ryan Miller and Chris Tobias, the short walk from their dorm at Daniele H is one of the main reasons QDOBA appeals to them.

“Location, location, location,” Miller said. “I can just walk two minutes to get myself a burrito or quesadilla, and I’m good to go.”

According to Claflin, all associates at Elon Dining work hard to ensure guests have a positive experience at all locations. He feels QDOBA is no exception.

“We know that our wonderful, friendly team at QDOBA makes meaningful connections with the guests they see every day,” Claflin wrote. “Every guest that visits QDOBA gets that great customer service.”

Tobias always feels welcomed by the QDOBA staff when he picks up his meals, and he said this year, the added convenience of the mobile ordering app has been a benefit for students on the go. Claflin agreed that the introduction of the mobile ordering app has been a positive adjustment for both staff and students.

“We have seen a huge change in the way guests order their food due to a new mobile ordering platform that allows guests to place orders before they arrive at QDOBA,” Claflin wrote. “This has really helped our teams to promote social distancing at QDOBA and also has given our guests a new, convenient way to order their meal.”

QDOBA MEXICAN EATS



RUNNERS-UP

Second Place: Biscuitville

Third Place: Flat Out

FUN FACT

The QDOBA headquarters is in San Diego.

Elon’s QDOBA Mexican Eats is located in the Daniel Commons.

JOHN LUKE FARAH | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

BEST FOOD DELIVERY SERVICE

Anna Terry
Elon News Network | @atterry63

AS A SERVICE WHERE people can order food right to their door or make an income on their own time, DoorDash is a food delivery app beloved by many college students looking for added convenience in their lives. This year, Elon students voted DoorDash “Best Food Delivery Service” available to community members.

Elon senior and avid DoorDash user Jenna Jones said aside from having meals brought to her doorstep, she likes the service because it allows her to support local businesses.

“If you’re feeling extremely lazy, there’s [TANGENT Eat+Bar] and The Root and all the classic Elon foods on DoorDash, which I am guilty of DoorDashing every once in a while,” Jones said.

DoorDash also employs Elon students looking to make money during the academic year.

Having extra free time as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, junior Ava de Bruin decided to try her hand as a driver for DoorDash this past fall.

“I was looking for a way to make some money, and I really wanted a job that would work on my own flexible schedule, where I could kind of go and work when I wanted to,” de Bruin said.

As a full-time student with

the added responsibilities of being a member of Elon’s dance team, de Bruin likes that DoorDash allows her to cancel shifts or work last-minute if time allows. Convenience aside, de Bruin said her favorite part about the service is being her own boss.

“I get to listen to my music or a podcast. I sometimes can call people — call friends from home or call family,” de Bruin said. “That would definitely be my favorite part because I do find it really peaceful.”

The one downside of driving for the company in the eyes of de Bruin is that she always needs to be aware of her safety as a female driver.

“I definitely feel like I have to be always alert, which is not the fault of DoorDash as a company but more just the world that we live in,” de Bruin said. “I definitely have to be, especially at night, really cautious of where I am, where I’m going, even — this sounds silly — but the clothes that I’m wearing.”

Although the pay from DoorDash is different each shift due to differing orders, de Bruin said the income she makes from the service makes it all worth it. As her experience as a driver has grown, she has learned tips and tricks that have allowed her to maximize her income.

“I have been able to bring in more consistent money and it’s really helpful for me as a college student,” de Bruin said.

DOORDASH



CLARE GRANT | PHOTO EDITOR

DoorDash provides a delivery bag, mask and hand sanitizer to their workers.

RUNNERS-UP

Second Place: Good Uncle

Third Place: Uber Eats

FUN FACT

A person has to be 18 years or older to become a DoorDasher.

BEST PIZZA

Christine Guido
Elon News Network | @ChristineGuido5

DIRECTLY ACROSS FROM ELON University’s Historic Neighborhood on North Williamson Avenue is Pandora’s Pies, which has been voted “Best Pizza” by the Elon community. The locally owned restaurant has been around for nine years and offers its customers timely prepared food using locally sourced and fresh ingredients.

In line with COVID-19 safety regulations, Pandora’s Pies has seating in the restaurant’s dining room, directly outside and under a tent to the restaurant’s right. The spacious seating arrangement provides its customers with a physically distanced environment to enjoy a meal together.

Jordan Morris, a worker at Pandora’s Pies, said the restaurant is primarily receiving takeout orders.

“With the coronavirus pandemic, we are currently seeing more takeout orders at the moment instead of customers using the restaurant’s dining room,” Morris said

Elon freshman Celia Firmin enjoys going to Pandora’s Pies with her friends.

“With fewer opportunities to be social because of the pandemic, it is nice to be sitting outside and eating casually with friends,” Firmin said. “The pizza is so fresh and always delicious.”

Kimberly Holt has been working at Pandora’s Pies since they first opened. She expressed her enjoyment of working at the restaurant and said her favorite part about working at Pandora’s Pies is how the restaurant is so family-oriented.

“Everyone gets along really well. We’ve had multiple Elon kids work here and then their younger siblings come to Elon and now they work here too,” Holt said. “I have been very fortunate even to see multiple sets of siblings graduate over the years.”

PANDORA’S PIES



RUNNERS-UP

Second Place: Mellow Mushroom

Third Place: Domino’s Pizza

IF YOU GO

Where: 130 N Williamson Ave, Elon, NC 27244

When: Mon–Sun 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

CLARE GRANT | PHOTO EDITOR

Pandora’s Pies is located in downtown Elon combined with Smitty’s Homemade Ice Cream.

BEST LATE NIGHT FOOD

Jenna Manderioli
Elon News Network

FIRST ESTABLISHED IN GREENSBORO, Cook Out is a fast-food franchise known for its comfort food and over 40 milkshake flavors. Due to its proximity to Elon University’s campus, the Cook Out in Burlington has remained a staple spot for the community and has been voted the “Best Late Night Food.”

General manager Tiffany Thomas works at the Burlington location, which was established in 1986. She said meeting students is a special part of the job.

“It is cool getting to know people from different places, seeing regulars, especially from Elon, that come through,” Thomas said.

Elon students keep business lively, according to Thomas.

“It’s dead around here without you guys!” Thomas said.

Cook Out offers an array of customizable trays, consisting of a main dish, two sides and a drink. Customers can choose from burgers, chicken, barbecue and more. There are many different fried sides to add to the popular combo.

“My go-to order at Cook Out is two chicken quesadillas with fries and cheese bites on

the side, plus a Diet Coke,” Elon freshman Adger Lewis said.

Not only does Cook Out provide savory food, but they are known for their elaborate milkshake menu, ranging from fruity options like Banana Berry to featured candy flavors like M&M’s and Snickers.

Thomas said the most popular milkshake flavors are Reese’s and Oreo, but she is always interested to hear the various flavors that many students order in one visit.

Cook Out attracts many students because of its late night hours. Thomas said business starts to pick up around 11 p.m., especially while students are on campus. The late night hours create an outlet for students to enjoy comfort food, and the business really benefits from it, according to Lewis.

“Being from the South, Cook Out has been one of my favorite places growing up and truly has my heart,” Lewis said. “I’ve lived my whole life in North Carolina, and my friends and I have basically grown up going on a late-night Cook Out run. I think it’s so cool that Elon has a lot of out-of-state students that have never heard of any Southern restaurants, so I love being the one that introduces it to them.”

COOK OUT



JAKOB REUTER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Cook Out location in Burlington.

RUNNERS-UP

Second Place: McDonald’s

Third Place: Taco Bell

IF YOU GO

Where: 414 Huffman Mill Rd, Burlington, NC 27215

When:
Sun. – Thurs. 10:30 AM – 3:00 AM
Fri. – Sat. 10:30 AM – 4:00 AM

BEST BREAKFAST

Isabel Gouveia
Elon News Network

LOCATED IN HISTORIC GRAHAM, Press Coffee + Crepes provides an inviting setting to enjoy a meal and catch up with friends and family, according to manager Ashley Aguirre. As its website says, Press is “European-inspired and Carolina-made.” This style attracts community members, who have voted the coffee shop “Best Breakfast” in the vicinity of Elon University.

Aguirre said Press offers a rotating selection of coffees and crepes, and guests have the option of watching their food prepared at the crepe bar, dining indoors or outdoors.

“Our goal is to take care of the folks walking in the door and serve as a place to escape the world and just be,” Aguirre said.

While Press serves a large community of individuals from surrounding towns, Elon students are known to recommend Press as a favorite brunch spot. Freshman Zoë Zimmitti is one of these students.

“Press is one of my favorite places to dine at on the weekend, especially for Sunday brunch,” Zimmitti said. “The service that my friends and I received was quick and kind, and I know that Press has found a special place in my heart.”

Customers can expect a laid back atmosphere on the weekdays followed by hustle and bustle on weekends.

“With very different experiences at various times of the week, we hope to show the fun of who we are and what we are,” Aguirre said. “The people who work not for us but with us band together to create an exciting and relaxing space.”

PRESS COFFEE + CREPES



RUNNERS-UP

Second Place: Waffle House

Third Place: Biscuitville

FUN FACT

Press was founded in 2016 and is housed in a 1850s era building that originated as a general store.

JAKOB REUTER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Press Coffee + Crepes located in Graham.

BEST WINGS

Nyah Phengsitthy
Design Chief | @nyahphengsitthy

ON GAME NIGHTS, GROUPS of fans in their teams’ jerseys can be spotted in the midst of Alamance Crossing. The fans make their way into Burlington’s Buffalo Wild Wings, excited to be surrounded by multiple TV’s with different sports games playing.

Known mainly for its chicken wings, the sports bar was voted “Best Wings” by the Elon community. Even amid a pandemic, the franchise is still offering physically distanced dine-in services to give customers the game day experience.

Going to Buffalo Wild Wings to watch sports games is only part of the experience for junior Ben Blanco. The mixture of food and service is what makes the place preferable to other wings options in the area.

“I think they put a lot of care into their chicken wings,” Blanco said. “I guess it’s the pricing with the combination of the flavor, but I always think of them when I think of wings, and I’ve never been disappointed by them.”

Even now with physical distancing regulations, the busiest nights at the restaurant occur when there is a big game, driving in customers with energy as they eat their meal. On any given night, Tyler Blackman, hospitality manager of Buffalo Wild Wings, always finds the vibe of the restaurant exciting and said each table is always filled with different emotions.

“It gets a little bit loud, but it’s a fun environment, especially for the college-age crowd because that seems to be the kind of energy that works for them,” Blackman said. “Having Elon so close is helpful as far as driving the number of people through the building.”

Behind the cheering crowds and messy fingers, Blackman said community is important to the customers, whether they’re dining in or taking out.

“Community is one of our core values at Buffalo Wild Wings,” he said. “So the fact that we have a community appreciates what we do makes it easier for us to do things for them.”

BUFFALO WILD WINGS



Burlington’s Buffalo Wild Wings is located in the middle of Alamance Crossing.

JAKOB REUTER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

RUNNERS-UP

- Second Place:**
Zaxby’s
- Third Place:**
Hooters

IF YOU GO

Where: 3128 Walden Lane
Burlington, NC 27215

When: Mon. – Sun. – 11 a.m. – 10 p.m.

BEST MEXICAN FOOD

Nyah Phengsitthy
Design Chief | @nyahphengsitthy

SOMBREROS, MEXICAN PAINTINGS AND mosaics fill the atmosphere from the front door to the very back of the dining room inside of San Marcos Mexican Restaurant. The traditional Mexican restaurant strives to give their customers an authentic experience and was voted “Best Mexican Food” by Elon students this year.

Burlington is home to one of six San Marcos locations in the United States, with two in Virginia and four in North Carolina. Started by the Hernandez brothers and Zarate Associate, the mission of the restaurant to combine authentic Mexican style food in traditional environments attracted sophomore Colby Ehrhart to be a consistent customer.

“I like the environment and it’s more family-oriented and authentic,” Ehrhart said. “It’s a great place to go to eat out at and not spend a lot of money, and it’s close [to Elon].”

Burlington’s San Marcos is currently offering physically distanced dine-in services to its customers. Sophomore Valerie Borges found the restaurant to be a great place to dine and meet up with friends as the school’s coronavirus cases increased and physical distancing guidelines became more strict.

“We were on social hiatus for most of the semester, so it was difficult to hang out with friends inside the dorms. Going to San Marcos was a good place where I could see friends I didn’t live with,” Borges said.

Beyond the services provided, the ambience of San Marcos is what makes Borges a consistent customer.

“Every time I go to San Marcos, it’s a positive experience,” Borges said. “What I like most about San Marcos is the atmosphere it creates. Compared to other Mexican restaurants in the area, they have high-quality food and drinks.”

SAN MARCOS MEXICAN RESTAURANT



Burlington is home to one of six San Marcos Mexican Restaurant locations in the United States.

JAKOB REUTER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

RUNNERS-UP

- Second Place:**
TANGENT Eat+Bar
- Third Place:**
Chipotle Mexican Grill

FUN FACT

San Marcos was named after “Feria de San Marcos,” a four century old fair in Aguascalientes, Mexico.

BEST ASIAN FOOD

Jinger Callwood
Elon News Network | @jingerallwood

RED BOWL ASIAN BISTRO, the chain restaurant and bar located in Alamance Crossing, has been voted “Best Asian Food” by the Elon University community. The restaurant features a variety of pan-Asian food including Japanese, Chinese, Thai and Vietnamese cuisines.

Red Bowl’s unique menu is to thank for the restaurant’s success, according to lead bartender Ody Ferranco, who’s worked at the restaurant since 2013.

“The portions at Red Bowl are good portions,” Ferranco said. “We use top quality and fresh ingredients for our customers.”

Elon senior Asia Green is a fan of Red Bowl’s diverse menu and friendly customer service.

“I tried Red Bowl for the first time my junior year and loved it,” Green wrote in an email. “They have a very welcoming environment, the staff is very friendly and the waiters/waitresses are attentive. I don’t go very often, but when I do, the food is delicious and the portion sizes are amazing.”

Ferranco’s personal favorite dish — which he highly recommends to customers — is the spicy specialty Dragon and Phoenix dish, an entree served with both General Tso’s chicken and Thai shrimp.

The bartender said Red Bowl is a welcoming environment for all customers, including students.

“The food at Red Bowl is top quality and also served at a very affordable price for students,” Ferranco said.

RED BOWL ASIAN BISTRO



JAKOB REUTER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Red Bowl Asian Bistro is located in Alamance Crossing.

RUNNERS-UP

Second Place: Simply Thai and Sushi

Third Place: Peking House

IF YOU GO

Where: 3140 Walden Ln
Burlington, NC 27215

When: Mon. – Thurs. & Sun.
11a.m. – 9p.m.
Fri. – Sat. 11a.m. – 10p.m

BEST ITALIAN FOOD

Trey Mead
Elon News Network | @trey_mead

THOUGH FINE ITALIAN DINING may not be the first to come to mind when thinking about restaurants in the Burlington area, Prego’s Trattoria has become a favorite for Elon students, who have voted the local lunch and dinner spot as the area’s “Best Italian Food.”

Prego’s owner Albert Hernandez has been serving Italian cuisine to Elon students and the community for 15 years. He believes his late father’s training in New York City is the source of flavor and inspiration in their kitchen.

While the food may be New York-style in terms of quality and authenticity, Elon senior Kevin Alvarado believes the prices for these Italian dishes are perfect for college students on a budget.

“[Prego’s] serves quality food at a great price,” Alvarado said.

Despite the commercial success of his restaurant over the years, Hernandez recently faced two major challenges: COVID-19 and a change in location. After more than a decade on South Church Street, the introduction of a Publix grocery store has forced Hernandez to move his restaurant.

“2020 has been a very

difficult year,” Hernandez wrote in an email. “COVID has impacted us and many businesses around the world. I tried my best to keep Prego’s from shutting down.”

Hernandez plans to open the new location at 422 Huffman Mill Road in the next few months and asked for the community’s patience and support as Prego’s navigates an unexpected change.

Though challenges have followed the unexpected move, Alvarado believes Prego’s will continue to succeed as a result of customer loyalty and the opportunity for a fresh start.

“I feel that they’re going to be just as successful at their new location,” Alvarado said. “Maybe even more successful just because of a new layout for their business.”

Hernandez believes support from his friends, family and the community has not only kept the business afloat but also given him motivation during a difficult time.

“I am trying my best to keep Prego’s Trattoria the best restaurant in Burlington and having a restaurant that makes you feel more like family than a customer,” Hernandez wrote.

PREGO’S TRATTORIA



JAKOB REUTER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Prego’s Trattoria at their former location. The building was recently bought by Publix Super Markets, prompting the restaurant’s relocation.

RUNNERS-UP

Second Place: da Vinci’s Table

Third Place: Olive Garden

FUN FACT

Prego’s Trattoria is currently relocating in the Burlington area.

PHYSICAL DISTANCE

BEST CAMPUS TENT

Sophie Rosenthal
Elon News Network | @sophrosenthal

ACCORDING TO THE PRINCETON Review, Elon University has the 4th most beautiful campus in the United States. With its brick buildings and well-maintained lawns, the campus is covered in gorgeous structures — and now, tents.

In preparation for students’ return for the 2020 fall semester, the university made many adjustments to the campus to comply with COVID-19 safety regulations. One such change was to have the tents erected around campus to act as outdoor classrooms and dining halls. Elon students voted the Lakeside Dining Hall tent as “Best Tent.”

Physical Plant, the university’s maintenance and operations staff, was tasked with putting up the tents around campus. According to Tom Flood, the assistant vice president of Physical Plant, the locations of the tents were chosen with consideration of need, physical space constraints, accessibility and convenience.

“Larger tents were placed in central campus areas where they would be close to normal classes and therefore easy to utilize as an outdoor space,” Flood wrote in an email. “Tents were added at Global, Oaks and Iconic Plaza just as student activity spaces where there was a large resident population nearby.”

The Lakeside Dining Hall tent is located on the patio next to Iconic Plaza and provides students with tables and chairs to eat at and gather around outdoors. Freshman Sydney Panzier said she now enjoys eating outside in the Lakeside Dining Hall tent more than she likes eating inside.

“Due to [physical] distancing, the tent has allowed us to eat outside instead of in the close quarters of the dining hall,” she said. “It’s especially good when the weather doesn’t permit [typical] eating outside.”

While the pandemic lingers, Elon and Physical Plant continue to come up with ways to make students safer. The tents are but one example of a solution to a problem caused by COVID-19.

“As classrooms were decompressed, many larger indoor spaces normally used for activities and meetings had to be converted to classrooms,” Flood wrote. “This was one way to compensate for that loss.”

LAKESIDE TENT



FRANCES O’CONNOR | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Lakeside tent is located directly outside of Lakeside Dining Hall.

RUNNERS-UP

- Second Place:
Under the Oaks
- Third Place:
Pi Beta Kappa Commons

FUN FACT

All of the tents on campus are accessible. The tents are all either on flat paved surfaces or have ramps to a flat wooden floor built by Physical Plant.

BEST VIRTUAL MEETING SPACE

Madalyn Howard
Elon News Network | @madalynhoward_

ZOOM

AS THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC continues to limit in-person gatherings, the video communications platform Zoom has become synonymous with online learning and a staple in the everyday lives of Elon students, who have voted the platform “Best Virtual Meeting Space.” From hosting classes to club meetings to family gatherings, the platform offers a safe alternative to physical interaction and distinguishes itself from other video-conferencing applications with features like virtual backgrounds, beauty filters and emoji reactions.

Elon senior Emily Lange is the president of Phi Sigma Tau, Elon’s honor society for philosophy students. In the past, Phi Sigma Tau has held weekly, in-person meetings at Spence Pavilion, but after students were sent home last March because of the pandemic, the organization began hosting their meetings virtually. The practice continued through the summer months and fall semester.

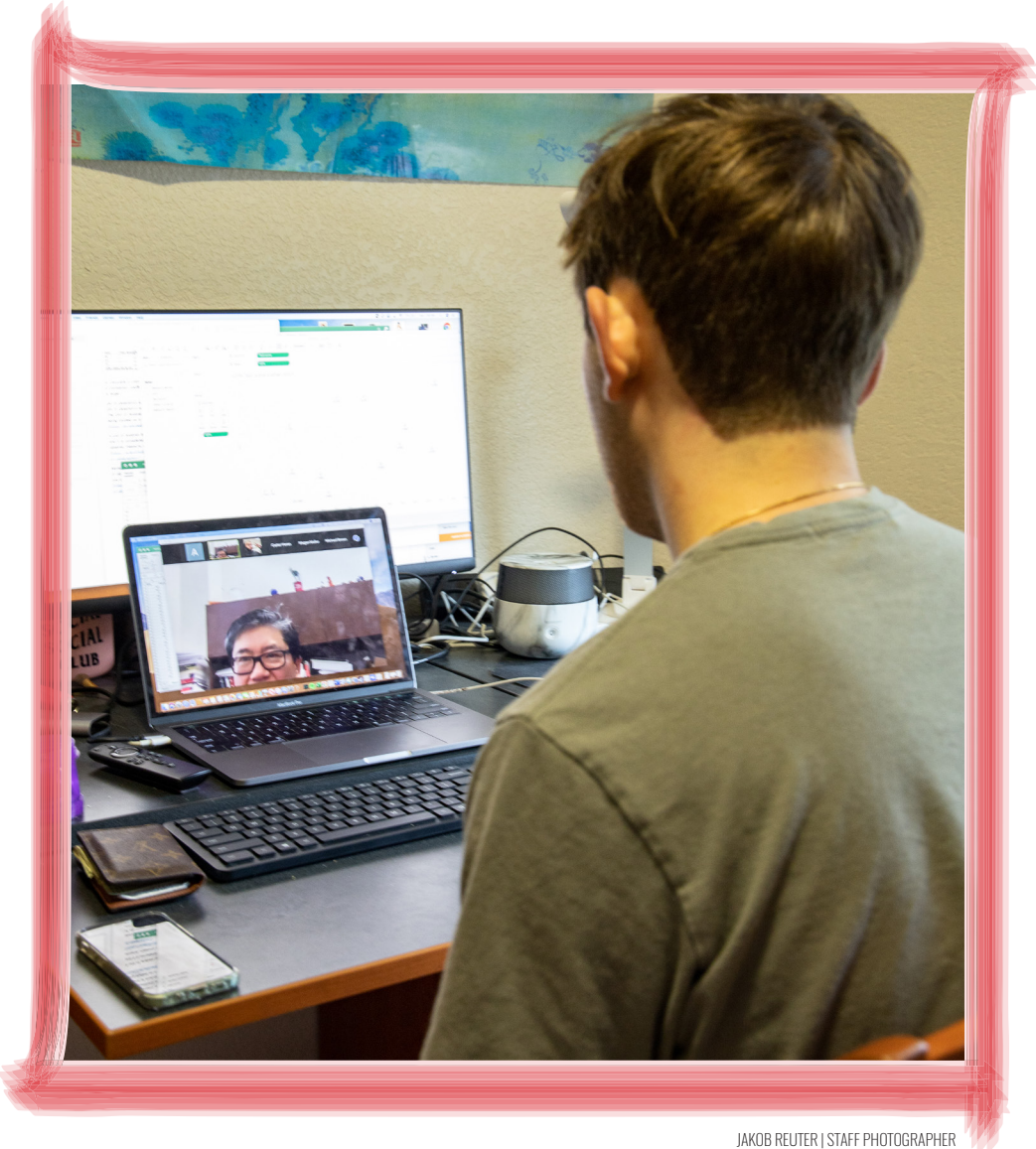
“When Phi Sigma Tau — aka Philosollamas — switched to virtual meetings, Zoom allowed us to continue our discussions while being safe,” Lange said. “The chat is used every meeting for sidebar conversations, sharing links, emphasizing points and keeping track of who has something to say ... and the whiteboard function allows participants to represent their thoughts visually or collaborate on a shared diagram.”

Lange said Phi Sigma Tau was able to maintain club traditions like inviting faculty members to speak and livening up meetings by displaying philosophy-themed virtual backgrounds that correlated with that meeting’s discussions.

Pat Donohue, assistant chief information officer and director of Campus Technology Support, said Elon IT is committed to easing students’ and professors’ transitions to online learning.

Prior to fall semester, Elon procured a site license for Zoom, allowing free, secure Zoom access for Elon students, faculty and staff. Additionally, Zoom is now linked to Moodle so instructors can post virtual class meetings to their course page and easily upload class recordings.

“Our community values fellowship and interaction,” Donohue wrote in an email. “When in-person events, activities and meetings aren’t possible, we’re able to support them virtually with Zoom.”



JAKOB REUTER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sophomore Aidan Brown attends his class, Communicating Media Insights, on Zoom on Jan. 26.

RUNNERS-UP

- Second Place:
Facetime
- Third Place:
Cisco Webex

FUN FACT

Eric Yuan, founder and CEO of Zoom, previously worked for Cisco Webex and left the company in 2011 after they rejected his idea for a smartphone-friendly video conferencing system.

STREAMING SERVICE

Abby Goretsky
Elon News Network

WHEN PEOPLE WANT TO find something to watch digitally nowadays, they tend to look toward streaming services. Out of all of the platforms used by Elon University students, Netflix is a fan favorite and has been voted “Best Streaming Service.”

Netflix has a wide variety of shows and movies, both from other sources and Netflix themselves. With people staying home to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic, Netflix’s popularity increased. Many people were left to binge-watch shows and discover new movies.

While all streaming services offer plenty of options for viewers, Netflix’s lack of commercials is a big reason people are so drawn to it. Lecturer in cinema and television arts Ryan Witt said the reason he likes Netflix is there are no ads.

“Lately even paid things like Amazon Prime still have ads, which is really annoying,” Witt said.

Freshman Jill Dow said she prefers Netflix over other

streaming services partly because of the broad range of options to choose from in terms of subscriptions. She also enjoys the lack of commercials and the family account option that Netflix offers.

Dow also noticed that she watched Netflix more over the pandemic.

“I wasn’t working, and so I had more free time,” Dow said.

While the pandemic has allowed Netflix and other streaming services to increase in popularity, it has hurt the theatre industry. Theater is the part of the entertainment industry that is in the biggest trouble right now, according to Witt. He said this is demonstrated by the recent HBO Max and Warner Brothers deal where new releases through Warner Brothers are available to stream right away on the HBO Max app.

“People are starting to get comfortable watching new releases at home rather than going to the theater,” Witt said. “Especially with people like Netflix who are now producing their own series and films which are essentially bypassing traditional theaters for release.”

NETFLIX



JAKOB REUTER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sophomore Aidan Steinbach watches the movie “Homefront” on Jan. 25 on Netflix.

RUNNERS-UP

Second Place:
Hulu

Third Place:
Disney+

FUN FACT

During the first few months of the pandemic, Netflix gained 16 million new sign-ups nearly doubling the amount of expected sign-ups.

BEST GAMING SYSTEM

Lauren Singles
Elon News Network | @lauren_singles

KNOWN BY MANY FOR the catchy theme music when creating a “Mii” character, the Nintendo Wii may be one of the first video game consoles students can remember owning. The Elon community voted the Wii as the best gaming system, with the Nintendo Switch and the Xbox series of consoles coming in second and third respectively.

Elon senior Zack Fertig remembers playing multiplayer games with his sister on the Wii, which was one of the first systems he used as a child.

“After the [PlayStation 2], the Wii was the second console that we ever owned,” Fertig said. “My parents didn’t really want my sister and I to play anything violent initially, and it was a really fun console for that.”

Fertig was surprised that the Wii received the most votes, as the system was discontinued in 2013 and the popular quarantine game Animal Crossing: New Horizons was released for the Nintendo Switch in March. Despite that, he believes

that the motion control aspect of the Wii is fun and other consoles haven’t been able to recreate it.

Even with new consoles and technology, Fertig said the nostalgia of the Wii still makes it appealing, even in 2021.

“Maybe it’s nostalgia, but I feel like those games stay good every time we play,” Fertig said. “Can’t hurt that it reminds us of a simpler time, young and unquarantined.”

Similarly to Fertig, Elon junior Emily Katz remembers playing on a Wii as a young kid during a neighborhood party.

“I was drawn to the Wii because it was unlike anything I had ever seen before and was a fun way to interact with my friends and family,” Katz said.

One of her favorite memories with the Wii was getting the new version of the game “Just Dance” every year around the holidays.

“I love it because it is a fun, easy way to exercise,” Katz said. “I also love playing it with friends and family because we always end up laughing at each other and having a great time.”

WII



FRANCES O’CONNOR | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Nintendo’s Wii is still beloved, despite being discontinued in 2013.

RUNNERS-UP

Second Place:
Nintendo Switch

Third Place:
Xbox

FUN FACT

The last Wii game created was Just Dance 2020, released Nov. 5, 2019.

BEST MOVIE

Lauren Singles
Elon News Network | @lauren_singles

MAGIC, WITCHCRAFT, WIZARDRY AND more — no, this isn’t about an old fairy tale. The world of Harry Potter is regarded as one of the most iconic film series of all time, going from pages to screens to the real world at Universal Studios. This year, the Elon community voted the film series “Best Movies.”

Elon sophomore Joey Gentile said seeing kids be written as the heroes initially drew him to the franchise.

“I love it because it takes me away to a different world,” Gentile said. “When I was younger it was Spiderman, it was Luke Skywalker, it was Anakin Skywalker. It was all of these adults, but with Harry Potter, you got to see young kids do these fantastical things.”

Although Harry Potter might not be everyone’s cup of tea, Gentile said he thinks everyone should at

least give it a chance.

“I feel like they’re classics,” Gentile said. “It’s magic — who doesn’t want to see magic on a big screen?”

Gentile, a cinema major, said he notices so much more in the films now than he did when he was a kid, adding to his enjoyment of the movies overall.

“When I was younger I would only be like, ‘Oh cool, he’s waving a sword,’” Gentile said. “Now it’s like, you noticed a little bit more of the depth of the relationships, a little bit more of the importance of things from the first movies and how they have an impact later on.”

Gentile also had the opportunity to go to Harry Potter World at Universal during the first month it opened, which he said gave him an immersive experience of the series he loved.

“My personal favorite part was Ollivander’s, going in and getting your wand — I thought that was fantastic,” Gentile said. “I feel like going to the wizarding world, whether it’s through books, in real life in Universal, or on the big screen ... it’s a magical experience.”

HARRY POTTER



PHOTO FROM WARNER MEDIA

The last Harry Potter movie was released in 2011.

RUNNERS-UP

Second Place:
The Notebook

Third Place:
After

FUN FACT

The total box office for the eight Harry Potter films valued to \$7.7 billion.

BEST CAMPUS DUCK

Thomas Denome
Chief Copy Editor | @tddenome

LAKE MARY NELL IS always one of the more active parts of Elon University’s campus. There’s typically a smattering of students around the lake, a few squirrels running rampant between the trees and a small, ever-present fleet of fowl.

The ducks of Lake Mary Nell are iconic; nearly everyone has a story about being chased, harassed, accosted or frightened by them. And the leader of the pack is the most intimidating of them all: a red-faced, rude, ugly muscovy duck with brown eyes and a perpetual snarl.

There are stories of him ruining picnics, hissing at lake-goers and biting at students. I once witnessed him attempt to drown another duck when they got too friendly with his duck girlfriend. A colleague of mine called him “evil” when I mentioned him once.

And yet, the muscovy duck is easily the best waterfaring bird on Elon’s campus. It’s really not close, although it might have been if not for the passing of the swan who inhabited the lake until a couple years ago.

Sure, the muscovy is rough around the edges. But spend some quality time around him and you see a different picture. He is kind and caring to his girlfriend, another white muscovy duck on the lake. The other ducks happily follow him around. He’s certainly brave; when other ducks run from approaching humans, he stands his ground and starts to bite.

Maybe the ferociousness of this terrifying duck is what the university needs. Absent a real phoenix, we need some kind of literal bird mascot. Why not Elon Muscovy?

And it’s not like there are many other choices for a best duck on campus. Look at the ugly arrangement of various interbred mallards and pekings that follow the muscovy constantly and tell me any of them are fit to be a representative of this great university.

You can’t. There are many Elon ducks, but there is only one Elon Muscovy.

“ELON MUSCOVY”



THOMAS DENOME | CHIEF COPY EDITOR
“Elon Muscovy,” the patriarchal bird of Elon’s assortment of waterfowl, sits and observes on the shore of Lake Mary Nell in August 2019.

BEST ACORN MEAL

Maeve Ashbrook
Elon News Network | @maeve_ashbrook

ACORN COFFEE SHOP IN downtown Elon offers a wide variety of sandwich options for Elon University students, ranging from personalized grilled cheeses on Fridays to the classic pizza bagel.

But what makes Acorn so great is the ability to create your own sandwich — your own personal pick-me-up — and that’s exactly what my “made-to-order” Acorn sandwich is: a toasted flatbread with hummus, American cheese, roast beef, pepperoni and bacon.

While this combination may sound less than appealing at the moment, I am here to say it didn’t make sense to me when I first ordered it either. I craved hummus and pita but was in such a rush that I didn’t have time to go anywhere else.

This sandwich is an experience. The first bite is almost always a mix of the melted together cheese and hummus and brittle edges of flatbread. The thick yet flavorful gooey spread will satisfy the greatest of hummus cravings.

The ends of the flatbread are to pita chips as the middle of the flatbread is to soft pita. In addition, the spices from the pepperoni on top of the flavor of the roast beef creates a smoky flavor as if the plate of hummus and pita you’re eating is oven-roasted.

The three proteins also help the sandwich transform from popular appetizer-turned-sandwich to a legitimate meal. While both pepperoni and roast beef aren’t always necessary, the burnt bacon is, adding a final touch of crunch, saving the sandwich from just being a gooey mess.

The best part is that it’s always customizable. If one day roast beef doesn’t sound good, it’s easy to just not order it. Acorn lets students choose up to three proteins for no extra charge.

Or, if you’re reading this and think the idea of this sandwich sounds good but you don’t like American cheese, Acorn lets you choose one of seven different cheeses when creating your Made-to-Order sandwich.

For the amount of times I’ve ordered this sandwich, my guess is that if you were to order the same one, the wonderful employees at Acorn might start to wonder why someone else ordered this bizarre combination.

I spent my first year at Elon trying to find the perfect Acorn sandwich for me. A go-to meal to cure any long day in the newsroom without food. I encourage all Elon students though to give this a try. Just like me over a year and a half ago, I think you might be surprised.

MAEVE’S MADE-TO-ORDER



CLARE GRANT | PHOTO EDITOR
Of the many different sandwich combinations that you can make at Acorn, Elon News Network staff member Maeve Ashbrook’s favorite is a toasted flatbread with hummus, American cheese, roast beef, pepperoni and bacon.

BEST HAMMOCK SPOT

Kyra O'Connor

Enterprise Story Coordinator | @ko_reports

YOU'RE FINALLY FINISHED WITH homework for the day. It's that perfect warm temperature. Rather than spending the rest of the afternoon inside, you decide to hammock. The best and most obvious choice? Lake Mary Nell.

With its abundance of trees fit for both hammocking with others or solo ventures, Lake Mary Nell provides the best spot for hammocking simply because of its versatility. The trees are spread out around the lake, allowing you to choose between shade and sun, close enough to utilize the Elon Wi-Fi connection or further away, beyond the grasp of notifications. Should you decide to hammock with a group, there are several spots seemingly built for the practice. The trees are perfectly positioned for hammocks to criss cross and hammockers to enjoy conversation with one another.

The serenity of hammocking near the lake is hard to beat. Both the calm of the water and the natural noise of a college campus create ambiance perfect for homework, reading, chatting or simply relaxing. The lake is also close to retail food options, a dining hall and bathrooms, making it easy to spend a whole day in one perfect hammocking spot.

While there are certain drawbacks, such as the popularity of the spot and the ducks on their angrier days, Lake Mary Nell is overall the best place to hammock on campus. With the Instagram-worthy view, the abundance of tree options and the proximity to amenities, you will find there are few better ways to spend a Saturday afternoon than hammocking at Lake Mary Nell.

LAKE MARY NELL



Lake Mary Nell, the premier spot for hammocking at Elon University, on Jan. 26.

THOMAS DENOME | CHIEF COPY EDITOR

BEST CRYING SPOT

Ellis Chandler

Social Media Manager | @ellis_chandler

COLLEGE IS HARD. IT'S a time of transitions, it's emotional and some days, it's downright exhausting. As much as you may want a break, you can't always catch one, and that can sometimes end in tears.

I've had my fair share of tears since starting school and I am no stranger to a "discreet" cry on campus. Some tears were happy and most were stressful, but ultimately I've learned it's better to just let it out.

That being said, crying on campus takes a bit of trial and error.

Your bed may be an obvious choice of spot, but if you're looking to be alone and you share a living space with others, it may not be the best place. There's always the cliched bathroom stall, which can do the job, but it lacks the warmth and coziness of other locations.

Study rooms, practice rooms and editing suites alike aren't as private as you may seek, but the small capacities guarantee the alone time needed to hash your feelings out.

That's why my pick for "Best Place to Crying Spot" campus is the Campus Recreation Driving Range.

The best part is that it's always empty, but if you don't have a car on campus, it's a bit of a hike. The driving range is located behind South Gym and Student Health Services and remains my go-to spot because it allows me some fresh air, much-needed privacy and quiet time. There's no judgment or stigma, and it's the perfect distance when I need to get away for a little while.

Even when I'm not upset, the driving range is my corner of campus for when I need an hour to sort my thoughts. Plus, the spacious field and surrounding trees make for a pretty good view.

I was told I'd find my favorite study spots when I first came to school, but I found the driving range first. I love it and I don't even play golf, and I know I'll be back many times before graduation day.

Sometimes we all need a good cry and can laugh at a dramatic breakdown afterward if we're comfortable doing so, but it's important to take care of ourselves and recognize when our emotions might need extra attention. If you are concerned about your mental health or just want to talk to someone, contact Elon Counseling Services at 336-278-7280.

But the next time you're battling a midterm paper or a rough day, consider my secret spot to shed your tears. If I see you there, I'll give you a tissue. Life's too short not to cry on campus.

CAMPUS REC DRIVING RANGE



The driving range at Elon, while mainly used for golf practice, is also Elon News Network staff member Ellis Chandler's go-to place to cry.

CLARE GRANT | PHOTO EDITOR

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