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ELON, NORTH CAROLINA

THE PENDULUM

GOING GLOBAL



ILLUSTRATIONS BY OLIVIA PARKS

The ten monuments featured above are from the countries most visited by Elon University students studying abroad.

Top (left to right): Pagoda of the Celestial Lady in Hue, Vietnam | The Eiffel Tower in Paris, France | The Colosseum in Rome, Italy | The Sky Tower in Auckland, New Zealand | Big Ben in London, England

Middle (left to right): The Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, Germany | The Burren in County Clare, Ireland | La Sagrada Familia in Barcelona, Spain

Bottom (left to right): The Sydney Opera House in Sydney, Australia | Charles Bridge in Prague, Czech Republic

Eight new programs open
this semester | pg. 3



Three years of data on Elon
global experiences | pg. 5



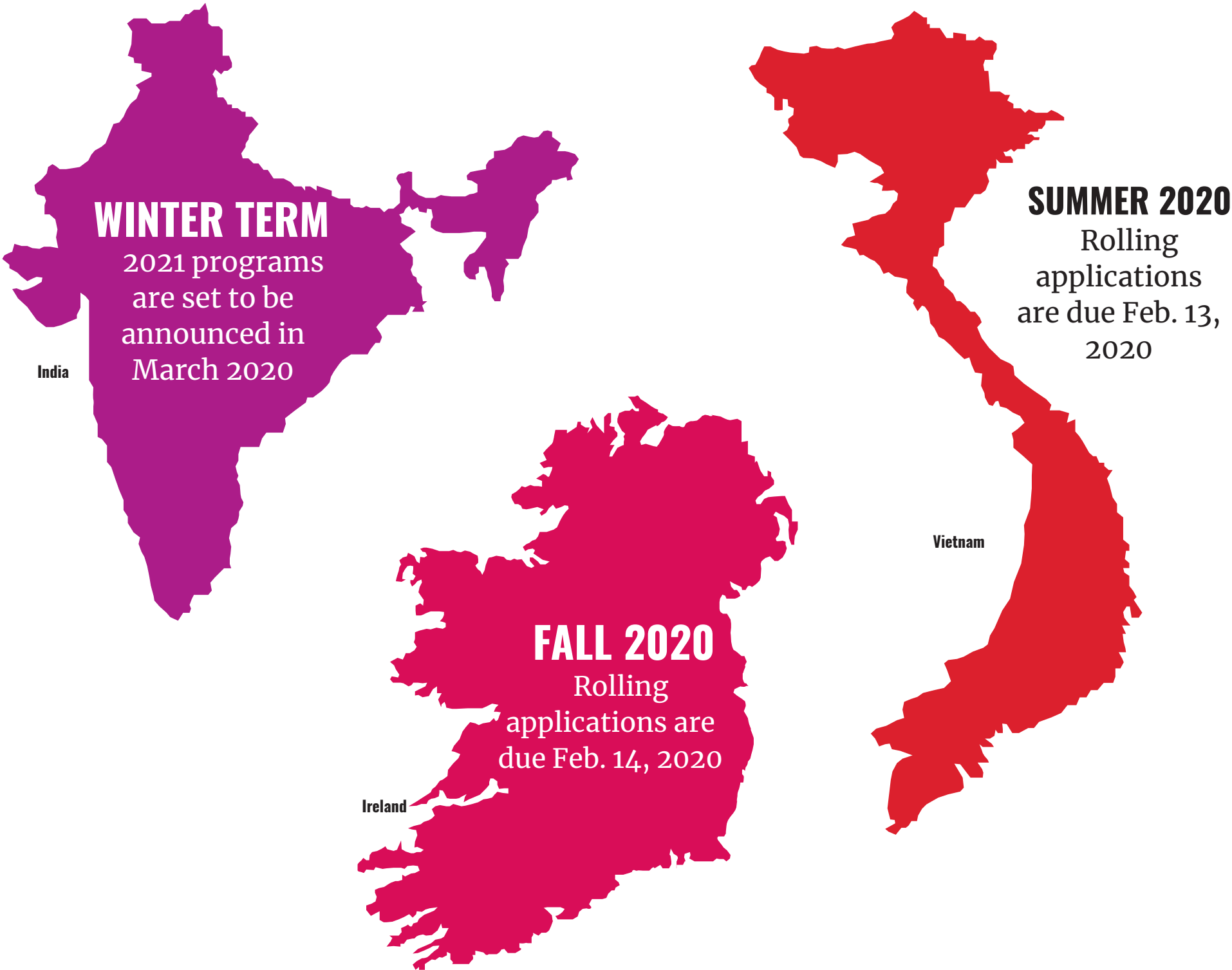
Study USA grows in both
size and location | pg. 10

GLOBAL EXPERIENCE 2020-21 DEADLINES

STUDY USA



STUDY ABROAD





Eight global study programs open across four continents

Elon opens seven semester-long global study programs and reopens semester in Egypt

Maria Ramirez Uribe
Elon News Network | @mariaramirezu

After spending a semester studying abroad in Cairo, Egypt, Shanna Van Beek '12 said she was continuously asked, “Did you see it coming?”

The 2011 Egyptian revolution began only a couple months after her return to the U.S. A series of nationwide protests led to the deaths of more than 800 people and the resignation of President Hosni Mubarak, who had been in power for decades.

“No, we didn’t see it coming. Are you kidding me? The country didn’t see it coming,” Van Beek said. “This has been building in some respects for 30 years. I was there for a few months.”

Van Beek now serves as the communications manager of global education in the Global Education Center at Elon University. She advises students studying abroad in Africa, India and the Middle East.

Nine years after her semester abroad, Van Beek is leading the reopening of the same program in partnership with the American University in Cairo.

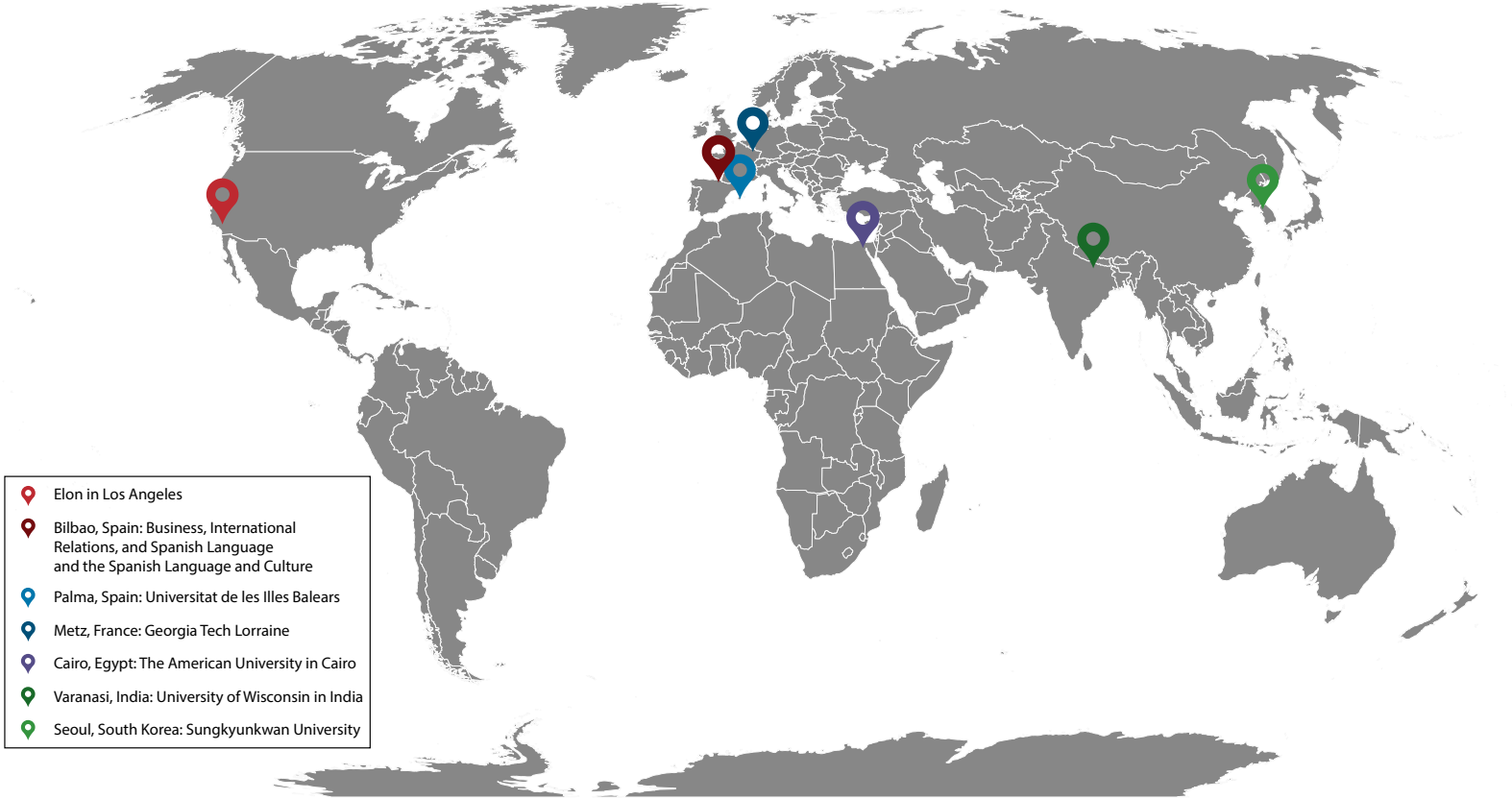
“It’s kind of full circle,” Van Beek said. “My role having studied there helped in thinking about, well, I can speak from firsthand experience about service opportunities about classroom style, about student support resources.”

The reopening of the Egypt occurs alongside the establishment of seven other programs across four continents.

Getting to the pyramids

The six students in the 2011 cohort following Van Beek were forced to relocate their semester program to Haifa, Israel, after the Egyptian government advised evacuation from the country in response to the uprisings.

Egypt native Shereen Elgamal, lecturer in Arabic, said this was a



The eight new programs span four continents and six countries, bringing the total number to more than 100 global experience programs.

ILLUSTRATION BY TED THOMAS

“

MY ELON STUDENTS ARE LIKE MY OWN CHILDREN. SO IT WAS AS IF YOU ARE TELLING ME THAT YOUR CHILD IS IN A COUNTRY WHERE THERE IS A REVOLUTION AND THERE MAY BE BLOOD SHED.

SHEREEN ELGAMAL
LECTURER IN ARABIC

traumatic time.

“My struggle was actually two-fold. ... On a personal level, I had most of my relatives there, and my Elon students are like my own children,” Elgamal said. “It was as if you were telling me that your child is in a country where there is a revolution and there may be bloodshed.”

Elgamal said she worked with the GEC to ensure the students were safe — eight years later, she is still in contact with five of the students.

While Van Beek played an important role in reinstating Elon’s Egypt program, she said she didn’t suggest the idea.

“I’ve worked here for six years now, and very intentionally, I have not been the person to say, ‘We need to bring Egypt back,’” Van Beek said. “I wanted to be very careful that I wasn’t the one saying, ‘We need to bring this program back for some personal nostalgic reason.’”

According to Van Beek, Dean of Global Education Woody Pelton brought up the idea after he met with an AUC provost. He later asked for Van Beek’s and Elgamal’s input — taking into account their personal connections to the country.

“I had hoped the university would rekindle that relationship at the right moment and at the right time,” Van Beek said. She said she didn’t want her experience in the country to cloud the safety of future students.

Similarly, Elgamal said her main concern in bringing back the program was the safety of the students.

“As you can imagine, my only question was, ‘Do you think it is safe for our students to be there?’ Because I was pretty much traumatized over the six students that had to be evacuated,” Elgamal said.

The first source the GEC turns to when deciding whether or not to send students to a location is the U.S. Department of State travel advisories, Van Beek said.

The Department of State ranks each country on a scale of one to four. Level one advises travelers to “exercise normal precautions,” and four tells travelers “do not travel.”

According to university policy, students are not allowed to travel to countries falling in the four or three — “reconsider travel” — categories, unless they provide a compelling petition for reconsideration.

Currently, Egypt is a level two ranking, meaning travelers are

advised to “exercise increased caution,” with a few parts of the country falling under a higher risk advisory.

Other countries under this travel advisory ranking include the United Kingdom, Spain, South Africa, India and Peru — all countries in which Elon offers global study programs.

Egypt’s advised travel ranking’s rise from level four to two prompted the GEC to reconsider the possibility of sending students to the North African country.

However, Elgamal said she still worries for the safety of the students traveling to Egypt. Though she acknowledges the risk in any country, she said she fears students could put themselves in dangerous situations.

“Maybe I have a little bit of a heightened sense of responsibility because this is my own country, and I feel, I don’t know, I probably feel more responsible,” Elgamal said. “I can’t say that I was really thrilled to know that the program is opening up again.”

A group of GEC staff members conducted a site visit to Cairo in October of 2018. The GEC went through Elon’s risk approval process “to make sure that the university was comfortable with us bringing this partnership back,” Van Beek said.

The GEC accumulated notes from the site visit, comments from peer institutions, recommendations from state departments and data from the Overseas Security Advisory Council. According to Van Beek, data from a non-governmental source such as OSAC “balances out if any part of the Department of State’s travel advisory is related to political reasons.”

The compiled documents made a 70-page report presented to the university making the case to reinstate the semester-long program, which was later approved.

From 2017 to 2019, nearly 400 students studied abroad in the continent of Africa. Morocco is currently the only country in North Africa visited by Elon students.

Next spring, junior Jewel Tillman will be one of two students participating in the Egypt program. This will also be her first time outside of the U.S.

“I’ve always wanted to go to Egypt,” Tillman said. “Being a political science major. I’m very interested in the history and the governance of Egypt.”

Tillman said she feels safe traveling to Egypt.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE TRAVEL ADVISORY RANKING:

- 1 Exercise normal precautions
- 2 Exercise increased caution
- 3 Reconsider travel
- 4 Do not travel

“Yes. I have concerns, but I feel like just exercising the necessary precautions that I already do in my life today, as a black woman, I will still be equipped to protect myself there,” Tillman said.

New flight paths

Each year, Elon tries to improve its 100 program global study portfolio. According to the Elon Admissions website, the university sends students to more than 50 countries. For the past 15 years, the Institute for International Education has ranked Elon No. 1 for study abroad participation.

Since Van Beek studied abroad in 2010, undergraduate student participation in study abroad has increased from 72% to 78%, according to the GEC End-of-Year Annual Report for 2018-19.

In summer 2019, the GEC conducted an “all-program audit” to ensure it was being proactive when making decisions over opening or closing global study programs.

Following the audit, Van Beek said the GEC is “taking stock of the entire portfolio to really make sure that we are meeting the needs of our students, because those needs also change.”

According to Van Beek, selecting what programs to add to the GEC’s portfolio “is driven primarily by course opportunities.”

Faculty recommendations, diversifying majors available abroad and an institutional commitment to increasing the number of international students on campus through exchange programs were all considerations in the decision to open the new programs.

Because of this, the GEC introduced programs geared toward business and engineering majors, as well as two new programs approved for Spanish majors.

“My advice to those who are traveling to Egypt or anywhere: just learn as much as possible about the country that you’re traveling to,” Elgamal said.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY SHANNA VAN BEEK

Dean of Global Education Woody Pelton, Communications Manager of Global Education Shanna Van Beek and Chair of the Department of Physics Martin Kamela in Egypt during Elon’s site visit in October 2018.

Diversifying the students engaging in global experiences

GEC works to bridge disparities between opportunities abroad

Livi Lesch
Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

For almost a decade, Elon University’s 2010-2020 strategic plan has emphasized the importance of growing the university’s global engagement program by committing to eight central themes to better Elon.

Two of the goals in the plan were to double need-based financial aid and provide access to study abroad programs for 100% of the student body.

Allegra Laing, associate director for global diversity and inclusion, is working to develop inclusive study abroad programs at Elon. One of the many ways she said she is doing this is by using student feedback from those who study abroad to refine the program year by year.

Laing said her office defines reaching 100% access to global engagement by removing financial and academic barriers that create hurdles for underprivileged groups.

According to Laing, while the Global Education Center has made progress in numerical representation abroad, there is still room for improvement. The 2019 Open Doors Report, which was published on Nov. 18 and aims to provide information about study abroad in higher education institutions around the world, acknowledged that in the U.S., white students constitute 70% of those studying abroad.

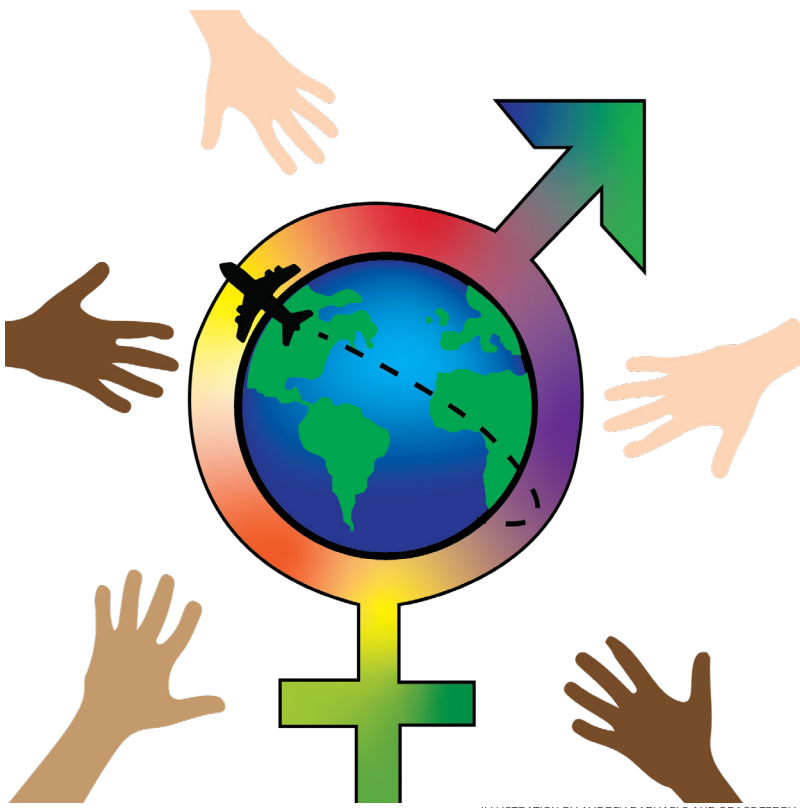


ILLUSTRATION BY AUDREY RAPHAELS AND GRACE TERRY

“If you look at participation rates across the data that we collect, you will notice that there are gaps among students of color as well as students who identify as having financial need compared to the representation on campus. There is still work that needs to be done among those populations,” Laing said.

While a strength of the study abroad program is its ability to track participation, for some groups such as LGBTQIA-identifying and first-generation college students, it is not always as easy.

“One of the challenges in trying to achieve 100% access is that in certain groups, we have

data collection points because the university has data that we can compare it to, and for certain groups, we don’t have quantitative data points,” Laing said. “For students of color, because the institution collects those data points, we actually can look and say certain groups might not match their participation in global engagement as represented on campus.”

While representation abroad has improved over the past decade, it has opened up discussion regarding the actual experiences those groups face while abroad.

“When we talk about diversity and inclusion, it is kind of

BY THE NUMBERS

70%

of U.S. students studying abroad are white.

10.6%

of U.S. students studying abroad are Hispanic or Latino.

8.4%

of U.S. students studying abroad are Asian or Pacific Islander.

6.1%

of U.S. students studying abroad are Black or African-American.

4.4%

of U.S. students studying abroad are multiracial.

0.5%

of U.S. students studying abroad are American Indian or Alaska Native.

undoing that knot of what’s your representation on campus. But then, it’s also thinking and talking about the types of issues and experiences that might be relevant for underserved communities,” Laing said. “Are we supporting those students in ways that are equitable to the other students? That’s a lot more involved discussion.”

“Because we’ve increased the number of students going overseas across different social identities, we’ve had to have more robust conversations about what does it mean to support those students,” Laing said.

The GEC works to help students’ experiences abroad by implementing programs before students depart and after students return. All students studying abroad are required to enroll in a preparatory forum.

Some orientation sessions have already been instituted, such as World’s Declassified Study Abroad Survival Guide, primarily geared toward students of color, members of the LGBTQIA communities and first-generation college students.

During the event, people in these communities come together to discuss shared experiences and struggles with studying abroad.

In the past, programs such as these have been separated by identity group. However, the GEC has found that many members of these groups identify with multiple groups, combining the sessions for a more well-rounded and open-minded discussion.

According to Liang, the university’s next step is to consider the equity behind a student’s study abroad experience.

Majority of Elon global experiences are had by women

On-campus and abroad gender ratios match for Elon University students

Kira Silbergeld
Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

The gender ratio between Elon University students on campus and students who go abroad are similar, according to data from the Elon University Fact Book and the Global Education Center.

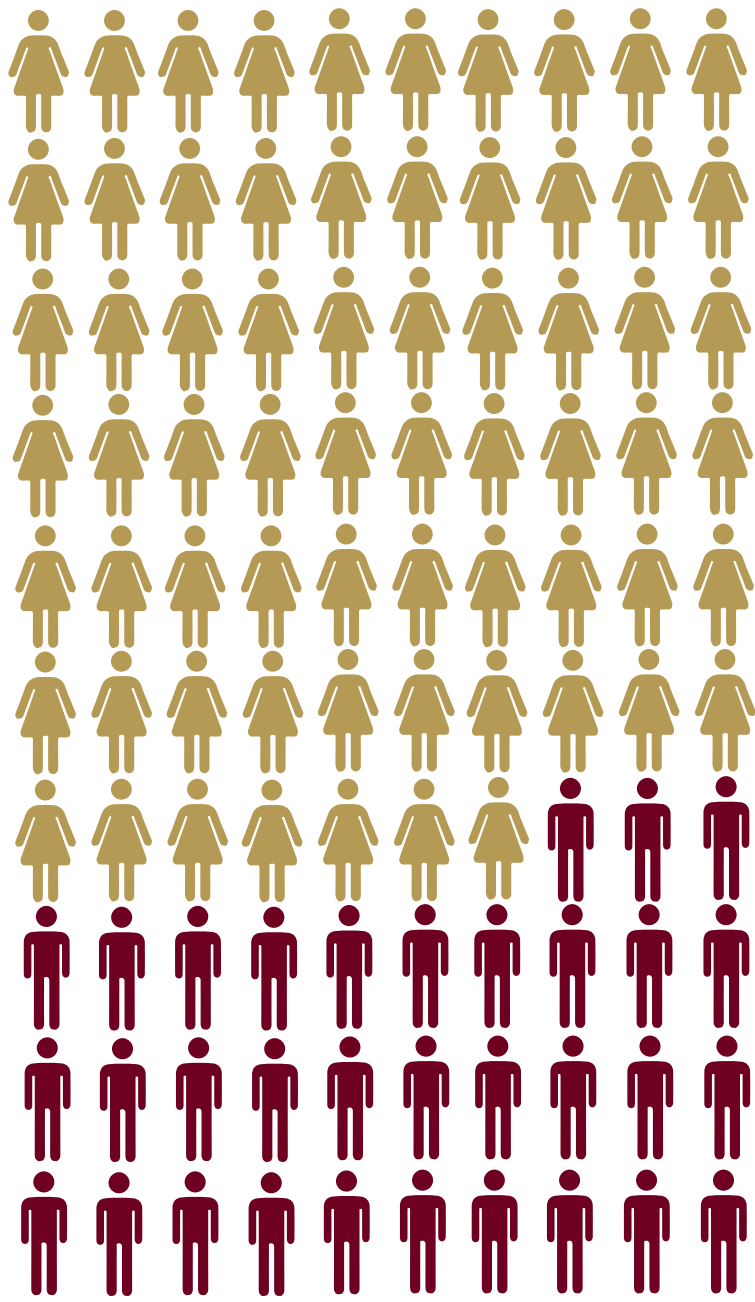
In the past three years, more than 4,714 students have gone abroad — 67.7% female and 32.3% male. This statistic reflects Elon’s on-campus ratio — 59.7% female and 40.3% male.

According to Shanna Van Beek, communications manager at the Global Education Center, the Elon gender ratio in study abroad programs is also similar to national statistics of gender ratios in these programs.

In fact, the Open Doors Annual Report by the Institute of International Education shows that Elon’s gender ratio for study abroad programs is indistinguishable from national figures.

The study indicated that national statistics from the past two years are very similar to those at Elon in the past three years, showing that 67% of abroad students are female, while 33% are male.

The GEC uses an individual’s gender in reference to the person’s



BY THE NUMBERS

67%

of abroad students are female.

33%

of abroad students are male.

legal travel documentation, which currently only includes male and female as options.

Van Beek said she has generally noticed certain keywords in program titles and descriptions tend to attract more males.

“Words matter,” Van Beek said. “You’ll notice how that plays out, especially in our short-term programs.”

Van Beek said she believes students gravitate toward certain keywords in program descriptions, suggesting that students will choose programs based on coursework rather than location.

Some of the short-term programs that have 50% or more male students tend to have the word “business” in the title of the program.

These short-term business programs take Elon students to Japan, Hong Kong, South Korea, Vietnam and Singapore.

The same can be said for the semester-long programs that the GEC offers.

Senior Alex Herbst said he was the only male Elon student in his spring 2019 program. Herbst studied abroad in Spain in a program titled “Seville: International Business and Culture.” He said he looked at the specific courses he would be taking when deciding to study abroad.

“It offered courses that would help me graduate while also offering me the experience that I was looking for,” Herbst said.

Ryan Mark, now a fifth-year senior, is one of 12 males on his 27-person study abroad program. The program in Alicante, Spain, focuses on both language and culture. He is studying there for both fall and spring semesters.

Mark said he chose to study in Alicante because it is a Spanish-speaking country and close to the beach.

“The idea of learning a new language or living in a country that isn’t English-speaking isn’t as appealing to guys as it is girls,” Mark said. “But that’s just my assumption.”

Mark also said it’s likely more female students are on study abroad programs because there are simply more female students at Elon.

Van Beek said she believes this trend is due to the connotation of study abroad programs.

“Old school legacy and ideals around study abroad are that people go abroad to learn a language, learn about the culture and connect with humanity,” Van Beek said.

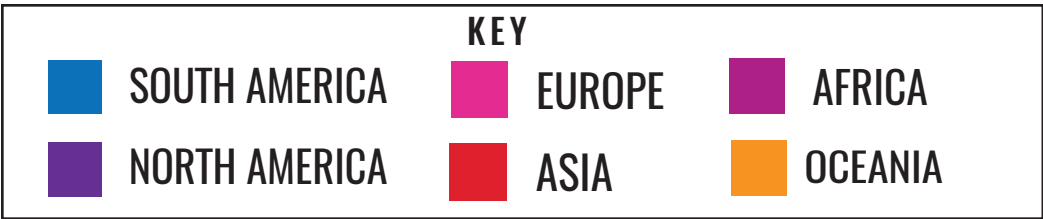


MAPPING OUT GLOBAL EXPERIENCES

Three years worth of Elon student data, spread across six continents and nearly 80 countries

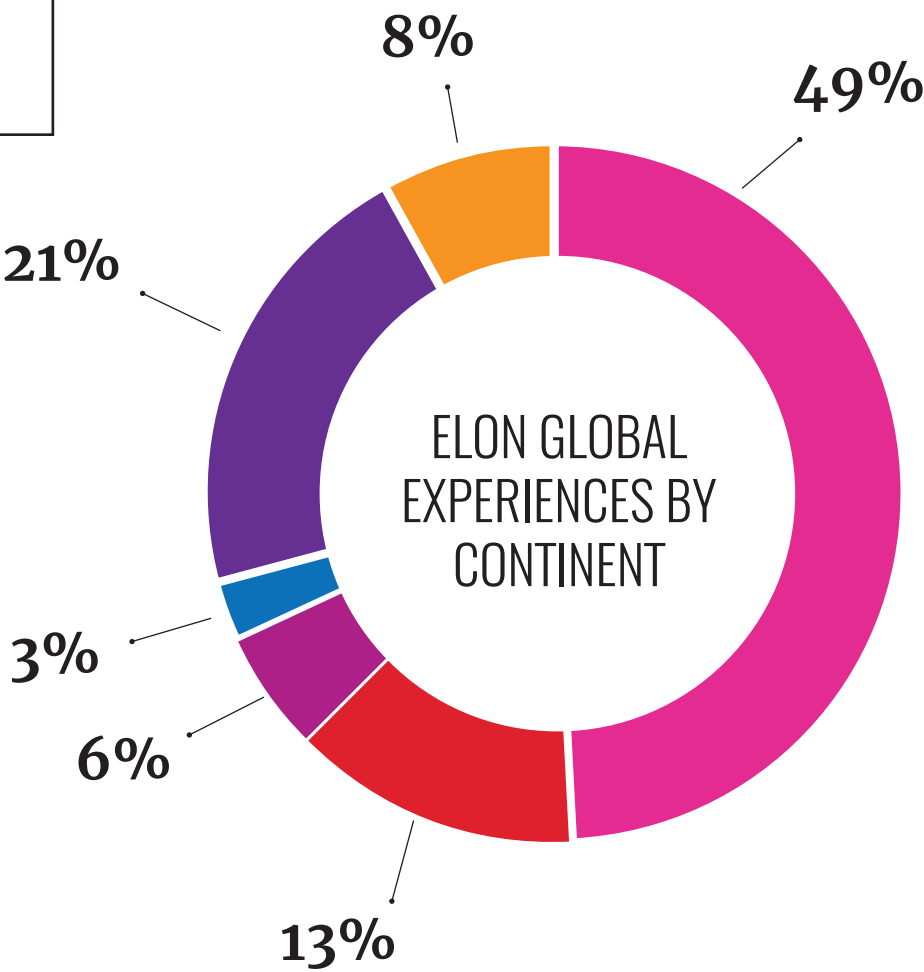
THE GLOBAL EDUCATION CENTER tries to keep track of nearly every graduate and undergraduate “global experience” at Elon, from semester-long study abroad programs and study USA to short-term trips and undergraduate research. From 2017 to 2019, the GEC recorded 6,723 experiences. Some students had several while others joined programs that visited more than one country. Five of the listed experiences had insufficient information and were not included in the following maps. These graphics illustrate the varying popularity of programs around the world. Each country visited by an Elon student was counted as a single global experience. For example, Winter Term programs that visited Morocco and Spain were counted as two different experiences — one for each country.

ELON GLOBAL EXPERIENCE BREAKDOWN FROM 2017 TO 2019

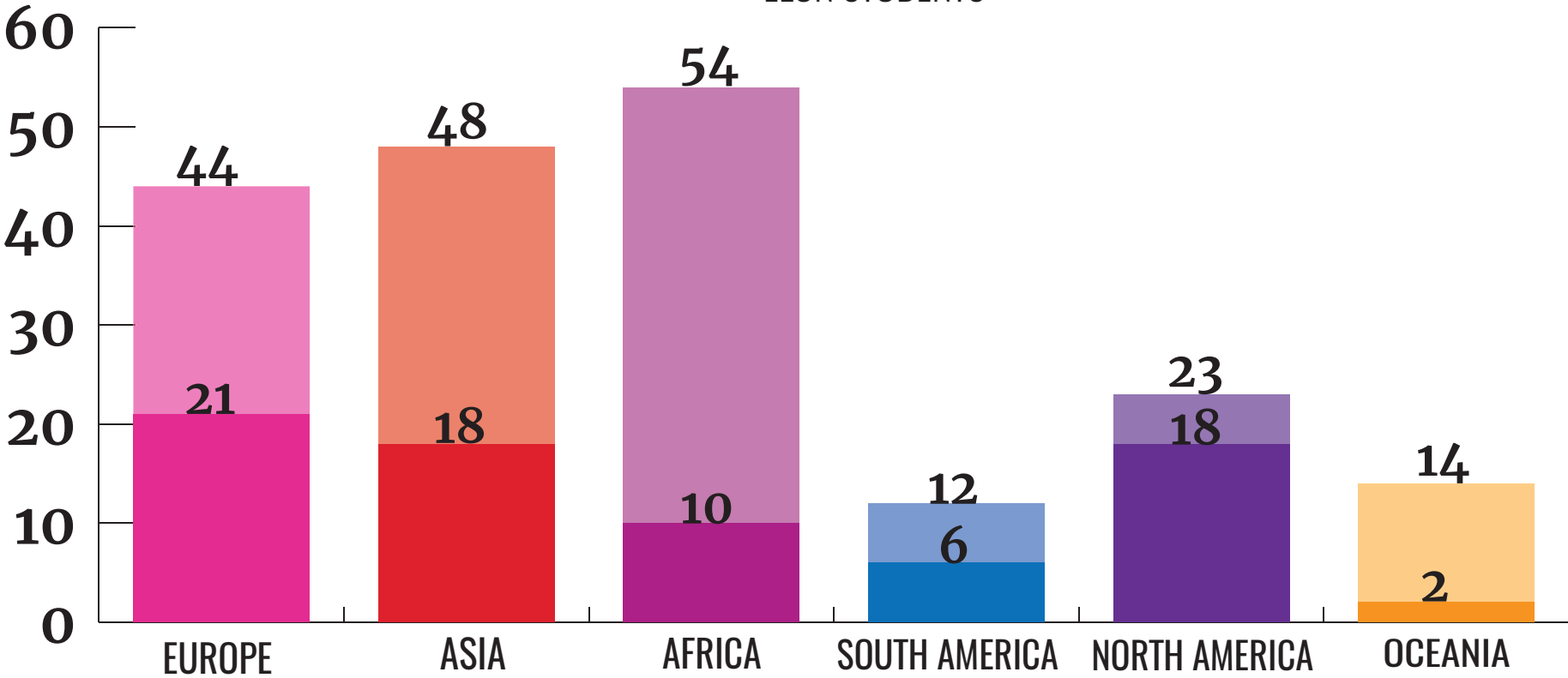


- COUNTRIES VISITED BY ONE ELON STUDENT
- The Bahamas
 - Bermuda
 - Cambodia
 - El Salvador
 - Jamaica
 - Lebanon
 - Nigeria
 - Croatia
 - Syria
 - Taiwan
 - Portugal
 - Zambia

- TOP TEN MOST VISITED COUNTRIES
1. United States
 2. Italy
 3. Spain
 4. United Kingdom
 5. Australia
 6. Germany
 7. France
 8. Ireland
 9. Vietnam
 10. Czech Republic

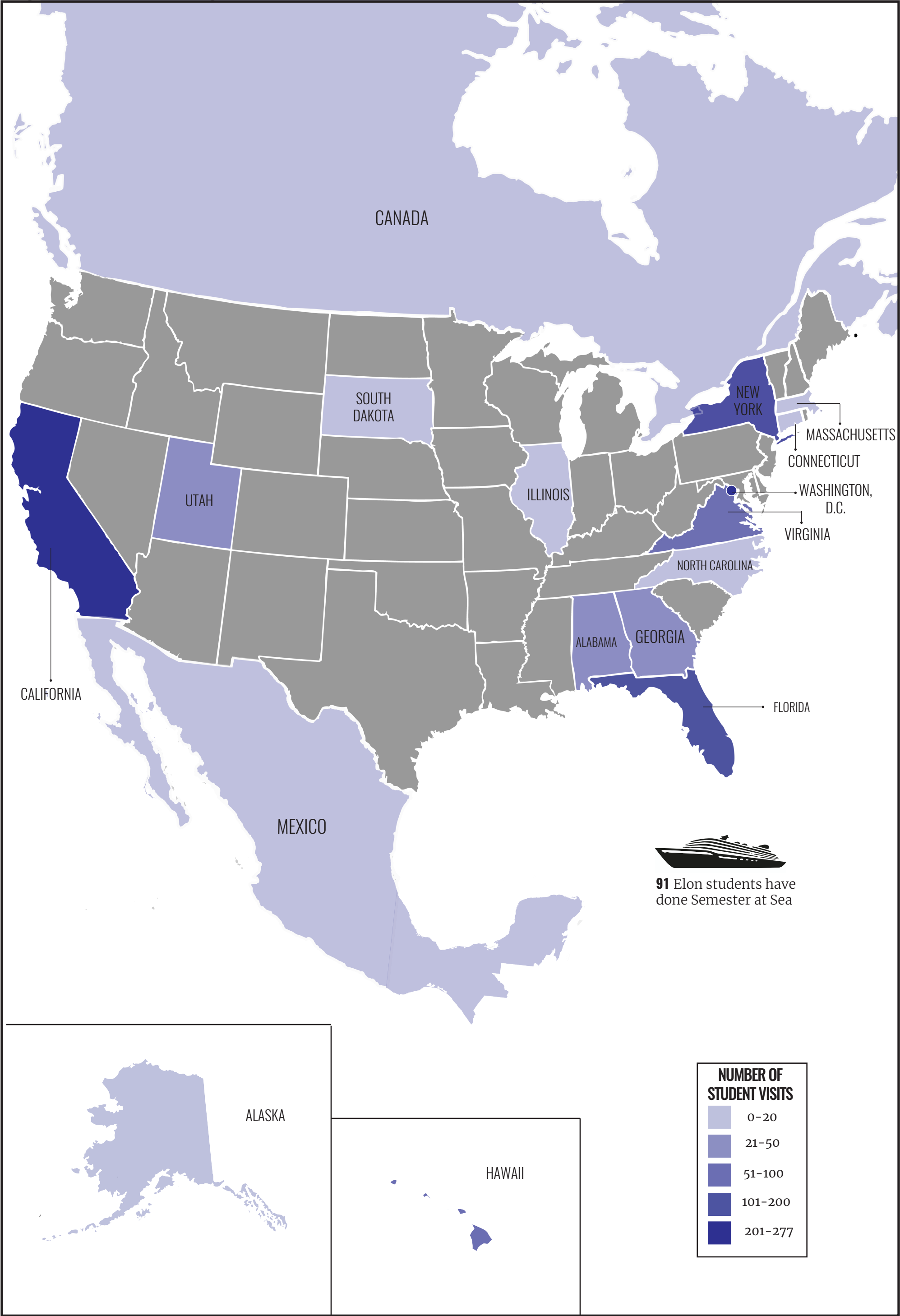


TOTAL NUMBER OF COUNTRIES IN EACH CONTINENT COMPARED WITH COUNTRIES VISITED BY ELON STUDENTS



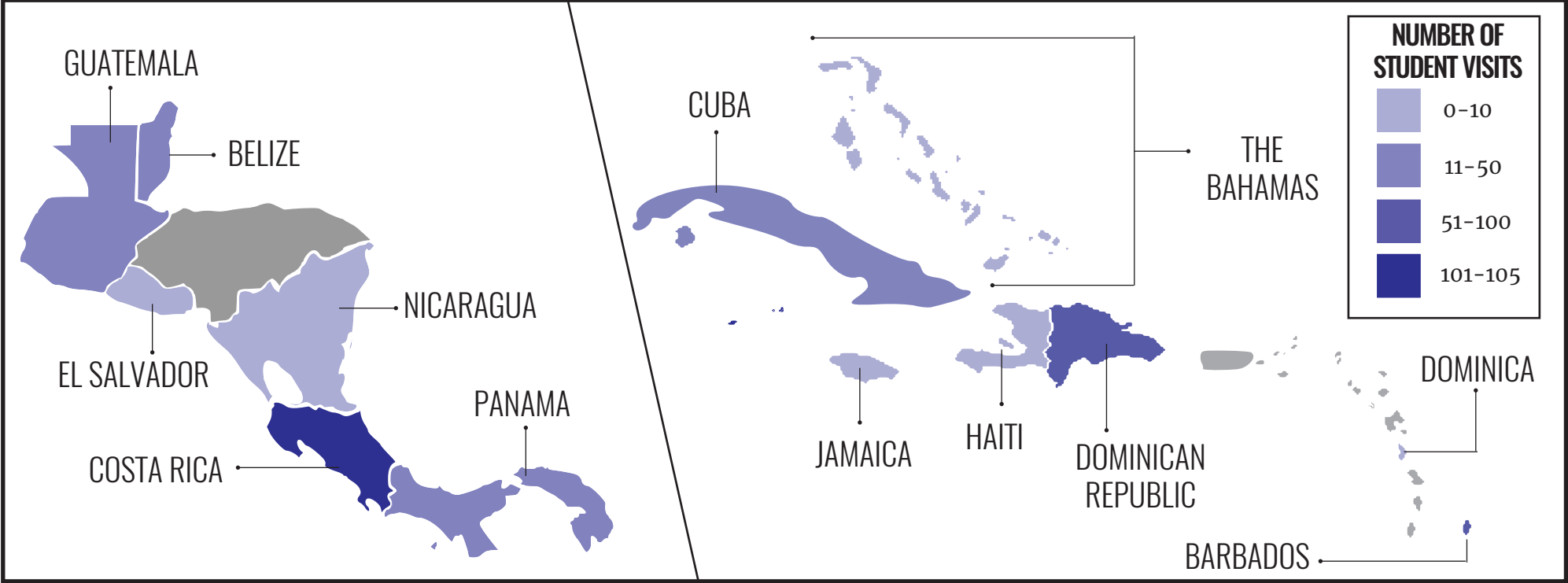
*North America includes Central America

NORTH AMERICA





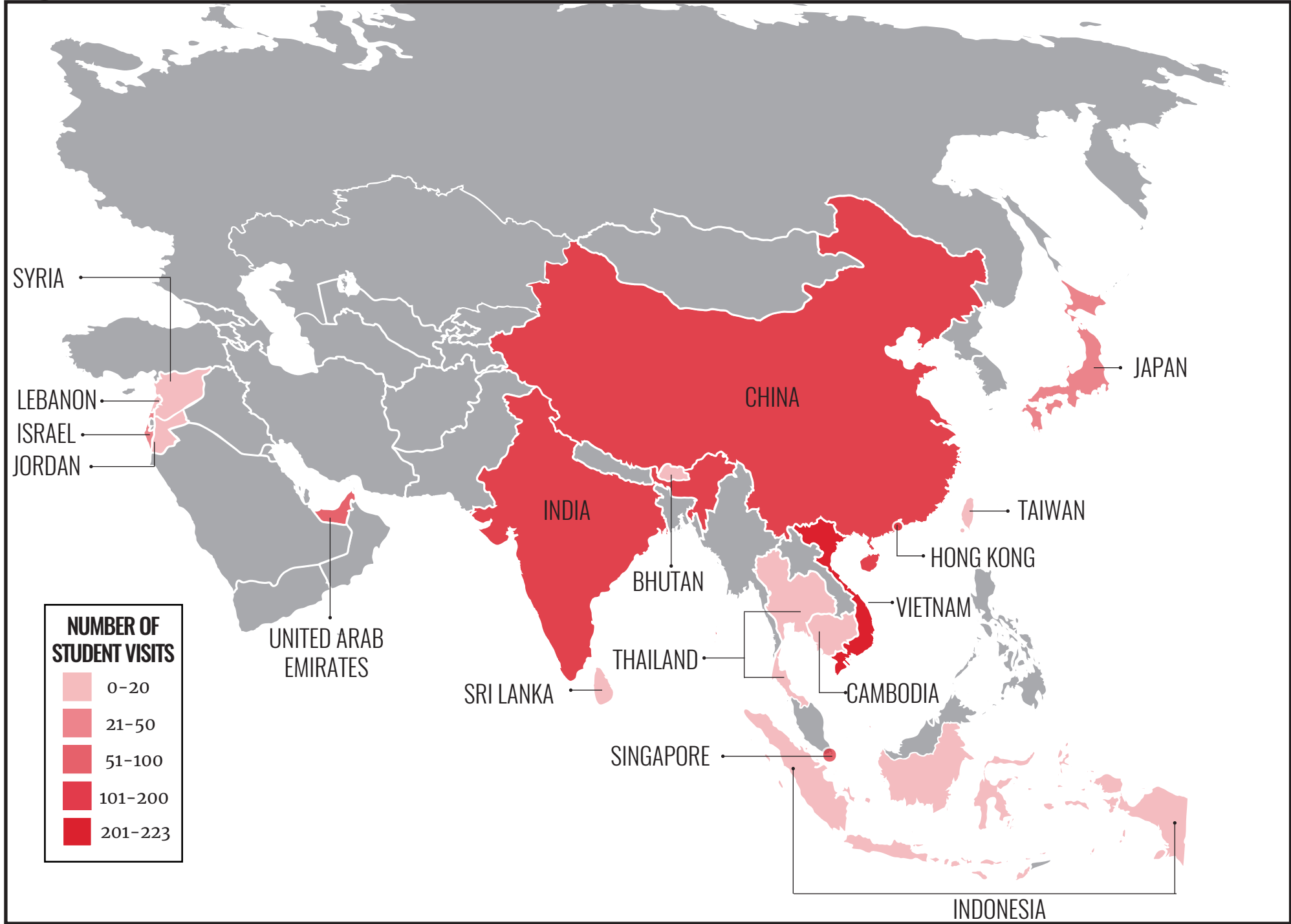
CENTRAL AMERICA



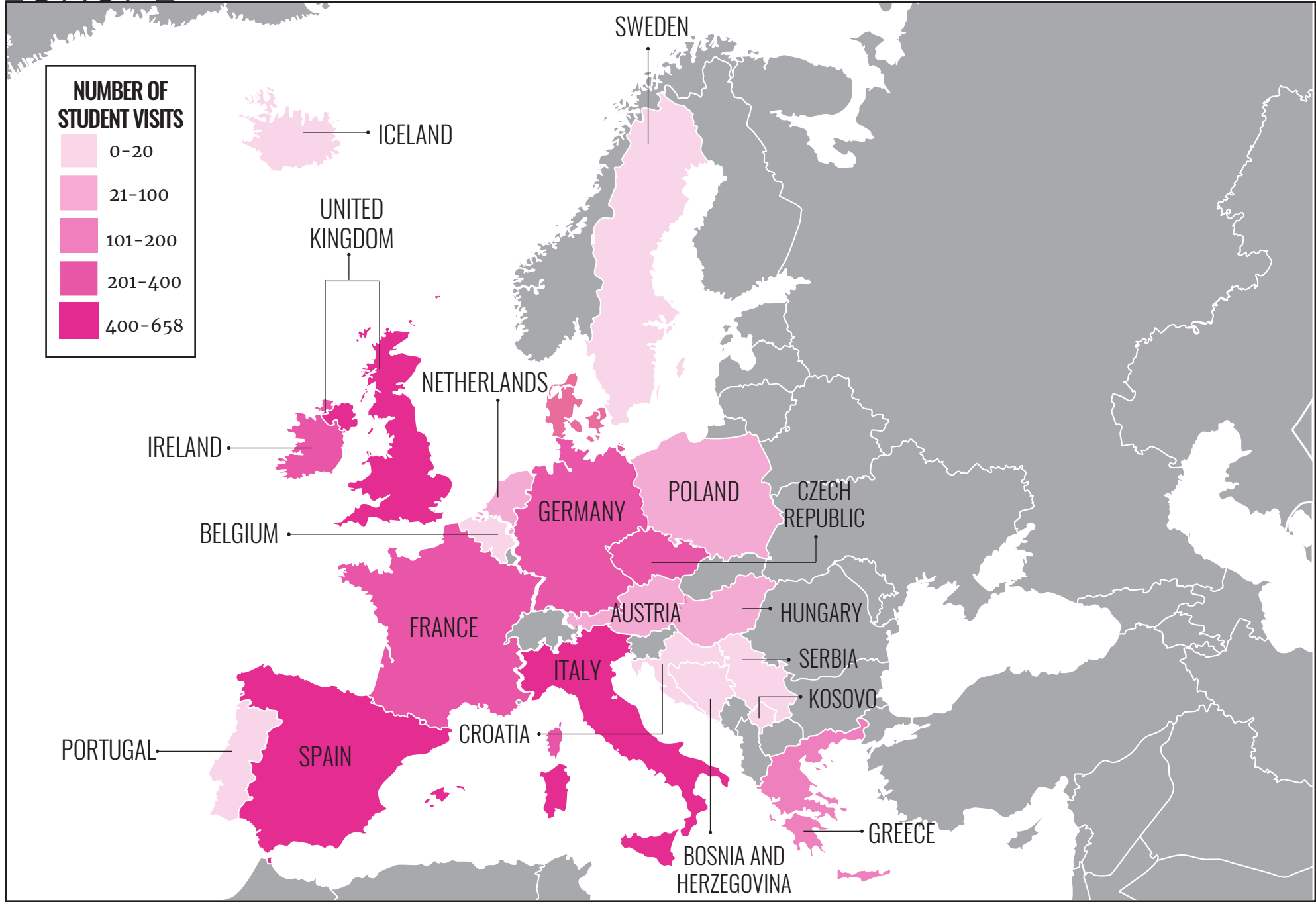
SOUTH AMERICA



ASIA

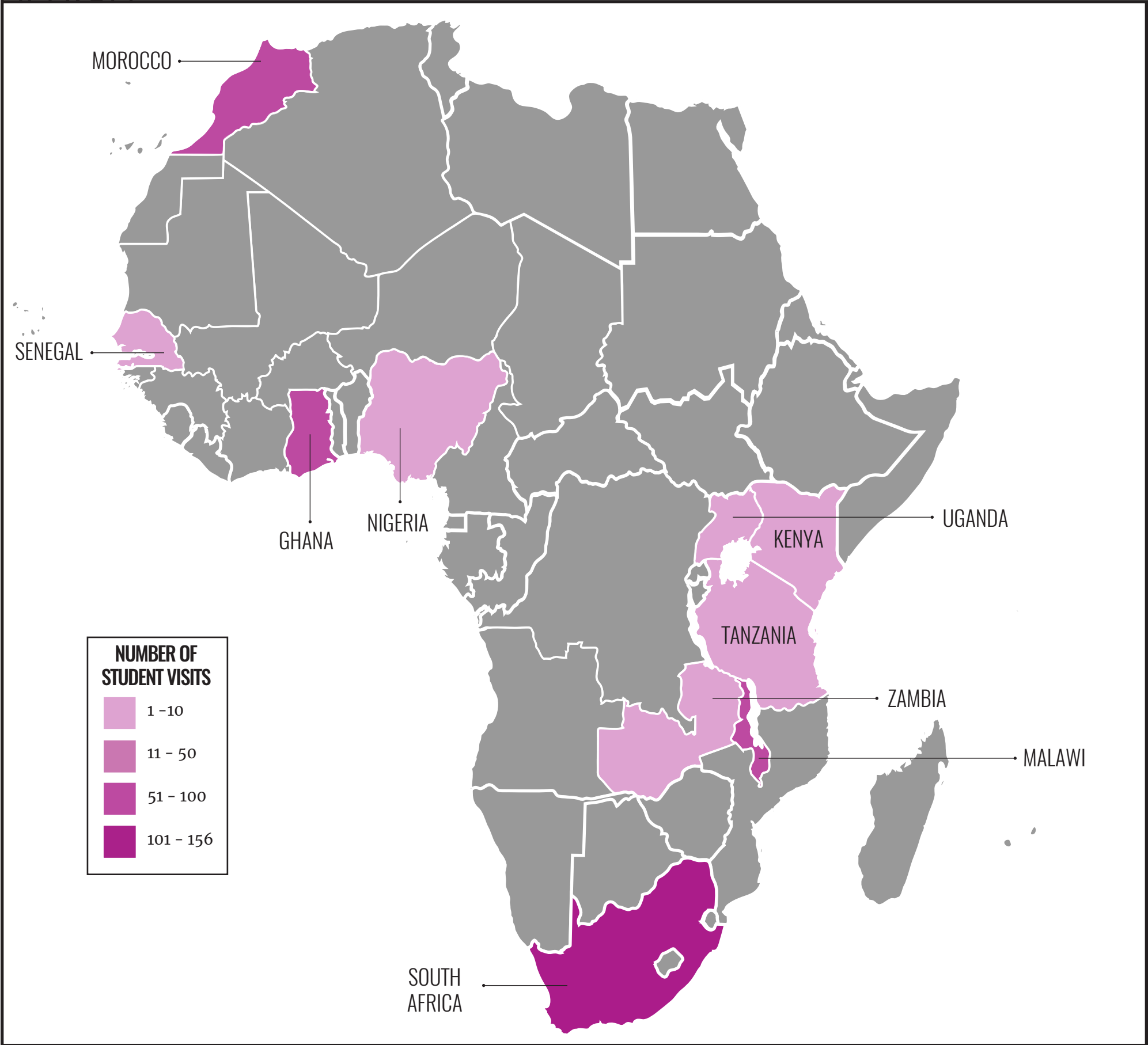


EUROPE





AFRICA



OCEANIA





Redefining the term 'STUDY ABROAD'



PHOTO COURTESY OF J. MCMERTY

Students pose for a photo while participating in the Elon University Study USA program hosted at the Elon Center in Los Angeles during the Spring of 2018.

Study USA gives global engagement experiences to Elon undergraduates

Jack Haley

Executive Director | @jackhaley17

Junior Sofia Stanchina said she was looking to explore the world while studying at Elon. She said she considered going somewhere across the world to a place such as Shanghai, which would satisfy her appetite for adventure.

There was just one problem. She said she wouldn't be able to study abroad and still graduate on time.

Wanting a different experience, the Charlotte native looked into a Study USA option and found a new home for the fall semester in New York City.

Stanchina said she is taking classes at Marymount Manhattan College. She also said she will get a taste of post-graduation life by interning with Model Management Group.

The project management major said something she has taken away from the program is the opportunity to work in New York, something she didn't think was possible.

Rhonda Waller, director of global engagement for the Global Education Center, said having access to the Elon alumni network in major cities shows current students that the transition from small-town Elon to a major metropolitan area is possible.

"To say, 'Oh, you're only two years older than me and got a job in LA,' it's kind of a preview on an experience that they will extend past graduation," Waller said.

Assistant Director for Global Internships Victoria Lo said she thinks this is valuable for students.

She said the ability to work in a professional environment and not live as a tourist is important for students to help imagine themselves working in that city.



PHOTO COURTESY OF J. MCMERTY

Elon in LA students pose while visiting the media organization Hello Sunshine in the spring of 2018.

"Whether or not their internship is exactly what they want to do for the rest of their lives, they tend to get a little step closer to finding out what that dream job or dream goal is," Lo said. "It helps them really envision themselves living and working in these places and learn a lot about what it means to be a professional to them."

Waller said she believes Elon provides a safety net for students

who are moving to cities that have an Elon Center in them after they have participated in a Study USA program there.

"Elon's kind of wrapping your arms around you and saying, 'Here's your housing, here's how to commute to work, here's where the grocery store is.' It's kind of a soft landing in a place that can kind of be harsh," Waller said.

According to Jason McMerty, director of the Elon in Los

Angeles program and assistant professor of cinema and television arts, nearly half of the students who had participated in the Elon in LA program and graduated in 2008 moved to the city within six months of graduating to begin their careers.

McMerty said that when the program started, Elon had only 50 alumni in the area. In the past decade, the number has grown to more than 500.

A third center is being proposed to join New York and Los Angeles as study abroad hubs for Elon. While a summer program is already offered in Washington, the nation's capital is slated to become the home of the newest Elon center, according to the strategic plan.

The proposed addition will help serve as a liaison between the Elon student body and alumni in Washington, while also acting as a go-between for prospective students who can't travel to North Carolina to learn more about Elon.

Though there are diverse programs involved, Waller said she saw a pattern in the types of students drawn to particular programs. Waller said she thinks part of this pattern developed through word-of-mouth as students in one discipline tell their peers in the same discipline, giving a particular program a stigma that it is only geared towards specific majors.

To combat this, the university is expanding the Elon in LA program to also cover the fall semester beginning in 2020. McMerty said he hopes this will help draw more students from other disciplines.

"The fall is going to be geared toward non-cinema and TV majors" McMerty said. "The fall will be geared more toward the strategic communications major as well as offering basic writing courses."

One major part of the program expansion will be the launch of Live Oak Studios.

Similar to the reality show

“

WHETHER OR NOT THEIR INTERNSHIP IS EXACTLY WHAT THEY WANT TO DO FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES, THEY TEND TO GET A LITTLE STEP CLOSER TO FINDING OUT WHAT THAT DREAM JOB OR DREAM GOAL IS.

VICTORIA LO

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR GLOBAL INTERNSHIPS

"The Apprentice," students will get to pick and pitch projects to three separate clients while focusing on the world of branded content.

Live Oak Studios has been envisioned as a production arm of Live Oak Communications, the student-run Public Relations agency at Elon. The two agencies will work together to produce content for clients.

McMerty said he also wants to get the business school involved, specifically marketing majors, to further increase the academic diversity of the program.

Although the expansion of the program is still evolving, Waller said he is excited for the future.

"It's like a leaping off point," Waller said. "We can be doing even more things with our alumni and parents ... Maybe we're bringing a type of student into Elon who wouldn't normally consider Elon because they're just honestly not familiar. The magnitude of this is really exciting."



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS STUDYING ABROAD

Already living abroad does not stop international students from going abroad again

Borghild Kvaeven
Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

Originally from Guatemala, senior Maria Rivera moved to the U.S. to attend Elon University. While she said it was a great opportunity to live in the U.S. and experience a new culture, Rivera said she wanted to expand her abroad experience and travel even farther.

During the fall of her junior year, Rivera traveled to Australia's Sunshine Coast for a semester.

Australia was one of the top study abroad locations in 2018-19 for international students, followed by Denmark, Spain and Germany, according to Shanna Van Beek, communications manager of global education at the Global Education Center.

"My friend from Guatemala studied abroad in Australia, and she told me about all of her experiences there," Rivera said. "It was always on my list of places where I wanted to go."

Despite her eagerness to go, Rivera said she experienced difficulties during the application process.

"I had a lot of trouble when I was doing my paperwork for Australia," Rivera said. She explained one of the reasons was because the study abroad providers wanted her to have recently taken an English proficiency exam because English is not her first language. Rivera said she took an English proficiency during her senior year of high school, meaning it had already expired.

Van Beek said she agreed with Rivera's sentiments, saying that more often than not, it is harder for international students to get a visa.

According to Van Beek, study abroad providers and organizations that facilitate study abroad "know



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARIA RIVERA

During their fall semesters abroad in Australia, then-juniors Maria Rivera (left) and Lucia Safie pose for a photo in front of a waterfall.

“
AT ELON, PEOPLE
ARE ALWAYS ON A
FAST PACE, ALWAYS
STRESSED. AND THEN
IN AUSTRALIA, IT
WAS SO MUCH MORE
CHILL.

MARIA RIVERA
SENIOR

exactly the process it takes for a U.S. student, or a student with a U.S. passport, to apply for their student visa." However, Van Beek also said they're not as familiar with cases of students having other nationalities.

Rivera said she loved the country and the experience of studying abroad.

"I loved it because it was a totally different experience and culture," Rivera said. "At Elon, people are always on a fast pace, always stressed. And then in Australia, it was so much more chill."

Rivera said she dreams of starting her own business, a goal which she said study abroad will help her achieve.

"When I was younger, my dad always said, 'The more you travel, the more ideas you're going to have,'" Rivera said. "When I was in Australia, I kept thinking of many different things because it was so different from here and Guatemala. And I thought, 'Well what if I brought those different things back to Guatemala?'"

Even though Rivera said she knew she wanted to study abroad since her first year, she said Elon's study abroad opportunities were not advertised to her before starting at Elon.

Accessibility to study abroad resources was something sophomore Duru Tasman said she noticed wasn't mentioned when touring Elon with her basketball coach.

"Nobody mentioned anything about study abroad. I didn't ask. They told me a lot about internships and research opportunities and how you find a job. No study abroad," Tasman said.

Tasman is from Istanbul, Turkey, and said she originally had no plans to study abroad.

"I didn't care that much about studying abroad because I'm already studying abroad," Tasman said.

However, she said she is traveling abroad for two weeks this summer with her basketball team, though she doesn't know where yet. Tasman also said the more she's learned about study abroad opportunities, the more appealing they sound to her.

"For international students, it's more of a 'why not?' question than for Americans, I think they should definitely do it," Tasman said.

Tasman said you can only learn

BY THE NUMBERS

38

international students, 67 dual citizens and 11 overseas Americans, studied abroad last academic school year.

so much about another culture in the classroom, something she can attest to after her move to the U.S.

Rivera also highlighted the importance of traveling. "You open your mind and your mindset when you travel," she said.

According to Van Beek, although Study USA programs are an option for international students, they tend to gravitate toward the study abroad program.

Tasman said she might consider a Study USA program.

"Having an internship or research is higher priority for me than studying abroad," Tasman said.

Both Tasman and Rivera highlighted Elon's study abroad program.

"I think it's really cool that Elon has made it so common and so easy for students to study abroad," Rivera said.

For international students interested in studying abroad, Van Beek recommends going to the GEC.

"If you're an international student and you're considering studying abroad, come talk with us. Come talk with us early so we can figure it out," she said.

Because of her disposition, Rivera said she decided to help other international students studying abroad in Australia navigate the process by giving them advice and encouraging them to apply.

Rivera said she highly recommends the study abroad experience to other international students.

"International students already know how life is in their country. They already know life is in America. But they should also get the experience of going somewhere completely different," Rivera said.

Global engagement expands online reach

Elon University adds directory resource to website to bolster Study Abroad and Study USA

Sarah Daly
Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

In an effort to promote its commitment to global engagement, Elon University added a new global directory navigation tab on its website.

Woody Pelton, dean of global education, said he pitched the idea to create a new tab where all information related to this commitment was located. The project started in January 2017 with President Emeritus Leo Lambert's approval. It was finally launched in February 2019.

The new tab collates all of Elon's Study Abroad and Study USA programs, class curriculums and community engagement activities into one location.

According to the site, "Elon is committed to 100% access to global engagement, which includes Study Abroad, Study USA and other international opportunities for students. For 15 straight years, Elon has earned a number one ranking for study abroad participation from the Institute for International Education."

Shanna Van Beek, communications manager of global

“
WE ARE DEEPLY PROUD
FOUR-FIFTHS OF STUDENTS
WILL DO AT LEAST ONE
GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT
BEFORE THEY GRADUATE.

SHANNA VAN BEEK
COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER OF
GLOBAL EDUCATION

education, and Dan Anderson, vice president of university communications, said they worked with each other to develop how the tab would look with pictures, text and links.

According to Van Beek, the hardest part of putting together the new tab was categorizing the information. Van Beek said this visual component to global engagement is reflected in the students of Elon.

"We are invested in this work. We are deeply proud four-fifths of students will do at least one global engagement before they graduate," Van Beek said.

When the Institute of International Education ranked Elon number one in study abroad participation, Van Beek enjoyed scrolling through the social media comments left on the announcement. One comment stuck out to her in particular.

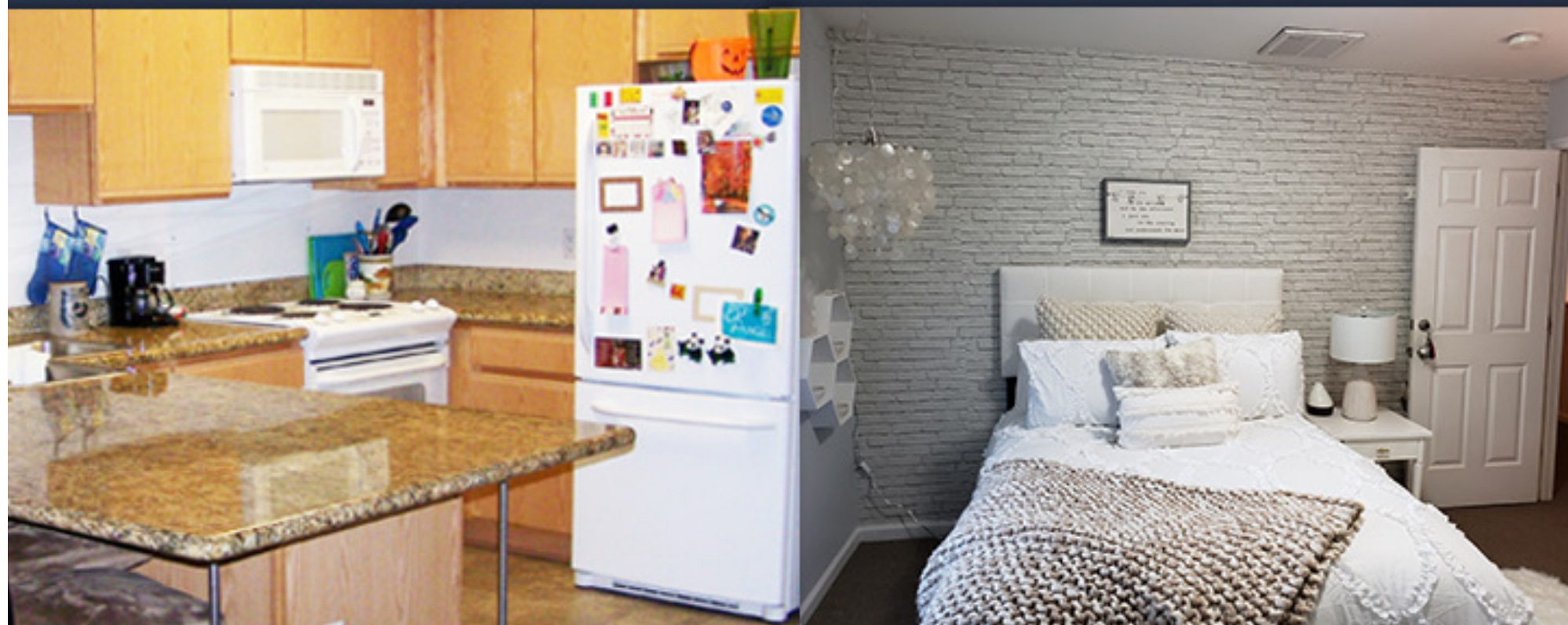
Scott Andrews-Weckerly wrote in a comment, "A life changing part of the Elon experience — in fact, I can draw a straight line from every professional decision I've made to my time abroad."

Van Beek said she agrees with Weckerly and added, "Study Abroad, Study USA and global things that this campus has invested in, the impact is not only immediate but for years and years to come."



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARIA RIVERA

Then-junior Maria Rivera poses for a photo in front of the Sydney Opera House during her fall semester abroad in Australia.

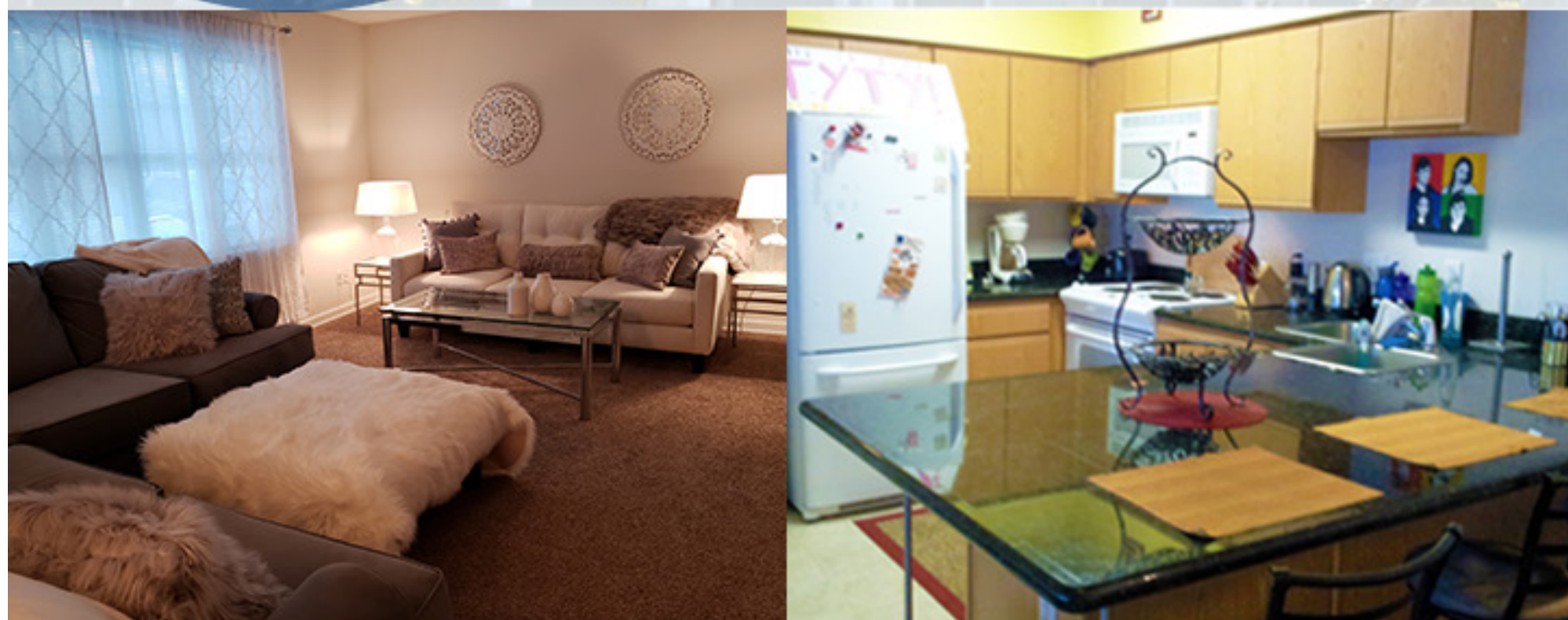


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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2019
ELON, NORTH CAROLINA

THE PENDULUM

50,000 TO 40,000

STAYING AWARE

Students and professors raise awareness about human trafficking, which claims thousands of victims in the US every year

Emily Prins | Elon News Network | @emilyprins2

Freshman Corinne Orgettas said she has never been able to pinpoint the source of her fear of human trafficking — but the constant news coverage certainly hasn't helped. According to Orgettas, these fears only intensified after a friend of hers narrowly escaped a kidnapping attempt by someone who was linked to a sex trafficking organization. Orgettas said a man tried to lure her friend into his car while she was at an ATM in her hometown. She said when police reviewed the tapes, they recognized the man from previous instances of sex trafficking. However, this fear came hand-in-hand with an interest in human trafficking, an interest that lead to a movement to start an anti-human trafficking organization on Elon University's campus. According to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, human trafficking is defined as involving, "the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act."

See **Trafficking** | pg. 3

The numbers along the barcode represent the estimated number of victims of human trafficking in the U.S. in a given year.

The opioid epidemic in Alamance County



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBIN JORDAN
Alamance County resident Jessica Jordan died of a drug overdose on May 12, 2018.

The number of opioid-related deaths in Alamance County is nearly three times the national rate

Liam Collins
Elon News Network | @liam_collins7

Robin Jordan said she can remember every detail of May 12, 2018. She was driving two of her three daughters and her granddaughter, her oldest daughter Jessica's child. They were on their way to see Jordan's son at work. It was his birthday.

"My husband called me and wanted to know where I was," Jordan said. "He said, 'You need to come home right now.' I just did a take in my brain of where everyone was at that moment."

Jordan said she knew it had to be about her sister or Jessica. When she got to her home in Graham, she found two detectives in her living room.

"They said Jessica was dead. And then I was on the floor."

At 32 years old, after 10 years of battling drug addiction, Jessica had died of an overdose.

According to the toxicology report obtained by Elon News Network, traces of cocaine and fentanyl, a synthetic opioid that's 80 to 100 times stronger than prescription-strength pain killers, were found in Jessica's system.

Jordan said she was aware of her daughter using hard drugs ever since she was a freshman in college. But Jordan said her daughter's problems with addiction stemmed from issues much deeper than a substance disorder.

"We started getting letters from the school pretty soon in the fall saying that she was failing her classes and threatening academic probation," Jordan said. "My husband and I went down; she was hiding out in her dorm and was sleeping all day. She wasn't going to class. What we found out at that time was she had been raped on campus."

See **Opioid** | pg. 6



LIFESTYLE • PAGE 7
Students aspiring to be writers trade ideas with professionals



LIFESTYLE • PAGE 8
Showcasing four years of work, musical theatre students perform "Cabaret"



LIFESTYLE • PAGE 8
Annual holiday traditions mark the end of the semester

THE PENDULUM

A PUBLICATION OF
**ELON NEWS
NETWORK**

Established 1974
Volume 45, Edition 14

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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EDITORIAL POLICY:

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

CORRECTIONS POLICY:

ENN is committed to accurate coverage. When factual errors are made, we correct them promptly and in full, both online and in print. Online corrections state the error and the change at the top of the article. Corrections from the previous week's print edition appear on this page.

Contact
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to report a correction or a concern.

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publishes weekly on Wednesdays
- Elon Local News**
broadcasts Mondays at 6 p.m.
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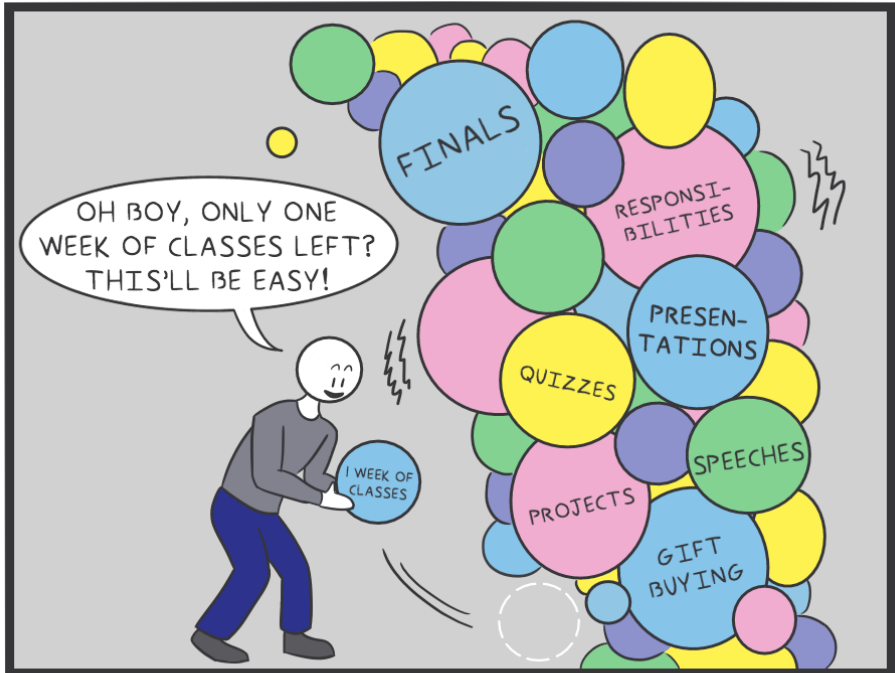
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CORRECTIONS

No corrections were issued for the last edition of The Pendulum.

COMIC

AVALANCHE



COMIC SAMS – SAM POROZOK

CALENDAR: DEC. 4 TO DEC. 13

GERSHWIN AND FRIENDS 7:30 P.M. TO 9:30 P.M. McCrary Theatre	MEET THE CLASS OF 2023 SGA NOON TO 5 P.M. Moseley Center	ELON HOLIDAY MARKET 3 P.M. Elon Community Church	NUMEN LUMEN WEEKLY SERVICE 9:50 A.M. TO 10:20 A.M. Numen Lumen Pavilion	END OF SEMESTER DINNER AND SECRET SANTA 5:30 P.M. TO 7 P.M. Elon University
5	4	5	5	6
PJ SHABBAT DINNER 7 P.M. TO 8:30 P.M. Chabad House, 107 Truitt Drive	RUN AT THE ROCK 9 A.M. Cedarock Park, Burlington	GREEK INTERVARSITY BIBLE STUDY 7 P.M. TO 9 P.M.	TECTONIC PLATES: ALAMANCE COUNTY'S SCIENCE CAFE 7 P.M. Fat Frogg Bar & Grill	STUDENT ORGANIZATION TRAVEL TRAINING 3 P.M. TO 4 P.M. Global Commons 103
6	7	8	10	13

Raising awareness about human trafficking on campus



A wall at Crossroads Sexual Assault Response and Resource Center in Burlington has the words “Your Story Matters” laid out with the “Y” and “U” in “Your” missing. The letters are currently being decorated by survivors of human trafficking and sexual assault.

TRAFFICKING | from cover

Orgettas said as students, there are limitations in addressing human trafficking and bringing about change.

“It’s hard at our age to do anything about it. We’re limited in what we can do because it’s such a dangerous industry,” Orgettas said.

This didn’t stop Orgettas. She said she plans to create campaigns to raise awareness about human trafficking both on Elon’s campus and in the greater Alamance community.

She said she would also like the group to work with Crossroads Cares, a local organization fighting human trafficking and other human rights issues in the county. According to its website, the organization focuses on providing safe locations for forensic interviews, trauma-informed therapy and other services that promote advocacy, intervention and diversion.

According to Orgettas, the road to creating a club like this on Elon’s campus is complicated. In a follow-up email, Orgettas said, “Unfortunately, it is a long and detailed process, so the likelihood of this organization starting this year is low.” Orgettas said she has to work with student involvement to register the club officially at a later date. She said she is hoping to have it up and running by next fall.

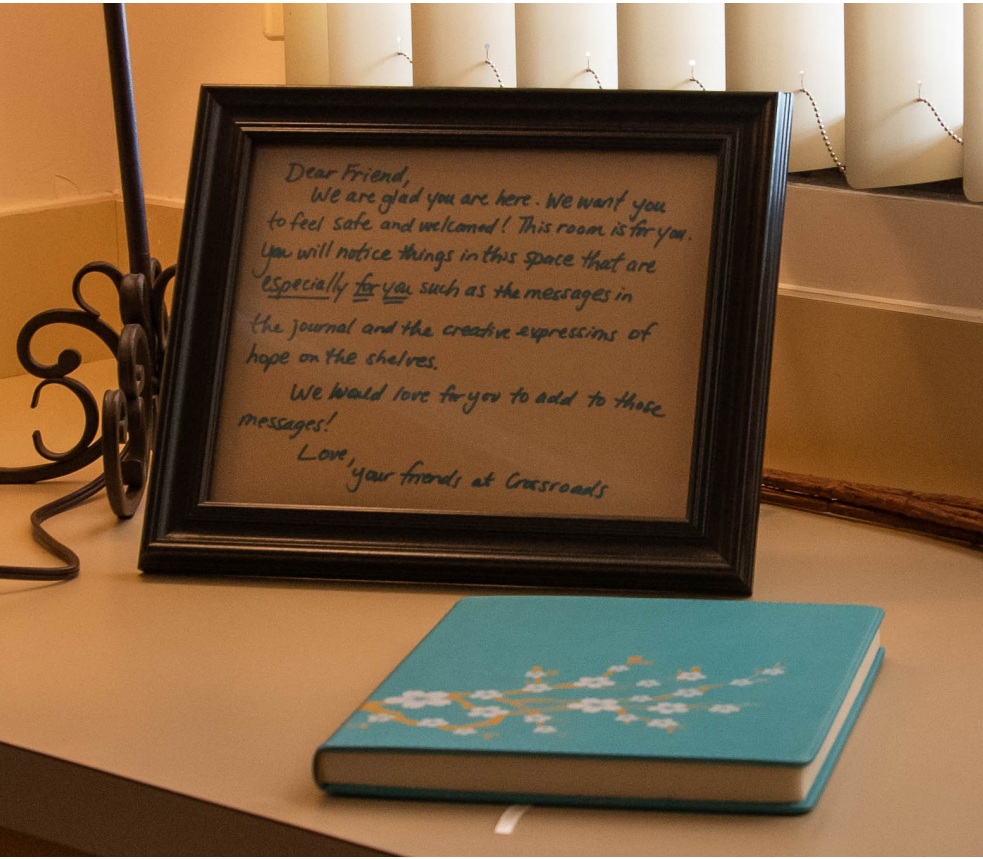
Orgettas said her experiences have opened her eyes to how little the American public knows of this issue. “I felt upset that I wasn’t aware of all the things that were going on, and I think that it’s important for other people to know what’s going on,” she said.

Economics of Human Trafficking

Orgettas’ work is not the only movement on campus aimed at spreading awareness about human trafficking.

In fact, Orgettas said part of her inspiration to start taking action stemmed from a class called “The Economics of Human Trafficking,” which Orgettas said she took one semester.

“Every time I left that class, as much as I loved it, I was put into almost like a



A message of support to survivors of human trafficking and sexual assault stands over a notebook filled with similar sentiments at Crossroads Sexual Assault Response and Resource Center. One of the lines of the framed message reads, “We are glad you are here. We want you to feel safe and welcomed.”

“IT’S HARD AT OUR AGE TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT. WE’RE LIMITED TO WHAT WE CAN DO BECAUSE IT’S SUCH A DANGEROUS INDUSTRY.”

CORINNE ORGETTAS
FRESHMAN

depression because I was so sad that these things were going on and that there are people still living in slavery today,” Orgettas said. “It’s motivated me to want to make a difference in that way.”

The Elon professor behind this class is Casey DiRienzo, professor of economics. DiRienzo said she began researching human trafficking through an economic lens after a colleague brought her a new dataset on global trafficking. She compared the subject to tugging on a string to see what was at the end of it, “I couldn’t stop pulling the string,” she said.

DiRienzo’s findings include how more female participation in government reduces corruption, a new metric for measuring income inequality as it relates to trafficking and how country borders impact the rates of human trafficking.

DiRienzo said she started the class because she noticed student interest in the topic.

After teaching two sections of it this semester, she claims the class is having a sizable impact on the students, who are asking how they can get involved and are informing their younger siblings of the dangers of human trafficking in the modern era.

“I just read a bunch of student essays that said, ‘I thought we were too good for this here. I had no idea that it was everywhere,’” DiRienzo said.

DiRienzo said human trafficking is an issue that is often misunderstood, “People don’t understand that this isn’t a foreign problem. This is a global problem. In the US, in every state, in every city, you can find it,” she said.

According to the International Labor Organization, an estimated 40.3 million victims of human trafficking exist around the world, 25% of them children.

Human trafficking happens everywhere according to DiRienzo, “In the US, in every state, in every city, you can find it,” she said, estimating that the number of victims in the US ranges from 50,000 to 400,000.

This includes Alamance County. In fact, in September, there was an attempt by North Carolina police, the State Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Homeland Security to crack down on human trafficking.

This resulted in 28 arrests on charges of prostitution or soliciting prostitution, likely linked to sex trafficking in the area.

Local organizations are also working to help victims of human trafficking in the area. Crossroads Cares, the Burlington-based human rights organization, works to raise awareness in the community, as well as advocate for and provide counseling services to those who have fallen victim to human trafficking.

DiRienzo said she will be continuing her human trafficking class online this summer and is set to teach it again next fall semester.

More than anything, DiRienzo said we all need to be aware of the real dangers of human trafficking. “Traffickers count on us not knowing the signs,” she said.

Members of
Elon Community
Church's
congregation
hold lit candles
during the annual
Moravian Lovefeast
on Sunday, Dec. 1.



ANTON L. DELGADO | MANAGING EDITOR



ANTON L. DELGADO | MANAGING EDITOR

George Clark, a carpenter with Stonewall Construction Services, replaces the wood around Elon Community Church with synthetic plastic on Tuesday, Nov. 26. The project, which will replace all of the church's exterior crown molding, is projected to be finished by Christmas Day.



ANTON L. DELGADO | MANAGING EDITOR

Senior Matthew Mitten makes his seventh sale of the evening to sophomore Ellie Thomas during the third annual student-made holiday market in McKinnon Hall on Monday, Dec. 2. Thomas bought a shadow box of North Carolina because she "liked the design" and thought it would be "a cute gift."

Freshman
Hannah Teich and
sophomore Sarah
Parks decorate
cookies during
"Twas the Night
before Luminaries"
in LaRose Student
Commons on
Monday, Dec. 2.



GRACE TERRY | DESIGN CHIEF



THOMAS DENOME | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Elon University guard Ariana Nance dribbles past University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill guard Shayla Bennett on Friday, Nov. 22. The Phoenix lost to the Tar Heels 46-76.



THOMAS DENOME | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Elon University forward Chuck Hannah takes a charge in the Phoenix's game against Kennesaw State University on Monday, Dec. 2 in Schar Center. The Phoenix won 70-46.



ANTON L. DELGADO | MANAGING EDITOR

Elon University head coach Mike Schrage, who is in his first year at Elon, yells at referee Mike Schnur for not calling a foul during the game between Elon and Furman University in Schar Center on Tuesday, Nov. 26. The Phoenix lost 61-97.



ZACH OHMANN | PHOTO EDITOR

Sophomore Federico Poser, a forward for Elon University, receives medical attention for his bleeding cut. He received the injury after attempting to grab a rebound against the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill on Wednesday, Nov. 20. The Phoenix lost 61-75.



ANTON L. DELGADO | MANAGING EDITOR

Elon University forward Jaylin Powell drives past Wake Forest University guard Alexandra Scruggs for a layup in Schar Center on Monday, Nov. 25. The Phoenix lost to the Demon Deacons 57-69.

A LOCAL VOICE TO THE NATIONAL OPIOID EPIDEMIC

OPIOIDS | from cover

They moved Jessica back home. It was soon after that they noticed a shift in her behavior.

“She was running around all night. She was running out with people we didn’t know,” Jordan said. “We started taking her to counseling. At that time, she disclosed that she had been sexually molested by a family friend when she was 5 years old. She had carried that secret with her for her whole life.”

According to Jordan, that secret would lead to a life of stealing, sneaking out and being brought home in police cars. It was to the point where Jordan said she begged someone to arrest her daughter.

“Magistrates would say, ‘If she’s not suicidal or homicidal, there’s nothing we can do.’ And I know that’s true,” Jordan said. “I don’t question that. But it put her in a really bad place.”

Jessica’s situation is not unique to Alamance County, as there have been 81 fatal and non-fatal overdoses so far this year. According to data from the Alamance County Sheriff’s Office, 39 were opioid-related. Jordan said her daughter might not have been a part of these statistics if North Carolina had expanded Medicaid, a federal health care program that covers low-income individuals who can prove need.

North Carolina is one of 14 states that hasn’t expanded the program. Jessica would have qualified for treatment through the program if she hadn’t lost custody of her 4-year-old daughter.

As part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, better known as “Obamacare,” Medicaid can be expanded to include any low-income individuals regardless of need.

“Jessica fell through the cracks throughout her whole life,” Jordan said. “I can’t go back and change things for Jessica. I can’t make that any different than it is. I can possibly keep that from happening to the next person.”

As part of the law, the federal government covers about 67% of the cost of Medicaid — leaving the other third of the cost to the states that choose to expand it.

“It’s important that we look for policy solutions that do the most good while causing the least harm,” said Leah Byers, a policy analyst at Civitas, a nonprofit policy organization group in Raleigh. “But cost is the least of our worries when you consider how this threatens access to care for those people who are currently on Medicaid.”

The federal law promised to cover 90% of beneficiaries. New enrollees would still be covered under that original promise. But according to Byers, that coverage could fall to 67% quickly.

At least 500,000 North Carolinians would be eligible for Medicaid if it were expanded. However, Byers said adding more patients doesn’t necessarily add more doctors.

“You have these people that are currently on Medicaid that need to be able to find doctors to see them,” Byers said. “That’s going to make it harder for them if we expand.”

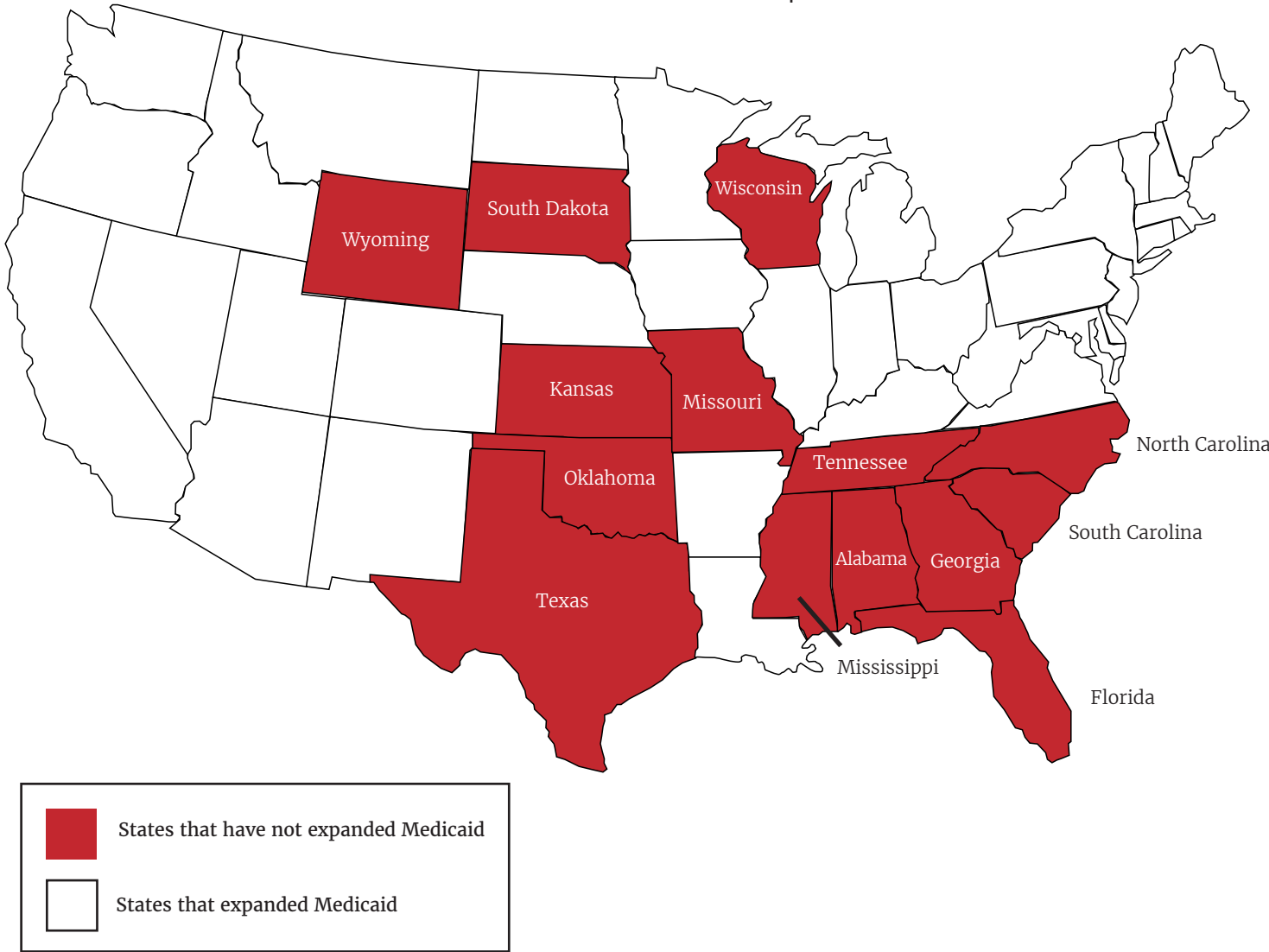
Finding a Fix

Sgt. Chris Crain of the Alamance County Sheriff Office’s Street Crimes Division said he is working to map out the problem.

“These people that operate under the radar that people don’t think about, they could be your neighbor,” Crain said. “What they don’t see is the person who’s profiting from bringing the drugs in. They live in your community. Maybe they’re a legitimate business owner.”

The department started using a system called ODMAP, a computer program that allows reporting agencies to track

States without Medicaid expansion



This map indicates which states did not expand Medicaid, a federal health care program that covers low-income individuals who can prove need.

DESIGNED BY TAYLOR TRUITT

“

SHE’S STILL PART OF OUR LIVES. SHE’S STILL OUR DAUGHTER. SHE’S STILL OUR CHILDREN’S SIBLING. SHE’S STILL OUR GRANDDAUGHTER’S MOTHER.

ROBIN JORDAN
JESSICA’S MOTHER

overdoses in their jurisdictions.

So far, only the sheriff’s office, Burlington Police Department and the Alamance County Health Department report to the system.

According to Crain, information from ODMAP has led police to transient areas along the interstate, especially cheap hotels. Crain said the goal is not necessarily to catch the user but to catch the dealer.

“We start at the bottom, and we’ll work our way up,” Crain said. “Our enforcement is not focused on the people with the addictions. It’s more about getting to the people that are actually selling and pushing stuff off the streets; the ones that are profiting from it — from other people’s misery.”

Crain said it’s been a push he’s brought to District Attorney Sean Boone’s office.

“You need to invest a lot on the front end with treatment so that you don’t have to invest a lot in the back end with incarceration,” Boone said. “Everything we can do to limit the number of people and limit time in the system ... we want to stop that.”

According to Boone, that system has filed 477 drug charges from 2018 to 2019. Nearly 10% of those were for possession of heroin.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention statistics from the year 2017, 11.7 out of every 100,000 people die of a heroin overdose in Alamance County. That’s compared with 4.9 out of every 100,000 people nationwide.

“We want to make sure that we emphasize a treatment component because if we hit in the front end on the treatment side of it, maybe we can keep them from re-offending and going back into that cycle of addiction,” Boone said.

‘For all the Jessicas’

Jessica’s mother said she’ll continue to speak on behalf of her daughter since she can’t speak for herself.

BY THE NUMBERS

11.7

is the number of people out of every 100,000 people in Alamance County who die of a heroin overdose.

4.9

is the number of people out of every 100,000 people nationwide who die of a heroin overdose.

500,000

is the number of North Carolinians who would be eligible for Medicaid if it were expanded.

“There’s not a minute of the day that goes by that I don’t relive decisions I made. Question myself. Wish I’d done it differently,” Jordan said. “You do the best you can do at any given time. And you just have to trust that you did the best you could with what you had.”

She said she’s working with Graham High School to create a scholarship in her daughter’s name, and a nonprofit called “Jessica’s Warmth,” which will give coats to the homeless.

“She’s still part of our lives. She’s still our daughter. She’s still our children’s sibling. She’s still our granddaughter’s mother,” Jordan said. “And as Christians, we believe we will see her again one day.”

LIFESTYLE

Students and visiting author reflect on what it means to be a writer

Borghild Kvaeven
Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

Sophomore Christy Dickman balanced a tower of books in her hands as she made her way to the checkout desk at Belk Library. She said she hoped there's no limit to how many she can have at a time; she is always eager to pique her interest in fiction.

Not much has changed since Dickman was a child. Now a double major in creative writing and political science, Dickman is an avid reader and writer. In November, she won her first award in college fiction writing.

"You don't need a lot of materials to do it," Dickman said. "You don't need paint or a canvas or need to be on a stage."

Xhenet Aliu, fiction writer and the second author to visit Elon University this semester as part of the Visiting Writer's Series, judged the fiction writing contest which Dickman won. While at Elon, she shared tips with creative writing students about the writing process and being a writer.

"When I met someone, I said I was a librarian, a private investigator, a professor and I also write. I struggled for a long time with the idea of deserving to identify as a writer," Aliu said, listing up the professions she's had over the years.

Andrew Perry, associate professor of English, said this tradition of visiting writers has been going on for more than 20 years. Earlier this fall, poet Allison Joseph visited Elon. The next writer visiting is novelist and essayist Belle Boggs, who will visit Elon in March.

"We bring in a poet, a fiction writer and an essayist every year," Perry said.

Even though all four professors in the creative writing department are published authors, Perry said it's valuable to bring other voices to campus as well.

"It's great because it allows the students to see somebody in the field who's been successful and becoming successful," Dickman said. "It makes it seem possible."

Along with a reading of her latest novel, "Brass," Aliu visited classes, answered students' questions and attended writing workshops.

Students in the creative writing senior seminar class, taught by Perry, also had a reading of their own work on Dec. 2 at The Downtown Acting Studio on Williamson Ave.

Katie Suppa, a senior enrolled in the creative writing seminar class, said she believed this reading was a way to make her and other students feel comfortable with sharing their work.

Prior to the reading, Suppa described it as, "beautiful and amazing, and it's probably going to break your heart a little bit but I think everybody needs that."

Public readings are not the only activity that writers engage in. Aliu said another part of being



More than
JUST FICTION

ANTON L. DELGADO | MANAGING EDITOR

Sophomore Christy Dickman double majors in creative writing and political science. She is an avid fiction reader and won her first award in college fiction writing last month.

a writer is facing rejection countless times.

"If you're an accountant, and if you do 100 tax returns and 99 out of the 100 tax returns you do wrong, you're a failed accountant," Aliu said. "If you're a writer and you send out 100 submissions and one of them gets accepted and the others get rejected, you're a successful writer. It's a very different metric."

Even though she was awarded the 2018 Georgia Author of the Year First Novel Prize for her novel "Brass," along with several other awards and prizes, Aliu said although she has been rejected many times, she still continues to write.

"I've quit 100 times, saying I'm done, but I've also committed so much time to this. What will I do when I come home from work and I don't have this?" Aliu said. "Sometimes I feel like I hate writing. Then when I go back to it and start doing it seriously again, I walk away from my morning writing and feel really great."

Perry said writing has become such a big part of his identity.

"That's how I make sense of the world. I can't not be doing it," he said.

As both a writer and a

professor, Perry said he believes his background in writing has made it easier to relate to and connect with his students.

"I tell my students all the time, the only real difference between my students and me is time. All I have on them is that I've read more and written more. I can come in and say to my students, in all honesty, I'm working on the same problems you are," Perry said.

Suppa said she felt that the creative writing program is always very supportive and encouraging.

"They want us to do great things," she said.

"Language is the thing that we share as humans," Aliu said about the importance of writing in everyday life. "Do you need a resume, a cover letter to get that job? You probably do. Are you going to write emails to people at your job? You most certainly are."

Dickman highlighted the importance of writing for herself as well, saying fiction is the genre she leans toward.

"It helps people feel less isolated and alone and helps them feel connected to each other. It gives you a larger perspective than yourself," Dickman said.



BORGHILD KVAEVEN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Xhenet Aliu is a fiction writer and the second writer to come to Elon University as part of the Visiting Writer's Series.

Elon musical theater seniors perform the show “Cabaret”

The Music Theatre class of 2020 hosts its senior showcase

Leila Wilhelm
Elon News Network | @leilawilhelm

More than three months worth of rehearsal is coming to an end this week as Elon University’s Music Theatre class of 2020 prepares for its senior showcase performance of “Cabaret.”

The 19 students collectively selected the show last year and began rehearsals at the beginning of September, all in preparation for this week’s performances. The senior Bachelor of Fine Arts music theatre showcase is required for the group’s senior seminar class, which is often spent as rehearsal time. The cast had to create flexible rehearsal schedules throughout the semester to accommodate other productions such as “Damn Yankees,” which ran in October.

“Whenever we get a chance, really, is when we rehearse,” said senior Liv Tummillo. She said life as a music theatre major at Elon is very different from that of a normal college student.

This is especially true for senior Liat Shuflita, who is directing this year’s senior showcase. Shuflita said she has been working from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. all semester, balancing classes with rehearsals and planning periods for “Cabaret,” her first directing experience at Elon.

“Personally, I would say I spend about 25 hours a week on “Cabaret.” Not only am I at rehearsals, but I also attend meetings with our design team and help out in any way I can,” Shuflita said.

Both Shuflita and Tummillo noted that music theatre majors are constantly moving and working in studios, sometimes rehearsing for five hours at a time.

“Music theatre is a very tangible and interactive major that requires a lot of hard work and generosity, utilizing the entire body: our voices, our minds and a great amount of listening,” Tummillo said.

The senior BFA music theatre showcase



THOMAS DENOME | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Members of Elon University’s Music Theatre class of 2020 rehearse for their performance of “Cabaret” on Tuesday, Dec. 3.

also serves as a fundraiser. Each year at Elon, the music theatre seniors raise around \$20,000 to bring in casting directors and agents during the spring semester to network with and receive valuable feedback from. Ticket sales from “Cabaret” as well as any additional donations will go toward this financial goal.

“Cabaret” is an entirely student-run production and, in the words of Shuflita, “it takes a village.” The entire music theatre class of 2020 contributes to the show, either performing or working on the creative team for production. The show includes four understudies from other music theatre classes, also referred to as swings.

These swings must be rehearsed and ready

to take over if anything should happen to one of the leading actors. Assisting on the technical side are several theatrical design and technology majors. These students help run sound, lighting and contribute to the design and creation of the set. Overall, a total of 35 students have contributed to the production.

Tummillo said her favorite part of this experience is that “Cabaret” is something unlike anything her class has ever tackled before.

According to Tummillo, the music theatre class of 2020 self-identifies as goofy and fun-loving. However, this show includes some deeper themes and social narratives that emphasize the unique capabilities of the class

in other areas.

“‘Cabaret’ is the culmination of our four years here, and although it has had ups and downs, I am so amazed by what we’ve accomplished and happy to have taken this journey with my class,” Shuflita said.

This show marks an important milestone for the Music Theatre class of 2020, and the work doesn’t stop here. The showcase series continues throughout the spring and culminates in a performance at 54 Below Cabaret in New York City on March 17, 2020. The music theatre seniors will continue to rehearse and perform during the spring semester before they seek real-world experience post graduation.

Keeping holiday traditions sustainable on campus

The Office of Sustainability aims to make annual Elon traditions eco-friendly

Kyra O’Connor
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Once a year, Elon University students gather around Alamance fountain, sipping hot drinks and listening to music. Santa and Mrs. Claus can be spotted posing for cameras and talking to children. The soft light from the Luminaries illuminate paths around Alamance and Moseley Student Center. Last night, the campus and town community joined to celebrate the holiday season and take in the sights of the 35th annual Festival of Holiday Lights.

The Festival of Holiday Lights, commonly referred to by students as “Luminaries,” took place on campus last night. The annual tradition began in 1984 as a small Christmas tree blessing, but has since become an event with hot cocoa, visits from Santa and Mrs. Claus and live music. Started by former chaplain Roger McBride, the festival is a time for the Elon community to come together and celebrate, University Chaplain Jan Fuller said.

“We bring the Festival of Holiday Lights as a way of encouraging, uplifting and bringing the campus together,” Fuller said.

The Truitt Center was responsible for running the festival. Jan Register, administrative assistant for the Truitt Center, said the center receives help from many departments on campus.

“We receive a lot of help from Event Technology, Moving & Setups, Environmental Services, University Advancement and Physical Plant,” Register said.

Freshman Kennedy Boston attended the festival last night for the first time. Boston said the festival “gave her a sense of home.”

“In my neighborhood at home, we light luminaries all around the block,” Boston said. “On Christmas Eve too, you were ‘lighting the way for Santa,’ and that was a huge part of my childhood.”

The festival had approximately 100,000 lights on the trees throughout four locations on campus: Alamance, Young Commons, Moseley Center and the Inman Admissions Building.

This is the second year the Office of Sustainability has partnered with the Truitt Center for the festival.



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The trees in front of Alamance Building light up during the Festival of Lights on Tuesday, Dec. 3.

Elaine Durr, director of sustainability, said the Office of Sustainability will be handing out sustainable gift wrapping kits at the festival.

“The kits are created with old issues of The Pendulum, fabric scraps and yarn from the Maker Hub, and unique tags. Some of the tags are created with leftover cardboard using the laser engraver at the Maker Hub-Downtown,” Durr said.

Sophomore Lily Santiago, an eco-rep for Historic Neighborhood, said the Office of Sustainability has been prepping the kits for the last month for the festival.

“We plan to hand these out during the festival to encourage people to wrap their gifts more sustainability instead of going out and buying

more gift wrap and bags that end up being used once and sitting in the landfill,” Santiago said. “All of the kits are also inclusive of different faiths and holiday traditions so everyone can celebrate sustainability.”

Santiago also said that the Office of Sustainability’s updated waste disposal system might also make the event more sustainable, making it easier to compost paper used in the celebration.

According to Office of Sustainability intern and junior Kaitlynn Dixon, the gift wrapping table was nearly empty before the festival even started.

“A lot of people were confused at first,” Dixon said. “But after explaining that newspapers are

recyclable and fabric is reusable, which is much more sustainable than wrapping paper, they really liked the idea.”

According to Durr, Physical Plant switched to LED lights a few years ago, “which are more energy-efficient than traditional holiday lights.”

The LED lights require less than 80 amps of electricity, a subcontractor for the university said. The incandescent style lights that were originally used would require nearly 420 amps to light campus.

Robert Willis, electrical supervisor, said with the LED lights it is “more than one third of what the lights used to cost” when traditional lights were used.