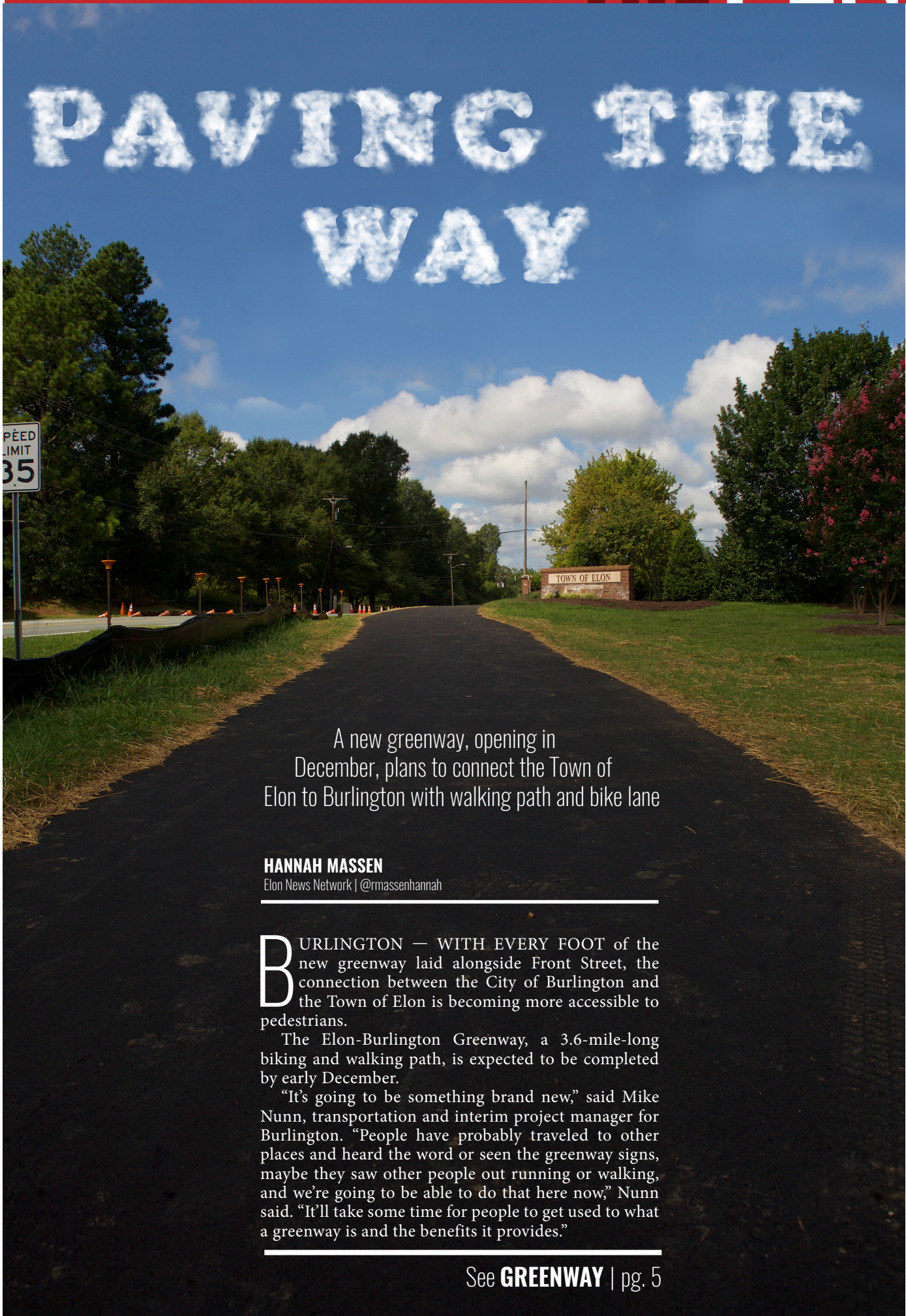


WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2019
VOLUME 45 EDITION 3
ELON, NORTH CAROLINA

THE PENDULUM



A new greenway, opening in December, plans to connect the Town of Elon to Burlington with walking path and bike lane

HANNAH MASSEN
Elon News Network | @rmassenhannah

BURLINGTON — WITH EVERY FOOT of the new greenway laid alongside Front Street, the connection between the City of Burlington and the Town of Elon is becoming more accessible to pedestrians.

The Elon-Burlington Greenway, a 3.6-mile-long biking and walking path, is expected to be completed by early December.

“It’s going to be something brand new,” said Mike Nunn, transportation and interim project manager for Burlington. “People have probably traveled to other places and heard the word or seen the greenway signs, maybe they saw other people out running or walking, and we’re going to be able to do that here now,” Nunn said. “It’ll take some time for people to get used to what a greenway is and the benefits it provides.”

See **GREENWAY** | pg. 5

Leaving a lasting legacy: Chris Edwards ’18

Anton L. Delgado
Managing Editor | @antonidelgado



Chris Edwards

Leaping off the bed with his hand outstretched, Chris Edwards ’18 was the first person to welcome Tyson Glover ’17 to Smith Residence Hall in 2014.

“Hi, I’m Chris, I

play the trombone. Welcome to Elon,” Glover recalls Edwards saying.

Glover assumed Edwards was his roommate and as a snare drummer himself, knew they would get along. It turned out that Edwards had just been “relaxing” in his the room, waiting for Glover’s actual roommate. The memory still cracks Glover up.

“On a dreary cold day in January, he gave me the one moment of warmth, of welcomeness, of what Elon was supposed to be,” Glover said. “Chris was the foundation of my closest

friends at Elon.”

After spending his freshman fall abroad, Glover was eager to stay in touch with Edwards. The two traded numbers. Edwards typed his contact name in as Trombone Chris — which it still is today.

“The legacy that he leaves behind is something we’ve started to see, but something we’ll continue to see,” Glover said.

See **EDWARDS** | pg. 4

Cheek returns from ACL tear



Quarterback Davis Cheek returns to the gridiron against North Carolina A&T on Saturday, Aug. 31.

Phoenix quarterback rises above a career-changing injury to lead Elon in his junior-year campaign

Alex Reynolds
Sports Director | @reynolds_14

An ACL injury is one of the most devastating in sports. The anterior cruciate ligament lies behind the knee cap and holds the tibia and femur together and without it, an athlete can’t walk. Quarterback Davis Cheek suffered a grade III “complete tear” in week seven last year. Now, less than 10 months later, he is ready to step on the field for the Elon University Phoenix.

Last season, with Cheek at the helm, the Phoenix started red hot. After falling to its Football Bowl Subdivision rival, the University of South Florida, during the first week, the team rallied off two decisive wins over Charleston Southern University and New Hampshire University. In these games, Cheek threw for a total of 478 yards and two touchdowns.

Cheek’s crowning achievement of the 2018 season undoubtedly came the following week when the Phoenix traveled to the then No. 2 team in the Football Championship Subdivision, the James Madison University Dukes. Cheek passed efficiently against the elite Dukes defense to give balance to the Phoenix’s strong rushing attack.

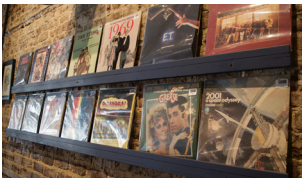
Ultimately, the game came down to Cheek, who was tasked with leading the Phoenix down 24-20 with four minutes remaining in the fourth quarter. Cheek completed five of his six pass attempts to take the Phoenix down the field and then delivered a perfect strike to the back of the endzone into the waiting hands of then-freshman Avery Jones to lift the Phoenix to a 27-24 upset victory. “We went in there and we handled adversity really well,” Cheek said. “Throughout the game, there’s always four or five moments that end up dictating the game. We took advantage of those really well.”

Adversity and sports go hand-in-hand, and no more than a week after the triumph of a comeback victory, there was a pitfall that would change Cheek’s career.

See **CHEEK** | pg. 11



NEWS • PAGE 7
Trump makes seventh visit to North Carolina



LIFESTYLE • PAGE 9
Beer and music, a local vinyl store with a modern twist



SPORTS • PAGE 10
Athletes turned alumni begin professional careers

THE PENDULUM

A PUBLICATION OF
**ELON NEWS
NETWORK**

Established 1974
Volume 45, Edition 3

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, Ella Williams, Olivia Parks, Jack Norcross, Emily Jacobs and Meghan Kimberling contributed to the design of this edition. April Roberts, Liz Crouse, Nina Crocco and Kaitlyn Vigeant 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.

Email
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ELN Morning
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broadcasts Tuesdays at 4:30 p.m.

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CORRECTIONS

Aug. 28, 2019 Edition

SPORTS

In the article “Keeping on Course” the actual date for Elon University’s Cross Country Opener was Friday, Aug. 30.

In the article “Crashing the Court” the actual location for Elon University’s first women’s volleyball game was in Moon Township, Pennsylvania.

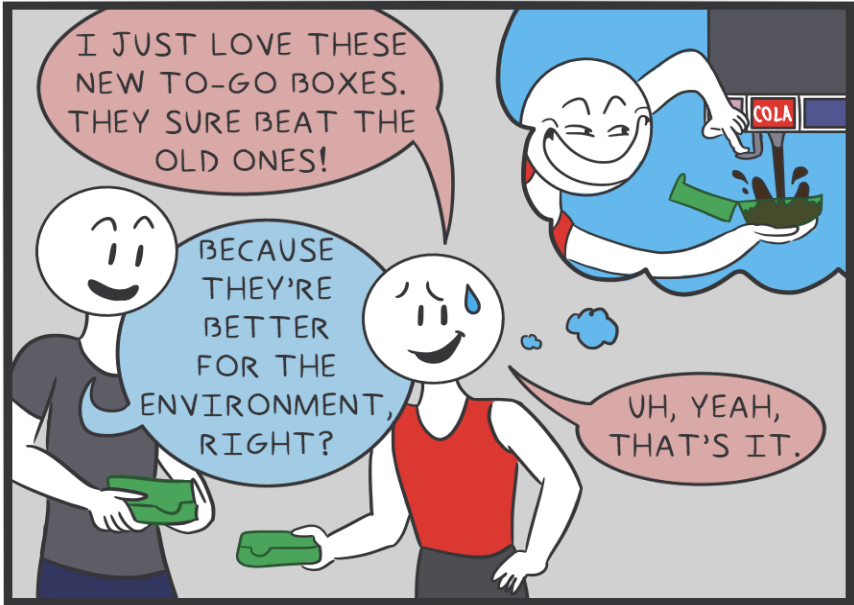
Aug. 23, 2019 Edition

NEWS

In the article “Welcoming the largest class in Elon University history” the size of the freshman class was misstated, the Class of 2023 is the second-largest in Elon history. The positions of two sources were also misstated. Paula Patch is a senior lecturer in English and Amy Johnson is the executive director of Elon Core Curriculum.

COMIC

TO-GO BOXES



COMIC SAMs – SAM POROZOK

CALENDAR: SEPT. 4 – SEPT. 11

WOMEN’S SOCCER VS UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND 4 P.M. Richmond, Virginia 5	WOMEN’S VOLLEYBALL VS VIRGINIA TECH 6 P.M. Lynchburg, Virginia 6	RISE AGAINST HUNGER MEAL PACKING SERVICE 8:30 A.M. & 11 A.M. Alumni Gym 7	FOOTBALL VS THE CITADEL 2 P.M. Rhodes Stadium 7	WOMEN’S SOCCER VS UNC ASHEVILLE 4 P.M. Rudd Field 8
ACCOUNTING MEET AND GREET 5:30 P.M. McKinnon Hall 9	TECTONIC PLATES – ALAMANCE COUNTY’S SCIENCE CAFÉ 7 P.M. Fat Frogg Bar & Grill 10	WOMEN’S VOLLEYBALL VS NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL 7 P.M. Schar Center 10	ERNST & YOUNG EMPLOYER INFO SESSION 5:30 P.M. Moseley Center 140 11	CASSANDRA KIRCHER, FAR FLUNG, FACULTY READING 7 P.M. Johnston Hall 11

Hundreds of “Phoenix Phanatics” cheer on Elon University’s football team as they take on North Carolina A&T on Saturday, Aug. 31.



GRACE TERRY | DESIGN CHIEF



ZACH OHMANN | PHOTO EDITOR

Running back De'Sean McNair falls during Elon's first football game against North Carolina A&T on Saturday, Aug. 31.



Breaking under the weight of hundreds of party-goers, Mill Point 120 was evacuated after the floor dropped 3 inches on Sunday, Sept. 1.

ALEX ROAT | VIDEO PRODUCTION MANAGER



Beer and vinyl are the two things Jon Guza '97 combined when starting Hi Fi Records in downtown Graham.

JACK NORCROSS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

every house a home, every stranger a friend

Campus organizations and fellow alumni honor the memory of Chris Edwards '18

Anton L. Delgado
Managing Editor | @antonldelgado

Police said Edwards and his sister, Erin, were shot and killed by their mother, Marsha, in an apparent murder-suicide in Cobb County, Georgia, on Aug. 21. The Cobb County Police Department has not yet released the official police report on the incident. Glover, now an assistant director of admissions at Elon, joined hundreds of mourners at a funeral service for the family held on Aug. 28 in Atlanta.

"There's a million different stories about the man Chris was," Glover said. "Seeing that he was being celebrated was one way of just seeing hope through all of this. ... This man really was just a light in this world."

Mayor of Elon

Glover remembers how long it would take to walk to the School of Communications with Edwards.

"Everybody knew this guy and he was just somehow ... best friends with every single human who came in contact with him," Glover said. "It was just something else to see how warm, friendly and welcoming this man was to everybody. ... He didn't know any strangers in his life."

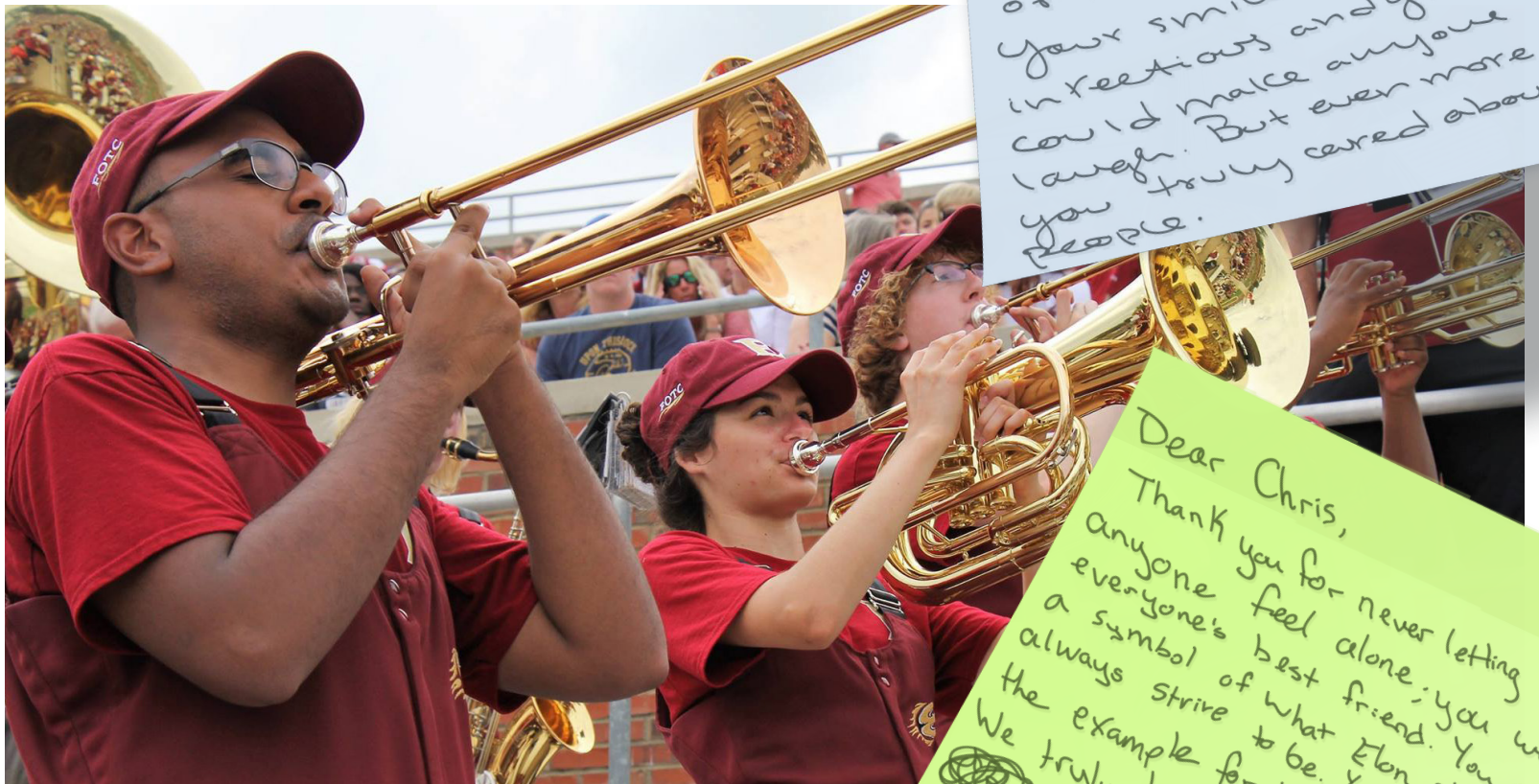
It was a characteristic that led to Edwards being nicknamed "The Mayor of Elon" by Glover and other close friends.

As classmates, bandmates and neighbors, Glover and Edwards got along in almost every aspect — except for one: The Washington Nationals vs. The Atlanta Braves. The two teams have played each other 64 times in the last three years, each winning and losing 32 games.

"He always had my number, he still does to this day — getting on my case about that sports rivalry," Glover said. "He and I could go on for hours about what was going on in the world of sports."

Edwards' enthusiasm for sports and broadcasting was renowned in the School of Communications, where he majored in media arts & entertainment, the forerunner of cinema & television arts. In student media, Edwards co-hosted "The Urban Power Hour" on WSOE 89.3, a radio show dedicated to "playing and defining exceptional black music." He also worked as a show host for "One on One Sports," a student-run sports debate show.

"Chris was the person who got me introduced to sports journalism" said senior Andrew Vendelis, who is currently a host for



the show. "Through 'One on One Sports,' Chris' mentoring and leadership allowed for me to explore different ways of approaching sports journalism that I still use in my toolkit to this day."

After the news of his death, donations to "One on One Sports" made in Edwards' name were sent to the Office of University Advancement.

"I would love to see some of that go towards talent development because [Chris] loved giving feedback and making sure everyone was on their A-game," Vendelis said. "If we can find a way to use those funds to make sure 'One on One' carries on in the blueprint that Chris helped create, I know he'd be happy."

Edwards' passion for sports broadcasting led him to choosing a senior spring semester internship with ESPN's SEC Network over graduating with Glover and other friends.

After graduating the following semester, Edwards began working as the digital content manager for the Atlanta mayor's Office of Film & Entertainment — where his younger sister Erin, 20, joined him for a summer internship.

"Chris and Erin were beautiful, vibrant, and brilliant young adults," wrote Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms in a press release. "They filled the lives of all who met them with joy, compassion and kindness."

Personal success was only half the reason Edwards loved broadcasting.

On his website, Edwards wrote, "I strive to inspire future African-American broadcasters that you can reach your dreams, and make a difference if you put the work in and have a little faith along the way."

In early August, for the third



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE FIRE OF THE CAROLINAS

ABOVE: Junior Clara Mueller (right) remembers Chris Edwards '18 (left) as the person who "brought the fire to the Fire of the Carolinas."

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS EDWARDS' FACEBOOK

BELOW: Edwards '18 and his sister Erin smile for a photo on the day of his graduation on May 19, 2018.

ILLUSTRATION BY OLIVIA PARKS

NOTES: In the days following Edwards' death, community members posted anonymous Sticky Notes on the School of Communication's Sports Media poster, which features a photo of Edwards anchoring a show for "One on One Sports."

year in a row, Edwards joined Elon alumni, staff and students at the 2019 National Association of Black Journalists Convention & Career Fair.

"For the last two years, he attended the Elon students and alumni brunch at NABJ and was always gracious with his advice and help to others, even sharing his contacts with our students," said Nagatha Tonkins, School of Communications director of internships, who was with Edwards at the convention. "We always enjoyed Chris' humor, enthusiasm and passion for sports."

Trombone Chris

Edwards debated about sports as much as he cheered for them.

Uniforms, instruments, hydration-levels and vibes were some of the first things Edwards would check before a performance by the Fire of the Carolinas, Elon's marching band. As an avid trombonist, Edwards led the low brass section, usually just a few feet from Glover in the drumline.

"He was just the kind of person that brought the fire to the Fire of the Carolinas," said junior Clara Mueller. "He was the loudest of all of us. ... We want to do our best to honor him in any way we can."

Mueller was a freshman when she first met Edwards. Following his graduation, Mueller took over as the leader of the low brass section.

"I had never learned how to instruct a music performance. I had never instructed marching before. These were all tasks that were new to me," Mueller said. "What really helped me was thinking back, how did Chris do this?"

One of Mueller's and Glover's favorite traditions was when Edwards would hush the entire band and have them sit following the injury of an Elon athlete. As the player began walking off-field, Edwards' boom would cut the stadium silence: "Like a Phoenix, we rise."

"In band we are one sound. We are all individual people but we come together to be one sound," Mueller said. "He definitely

brought us together by unifying us as a band and also unifying us as a family."

Mueller received the news of Edwards' death during band camp, a week before classes started.

She was surrounded by dozens of other band students. Without a word being said, every member knew the season would be dedicated to Edwards. At the football home opener Sept. 7, the band will wear red ribbons in honor of Edwards.

Along with the red ribbon, Mueller will be wearing a neon yellow wristband. Edwards had lent it to her the last time they were together — during a beach trip in July.

"I was supposed to give this back to him when we were leaving, but I forgot. When I got home, I found it in my bag. ... So, I kept it with me, so I could give it back to him during Homecoming," Mueller said. "But now it's mine. I'm so happy that I have it."

Mueller plans to wear the bracelet during every game the band plays at this season.

Connecting Elon and Burlington one step at a time

GREENWAY | from cover

As of the beginning of September, parts of the greenway have already been paved in Burlington and are open to the public. One of these sections is located alongside Front Street near Loy Farm.

Conceptualization of the project began in 2017 as part of the Burlington mission to improve pedestrian, bicycle and recreational areas. After receiving public input, city officials moved forward with the project

OPENING DATE

The first phase of the Elon–Burlington Greenway will be completed by December 2019

because of its ability to serve as a recreation and transportation resource to the community.

“Obviously, we felt good that we were doing a comprehensive citywide approach. We have lots of needs in the city and if we don’t look at all of them together, it’s hard to make progress,” Nunn said.

Part of the project planning process included

weighing the most necessary routes and the most cost-effective prices, said Morgan Lasater, Burlington’s community engagement manager.

The first phase of the greenway system is expected to cost \$500,000. Its cost is being collectively funded by the local governments of Burlington and Elon, private organizations such as Elon University, LabCorp and the Impact Alamance foundation.

According to Nunn, Impact Alamance is the project’s primary donor having given more than \$200,000. Bob Shea, Elon University’s vice president for business, finance and technology, said the university did not donate a “significant amount of money.”

Burlington has received partial funding for the second phase of the planned greenway system, which will connect the city’s animal services building to Haw River Trail. According to Lasater, the purpose of this phase is to provide an opportunity for potential pet owners to take shelter animals on walks to decide whether to adopt them.

Tracey Grayzer, president of Impact Alamance, hopes this greenway will help students and locals exercise more. Grayzer said the greenway aligns with her foundation’s mission to promote access to healthy resources.

“Greenways aren’t only active modes of transportation, but they’re also economic connectors,” Grayzer said. “Not everyone

has a car, so it’s an economic driver. ... When you think about Alamance County being the best place to live and thrive, health and quality of life and economic factors are all drivers of that being successful.”

For Elon students without a car, the greenway may serve as a much-needed route into the city.

Senior Claire Thompson did not have a car on campus during her first year of college and found the city of Burlington to be mostly inaccessible. Thompson said she believes the greenway will be widely used across campus as an alternative to driving.

“I also enjoy running and it’s really hard without sidewalks feeling safe running on the road, so I’m pretty limited to campus in that regard,” Thompson said. “I definitely think this will increase the safety around running or biking or just being off campus when you’re not in a car. I think it’ll help pedestrian safety by having alternative options to being directly on the road with the cars.”

As a member of Elon Outdoors, Thompson said the club might use the pathway for outdoor activities.

Because the greenway is safe, environmentally friendly and promotes community engagement, Shea said it aligns with Elon’s current and future strategic plans, the document that governs the university’s direction and resource allocation for a 10-year period.

“Many of us live in the community, both students, faculty and staff, so to be engaged in the community is part of what we do,” Shea said, emphasizing the need for a connection between Burlington and Elon.

As a cyclist himself, Shea said he plans on riding his bike on the greenway to explore Burlington’s food and entertainment scene.

Though the path will not be completed until the end of 2019, Lasater said students have already been jogging on the finished stretches of greenway. She hopes the project will

positively affect the relationship between Elon and Burlington.

“Burlington is basically in the backyard of Elon University,” Lasater said. “We know that the students and the community surrounding the university use our city as their city, which we love. We really want to see that continue and we hope this greenway is part of that.”

According to Lasater, the construction crew has not experienced any setbacks so far. However, as the hurricane season intensifies, she said the team is “ready for whatever we need to do to get it done.”

“NOT EVERYONE HAS A CAR, SO IT’S AN ECONOMIC DRIVER. ... WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT ALAMANCE COUNTY BEING THE BEST PLACE TO LIVE AND THRIVE, HEALTH AND QUALITY OF LIFE AND ECONOMIC FACTORS ARE ALL DRIVERS OF THAT BEING SUCCESSFUL

TRACEY GRAYZER
PRESIDENT OF IMPACT
ALAMANCE



CORY WELLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The 3.6 mile-long greenway is in the process of being paved and is set to open in December 2019.

1 BURLINGTON-ELON GREENWAY/BIKEWAY

As an alternative to the higher traffic volumes and speeds along Front St, install bicycle shared-land markings and high-quality directional signage along neighborhood streets from Downtown Burlington to Elon University. The route is shown on the map at right, going along Davis St, May Ct, Tarleton Ave, Woodland Ave, Canterbury Dr, and Briarcliff Rd (then it changes to a shared use greenway along Front St). For these segments of the route, bicycle and pedestrian safety would be increased by also lowering the speed limit from 35 to 25 mph. Also, care must be taken to smooth the asphalt-gutter pan transition and install bicycle-friendly drainage gates to ensure safe and comfortable bicycle operating space.

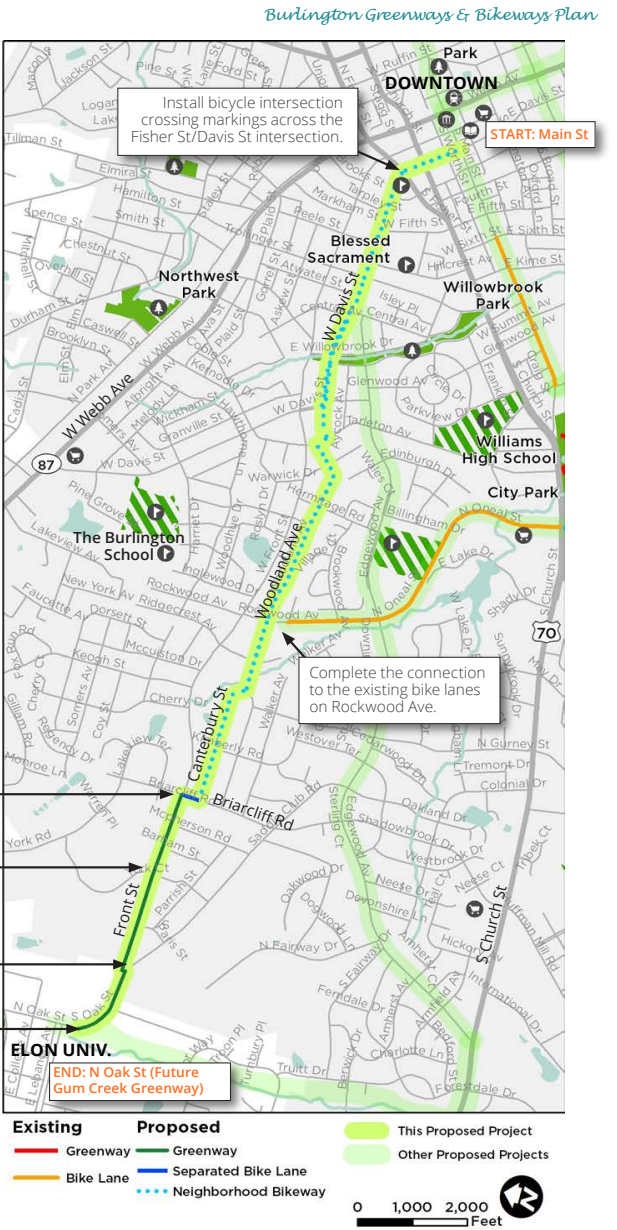
Note: The above recommendations DO NOT require the removal of on-street parking. However, if bicycle lanes are preferred to shared lane markings, there are some portions of Davis St, Woodland Ave, and Canterbury Dr that are 32'-34' wide, leaving space to stripe bicycle lanes. If bicycle lanes are pursued instead of shared-lane markings, a neighborhood-level public input process should be used to show where parking would be replaced by bicycle lanes.

Install bicycle and pedestrian intersection crossing markings across the Front St/ Briarcliff Rd intersection.

Construct a sidepath along the north side of Front St from Briarcliff Rd to Saddle Club Rd.

Sidepath to cross Front St at Saddle Club Rd in order to avoid slope, cemetery, and mature tree conflicts on north side, and to connect to existing sidewalk on south side.

Connect to the existing sidewalks along Oak Ave and the future Gum Creek Greenway corridor. The long-term recommendation is for Elon University to upgrade the existing sidewalk to a 10-ft wide multi-use path (requiring relocation of the existing fence), so that it may safely accommodate both bicyclists and pedestrians.



MAP CONTRIBUTED BY THE CITY OF BURLINGTON

Chapter 3: Recommendations | 43

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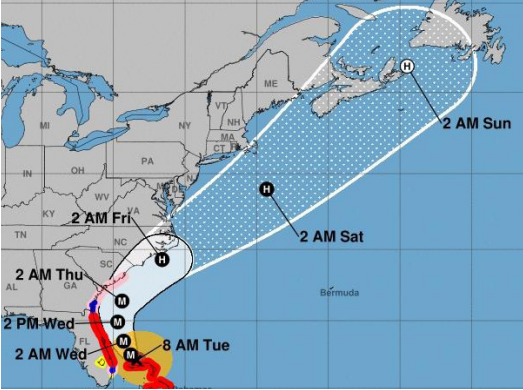
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Deadly Dorian

Past storms help Elon students prepare for the Category 4 storm, moving up the southeast coast



Brian Rea
Enterprise Story Coordinator | @brianmrea

At its strongest, Hurrican Dorian was a Category 5 hurricane. It has ripped through the Bahamas, killing at least five people, and is making its way up the East Coast. For many Elon University students, their homes are in danger.

According to the Registrar’s Report, more than 500 Elon students are from states in Hurricane Dorian’s path — including the coast of Florida, Georgia and South Carolina.

Cole McCurdy, a sophomore from Jacksonville Beach, Florida, said when it comes to hurricanes, his family is always careful.

“Unpredictability is the name of the game,” McCurdy said. “These models can show where it might go but we’ve never known where it’s going to hit. Regardless of if it’s going to hit us directly or if it’s going to just drop a ton of rain on us, we’re always going to prepare the same way.”

To prepare, McCurdy’s family will fill up water jugs, pull out the camping stoves and paint a Bible verse on a boarded window to try to heed off the storm.

Growing up on the beach, McCurdy said hurricanes have become a normal part of his life.

“Nothing compares to a category three, category four hurricane,” McCurdy said. “I just really do feel for people who have not gone through it before because this is easy for me. But for them, I can’t imagine the amount of stress they can potentially be under.”

Sophomore Anna Sutton and her family just moved to Savannah, Georgia from Boston — where hurricanes are few and far between.

“They don’t know how the house is going to hold up because they haven’t lived there for very long,” Sutton said.

Sutton said her parents bought extra food and water in preparation and have been keeping up with the forecast — a similar procedure to preparing for Massachusetts blizzards.

“Not knowing exactly when it’s going to hit or exactly how bad I think is a little bit hard,” Sutton said.

Hurricanes aren’t new for junior Emma Sossamon, a Charleston native. The National Hurricane Center estimated Dorian could bring winds over 100 miles per hour and up to 15 inches of rainfall to the coastal Carolinas. Sossamon said this can be devastating.

South Carolina was evacuated for Hurricane Florence last year, which left an everlasting mark on the Sossamon family.

“That included my grandfather who had dementia and Alzheimer’s and the stress of the actual evacuation is what caused his death days later,” Sossamon said. “So, I do take these things seriously.”

Sossamon recalled Hurricane Michael in 2018, which left water seeping down her house’s walls, ceiling damage and cars floating in the street.

In preparation for Dorian, Sossamon said her family isn’t taking any risks.

“If there’s a 4% chance of water damage or flooding, my family decides to evacuate,” she said. “Because that means about 10 to 12 inches of rain and that could flood your car.”

All three students said their families will continue to watch the forecast before deciding to evacuate.

Jenny Andrews, a junior from the Bahamas, was not available for an interview but said “the islands are completely devastated.”

Finding a path to belonging on campus

Welcoming new LGBTQIA and ally students to Elon’s campus with food and festivities

Emery Eisner
Elon News Network | @eisneremery

Elon’s Gender and LGBTQIA Center, which is in charge of queer education programming and social events on campus, has been “growing exponentially” since its founding in 2013. This year, the center plans to continue to grow through promoted events and community outreach.

Since the GLC’s founding, Elon University has been repeatedly recognized by Campus Pride as one of the “best of the best” LGBTQ-friendly campuses in the nation, ranking in the top 30 schools every year from 2014-2018. It currently maintains five out of five stars in the Campus Pride Index.

These rankings are reflected in the amount of queer students on campus. According to the GLC’s website, 5.3% of recent Elon applicants self-identified as part of the LGBTQIA community on the admissions application.

GLC events, according to the center, are intended to help students “learn more about LGBTQIA” at Elon, which includes the annual LGBTQIA and ally new student welcome. This year’s welcome was held on August 29 in the upper level of Moseley. Students who attended were welcomed with food, a raffle and some of the center’s iconic “bELONG” buttons and stickers. Guest speakers such as Matthew Antonio Bosch, the former GLC director, spoke at the event.

Junior Jay Tiemann, a student assistant for the GLC, has seen the event grow since he first came to Elon in 2017.

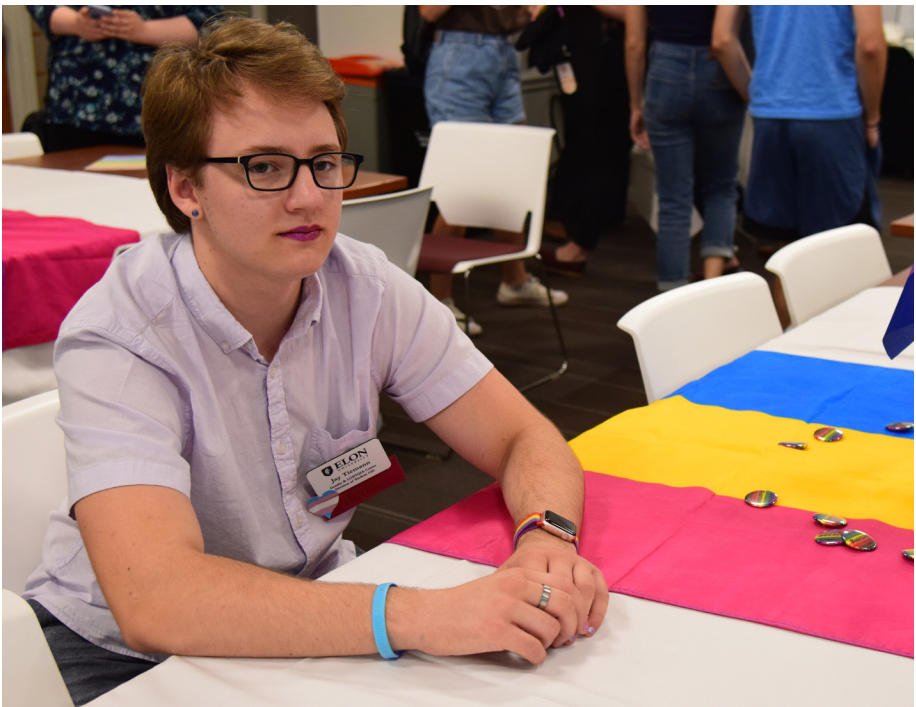
“So, my first time was in the upstairs Lakeside room and we’ve definitely outgrown that room now, we probably couldn’t hold it there and fit everyone there so it’s just nice to always see new faces and see returning faces and see everyone getting along,” Tiemann said.

This growth is not limited to the annual welcome dinner.

Senior Raechel Brunson, a cisgendered ally who has worked for the GLC since her freshman year, said she has seen “exponential growth” in the center.

“Nobody really came in here, nobody knew that this was a space that we wanted people to come in and hang out in, there wasn’t a lot of communication between us and other offices on campus,” Brunson said of her initial experience with the GLC.

Brunson joined the center while it was



Junior Jay Tiemann, a student assistant for the GLC, waits for new students at the GLC’s welcome event on Thursday, Aug. 29.

“

THIS IS A SPACE FOR EVERYBODY, WHETHER YOU’RE STRAIGHT OR GAY OR TRANS OR CIS

MATT REICHENBACH
SENIOR AND STUDENT ASSISTANT FOR THE GLC

UPCOMING GLC PROMOTED EVENTS:

1. Screening of “Boy Erased” with author Garrard Conley on Tuesday, Sept. 10 at 6:30 p.m. in Turner Theater
2. Greensboro Pride Festival on Sunday, Sept. 15 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. in downtown Greensboro
3. Dragstravaganza with Late Night Elon on Saturday, Sept. 21 from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. in Taphouse



Senior Matt Reichenbach, a student assistant for the GLC, helped host the GLC’s welcome event on Thursday, Aug. 29.

still “a really young office” on campus, having only been founded two years earlier, in 2013. Since then, she said, the growth has not stopped.

This growth, according to Brunson and fellow student assistant, senior Matt Reichenbach, is a major factor in making queer students feel welcome.

“You know it’s bright in here, we got flags on the walls, people feel like this is a place where they can come and hang out. We have so many more resources,” Brunson said. “I feel like we have grown much more of a noticeable presence on campus now.”

Reichenbach, who also began his work with the GLC as a freshman, agreed that the growth and changes have been sweeping.

“Being able to help more and more students that come here is great, and the amount of resources and programs that we have, have expanded. We’ve done a lot more ally trainings across campus, a lot more student groups have wanted, have displayed interest in us coming in to a meeting or a group setting to talk about ways of being an effective ally,” Reichenbach said. “More students are starting to be involved in these conversations and we’re really happy to know that students are taking this seriously and think it’s important.”

The GLC provides training programs to other campus organizations such as Campus Safety and Police, Greek organizations, the Student Professional Development Center and others. This outreach, according to Reichenbach, has helped to break boundaries beyond just queer and nonqueer members within what Reichenbach sees as the “Elon bubble.”

“Even within campus we have bubbles of students,” Reichenbach said. “We have LGBTQIA students that are really into theater, are really into communications, that are also in business ... so being able to kind of breach the boundaries and come together as one holistic LGBTQIA community is really important.”

Bridging the gaps between “bubbles” of queer students and non-queer students is a goal shared by Reichenbach and Brunson, who say they hope the GLC office space will morph into a space where students can relax.

“This is a space for everybody, whether you’re straight or gay or trans or cis, like it doesn’t matter. This should be a space where we can have ... necessary conversations that need to happen on campus about inclusivity and diversity, and no one should feel overwhelmed or uncomfortable in this space,” Reichenbach said. “The rainbows are intimidating for a lot of students, but it’s okay, like you’re not going to walk in here and magically turn gay, this is a space for everybody, and we want people to feel comfortable coming in and talking with us.”

MaGerk's celebrates one year at Elon



Garrett Hall, a bartender at MaGerk's, showcases a freshly-made cocktail while standing behind the bar on Monday, Sept. 2.

CORY WELLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Elon's newest pub and grill celebrates its first anniversary as a Phoenix

Kyra O'Connor
Elon News Network | @ko_reports

This month, MaGerk's Pub & Grill will be celebrating its one-year anniversary. Both students and locals alike are excited for the milestone.

The Elon community is served by many small businesses like Pandora's Pies, The Tap House and the Oak House. But a more recent addition to the scene is MaGerk's Pub & Grill.

Most excited for its one-year anniversary is owner Jon Dolaway.

Three years ago, Dolaway dropped his daughter, Madeline, off for her freshman year at Elon University. While she went shopping for dorm supplies, the restaurant owner went shopping for his next location and a vacant lot caught his eye.

"There was a note on the door here. It said, 'Call if you're interested.' So, I called..." Dolaway said.

Dolaway spoke briefly about why the site drew his attention.

"I figured this would be a great spot for the kids to enjoy football and eat some good food and have fun while hanging out with friends," Dolaway said. "By the time she got back from Target, I bought the place."

Dolaway already had four other locations throughout Pennsylvania and Maryland, making MaGerk's Elon the newest addition.

Local favorite

Drew Patty, a regular from the Town of Elon, has been coming to MaGerk's since the beginning of the summer and said he enjoys both the food and atmosphere.

"I started coming here at ... the end of the student season, so I was here at the beginning of the summer," Patty said. "And the locals will be up here, and there's not a local that you can come up here and not sit down and talk to in a matter of minutes."



With the smell of meat cooking in the air, Desmond Ozen, a cook at MaGerk's, prepares bacon for various sandwiches on Monday, Sept. 2.

CORY WELLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The local crowd was one reason Dolaway liked the location so much in the first place.

"My favorite part is the people," Dolaway said. "The friendliness of the town. Very accommodating and very welcoming, for a northerner."

Dolaway, a Philadelphia native, brought parts of the north to the new southern location: crab pretzels, the best Philly Cheesesteak south of Philadelphia and Elon MaGerk's General Manager, Sammerah Qawasmy.

Qawasmy helped open the Horsham, Pennsylvania location and then moved to Elon in 2017 for construction and stayed throughout the opening process.

"I love being a part of Elon. It's a great school. It's just great

kids that go here, just a really good crowd," Qawasmy said. "I like that we get to be a part of your experience here at the university."

Qawasmy said that the first anniversary event will have

music and giveaways. It will be just one of several events the restaurant has planned for the upcoming year. In store are Friday night themed DJ sets and new drink specials. And, as a part of a new special the restaurant is debuting this year, the Elon community will have a chance to come in and enjoy

their favorite food and drinks after winning games with an added bonus.

Taylor Durham, who works for Elon Athletics, explained the promotion "We Win, You Win."

"If football wins, if basketball wins a CAA game, or if

baseball wins a weekend series, then fans have the opportunity to come in here on the Monday [after], and it is 10% off," Durham said.

The restaurant will be sponsoring the Elon women's lacrosse and soccer teams and will participate in "Dine and Donate," a profit-sharing opportunity for organizations on campus.

Friendly faces all around

These events do not just excite the customers — the staff say they look forward to the parties almost as much as students and locals.

Tiffanie Dickson, waitress and staff member at MaGerk's, loved the restaurant's Christmas party last year.

"I am so ready for the Christmas party again," Dickson said. "We had an ugly sweater contest. I almost won... but I'm ready for this year so I can find the best, ugliest sweater ever, so we can have that fun again."

As students return to campus, they have staff at MaGerk's awaiting their arrival. Bartender Ben Kudider, said, "The students have been gone all summer, so I'm really looking forward to them coming back in and keeping me company the rest of the day."

Qawasmy said she wants students to not only consider MaGerk's as a restaurant but as a part of their Elon experience.

"Students should know that we're trying our best to employ as many students here as possible," Qawasmy said. "I do find that we have a hard time getting people to come in and apply. And it's a shame because our goal in being here is to employ as many students as we can to get extra money."

Looking ahead

As year one for MaGerk's comes to a close, Dolaway said the restaurant is focusing on "ironing out the kinks" in year two. The restaurant has high hopes for the future, including becoming a staple of the student experience and in the Elon community.

"Elon is a funny little mystery that we're learning while we've been here," Qawasmy said.

Trump makes visit to Fayetteville, NC

To support the Republican party, President Trump visits Fayetteville for the special congressional election

Molly Healy
Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

President Donald Trump will be in North Carolina for his seventh visit to the state since winning the presidency in November 2016. The rally is taking place in Fayetteville, North Carolina, on Monday, September 9 — just one day before the special congressional election for the state's ninth district.

For the last few years, North Carolina has been a battleground state for presidential candidates, with many focusing their campaigns in the southern state.

Trump's visit comes approximately a year before the 2020 election. His trip comes at an important time due to the need to fill a congressional seat. During the 2016 election, Trump won North Carolina's ninth district by 12 points.

Before the 2018 midterm elections, Trump held a rally in Charlotte where he endorsed former-Republican candidate Mark Harris. Harris has since dropped out of the election amidst election fraud allegations. His opponent, Dan McCree, continues to be the Democratic candidate. Before the election results were deemed illegitimate, McCree trailed in polls by 0.4%. For reference, in the 2016 congressional election, Republican Robert Pittenger won by a margin of 16.4 points.

The ninth district has not had a democrat in office since Hugh Quincy Alexander in 1953.

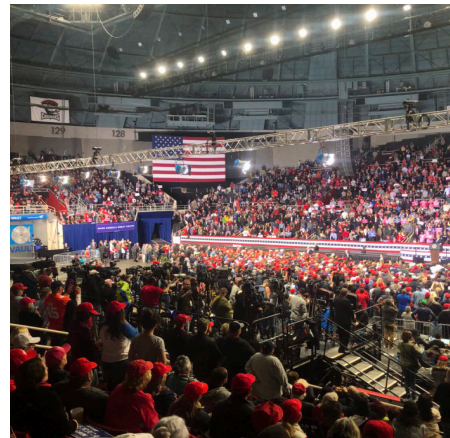
Dan Bishop, a North Carolina state senator since 2017, has replaced Harris as the Republican candidate. Bishop describes himself as a pro-wall, pro-gun and pro-life conservative. He sponsored House Bill Two, the controversial legislation also known as the "Bathroom Bill" which proposed that people must use the bathroom of the sex they were assigned at birth. It has since been repealed.

Dan McCree is a former marine who has put affordable healthcare and strengthening public schools at the forefront of his campaign. Trump voiced his support for Bishop through a tweet, claiming that Dan McCree "wants open borders, sanctuary cities & is weak on crime, military & vets!"

The special congressional election for the state's ninth district will take

IF YOU GO

The rally will be held on Monday, Sept. 9 in Fayetteville, North Carolina



ALEX ROAT | VIDEO PRODUCTION MANAGER

President Donald Trump held a rally at the Bojangles Coliseum in Charlotte, North Carolina on Oct. 26, 2018.

OPINIONS

Out with the old, in with the reusables

New to Elon University this semester is a program that directly ties our campus’ dining initiatives with its pledge to promote sustainability — reusable to-go containers. Through this program, students with any meal plan can receive a free, or purchasable for \$7 without a meal plan, reusable to-go box to use at any on-campus dining location.



Kaitlynn Dixon
Office of Sustainability Intern
@kaitlyndixon28

An interesting caveat to this program is, once you are done with your container, you don’t even have to carry the dirty container around. Your used to-go box can be dropped off at any dining hall to be cleaned. You can either grab a new box or, if you don’t want the bulk of a container to carry around, you can grab a carabiner to exchange for a new container. Allowing students to have access to reusables like these not only provides an easy option for grabbing meals when you’re in a rush, but

it also creates a narrative around the waste we generate and how it can be limited. Waste reduction has been one of Elon’s main concerns for quite some time now, with the past initiatives of compostable cutlery and to-go containers starting as early as 2008. In phasing

out plastics in Elon’s dining halls over a decade ago, the Office of Sustainability collaborated with Elon Dining to propel the mindset of reducing our carbon footprint in terms of post-consumer waste. This helped created awareness for how much landfill waste we contribute. This is very important when thinking about how detrimental single use plastics can be to our environment, especially when there are easily several hundreds of students grabbing their food to go on a daily basis. In general, it can take hundreds and hundreds of years for plastic to actually break down and disintegrate. Therefore, any piece of plastic we’ve ever used or created still remains in our landfills and oceans today. That being said, when our national population is upwards of 328 million, it’s crucial to be thinking about how much waste we’re putting into our earth. Implementing compostable items like the to-go boxes we’ve seen in past years has played a huge role in reducing our waste mainly because most compostable items take a fraction of the time to decompose — shifting from up to 1,000 years for plastic to up to 180 days for compostables.

While it’s amazing to be able to outsource

See below | **TO-GO BOXES**

TO-GO BOXES | from above

plastics in almost every area of our dining halls, our work isn’t finished. Compostable items, though they are much more environmentally sensible than single use plastic containers, can become a bit more problematic in terms of the resource usage it takes to create and supply these products. Compostables use a lot of energy to make, along with the transportation costs it takes to ship these products to our campus, as well as the effort used to bring our compostable waste to a commercial facility for it to be broken down. These are all things that, while they cut down on

plastic waste, can still add to the carbon we emit into the atmosphere. So, when we look at sustainability in terms of resource usage, compostables actually fall behind using reusables. This is why the Office of Sustainability and Elon Dining have pushed even further past just swapping plastics for compostables, but actually finding ways to be able to reuse items we use on the daily. With our new reusable to-go container program in place, we hope that students will not only utilize this free/low-cost program, but recognize how easy it is to hone in on the waste you’re creating and find ways to make your everyday life more sustainable.



An Elon alumnus combines his love for beer and vinyl records in downtown Graham

Jon Sarver Jr.
Elon News Network | @sarver_jon

GRAHAM — When walking into Hi Fi Records in Graham, North Carolina, there are many sights and sounds. Whether it be the wall of records along the left side of the store, the bar to the right with record players emitting rock ‘n’ roll, or the wall of music posters hanging in the back. One thing that is not noticeable, but present, is the store’s connection to Elon University.

Jon Guza ’97, a Rush fan and owner of Hi Fi, spent over 20 years at International Inventory Management in the Town of Elon. It was not until 2017 that he and his girlfriend started planning to open the store — Guza was looking for a change.

“I was getting a little frustrated at my job because I had been doing it for so long and I just didn’t really feel like ... I was growing as a person,” Guza said. “I wanted to do something I could really sink my teeth into.”

After choosing a little storefront on N. Main Street, the store opened in January 2019. Guza said that his store combines two things he loves: music and beer. He also said the combination brings in customers with different interests.

“Some folks will come in and ignore the records and go straight to the beer, and some will do the opposite and some will do both,” Guza said. “It’s been really cool just to see the reaction of people.”

At Hi Fi, Guza said he strives to create a personal environment.

“I really like to make everybody who comes in the door comfortable,” Guza said. “If we start to see people on a regular basis, I make sure to try to remember their name.”

“SOME FOLKS WILL COME IN AND IGNORE THE RECORDS AND GO STRAIGHT TO THE BEER, AND SOME WILL DO THE OPPOSITE AND SOME WILL DO BOTH. IT’S BEEN REALLY COOL JUST TO SEE THE REACTION OF PEOPLE

JON GUZA
OWNER OF HI FI RECORDS

BEERS ON TAP

- 1. Wise Man – Wheat Beer
- 2. Burial Beer – Pale Ale
- 3. Deep River – IPA
- 4. Jordan Lake – Berliner Weisse
- 5. Shacksbury Cider – Cider
- 6. The Duck-Rabbit – Red Ale



SCAN FOR THE VIDEO PACKAGE

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

LIFESTYLE

IF YOU GO

Location:
103 N. Main St., Graham, N.C. 27253

Hours:
Monday: Closed
Tuesday to Thursday: Noon–8 p.m.
Friday to Saturday: 2–10 p.m.
Sunday: 12–6 p.m.

Janice Joplin fan, Molly Feudale, also helps at the store on the weekends and during the summer.

During the week, she is an art teacher at South Mebane Elementary School — her artistic abilities helped when decorating the store.

“I have a major interest in art that helped me with ... designing the layout of this place and the decor,” Fueedale said.

Like Guza, Fueedale said she loves interacting with all of the customers at Hi Fi.

“It’s a lot of fun to interact with everybody. Everybody that comes in is in a good mood,” Fueedale said. “Everybody’s excited about the concept [and] the nostalgia of the records.”

In the eight months Hi Fi has been open, Fueedale says that she has seen Elon students make their way into the store.

“We’ve had several Elon students come in and they’ll shop around and a lot of times they’re going to eat down at Press and then they’ll walk by and they’ll come in and we would

love to have more and more Elon students come in,” Fueedale said.

The Elon connection also extends beyond Guza. Heather Whitley, a fan of Pat Benatar, graduated from Elon: earning her bachelor’s in 1993 and her master’s in 2015. Scott Whitley, a fan of the Grateful Dead, graduated from Elon in 1991. Both alumni are regular customers and friends of Guza and Fueedale.

Scott said he is “proud” of Guza for opening Hi Fi. He also said that coming to the store is a nice change of pace.

“Sometimes it’s just nice to come here and have a beer, listen to some good tunes with somebody playing the music,” Scott said. “Where you don’t have to worry about ... figuring out which song is next.”

Guza and Fueedale are not the only ones keeping an eye out for places to acquire new records for the store.

Heather said she and Scott are looking as well.

“I know my dad has a whole bunch that he’s not ready to get rid of, but I know when he is — I’ll probably definitely bring him down here,” Heather said.

Guza’s passion for beer and music has given Graham a place to engage in conversation, have a beer, and turn back the clock by listening to a wide variety of music on vinyl.

JACK NORCROSS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jon Guza graduated from Elon University with a degree in journalism in 1997. He is now the owner of Hi Fi Records, a hybrid vinyl and beer store in Graham, North Carolina.



SPORTS

CLIMBING THE LADDER



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO BY PAAT KELLY



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO BY MINNESOTA VIKINGS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO BY SHARI SOMMERFIELD

Alumni athletes sign with professional teams and begin post-Elon careers in the big leagues

Jon Sarver Jr.
Elon News Network | @sarver_jon

As students graduate from Elon University and move into the professional world, a select few enter the field of professional sports. This past year, five Elon athletes have been drafted between two sports: baseball and football.

For Elon football, offensive lineman Olisaemeka Udoh was taken in the sixth round of the NFL draft by the Minnesota Vikings. The 2019 baseball team produced four MLB picks in the 2019 draft: George Kirby (Seattle Mariners), Kyle Brnovich (Los Angeles Angels), Ty Adcock (Seattle Mariners) and Cam Devanney (Milwaukee Brewers).

Oli Udoh

Being drafted to a professional sports team can be a major milestone in the life of an athlete. For Udoh, hearing his name called was a memorable experience.

“It was an awesome feeling,” Udoh said. “Just finally knowing what team I was going to. Getting the opportunity to spend that day with my family was just a great part of it.”

Udoh has enjoyed being able to interact with other NFL players.

“It’s awesome. Just awesome getting to pick their brains and learn from the best professionals that we’ve got on the team,” Udoh said. “So every opportunity I get to talk to them, I absorb some of their veteran knowledge.”

In Udoh’s final two seasons with the Phoenix, the team went a combined 14-9. Udoh has experience winning from his time at Elon, and he said he is looking forward to a similar situation with Minnesota.

“I’m just looking for wins,” he said. “Really looking forward to winning games.”

In a press release put out by Elon Athletics after Udoh was drafted, head coach Tony Trisciani said that Udoh is ready for the NFL.

“He’s a young man who came here to Elon, committed to the process and changed

his body, developed as a football player and as a man,” Trisciani said. “He’s ready for this opportunity and this challenge, and I’m really excited for him, his family and Elon football.”

The Minnesota Vikings announced that Udoh will be one of the 53 players on the team’s roster going into week one. As the season is set to kick off, Sports Illustrated projects the Vikings to go 11-5 this season.

George Kirby

The Seattle Mariners made George Kirby their first-round pick in the 2019 draft. After celebrating the selection, it was time for Kirby to get back to work. Like other professional baseball players, Kirby is starting at one of the lower levels of professional baseball. He began his professional career with the Everett Aquasox, the Class A affiliate of the Mariners.

For Kirby, a large part of his game is his dominance. In his final season with Elon, he walked only six hitters in just over 88 innings pitched. In his first 23 professional innings, Kirby has not walked a single hitter.

In Kirby’s time at Elon, he was typically pitching once a week due to the structure of the college schedule. With the Aquasox, Kirby says that he had to get into the typical routine of a professional pitcher: playing every five days.

Kirby says that he has enjoyed his time with his new team so far.

“A lot of the coaches are awesome. There are a bunch of cool guys and it’s just been a good summer so far,” Kirby said.

In his time at Elon, Kirby said that the coaching staff prepared him not only a pro-career, but for life as well.

“Baseball goes a lot further than just being able to be good at it,” Kirby said. “You gotta be able to be coachable and be a good person.”

Elon baseball head coach Mike Kennedy has been with Elon for over 20 years. He said that it is important to develop his players and mentor them as well.

“We work really hard and we have an obligation to put the best product on the field we can for Elon University and win games,” Kennedy said. “But, man, it goes well beyond that and how you can shape lives, and make a difference in the kids’ lives.”

Cam Devanney

After redshirting in his first season with Elon baseball, Devanney started 147 games for the Phoenix over the course of three seasons. His collegiate career ended with a bang. The shortstop batted a sizzling .335 in his last year at Elon and drove in over 50 runs.

Devanney said that he played multiple positions during his college career. He also said that people like associate head baseball coach Robbie Huffstetler helped him become a more versatile player.

“He was there to help me make the necessary adjustments and make sure I was helping the team defensively, not only offensively,” Devanney said.

Devanney has kept up his offensive production at the professional level and earned his first promotion. He started with the Arizona League, where he hit .330 in 28 games. He is hitting a combined .280 across two levels with five homers.

After playing well in Arizona, he was called up to the Pioneer League, where he currently plays for the Rocky Mountain Vibes. Devanney said that getting called up was a “cool experience.”

The baseball season can be grueling day in and day out. Devanney said that he is trying to adjust to playing every day.

“You know, here I’ve played probably 50 or 60 games. The next year, I think it’s something like a 144-game schedule,”

Devanney said. “So, there’s going to be a huge preparation process.”

Kennedy said that Devanney is in a “good place,” and he has advice for Devanney moving forward.

“He loves the game. He works hard and my advice is just make sure you still enjoy it, and he enjoys going to the ballpark,” Kennedy said. “As long as he does that, he’ll be fine.”

Going forward

With a new year of Elon sports underway, athletes like Udoh, Kirby, and Devanney have moved to different regions of the country to pursue careers in professional sports. The trio developed and improved their skills at Elon, in order to compete at the highest levels. With their departure, a new crop of athletes will take their place, and maybe even follow in their footsteps.

SPACIOUS COMMUTER HOUSE FOR LEASE

Furnished rooms for rent: This large Rambler group house is a **30-minute commute to Elon**. The house offers a view of a golf course and nature preserve. The place is quiet, good for concentrating and studying.

There are **three bedrooms** available for **\$500 a month** (110 to 150 sq ft) that share a bathroom. Security deposit is one month’s rent. Common areas include kitchen, brunch area, TV room and sun room. The fourth bedroom, the master bedroom (private bath), is optional. Preference goes to seniors / grad / med / law / post-doc groups who want to lease all three/four rooms with a one year lease. Single parties are welcome too. The house comes with cable/Wi-fi, HEPA filtered heat and air conditioning, ceiling fans, dishwasher, washer/dryer, microwave and optional cleaning service.

Please call Gregory at **202 302 1449** for details and to set a time to visit the house or email me at **gdaly.pphs@gmail.com**

TURNING THE CHEEK

CHEEK | from cover

The play, as Cheek recalled, was nothing out of the ordinary. The University of Delaware defense only rushed three defensive linemen, and Cheek knew he had to escape the pocket in time to find open receivers downfield.

“I wanted to try to keep plays alive, and that’s what I tried to do on that play. I ended up getting forced out to the left. As I’m going, I end up squaring up to try to look downfield to throw. And [my knee] just pops and I go down. And for about 10 seconds, it was really, really, really bad pain.”

“I was just like, ‘alright, like get up, you need to get up now.’ And that was the first time in my life that I’ve been like, ‘I don’t know how to get up.’ That was the most painful part,” Cheek said.

The tear was non-contact, meaning Cheek’s motion alone tore his ACL. Cheek was immediately taken to the side of Raymond Field in Delaware and placed on a table where trainers and doctors performed tests on the knee.

RETURN TO RHODES
Cheek plays at Rhodes Stadium on Saturday, Sept. 7, when the Phoenix takes on the Citadel Bulldogs at 2 p.m.

One test, Cheek recalled, involved a doctor pulling on his leg to test the resistance of the ligament by trying to separate the tibia from the femur. To the shock of the trainers and Cheek himself, the tibia was able to separate completely, meaning the ACL was nearly nonexistent.

Later, an MRI would show that Cheek had torn the ligament through the middle, “exploding it,” leaving only white fluid between his leg bones.

“When the doctors were looking at it, I was telling them, ‘put a brace back on it let’s go in.’ And the doctor had to be like, ‘I think you might be seriously injured,’” Cheek recalls. “I had pretty much everyone telling me to calm down, just you know stay on the sideline, we’ll win this game and go on.”

The one upside to Cheek’s injury was the lack of swelling in the knee which allowed for him to enter surgery just over two weeks after the injury. Cheek’s parents flew in from Alabama and Chicago to be with their son during his surgery.

Prior to the ACL tear, Cheek had not experienced anything more than a minor ligament tear in his ankle while playing for Butler High School in his hometown of Matthews, NC. Cheek was naive to the hardships of surgery on both the mind and body. He said in the time after surgery he had to confront “little demons” and needed to lean on the support system around him.

Cheek began the rehab process nearly immediately after knee surgery. Since he couldn’t practice with the team, Cheek spent hours each day in physical therapy, pushing himself to regain mobility in his knee through gravity resistance exercises. This training, Cheek said, brought about the most pain he had ever felt in his career.

Even outside of physical therapy, Cheek struggled through the day-to-day life of a student athlete after a major surgery.

“I remember it took me an hour when I was actually going to class. It was not very far at all. But I had to stop every few steps



because I was just like ‘all right, we got to take it one step at a time.’ And that’s kind of how the whole process ended up being,” Cheek said.

After missing spring training with the team due to rehab, Cheek got to the position where he could start participating in non-contact drills in practice. Head football coach Tony Trisciani said that the coaching staff had to ease the quarterback back into the speed of practice by managing his workload.

Throughout the summer, the coaching staff would limit his repetitions, even keeping him out of practices to avoid setbacks in the recovery process. Trisciani said that at times, the coaching staff needed to reel Cheek in when he just wanted to jump in with the rest of the team.

“This team is full of competitors and guys that want to be out there and get better and take advantage of opportunities, but Davis understands ... what’s important,” Trisciani said, referring to his full recovery.

The Phoenix week one matchup at North Carolina A&T was a game 10 months in the making for Cheek. Ahead of the game, he noted that he had a chip on his shoulder to prove that all the hard work was worth it not only for himself, but for the people around him that supported him through these trying times.

“I just hope that I’ve done everything right up to this point and I just want to play well. I want to play well for the community. I want to play well for the school. I want to play well for the guys around me because they’ve been working their butts off. That’s where the most pressure is. It’s not even just playing or anything like that. I just want to do well for them,” Cheek said.

When Cheek stepped onto BB&T stadium in Greensboro, it was clear that Cheek was back physically and mentally.

Cheek threw for over 200 yards and led three scoring drives for the Phoenix. He capped the final scoring drive with a 14-yard touchdown pass to fellow junior wide receiver Kortez Weeks, which tied the game at 21 late in the third quarter. But the game was not the story book ending Cheek had hoped for.

Standing behind a young and inexperienced offensive line, Cheek was sacked five times and forced to scramble often. In the game’s closing seconds, after a presumed regulation ending defensive stand, Aggie junior kicker Noel Ruiz buried a 51-yard kick to send the Phoenix packing as time expired.

“It’s a tough one to lose on, but you let us think for our 24 [hours] and then you got to move on because we have more football to play,” Cheek said.

Despite the hard-fought loss, last Saturday’s game was the conclusion to a 10-month stint of adversity and recovery for quarterback Davis Cheek, a story that is undoubtedly an inspiration to the team and Phoenix fans everywhere.

“The day after he had surgery, he committed himself every day to getting back,” Trisciani said. “Your quarter’s going to be the leader of your football team, and Davis has that leadership ability. His actions speak volumes to the team, and it can be contagious.”



SCAN FOR THE
SEASON PREVIEW

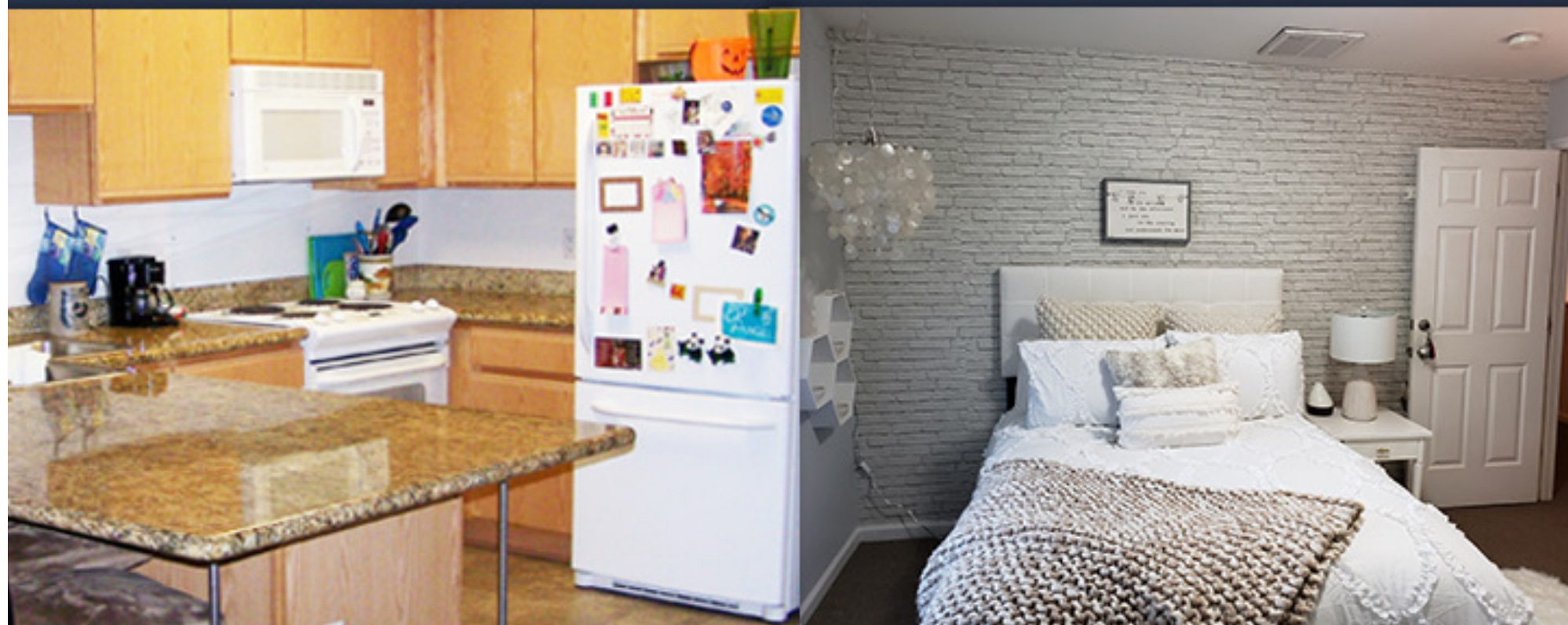
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2. Focus on the QR code
3. Click the pop-up link

ZACH OHMANN | PHOTO EDITOR
Top: Quarterback Davis Cheek prepares to throw the football during a preseason practice on Tuesday, Aug. 27.

GRACE TERRY | DESIGN CHIEF
Top middle: Cheek runs to escape a North Carolina A&T defender on Saturday, Aug. 31.

ABBY GIBBS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Bottom middle: Cheek catches the ball during a game against Furman University on Sept. 8, 2018.

ZACH OHMANN | PHOTO EDITOR
Bottom: Cheek prepares to receive the ball during a football game against North Carolina A&T on Saturday, Aug. 31.

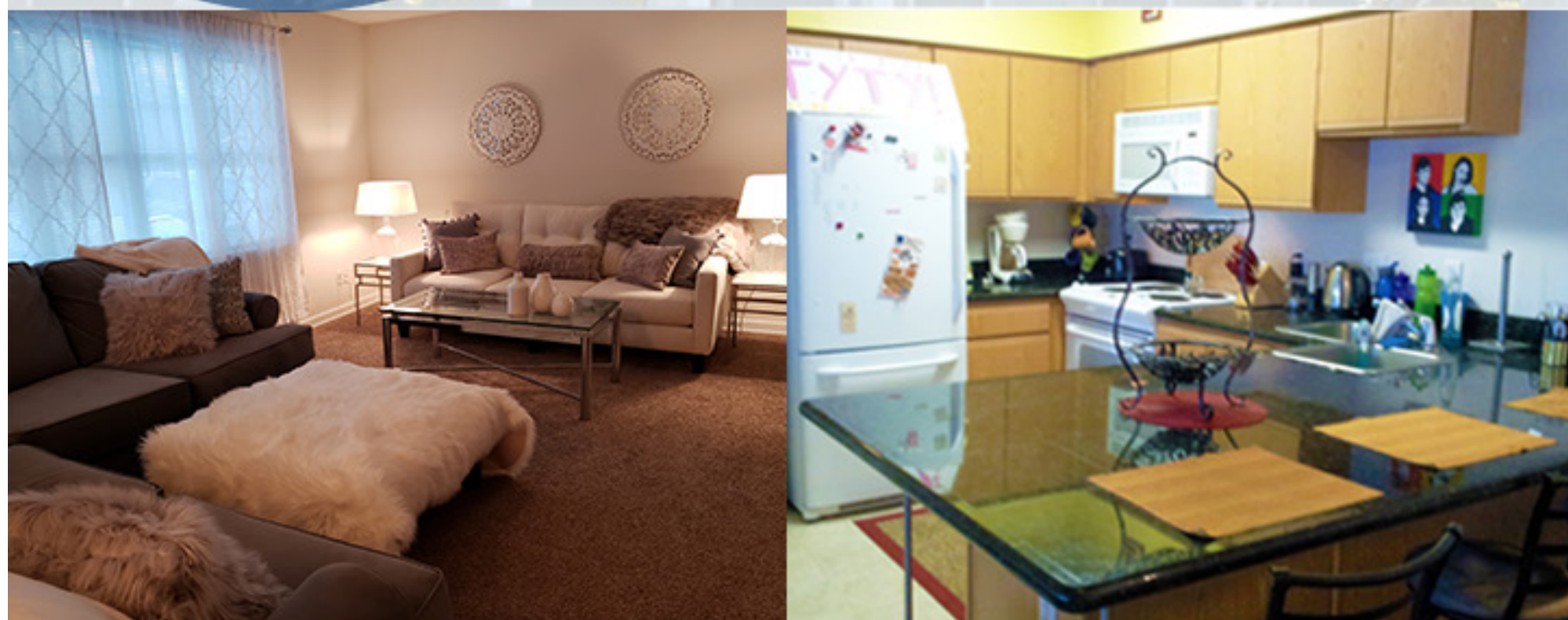


PROVENCE & EVELLIEN

TOWNHOMES & APARTMENTS

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