



LUKE JOHNSON | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2019
VOLUME 45, EDITION 12
ELON, NORTH CAROLINA

THE PENDULUM

WINGS IN WAITING

Students training to be military officers balance schoolwork and service

Hannah Massen
Elon News Network | @massenhannah

Senior Sarah Boggins' first alarm goes off at 4:30 a.m. She is the cadet colonel in Elon University's Air Force ROTC program, the highest rank a cadet can hold in ROTC. Like other Monday and Wednesday mornings, she is on the road by 5 a.m., making the half-hour drive to North Carolina

A&T State University for physical training.

Before the sun is up, the underclassmen join their flights — the smallest unit in the Air Force — outside the BB&T Stadium and begin an hour long circuit of ab exercises, running laps and uphill sprints. Inside, Boggins and her fellow upperclassmen take their semesterly physical fitness exam, which includes a minute each of push-ups, sit-ups and a mile-and-a-half run.

PT is over by 6:45 a.m. That's when the cadets head back to Elon for class.

Despite the early hours, Boggins

said the time she spends with her wing is the best part of her week.

"It's provided me a family. I struggled to fit in at Elon," Boggins said. "I don't really feel like I can relate to a lot of the students here because the hometown that I grew up in is a lot different than the hometown a lot of my peers grew up in," Boggins said. "Being able to find a family at A&T is like a home away from home for me. ... Being able to see those people makes everything better when things seem difficult here back at Elon."

See **ROTC** | pg. 3

Left to right: Freshman Claire McGrath, junior Christian Chybrzynski, senior Matt Oertel, sophomore Chase Haley and freshman Lizzy Holliday pose in a different Air Force ROTC uniforms.

Achieving unity through dance

2019 Fall Dance Concert will debut dances inspired by social justice

Madalyn Howard
Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

Elon's Performing Arts Department hopes to navigate the complexities of today's social landscape in its 2019 Fall Dance Concert.

This year's concert features eight original numbers by faculty, guest artists and students. Each performance embodies themes of social justice and the human condition, with the end goal of promoting inclusivity within

Elon and the greater community.

Assistant Professor of Dance Renay Aumiller is the artistic director for the concert.

"My role is more facilitative," Aumiller said. "Overseeing how the whole entire show is designed, from the order, to content and finally, presentation."

While the dances' concepts are thematically complex, Aumiller said she hopes the audience can view the concert in its entirety as a representation of the human experience.

"The small things we do to create our world matter," Aumiller said. "These are people's reactions to the world they live in."

A variety of voices

The concert is Elon's only dance presentation that combines the work of students, faculty and guests from the industry.

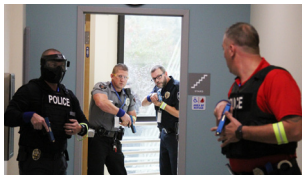
Christal Brown, chair of dance at Middlebury College, and New York-based choreographer Leah Wilkes were both invited to choreograph for the concert, providing Elon dance students with opportunities to learn from and network with professionals in the industry.

See **Dance** | pg. 8



CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sophomore Catherine Beal poses during a rehearsal for the Fall Dance Concert in Scott Studio on Sunday, Nov. 10.



NEWS • PAGE 7

How to respond to an active shooter on Elon's campus



LIFESTYLE • PAGE 13

International students celebrate Thanksgiving together



SPORTS • PAGE 14

Students use mixed martial arts club to stay safe and fit

THE PENDULUM

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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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WHEN WE PUBLISH:

The Pendulum
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ELN Morning
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CORRECTIONS

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

COMIC

FALL DANCE



COMIC SAMS – SAM POROZOK

GAMES

How to Play: Guess the missing word in the five clues, then find them in the word search below. Words can be found backwards, diagonal, etc.

- The position of Town _____ for the town of Elon has been offered to one of two prospective candidates. *See Page 6 for answer.*
- A 360 multimedia project breaking down how to respond to an active _____ situation on Elon’s campus is now available on Elon News Network’s website. *See Page 7 for answer.*
- The _____ Dance Concert will be opening this week. *See Page 8 for answer.*
- The _____ Scholars travel across the country and world to work with communities in need. *See Page 11 for answer.*
- The _____ twins are both on Elon University’s football team and have played together since high school. *See Page 15 for answer.*

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

CALENDAR: NOV. 12 TO NOV. 19

<div>FACULTY ART EXHIBITION 9 A.M. TO 5 P.M. Arts West</div> <div>12</div>	<div>ELONTHON COFFEE 8:30 A.M. TO 6 P.M. Moseley Center & Koury Business School</div> <div>13</div>	<div>BOB ROSS WORKSHOP 6 P.M. TO 8 P.M. Maker Hub Downtown</div> <div>13</div>	<div>AKPSI YOGA 3 P.M. TO 4:30 P.M. Koury Studio 5</div> <div>14</div>	<div>DANCE CONCERT 6 P.M. TO 8 P.M. Scott Studio Roberts Theatre</div> <div>14</div>
<div>EL CAMINO: A BREAKING BAD MOVIE 7 P.M. TO 9 P.M. Turner Theatre</div> <div>14</div>	<div>FAMILY FUN FRIDAY 10 P.M. TO 1 A.M. Global Commons Media Room 103</div> <div>15</div>	<div>JAZZ ENSEMBLE FALL CONCERT 7:30 P.M. TO 9 P.M. McCrary Theatre</div> <div>16</div>	<div>SPIDER MAN: FAR FROM HOME 8 P.M. & 10 P.M. Turner Theatre</div> <div>16</div>	<div>COLLEGE COFFEE 9:40 A.M. TO 10:20 A.M. Phi Beta Kappa Commons</div> <div>19</div>



BALANCING SCHOOLWORK AND SERVICE

LUKE JOHNSON | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Freshman Arran Ponte, a cadet 4th class with Elon University's Air Force ROTC, stands at attention at the end of a physical training session in North Carolina A&T State University on Wednesday, Nov. 6.

ROTC | from cover

Meeting expectations

Boggins leads Detachment 605, which has more than 100 cadets, 12 of whom are Elon students. The rest of the current cadets attend A&T, High Point University, University of North Carolina Greensboro, Guilford College, Winston Salem State University and Guilford Technical Community College.

Cadets from Elon and other universities in the detachment, which are known as “cross-town schools,” are required to travel for their weekly training sessions because ROTC classes are not taught at their respective universities.

According to Nancy Harris, associate dean of College of Arts & Sciences, a new advisory committee is being created to support current ROTC students and encourage recruitment on campus. When formed, the committee is expecting to meet four to five times a year.

Senior and Army ROTC Cadet Kyle Delaney's battalion, or infantry unit, is also located at A&T. His PT sessions are from 6 to 7 a.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. He attends an additional three-hour class on A&T's campus on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

According to freshman and Air Force Cadet 4th Class Arran Ponte, Elon and A&T are understanding of the cross-town students' schedules.

“It's kind of just like doing any other sport,” Ponte said. “Instead of going to soccer practice after school, I just go to ROTC.”

While their weekly routine stays the same, sophomore and Air Force Cadet 3rd Class Chase Haley said that each year comes with new challenges as cadets rise through the ranks.

Underclassmen prepare for field training, a 14-week summer intensive camp at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, to graduate from the general military course to the professional officer course between their sophomore and junior years.

Upperclassmen often assume leadership roles within their wing as they prepare for commission after graduation. Haley said staying motivated is essential to managing the added expectations.

“You have to care about others and be able to lead others through events that might be the toughest of their lives,” Haley said. “It's a culture shock when you go from sleeping all summer to waking up at 4:30 for PT. ... You have to learn proper motivation. If you can't motivate the people around you or yourself, the mission's



LUKE JOHNSON | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Underclassmen and Air Force ROTC cadets stand in formation at the start of their morning training at North Carolina A&T University on Wednesday, Nov. 6.

not going to get accomplished.”

According to Haley, all cadets have a different reason for putting on their uniforms in the morning.

Boggins does not recall any of her family members having served in the military, but like Haley, she grew up with a passion for serving.

“The Air Force is very well known for taking care of its people, and I wanted a branch that was guaranteed to do that,” Boggins said.

Senior and Army Cadet Angela Cammen said her parents each spent more than 20 years in the military. Her older sister, who also participated in ROTC, is now a second lieutenant in the Army. Cammen and Delaney will be commissioned as second lieutenants upon graduation.

“It's kind of a family business for us,” Cammen said. “I'm just really excited to serve like my parents and my sister.”

Nationally, interest in joining the military is waning. A series of 2017 internal Defense Department surveys showed that only 11% of young adults say they will likely join the military — the lowest point in nearly 10 years.

The perks of service

At Elon, cadets on an ROTC scholarship must maintain at least a 2.5 GPA. Some ROTC scholarships provide funding for room, board and meal plans.

According to the Air Force ROTC website,

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YOU HAVE TO LEARN PROPER MOTIVATION. IF YOU CAN'T MOTIVATE THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU OR YOURSELF, THE MISSION'S NOT GOING TO GET ACCOMPLISHED.

CHASE HALEY
SOPHOMORE

the In-College Scholarship Program pays up to \$18,000 toward tuition at any public or private institution with an ROTC detachment. The Commanders' In-College Scholarship covers 100% tuition with a monthly living expense stipend and an annual book stipend. However, ROTC doesn't guarantee a scholarship.

During his freshman year, Haley said he was so overwhelmed with classes and extracurriculars that he dipped below the GPA requirement. He said it wasn't his proudest moment. But Haley said the discipline he has learned from being in the Air Force has helped him stay on track.

“You just have to realize that you have to get it done. It's not an option if you want the commission,” Haley said. “That really just teaches you it's just another day, and once you get up and shake it off, it's worth it in the end.”

After graduation, cadets are expected to serve a minimum of four years in the military. However, the minimum service after college depends on the job and the amount of time required to train for it.

In ROTC, Haley said cadets are expected to live by the Air Force's core values. The program puts emphasis on leadership, which he said has changed his sense of purpose.

“I thought I was a really good leader coming in ... but I was not well-rounded. I was still doing it for myself,” Haley said. “Now it's not just about me crossing the finish line, it's about getting that guy or girl through field training and then the commission. ... I just want to see everybody else succeed.”

While Haley grew into his role, Boggins said she's a “natural born leader.” But she said her biggest challenge was adjusting to leading a 30-plus cadet unit when she was appointed wing commander.

Boggins said her leadership experience in ROTC has prepared her for active duty, but there will still be a lot to learn.

Boggins said she hopes to work in the Air Force Office of Special Investigations after graduation and intends to stay in the military for 20 years. Ponte's goal is to one day become a doctor.

Haley said he looks forward to a hands-on position as a pilot or a special tactics officer to help protect people, but he understands the argument against fighting in a war.

“I just like the idea of helping those guys get home,” Haley said. “There's always a lot of people, even in the media today, asking should we be in this war? Should we be over there doing this and that? But half the guys over there are just wanting to get the guy beside him home.”

Right to left: Sophomores Connor Williams, Bryson Smith and freshman Michael Collier lead the Smooth Progressions a cappella group during a concert on Saturday, Nov. 9.



BEN MUSE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Junior Ben Helpin warms up before a table tennis tournament in Moseley Student Center on Friday, Nov. 8.



THOMAS DENOME | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



IAN MYERS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sophomore Shreeja Shah laughs during Diwali in Numen Lumen Pavilion on Wednesday, Nov. 6.



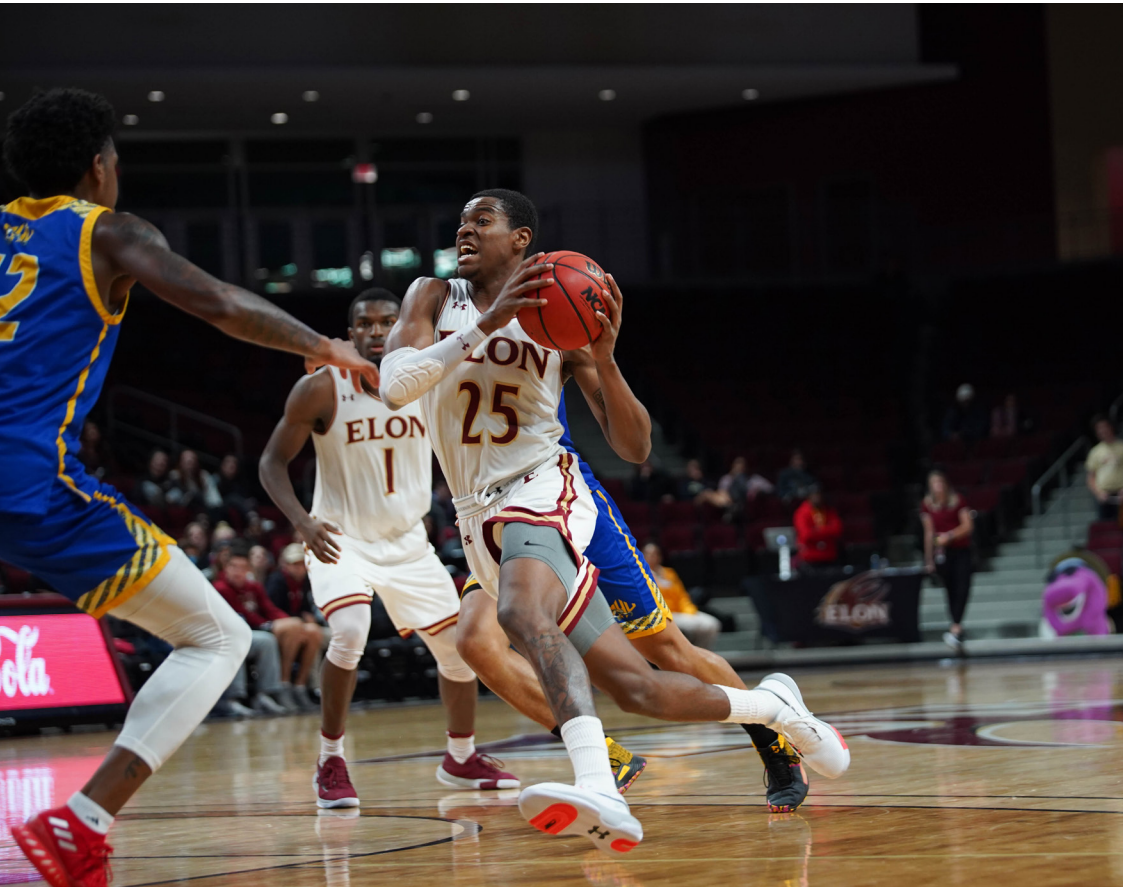
BEN MUSE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sophomore Zion Bright solos for Smooth Progressions during an a capella concert on Saturday, Nov. 9.



IAN MYERS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Junior Paloma Dettloff of the Paloma Jahms band plays her guitar at the Limelight showcase on Saturday, Nov. 9.



Elon University freshman and guard/forward Hunter Woods rushes toward the basket during the Phoenix's home opener against the Mars Hill University Mountain Lions in Schar Center on Tuesday Nov 5. The Phoenix won 90-84.



Elon University redshirt sophomore and guard Ariana Nance shoots a layup against the Winston-Salem State University Rams in Schar Center on Tuesday, Nov. 5. The Phoenix won 77-48.



Elon University guard Kris Wooten shoots a three pointer in a game against Milligan College on Friday, Nov. 8 in Schar Center. The Phoenix won 95-54.



Elon University forward Burl Shepherd tries to get control of the ball in a game against the College of Charleston on Tuesday, Nov. 5 at Rudd Field. The Phoenix won 4-1.



Elon University running back and senior De'Sean McNair outruns Maine University's sophomore and defensive back Shaquille St-Lot and senior and defensive line Alejandro Oregon during the Phoenix's last home game in Rhodes Stadium on Saturday, Nov. 9. The Phoenix lost 31-17.

CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

THE SEARCH FOR A TOWN MANAGER

2019



RICHARD WHITE III RESIGNS

Richard White III announces his resignation as Town Manager.

May 21

LAST DAY FOR RICHARD WHITE III

Last day as town manager for Richard White III. White is currently the assistant city manager of Asheville, North Carolina.

July 26

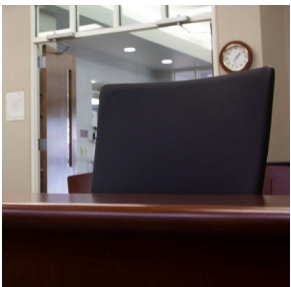
ELON UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT ATTENDS MEETING

President Connie Book attended a Board of Aldermen meeting and thanked the board for allowing the university to participate in the search. Bob Shea, vice president for business finance and technology, served on the search committee.

August 13

INTERIM TOWN MANAGER CONTRACT EXTENDED

The board approved the amendment to extend Bob Morgan's contract from Oct. 15 to Dec. 15.



October 15

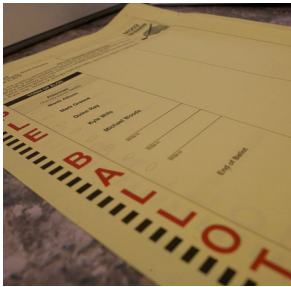
INTERIM TOWN MANAGER ANNOUNCED

Mayor Jerry Tolley announces Robert "Bob" Morgan as interim town manager.



July 9

August 6



SEARCH COMMITTEE NARROWS SEARCH

The search committee presented its top six candidates.

Oct. 2019

INTERVIEWS

The final three candidates were given to the Board of Aldermen to be interviewed.

Nov. 2019

JOB OFFERED

One of the three finalists for town manager was offered the position.

Search for Elon's next town manager continues as interim's contract nears end

Mackenzie Wilkes
Elon News Network | @macwilkes

A seven-month search is coming to a close in the town of Elon for its next town manager. The Board of Aldermen has offered the town manager position to one of the two final candidates.

Mayor Pro Tempore Ron Klepcyk, Alderwoman Emily Sharpe and interim town manager Robert "Bob" Morgan declined to release the name of the candidate who was offered the position. The only information released is that the candidate is a male and is not from Elon. They declined to release the candidate's name because he has not accepted the position.

The contract for the interim town manager has been extended from Oct. 15 to Dec.15. The town

hopes to fill the position by that date.

The search for a new town manager began after Richard White III announced his resignation in May.

The Board of Aldermen members in office before the municipal election were responsible for hiring the new town manager. The board interviewed three final candidates. One candidate removed themselves from the running.

The town has been operating under interim town manager Robert "Bob" Morgan since July 26. He has worked in local government for 37 years and said he equates the job to being the CEO of a company.

According to Morgan, the town manager oversees the day-to-day operations of the town, puts the budget together and takes policies to the board. He said this system mirrors a business model.

Prior to the start of the search, a committee was formed to help expedite the process of finding

a new town manager. According to Sharpe, the committee was composed of Klepcyk, Alderman John Peterson, Monti Allison — who won a seat on the Board of Aldermen in the municipal election — and a representative from Elon University, Bob Shea.

Shea, vice president for business finance and technology, said he was asked by Elon University President Connie Book to serve on the search committee to represent the university.

"I participated in resume review, interviews, and the committee made recommendations to the alderman (sic) who have responsibility for the decision," Shea said via email.

According to Sharpe, six candidates were interviewed by the committee. From there, three finalists were then interviewed by the Board of Aldermen. Sharpe said it is important to her that the new town manager interacts well with the staff.

“

WE PRESENTED THEM WITH THREE VIABLE CANDIDATES WHO COULD SIT IN AND ADAPT TO THE CULTURE AND PERSONALITY OF OUR TOWN.

MONTI ALLISON
BOARD OF ALDERMEN ELECT

"One of the questions that I asked during the interview process is, 'How do you see your first few days as the new town manager? How are you going to get to know the staff?' and then, 'What is actually your management style?' Because the town staff, they run the town," Sharpe said.

Similarly, Allison said the new town manager needs to have personable qualities. The committee recommended candidates to the board who possess such attributes.

"We presented them with three viable candidates who could sit in and adapt to the culture and personality of our town," he said.

As someone with extensive experience in local government, Morgan said education and experience working in city or town government are not the only important factors, but "the ability to work with people, work with staff" is a significant quality to possess.

Preparing for a school shooting on Elon University’s campus

ENN partnered with law enforcement to study the best response to an active shooter on campus

Anton L. Delgado
Managing Editor | @antonldelgado

Memories of one of the worst school shooting in U.S. history resurface every semester in the mind of Cara Lucia, who was a doctoral student at Virginia Tech University in 2007, when a gunman killed 32 people on campus.

More than a decade later, Lucia is teaching sport management at Elon University. Every semester, she spends two to three classes teaching her students what to do if an active shooter comes to campus.

“I always tell my students, I’m not trying to make you live from a place of fear. This is about us being aware and protecting ourselves and the people of our community,” Lucia said.

During Planning Week — an annual event before the school year where faculty and staff plan for the upcoming year — the university sponsored two voluntary active shooter training sessions for faculty.

Eric Tellefsen, who has been in law enforcement for the past 34 years and helped develop North Carolina’s active shooter response training guide, led the training and focused on the “run, hide, fight” response protocol.

“The more times these things have occurred, the more we realized that lives can be saved when the individual people that are there know what to do,” Tellefsen said.

Tellefsen spent the majority of his law enforcement career with the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation, where he was a member of a Special Weapons and Tactics Team for 18 years. He responded to multiple shooter situations.



Ryan Gerner, a patrol officer for Elon University’s Campus Police and Safety Department, and members of the Town of Elon Police Department accept the surrender of a gunman during an active shooter simulation at Alamance Community College on Friday, Oct. 25.

He broke down law enforcement’s systematic response to an active shooter situation.

The top priority for first responders is to neutralize the gunman. The first law enforcement department to respond to a shooting at Elon would be the university’s Campus Safety and Police, which is headquartered in the Oaks Neighborhood.

According to Joel Thomas, community liaison sergeant for campus police, the department employs 12 community service officers and 21 police officers, which is more than the number of officers in the town of Elon and Gibsonville police departments.

In the event of a shooting on campus, every law enforcement and emergency service department in the surrounding counties would be called in for assistance. Debbie Hatfield, an emergency management coordinator for Alamance County, said she would expect

the town of Elon and Burlington police departments to respond faster.

At the end of October, Hatfield helped organize an interagency active shooter training at Alamance Community College. The simulation brought together 25 local law enforcement and emergency service departments, including five officers from campus police.

“The greatest thing about these trainings is that all of these different agencies work together under one unified command,” Hatfield said. “When we do these trainings together, each department learns to work with others, making the team stronger. These trainings will save lives if an active shooter situation ever takes place in the county.”

The county’s next interagency simulation is planned for 2020, although the specific date has not been set.

SCAN TO SEE THE 360 PROJECT
The multimedia project features the best way to respond to a shooter in six different locations on campus



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DANCE | from cover

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF PERFORMING Arts Keshia Wall and Assistant Professor of Dance Jen Guy Metcalf, both choreographed routines. Seniors Shelby Durham and Annie Marx and junior Sarah DeSordi have all danced in the Fall Concert before. However, this year they will bring something new to the table — their own choreography. The dancers were chosen to serve as student choreographers and will debut their own work at the concert.

As a curriculum requirement, each dance major designs and choreographs a piece throughout their sophomore and junior years. Then, a handful of pieces are selected by a council of faculty members to be represented in the concert. Durham, Marx and DeSordi began working on their choreography last fall.

“Having a wide array of voices is important,” Aumiller said.

This will be emphasized physically in the layout of the performance space, where the audience will sit on three sides of the performers. This offers a more immersive experience for the audience while furthering the goal of inclusivity in shared spaces.

A wide scope of inspiration

Artistic influences for each performance span genres, decades and countries. Wall’s routine tackles the themes of feminism and gender inequity, while Aumiller’s piece is a comedic duet, exaggerating the nuances of human interaction.

Metcalf looked to the past for her inspiration, specifically to World War II. Her piece, a contemporary ballet titled “All the Light We Cannot See,” is set in

““

THESE ARE PEOPLE’S
REACTIONS TO THE WORLD
THEY LIVE IN.

RENAY AUMILLER
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Nazi-occupied France, is inspired by the bestselling novel and incorporates audio from an actual BBC broadcast aired during Nazi occupation.

Inspiration for other pieces includes cult behavior, groupthink and political campaigns. DeSordi took a more localized approach for her composition.

“I was really trying to explore my capabilities and the idea that everything is choreography,” DeSordi said, a dance performance and choreography major.

“This piece was pulled from a culmination of my own exhaustive improv — most of which I’ve cut out now — and movements or gestures I would pick out of my everyday life and surroundings,” DeSordi said. She specifically references the emphatic gestures made by professors to convey their points.

When asked about the biggest takeaway from her experience, DeSordi said, “Rather than recognizing choreography as set, I’ve learned to view it as something that will constantly remain in flux.” Though her routine has gone through countless reworks, DeSordi said she can’t wait to finally see it come together.

“I’m most excited to see the piece I choreographed on stage, as much as I am nervous for it,” DeSordi said.

DeSordi will also dance in both of the guest choreographed pieces.

An intense process

At the beginning of the semester, students in Elon’s Performing Arts Department go through an audition process to determine the dances they will be selected to perform in.

After the August casting, dance members



Center: Junior Jenna Kulacz and other dance majors rehearse their dances on Sunday, Nov. 10 in preparation for the Fall Dance Concert.



CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Left to right: Elon University dance majors and juniors Jenna Kulacz, Lily Herrin and Sarah DeSordi lift junior Lauren Mitchell during a rehearsal of their dance performance in Arts West on Sunday, Nov. 10.

Through Dance



CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

IF YOU GO

Location: Roberts Studio Theatre, Scott Studio at Arts West

Address: 398 W Haggard Ave

Dates: Thursday, Nov. 14 at 6 p.m. | Friday, Nov. 15 at 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. | Saturday, Nov. 16 at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. | Sunday, Nov. 17 at 2 p.m.

Ticket Prices: Tickets are \$15 or free with Elon ID. Reservations are highly recommended.



I WAS REALLY TRYING TO EXPLORE MY CAPABILITIES AND THE IDEA THAT EVERYTHING IS CHOREOGRAPHY.

SARAH DESORDI
DANCE PERFORMANCE AND
CHOREOGRAPHY MAJOR

rehearse for three to six hours per week to prepare for the show.

The rehearsal process for Wilkes' and Brown's pieces began in October. The cast learned, rehearsed and polished the new routines over 16-hour weekends.

As DeSordi juggles multiple majors, a part-time job, rehearsals for guest choreographers and her own piece, she described the experiences as stressful, yet rewarding.

"It's tough, but it's worth getting to explore and deepen my passions and figure out where it's going to take me someday," DeSordi said.

After the curtain call

"With a project of this scope, it can be impossible to predict what the audience will take away from the performance," Aumiller said.

Aumiller, along with the rest of the Performing Arts Department, hopes people understands the necessity of an inclusive culture. However, Aumiller said she encourages audience members to derive their own deeper meanings from the routines.

This sentiment was echoed by other choreographers, including Metcalf.

"It can be interpreted in many different ways. ... It will differ from person to person," Metcalf said.

Explaining her own carefully constructed piece, Aumiller said, "Dance is like a poem . . . and I just want to lead the audience down a potential pathway."

When asked how she hopes people view the Fall Dance Concert, Aumiller smiled and said, "As long as they leave with something, I think it was incredibly successful."



CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Elon University juniors Jenna Kulacz and Lily Herrin rehearse their dance for the Fall Dance Concert in Arts West on Sunday, Nov. 10.

DEVELOPING THE NEXT GENERATION OF MILITARY LEADERS



An illustration combining the Air Force and Army logos. These are the only two branches with an ROTC at Elon University.

ILLUSTRATION BY GRACE TERRY

On campus officers' training program guarantees students a career after college, develops leadership skills and builds a sense of community



Kimberly Stapleton
Assistant Director of Financial Aid

In today's world, and especially on college campuses, the desire to belong, to be understood and to be a part of something is paramount. ROTC is so important at Elon University because it is another branch on the tree of inclusivity. ROTC gives students the chance to stand up for what they believe in, train with a purpose and serve both their community and country. ROTC is a U.S. military training program on college campuses with the goal of educating students who will become commissioned officers in the military. Elon currently offers an ROTC program in conjunction with North Carolina A&T State University that includes the Army and Air Force. For students who are torn between joining the military or attending school, ROTC offers the opportunity to do both. By nature of the program, ROTC gives students life skills, such as adaptability, time management, discipline, resilience, accountability and the ability to overcome obstacles. ROTC not only provides those

skills, but it provides a sense of kinship and camaraderie. The togetherness fostered through this program can bring lifelong friends and experiences that not only shape students for the military and a career but shape them as people as well. Students also receive fitness maintenance, professional development and team-driven experiences. There are scholarship opportunities open to ROTC members as well. Students are taught by experienced military personnel who are able to answer questions about the military, lifestyle, jobs, etc. The knowledge and training students gain is designed to prepare them for the rigorous nature of the military. ROTC is a jump start for a career after college. Some jobs in the military require a ranking of officer in order to be eligible, so depending on what their career goals are, students are off to a great start with ROTC. Through ROTC, students can start a military career in healthcare, engineering, finance, aviation, law enforcement and transportation, just to name a



ROTC GIVES STUDENTS THE CHANCE TO STAND UP FOR WHAT THEY BELIEVE IN, TRAIN WITH A PURPOSE AND SERVE BOTH THEIR COMMUNITY AND COUNTRY.

KIMBERLY STAPLETON
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL AID

few. Since each of the armed forces has some type of ROTC program, students can choose the service and career path that is right for them. Elon University offers ROTC for the Air Force and Army branches. ROTC requires its members to make a commitment to the military upon graduation. Through the ROTC program, students enter the military as commissioned officers earning approximately \$40,000 a year. Other benefits include paid vacation, paid time off for holidays, access to medical and life insurance, paid sick leave and tuition assistance, among other things. Through ROTC, students gain knowledge and experience in leadership and learn firsthand how to motivate a team and conduct missions all while earning a college degree. ROTC provides leadership development, military skills and career training through a combination of classroom and field training beyond the normal academic work required for a college degree. Elon's support of the ROTC program is another way of saying, "We need you."

LIFESTYLE



SERVICE ACROSS STATES AND OVERSEAS

BEN MUSE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The 2020 Periclean Scholars' cohort works during one of their class periods on Tuesday, Nov. 12. Members of the cohort will be traveling to Cuba this Winter Term.

Periclean Scholars plan to create lasting change across the world, one cohort at a time

Quinn Corrigan
Elon News Network | @quinn_corrigan

The dreams of becoming a Fulbright Scholar and joining the Peace Corps led junior Mel Hills to search for a way to be civically engaged on Elon University's campus. That dream is the reason she applied to be a Periclean Scholar.

"Everyone says they want to make a change in the world, and Periclean Scholars has helped me begin that change in a micro way," Hills said.

Elon's Periclean Scholars is a branch of Project Pericles, a nonprofit association of more than 30 colleges that promotes civic engagement within higher education. On Elon's campus, however, the program is uniquely structured. According to Mat Gendle, director of the Periclean Scholars and professor of psychology, Elon's program is the only one of its kind.

"It is the only academic program that I am aware of that has a competitive application process, wherein students work in a cohort, along with a faculty mentor in partnership with an organizational partner across three years to design, execute and assess a substantive, equitable and just service project," Gendle said.

The structure of the program differs from class to class.

"Each class year has a different region of study, and we are basically a group of humanitarians that happen to be college students who focus on an area of study and how to make a sustainable change," Hills said.

Current cohorts have a wide range of regional focuses, from South Dakota to Sri Lanka. Each cohort has a mission they plan to complete within their region. The regional focus is chosen by the mentor of the group, then the cohort decides what change they want to make within the region.

Periclean in Cuba

Senior Bridget Stryko, a member of the 2020 cohort, said while her time as a Periclean Scholar is coming to an end, her cohort still has a lot of work to do.

The project for the 2020 cohort is a documentary video that she hopes will "capture their spirit and hopefully bridge the cultural and political gaps between Cuba and the United States." The format of the project

is inspired by Humans of New York, a photo project that showcases different people and cultures across the country.

The 2020 cohort will be heading to Cuba during Winter Term 2020, a trip they have been planning since they were assigned this region in their first year. In order to be fully prepared for their trip, the class has planned strategically over the past few years.

International relations between the U.S. and Cuba, however, have complicated the group's travel plans. Making connections with people and organizations on the island, which is 90 miles south of Florida's coast, is an important aspect of the cohort's work that has proved to be difficult.

"We haven't really made any connections yet," Stryko said. "Most of them are just from people who had personal connections, such as family or friends."

Pericleans in South Dakota

The 2021 cohort's regional focus is different from other current classes. This cohort is focusing on Oglala Lakota Children's Justice Center on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

This is the sole cohort that has a domestic focus and only the second in Elon Periclean history to focus within the U.S.

This has given the cohort the opportunity to visit the reservation more than once — their first time being this past summer. Hills, although she did not attend, said this trip was very beneficial to the planning of the group's final trip during Winter Term 2021.

"The members of the cohort who went this summer are the ones who initially made the partnership, and they got to become very close with some of the residents of the reservation," Hills said.

Members were able to tour the reservation and get a better sense of the living conditions of those on the land. Hills' cohort is currently planning another trip for either spring or summer 2020. Being fully immersed in the culture and climate of the reservation is something that Hills said will make deciding the exact focus of their work much easier.

The cohort hopes that by going on these smaller trips throughout the next year, they will be able to continue developing their project.

The trip to South Dakota has allowed the cohort to build personal relationships within the Native American reservation, such as, with Ariana Bettelyoun, executive director of the Children's Justice Center, and Larry Swallow, an investigator and case manager.

Both Bettelyoun and Swallow will be on campus this Wednesday, Nov. 13, for an open forum regarding the center's work on the

reservation. Their visit is being funded through Elon University's Fund for Excellence in the Arts and Sciences.

The event "Healing the Children at Pine Ridge" will be held at 7 p.m. in Whitley Auditorium and will be free of charge. Following the event, there will be a reception in Steers Pavilion.

Fundraising for Periclean

Fundraising is a pivotal part of the Periclean Scholars program, as raised funds pay for trips

and final projects. Each class develops its own way of fundraising.

In October, the 2022 cohort launched its fundraising program — a rideshare, modeled after the recently discontinued Safe Rides program, which provided safe late-night transportation across campus. All proceeds from this rideshare will support the program's trip to Ghana during Winter Term 2022.

Applications for the Periclean 2023 cohort is on Elon's Project Pericles website and is open until March 6, 2020. This cohort's regional focus will be Sri Lanka.



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A Man of Faith: Chabad's rabbi is out to serve others

Elon University's Chabad center is one of approximately 250 on college campuses

Maeve Ashbrook
New Member Coordinator | @maeve_ashbrook

On any given day on Elon University's campus, a bearded man wearing a yamaka and circle-framed glasses zooms by students on an electric scooter. That man is Rabbi Mendy Minkowitz, rabbi at the Chabad affiliate group at Elon. The Chabad center, operated out of the home where Minkowitz lives with his wife and three children, is approximately a mile away from Elon's campus. Minkowitz said he bought the scooter so he could visit his students more often because driving his car and finding parking was a hassle. "I found that was discouraging me from doing it [seeing students]," Minkowitz said. "I would just be like 'It's fine. I'll do it another time.' And that had an impact because I would go less on campus. I would see less students, and I didn't want that." Minkowitz and his wife Rivka started Chabad at Elon in December 2015. Born and raised in Italy, Minkowitz moved to the U.S. when he was 14 to study Judaism. He has studied and worked in the field ever since.

Chabad is affiliated with Hasidic Judaism. Minkowitz said there are close to 45,000 Chabad centers around the world, and he estimates that only 250 of those are on college campuses. However, it doesn't matter if Elon students are Hasidic or not when joining Elon's Chabad.

His work, according to Minkowitz, is not just for himself. He works for others. The Minkowitz's house, for example, serves as both his home and the Elon Chabad Center. The living room attached to the kitchen is filled with toys for his children. Just a step away is the meeting room and dining room lined with folding chairs for Elon students who attend services, meals and classes. The outside of their home is marked with signs and a menorah, letting Chabad members know they are in the right place.

Minkowitz said his mission as rabbi is to spread the message of Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, the national leader of Chabad, to Elon students. However, he said he and his wife are really "there just to sort of be there for the students."

"We see them grow from freshman year to senior year, and sometimes we don't realize how important it is to be there for one another," Minkowitz said. "Sometimes we find in hindsight, you know, a student who says, 'You know, that time I really need to talk to someone, and I appreciate that you were there,' and I or my wife might not even know how important it was that we were there at that time."

One of those students is Elon sophomore Sami Herbert. Herbert joined Chabad



Light from his desk lamp illuminates the pages of the holy text Rabbi Mendy Minkowitz reads in the Chabad center on Elon University's campus.

during her first semester at Elon and is now the social chair for the Elon Chabad board.

"They do everything in their power to make us feel like we have a place away from home to feel safe, and to feel welcomed, and to feel like we have a family here at Elon that is Jewish and that we have a community here that's super supportive," Herbert said.

Herbert's mother is Jewish, but her father is Catholic. Because of this, she said her experience with Judaism is different from others.

Herbert said she was hesitant to join Chabad, fearing it may be too religious for her. However, she said Minkowitz, known to students as Mendy, accepts students no matter who they are, and he quickly became a resource to her for learning more about herself and her faith.

"Mendy was just a great leader and role model for me to really continue developing my Jewish identity and to continue my learning process of what it means to be a Jew as a woman, as a millennial," Herbert said.

Minkowitz and his wife moved to Elon from New York where Minkowitz worked at Chabad's headquarters in Brooklyn.

Minkowitz said the headquarters were aware of the growing demand of prospective and current Elon parents for a Chabad center at Elon. In the past, Elon students were going to the nearest Chabad in Chapel Hill for a sense of community.

"They were turning to Chabad headquarters and saying, 'Hey, my son or daughter is looking at Elon, and there's no Chabad there' or, 'Are you guys looking to send someone?'" Minkowitz said.

Minkowitz said the couple was already looking to cultivate a space for Jewish students and members of the community. After a few visits, they packed up their belongings and moved to Elon.

Daniela Nasser, an Elon senior, is one student who benefited from the move. She said the opening of the Chabad center in 2015 reassured her that there was a diverse group of Jewish people on Elon's campus when she was applying for college.

Nasser said she started her sophomore year looking for something different, so she took one of the classes Minkowitz teaches out of the Chabad center.

"If it weren't for Chabad, I don't think I would have been able to get my religious fix here at Elon," Nasser said.

Minkowitz said living in North Carolina is different than a city like Brooklyn because there are fewer like-minded Jewish people in the area. However, he said North Carolina is a beautiful place for his three children.

Specifically, Minkowitz said his five-year-old son, Meir, already has a sense of duty. When students or guests come over, Minkowitz said Meir tries to teach them what he knows about Judaism.

"That's very powerful because my son gets that sense from living here and a place where he's in a situation of leadership, if you will, even though he's five, and he's not a leader in a real capacity," Minkowitz said. "He gets that we are here with a mission to [support] others, and he feels the same way."

Recently, Chabad at Elon was in the news after gunshots were fired outside the center as students and Minkowitz's family broke their fast to celebrate Yom Kippur.

Minkowitz said while he is helping the

town of Elon Police make sure it never happens again, his job, now more than ever, is to make sure students feel a sense of physical and emotional safety at Chabad.

Truitt Drive, where the Chabad center is located, was shut down on the night of the incident. Minkowitz said he received several texts from current and past students asking if everything was okay.

"I didn't want to tell the students everything's okay and potentially put them in harm's way by pretending that there's no danger," Minkowitz said. "I also didn't want to alarm students and tell them there's some kind of impending danger on us. So, I had to sort of walk this fine line at the time of neither quelling their fears nor, you know, amplifying them."

Jon Dooley, vice president for student life, is one of the guests whom Meir has taught about Judaism. This was during Chabad's Shabbat dinner after the incident, and Dooley said he appreciated the opportunity to attend this particularly meaningful event.

"The work that Rabbi Mendy and Rivka are doing with Chabad continues to enrich the Elon student experience and contribute to a thriving, pluralistic Jewish community at the university," Dooley said.

Herbert, who attends Shabbat dinner every Friday, said one of her favorite anecdotes from these weekly dinners are Minkowitz's "dad jokes."

"Anytime he's making a speech, he'll start off with: 'I promise this will only take two minutes,' but then ends up taking 10 minutes," Herbert said. "And of the 10 minutes, about seven of them are spent trying to make a joke, and sometimes they're funny. Most times they're kind of cringy."

Herbert said she always laughs because she genuinely appreciates him trying to relate to his students.

"Mendy is so involved with our journeys as students, as people, as young adults," Herbert said. "He is always making himself available for us."

Looking back at her time at Elon, Nasser said Chabad has become her home. She said she appreciates Minkowitz's work to get Chabad acknowledged by the university as an on campus group and "loves to hype him up."

"They always reach out to me and make sure I'm doing well," Nasser said. "When I was abroad, they made sure to reach out and see how I was doing and that I had a place to go for the holidays. They have brought me food when I'm sick and know my family too. They are my extended family."

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International students come together for Thanksgiving

International students celebrate the traditionally American holiday together

Borghild Kvaeven
Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

Jogging through the frosty streets of Chicago, sophomore Victoria Saldh passed strangers telling her “Happy Thanksgiving.” This was how her first Thanksgiving celebration started last year.

“I wish it was a holiday in Sweden,” Saldh said. In her hometown of Gothenburg, Sweden, Thanksgiving is like any other day in November: cloudy, cold and rainy.

Saldh transferred to Elon University this fall from the University of South Carolina. She celebrated her first Thanksgiving last year with her friend’s family and said she liked the positive environment during the holiday.

“I knew what Thanksgiving was because of movies, and I knew they ate turkey, but that’s it,” Saldh said.

Saldh said she and many international students have never celebrated the holiday before coming to the U.S. and have only seen it in movies. She said some of her friends from home might not even know what Thanksgiving is.

Saldh, along with other international students and staff were invited to a Thanksgiving dinner with Elon University’s President Connie Book to experience traditional Thanksgiving food and about the history of Thanksgiving last Sunday.

“It’s a fun, unique American holiday to celebrate with



Fourth from the right: Kristen Aquilino, associate director of international student services, celebrates Thanksgiving with professors and international students in McCoy Commons on Monday, Nov. 11.

international students,” Book said.

Book said this dinner is a tradition at Elon that has been around for more than 30 years.

This year’s dinner was held in McCoy Commons instead of Numen Lumen Pavilion to accommodate more people, Director of Events Carolyn Ent said.

Ent said another change to this year’s dinner was that there was a program where Book, and domestic students spoke about the Thanksgiving traditions and history.

Associate Director of International Student Services Kristen Aquilino who works with international students at Elon, highlighted the dinner as a great way to bring the international community together.

Aquilino is hosting a Thanksgiving dinner herself

for international students on Thanksgiving Day at the Isley International House.

During Aquilino’s Thanksgiving celebration last year a group of 15 students, staff and family came together in the Isley House. According to Aquilino, the kitchen was a mess, full of people cooking and singing, which in the end turned into a festive meal where everyone went around the table and said what they’re grateful for.

She said she hopes this year’s dinner will be just as fun, but also a bit more organized.

Aquilino is not the only person hosting Thanksgiving dinner for international students. She also said members in the local community, faculty and staff at Elon expressed interest in hosting international students for Thanksgiving meals.

“We’re always trying to find opportunities to involve and build in community,” Aquilino said.

Elon lets international students stay on campus during Thanksgiving break, even though the university residence halls close on Saturday, Nov. 23. Aquilino said the number of students staying is often quite small because students choose to travel or go home with their friends.

Saldh is one international student traveling during Thanksgiving break. She plans to meet her friends from University of South Carolina Upstate and travel to Washington, D.C. to explore more of the U.S.

“All of us are international, so we have nowhere to go, no house to go to,” Saldh said.

Saldh said it is hard to not be able to travel home during this break, especially with everyone around her

talking about going home to family and friends.

“It makes it easier that it’s not a holiday back home. Of course, I want to go home, but it’s not like I’m missing any holiday,” Saldh said.

Saldh said Thanksgiving reminds her of Christmas because of the focus on spending time with family and friends and all of the traditional food.

Aquilino said one of her favorite parts of Thanksgiving is the time she gets to spend with her friends and family. She said she also likes having time to relax and be grateful.

Book talked about her favorite parts of Thanksgiving during the Thanksgiving dinner for international students, saying, “I’m grateful for the family time and the tradition of saying all the things that we’re grateful for.”

The focus on gratitude and being thankful is one of Saldh’s favorite parts of Thanksgiving. She said the dinner was a nice way to introduce international students to Thanksgiving and bring the community together.

“They’re very involved and try to make us feel at home here, which I really appreciate,” Saldh said.

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Sophomore Ben Blanco practices kicking during a Mixed Martial Arts Club training on Monday, Nov 11.

CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mixed Martial Arts Club members get the chance to kick their disciplines up a notch

Rafael Pico
Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

Elon University’s Mixed Martial Arts Club, also known as MMA, is a club sport where members practice different styles of martial arts, such as jiu jitsu, taekwondo and other forms of self-defense such as wrestling and boxing.

Elon senior and MMA President Andrew Schwartz said he is proud of the organization’s membership base and the way practices are conducted.

Though Schwartz said one of the first things people associate with martial arts is violence, he said this is not the case. According to Schwartz, the first rule in traditional martial arts is using it for self defense. Schwartz said the club abides by this rule and also promotes martial arts as a form of exercise.

MMA membership has grown in recent years. According to Phoenix Connect, the club has 43 active members. Previously, meetings would only be made up of six or seven members, and each practice was devoted to one technique.

As MMA has grown, members have started preparing to participate in martial arts tournaments. Schwartz said older members worry about the possibility of the club’s vision shifting away from the traditional martial arts forms and focusing more on competitive styles like boxing and jiu jitsu.

“I don’t want this to basically just turn into an MMA/boxing/jiu jitsu club,” Schwartz said. “If people with backgrounds in taekwondo, kung fu, karate and Kenpo

come in and realize that it’s not that kind of martial arts, there’s a good chance that they might not want to join because ... they might not want to try something new.”

According to Schwartz, there is a possibility for members to get hurt, regardless of the style being practiced.

Schwartz said all members must sign waivers releasing the organization and the school from all liability in the event of an injury. To prevent injury, members are told to hold back their strength during practices.

“Doing judo, I twisted my leg the wrong way,” junior Jared Manley said. “It hurt for like a month or so, but it’s fine now. The club just kind of went on as planned. I had to sit out for most of the club for a couple of meetings.”

Despite the risk of injury, members are very passionate about the club.

“I joined the club in the first place because I have a big background in martial arts,” Schwartz said. “I do something called American Kenpo, which is something very unknown. I’ve been doing it for 16 years. When I was coming in, martial arts was one of the main things I was looking for because I wanted to continue while I was at school.”

According to Schwartz, prior experience is still a big motivator for new members. He said martial arts is not only an enjoyable activity, but an excellent way for people to remain physically active.

“The main reason I joined MMA was to practice more boxing,” freshman María Torres said. “I’m not a big fan of cardio, like running, because my knees hurt, and I am out of breath all the time. The only cardio that actually helps me lose weight and keeps me in shape is boxing, and I love it.”

Schwartz said the future of the club is looking bright as new members continue to join in hopes of improving their skills and staying active.



CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Freshman Catherine Dauer punches sophomore James Vettichira while sparring during Mixed Martial Arts Club practice on Monday, Nov. 11.



CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Junior Pauline Escande kicks junior Jared Manley in the middle of a spar during a Mixed Martial Arts training on Monday, Nov. 11.



The Whitehead brothers are giving the term ‘football family’ a whole new meaning

Caitlin Rundle
Elon News Network | @caitlinr_21

Although twin brothers and seniors Ryan and Eric Whitehead did not play on the same football team until high school, they have now played together for nine years.

The twins play for Elon University’s football team; Ryan is a linebacker and Eric is an offensive lineman.

“I made the decision that I wanted to come to Elon first,” Ryan said. “Eric kind of went through what was best for him, and he also said Elon. It worked out great because we only had one car.”

But Eric said his college application process almost led him to a different school.

“I thought it would be cool to go to different things like maybe play against each other,” Eric said. “This worked out for the best and I’m very fortunate I get to play with my brother.”

For most students going to college, the transition can be difficult. For the Whitehead twins, they said the hardest part was having to share a room for the first time since second grade.

“We both know each other pretty well,” Ryan said. “We’re both familiar with how we live. One of us tends to be neater, and one of us tends to be the messier one.”

But that didn’t stop them from fighting like most brothers.

“I wanted to switch roommates after freshman year, but our mom made us stay,” Eric said. “After 19 years, I get tired of it.”

This isn’t out of character for the siblings. They both said when they’re home for breaks, they try to spend time away from each other. Eric said Ryan tends to keep to himself at home, to which Ryan answered back, “It’s not being a loner, it’s called having a Netflix addiction.”

Despite the occasional feud, the Whitehead family is brought together by football. The brothers said their parents have been extremely supportive of their athletic endeavors.

The twins grew up in Virginia, making it easy to see why the majority of the Whitehead household are Redskins fans. Eric said he kept his family in mind when picking which team he would decide to root for.

“My granddad used to coach at Lehigh Pennsylvania. ... The field is named after him and the Eagles used to practice there,” Eric said. “So, I was like, ‘Oh, the Eagles are practicing on my grandfather’s field, why not root for that team?’”

When Ryan expressed his disapproval for Eric’s support of the Eagles, all Eric said was, “Kiss the ring, baby.”

The Whiteheads come from a competitive family. Eric said this can be negative when he and Ryan play against each other in practices. However, he said knowing there will always

SEEING DOUBLE



77

“

I WANTED TO SWITCH ROOMMATES AFTER FRESHMAN YEAR, BUT OUR MOM MADE US STAY.

ERIC WHITEHEAD
SENIOR



57

“

I MADE THE DECISION THAT I WANTED TO COME TO ELON FIRST. ERIC KIND OF WENT THROUGH WHAT WAS BEST FOR HIM AND HE ALSO SAID ELON. IT WORKED OUT GREAT BECAUSE WE ONLY HAD ONE CAR.

RYAN WHITEHEAD
SENIOR



CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Left to right: Elon University offensive lineman Eric Whitehead linebacker Ryan Whitehead during their Senior Day game against the University of Maine on Saturday, Nov. 9. The Phoenix lost to the Black Bears 17-31.

SCAN TO SEE THE VIDEO STORY



be someone to compete against provides extra motivation during practices and spring camps.

The brothers are redshirt-seniors, meaning they have played football at Elon for the past five years. Ryan has played in games since his second year. This season, he has played in eight of the Phoenix’s 10 games, getting five tackles in his time on the field.

Eric made his debut on head coach Tony Trisciani’s offensive line, this year.

Trisciani has said from the start that his offensive line was going to be new, and he would focus on training them. Eric is one of 17 offensive linemen that Trisciani has worked into the rotation.

Last Saturday, Nov. 9, was Elon’s last home game as well as Senior Day. Including the Whiteheads, the Phoenix celebrated its 13 graduating members.

When thinking about graduation, Ryan said he is in disbelief.

“It probably won’t hit me until we start running down that hill,” Ryan said. “We didn’t know if we were coming back last year, so we had that same feeling again last year. It’s definitely going to be a crazy feeling.”

Eric said his final game at Rhodes Stadium will also be meaningful for him.

“When that clock hits zero, that will be ‘Oh snap, that’s our last game at this place... we played for the past five years,’” Eric said.

As the brothers graduate at the end of the fall semester, they said the future is on their minds.

“I’ll be done here in a few weeks, and then I start working in Virginia,” Ryan said.

For Eric, he said he is interested in becoming a teacher but will also look for ways to stay involved in football.

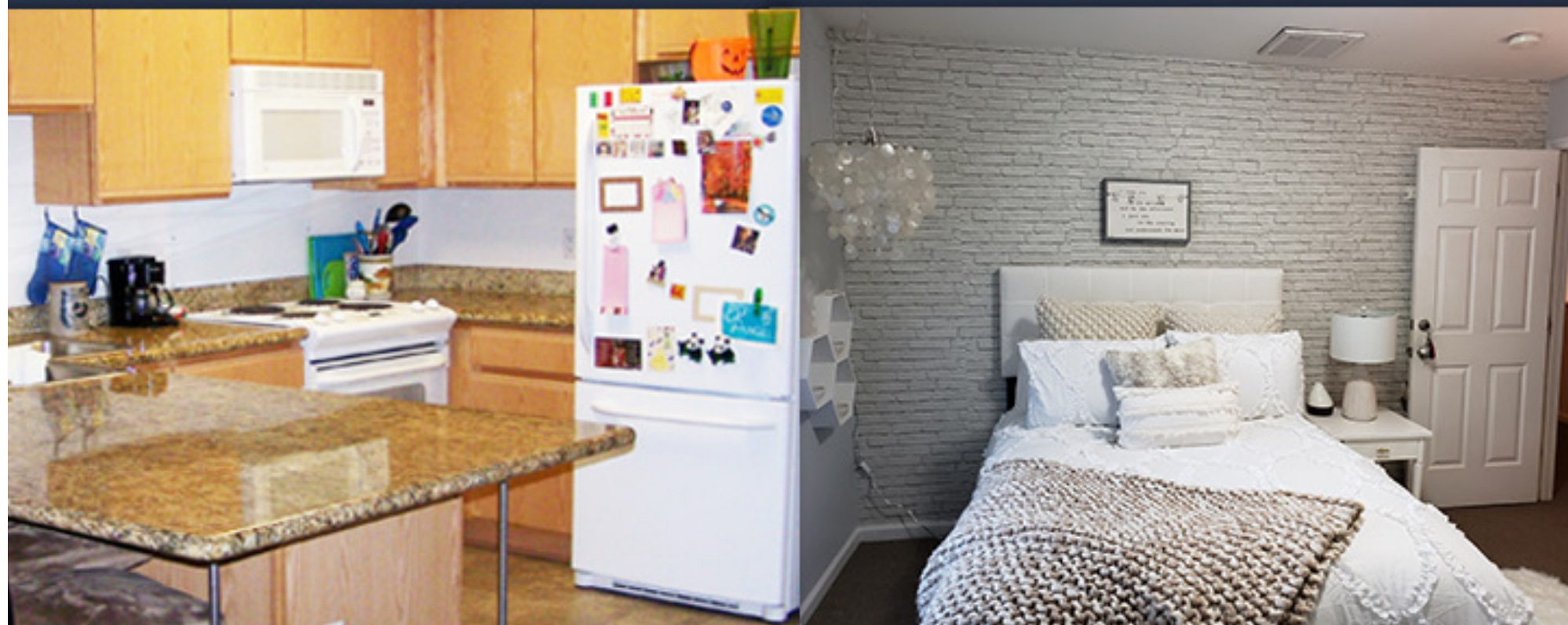
“I didn’t want to be a teacher. I wanted to be a personal trainer at first,” Eric said. “But I didn’t feel satisfied; I really wanted to make an impact on people’s lives. I want to be around football for as long as I can.”

After spending their whole lives around one another, Ryan said he’s ready for some time away from his brother.

“I can’t wait. I can’t hide my smile,” Ryan said. “Obviously, he’s my best friend. But it’s going to be interesting.”

Eric said he’s going to miss his brother.

“I mean, I guess after a few weeks of him being gone, I’m going to be down here. I’ll miss him a little bit,” Eric said, as Ryan mouthed, “He will.”

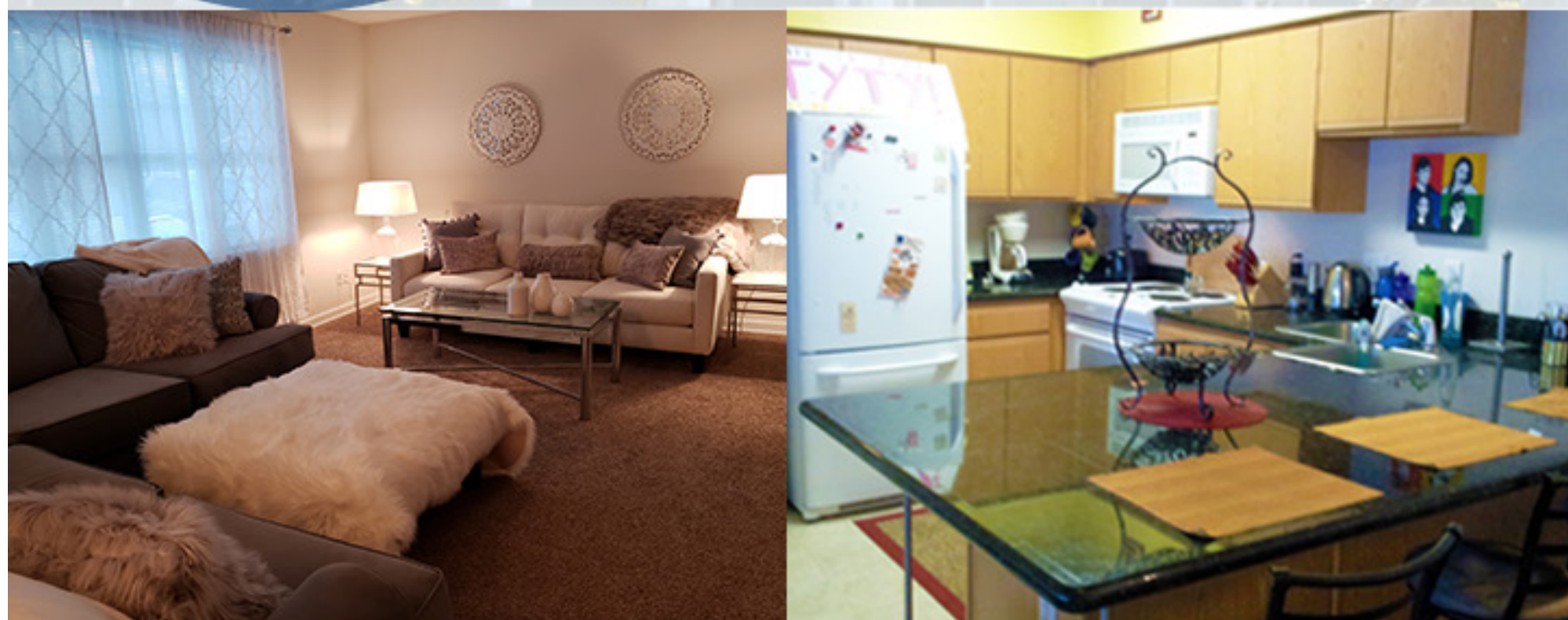


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