

# THE PENDULUM

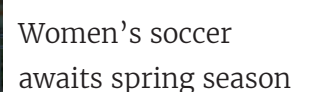
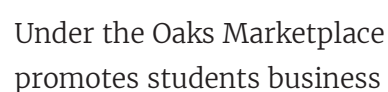
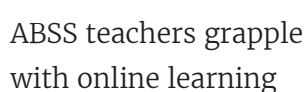
## PROJECTED WINNERS

See **RESULTS** | pg. 6

See **ELECTION** | pg. 4

NYAH PHENGSTITTHY | DESIGN CHIEF

Images in the collage from above were taken throughout the course of the 2020 election. Photos by Clare Grant, Luke Johnson, Ben Muse, Jon Sarver Jr. and Grace Terry





# THE PENDULUM

A PUBLICATION OF  
**ELON NEWS  
NETWORK**

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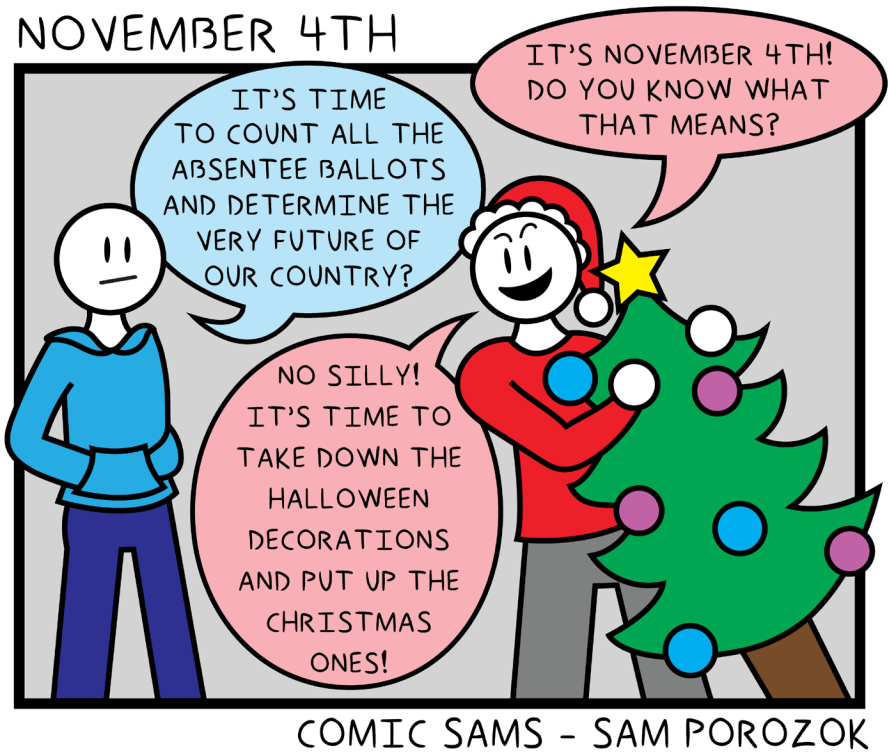
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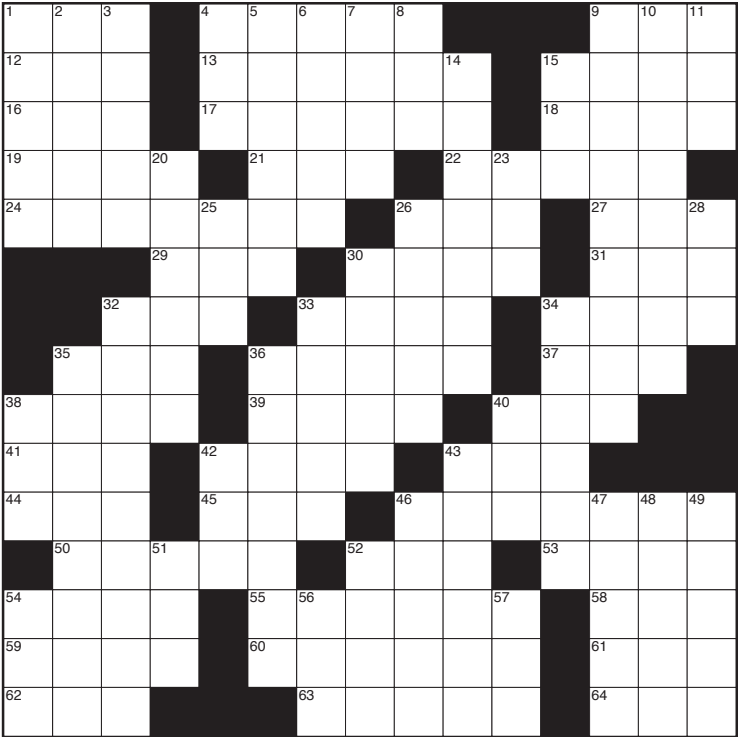
SCAN FOR AN ANSWER KEY TO LAST WEEK’S  
CROSSWORD PUZZLE



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

## And The Winner Is...?

By Thomas Denome



### ACROSS

- 1 Shortened first name of 36-across ... whichever one you choose  
4 Most optimal / Fish dish  
9 Ho-\_\_\_\_ / Bottle topper  
12 Rage / EMT service  
13 Tracked / Just \_\_\_\_  
15 Money in Mexico / Consumer credit product  
16 Type of cooker / Body ink, for short  
17 To the nth / \_\_\_\_ and save  
18 Nabisco cookie / Teammate  
19 Shoots with a laser / "My country tis of \_\_\_\_"  
21 Common crossword answer involving alcohol / OPEC commodity  
22 One might go into a booth / Underwater guide  
24 Not at sea / Bars on a mast  
26 Cat cry / Insult, in brief  
27 Common conjunction / Choking snake  
29 Attempt / Found in a pen, perhaps  
30 Made of brick or concrete, maybe / Place to shop  
31 San Francisco \_\_\_\_ Area / Shared between us

- 31 San Francisco \_\_\_\_ Area / Shared between us  
32 Pass / Pig pen  
33 Vivacity / Extinct island bird  
34 A few / Former acronym for American Organization for Nursing Leadership  
35 \_\_\_\_-town, capital of California / Lcky substance  
36 Last name of a 2020 presidential candidate ... and the clue to which the answer will determine which puzzle you are solving  
37 What one might enter a scene on / Psychedelic drug  
38 Two-tiered bed / Offensive word  
39 Some charged particles / Gained years  
40 In the eyes of the beholder / Edge (out)  
41 Tiny unit of energy / Used for frying  
42 City problem / Thin  
43 Pitcher stat / Male kid  
44 Poet's word / Subtract a subtraction  
45 Haw counterpart / Slang word for incredible popularized by Denzel Curry  
46 Castle part? / Diamond pickle

- 50 Type of bay window / Subject of the Cold War arms race  
52 Queens rapper with a similar name to a great from the same borough / Pointed end of a pen  
53 Pitcher / Affirmation  
54 Elementary particle named after a Greek letter / Hideout  
55 Some excuses given by suspects / Prayer  
58 King-beater, in some games / View  
59 Thing put on the responsible party / What a poker player might up  
60 Fumble words / Jeter, DiMaggio, e.g.  
61 A pig's home / Just a bit  
62 Page 16 of this publication and others / Poem of honor  
63 Indian language also known as "Odia" / May, to Shakespeare  
64 Possesses / Place for planes

### DOWN

- 1 Light copying process / Spiral \_\_\_\_, famous landmark on the north side of the Great Salt Lake  
2 Part of an organism? / Large Nebraska city  
3 Some low tides / American singer Dean

- 4 "\_\_\_\_ be nice if..." / Sibling of bro  
5 Tired or bland / Open a wine bottle  
6 Symbol for America / Coarse fabric  
7 Land measurement / Heavier than rain  
8 Confederate General Robert  
9 Around / Informal word for prison  
10 Usually paired with a password / Jack of all trades  
11 Cow word / Spend  
14 Play out / Greek E  
15 Pan alternative / Faint shade of brown  
20 Spiel / There's a list of them above this puzzle  
23 Hooter / Initials of a notorious terrorist  
25 Linking verb in a mine? / \_\_\_\_ will do  
26 Scars / Bored  
28 Color / Be conjugated for we  
30 Squeezed (out) / Wifi medium  
32 Risky / Subject of much manipulation  
33 Used to sweep / Finger or toe  
34 Barely make it (by) / Some chemical compounds  
35 Mono or stereo alternative / Greet warmly, as a politician  
36 Online gamer's bane / Youth employee of a baseball team  
38 [Bzzzz] / Where one goes on a "me" day  
40 An \_\_\_\_ and a leg / Long period of time  
42 Female pronoun / Product of addition  
43 With room to spare / Symptom of the Black Plague  
46 Jewish religious figure / Opposite of safe  
47 Has a surplus of / Deposes a ruler  
48 Some intestinal sections / \_\_\_\_ havoc  
49 In basketball lingo, some threes / High maintenance  
51 Not outs / Mine find  
52 \$1 in Ethiopia / Singer-songwriter Simone  
54 Bloomington attraction (abbr.) / Southeast Asian language with a country named after it  
56 Language of a country bordered by Thailand and Vietnam / Truck brand  
57 Two lanterns if by \_\_\_\_ / A wide one might be cast



# Lawsuit filed on behalf of Graham march organizer against ALAMANCE COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS



Rev. Gregory Drumwright speaks at the I Am Change march in Graham. As the march progressed and became more hostile, Drumwright, other leaders of the march and fellow marchers were detained on Oct. 31, 2020.

A lawsuit was filed against Alamance County sheriff, Graham police chief for actions taken against marchers

**Mackenzie Wilkes**  
Executive Director | @mac\_wilkes

Seconds after marchers had finished kneeling for 8 minutes and 46 seconds in honor of George Floyd, the Graham Police Department deployed pepper spray into the crowd.

Graham PD gave the marchers at the “I Am Change: Legacy March To the Polls” until the nine-minute mark to clear the roads, but after three warnings were given and participants did not disperse after that period, they began to spray.

According to Lt. Daniel Sisk, the Graham PD used a pepper fogger on the ground as a means of crowd control. However, many attendees said they had irritation in their eyes from pepper spray. Five Elon News Network reporters were among those pepper sprayed.

“We gave numerous verbal commands. The only option other than using the mild irritant would have been physical force. And we did not want to physically force people out of the roadway,” Sisk said at a press conference on Nov. 1. “The mild irritant, like I said, was exposed to the officers as well as the people, so it wasn’t an extreme irritant.”

Following the march, organizer Rev. Gregory Drumwright had a lawsuit filed on

his behalf against Alamance County Sheriff Terry Johnson and Graham Chief of Police Kristy Cole for the actions taken at the court square.

The American Civil Liberties Union of North Carolina and the Lawyer’s Committee for Civil Right Under Law are filing the lawsuit on behalf of the plaintiffs. These two civil rights groups filed a lawsuit against the sheriff’s office and city of Graham in July for restricting protests at the Confederate monument. That case was settled earlier in October.

Drumwright, his organization Justice for the Next Generation — which organized the march — and Ann Jones — a member of the organization People for Change who helped organize the march — have filed the lawsuit against these officers.

The lawsuit claims that Drumwright, Jones and Justice for the Next Generation’s rights to speech and assembly were restricted by law enforcement when marchers were ordered to disperse, pepper spray was used and people were arrested.

According to the Graham PD press conference on Nov. 1, their officers deployed pepper spray as a method of crowd control — as opposed to physical force — because marchers were in the road.

At another press conference on Nov. 2, Michelle Middle, community engagement and diversity coordinator of the Alamance County Sheriff’s Office, said the sheriff’s officers began pepper spraying because an officer was shoved to the ground and deployed her pepper spray. Another officer sprayed a short burst into the air to disperse



Protester on the evening of Election Day in Graham holds up his fist in honor of the Black Lives Matter movement.

the crowd around her and the rest of the officers followed and sprayed the ground with pepper spray to keep the crowd from advancing.

In an interview with Elon News Network on Nov. 2, prior to the filing of the lawsuit, Drumwright said the officers only sprayed the ground.

“

THERE IS TONS OF MEDIA, VIDEOS AND PICTURES THAT SHOW THAT THEY DID NOT EXCLUSIVELY DIRECT THEIR PEPPER SPRAY TO THE GROUND, THAT THEY ACTUALLY SPRAYED IT DIRECTLY AT PEOPLE, AND I AM ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE.

**REV. GREGORY DRUMWRIGHT**  
MARCH ORGANIZER

“There is a public outcry against those false narratives simply because the world was watching,” Drumwright said. “There is tons of media, videos and pictures that show that they did not exclusively direct their pepper spray to the ground, that they actually sprayed it directly at people, and I am one of those people.”

Multiple attendees of the march told Elon News Network that pepper spray was directed at people.

The lawsuit also claims that the law enforcement agencies violated the Voting Rights Act by “suppressing” voters’ ability to march to the polls by giving dispersal orders and using pepper spray to disperse people.

“These actions intimidated, threatened or coerced, and/or attempted to intimidate, threaten, or coerce eligible Alamance County voters concerned about racial justice issues,” the lawsuit said.

Additionally, the lawsuit claims that Johnson and Cole knowingly discouraged voters.

“Defendants violated 42 U.S.C. § 1985(3) by knowingly conspiring with each other to unlawfully disperse a march to the polls, with the purpose of discouraging and intimidating voters from exercising their constitutional right to vote,” the lawsuit said. “Defendants’ deployment of their officers, coordination regarding use of pepper spray and detention and arrest of attendees, constituted substantial steps in furtherance of the conspiracy.”

On Nov. 3, after the lawsuits were filed Justice for the Next Generation held a second march to polls in Graham. The march made stops at two polls and ended in front of Graham town square, the site of both Saturday’s march and a 30-foot tall Confederate monument.

The over 400 participants marched on the sidewalk, as they did not have a permit for this march. The group was met by a group of counter-protesters but the march in general was peaceful and there was no violence.

Margaret Faust, Kyra O’Connor, Christian Galvano and Jack Norcross contributed reporting.



A marcher at the I Am Change March in Graham is taken into custody by Graham police in front of the Alamance County Courthouse on Oct. 31.



## ELECTION | from cover

Rod Clare, an Elon University professor of history who studies a multitude of subjects — including U.S. social studies, African American history and U.S. politics — set the scene for how the division between Democrats and Republicans has grown.

"I'd say the country as a whole has become more conservative, both the left and right," Clare wrote in an email. "However, within that framework, the issues that have divided the major parties have become starker."

According to data from a poll conducted by the Public Religion Research Institute, over 80% of Republicans feel that the Democratic Party has been taken over by socialists, while just under 80% of Democrats feel the Republican Party has been taken over by racists.

Clare said racial issues, free speech, Second Amendment rights, nationalism and protests are flash points to some of the fierce divergence between opposing groups and political parties, and the conclusions drawn from party lines by voters only fan the flames that those topics spark.

And it doesn't stop at policy making, as political division is also affecting Americans socially.

Data from Pew Research Center shows that over 80% of Democrats and Republicans only have a few or no friends that support the opposing candidate, meaning that voters are less likely to want to be socially involved with the opposite party affiliation.

In terms of racial understanding, another study from Pew shows that 74% of Biden voters say being Black in America is significantly harder than being white, while only 9% of Trump supporters feel the same way.

But divisiveness is not a new phenomenon in American politics. Clare said technology and globalization are key factors in how Americans have historically strayed into disagreement.

"I'd say the divisiveness has been growing since the late 1980s/1990s, but has been accelerated with the advent of social media," Clare wrote, citing how the role of the U.S. government has been an issue after the Cold War. "We simultaneously saw the U.S. become a hyperpower, yet face diminishing returns at home and new challenges abroad."

While it's more clear to equate the modern political tensions of today with the 20th century, Elon University professor of history and chair of the history department Charles Irons goes back even further, comparing today's divisiveness to that of the Civil War.

"There is an urban and rural distinction, and so-called red states and blue states," Irons said, referring to today's political climate. "But the geographic lines were much more stark in the 19th century so that you could have a sectional political party."

But this historical divisiveness has not been perpetual. Clare is hopeful that Americans can come together after the election, but explained that history shows the recovery from conflict is just as complicated as the escalation to conflict.

"It is a process that takes years," Clare wrote, comparing divisiveness now to Civil Rights protests in the 1960's that led to voting rights legislation. "It is determined by new events as much as the situation society was coming out of."

In the lens of race, Irons described the work both parties have to do together in order to move forward in developing a more inclusive and accepting society that empowers minorities.

"One of the things we have to think about is, will white people be comfortable sharing power across racial and ethnic lines?" Irons said. "That is the only way to slice the pie right."

Irons is also optimistic about the future, but recognizes that it is a lengthy process.

"There are so many overlapping things and that's what makes it so hard right now, and there is inertia to old postures and positions and their strange bedfellows," Irons said. "If I knew the answer to that question and could articulate it in a compelling way, then I would run for office."

Dooley reflected on the impact that this polarization not only has on the rest of the country, but also the Elon community.

"We've heard a lot of questions from students in general saying what campus is going to be like after the election," Dooley said. "I think it has been harder for individuals to be able to just talk with each other about the future direction of our country, and how our political system and political process fits within that."

I'D SAY THE COUNTRY AS A WHOLE HAS BECOME MORE CONSERVATIVE, BOTH THE LEFT AND RIGHT. HOWEVER, WITHIN THAT FRAMEWORK, THE ISSUES THAT HAVE DIVIDED THE MAJOR PARTIES HAVE BECOME STARKER.

**ROD CLARE**  
PROFESSOR OF HISTORY

In response to the political tensions this year, Dooley and the Elon Student Life team have planned post-election events for students to attend, including faculty discussions and panels, student reflections hosted by student life centers and a health and wellness panel organized by counseling services.

"What we've tried to do is to set up some opportunities that we'll have for students and the community to come together to make sense of the election," Dooley said.

With reports saying that election results could be delayed, Dooley discussed the further challenges in planning post-election events, comparing it to similar complications that occurred

during  
the 2000  
election's delayed  
results.

"It is a little challenging to plan events for after the election, just not knowing what the election results will be and when we'll know," he said.

Elon students are being forced to confront their feelings from the stress of current events, according to Mark Eades of Elon counseling services. He spoke about the heightened nerves among students surrounding this election.

"There's a lot of energy around it, and you can sort of feel that, and sometimes the energy shows up in feeling really nervous or anxious or excited," said Eades, who will be hosting the wellness panel after the election. "When students come to counseling and they're feeling that energy around the election, they can show up in different ways. Anxiety is one of them."

Eades also noted some of the enhanced steps that counseling services are taking to ensure that students are getting the help that they need, including extra training over the summer, increasing availability for students around November and providing services that are conscious of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We've had to make a drastic switch from seeing all students in-person to essentially switching to seeing students all in a tele-mental health format," Eades said. "[We] make sure that we're doing it in an efficient and accurate way, and in a way that's going to best serve the students."

For the Elon administration, these post-election events are only part of a long process in addressing the problems that the fall semester and the election has brought on. But Dooley remains confident that the Elon community will rise to the occasion.

"I think we're all looking forward to it being over, but I don't know that we know what 'over' looks like," Dooley said. "That is going to be the next challenge."



POST-ELECTION

RESOURCES



**Hopes for the Future:  
Public Art Project**  
*Wednesday, Nov. 4, E. Haggard  
Avenue, between Scott Plaza and  
Young Commons*

This project invites members of the community to share their “hopes for our collective future” by writing on a display board, according to an email from Vice President for Student Life Jon Dooley. The project’s inspiration comes from the work of Candy Chang, an artist who has set up public display boards around the country.

The CREDE, El Centro, the Gender & LGBTQIA Center, the Kernodle Center for Civic Life, Numen Lumen Pavilion and Sklut Hillel Center are hosting additional drop-in opportunities for reflection and conversation. Details about each center’s programs will be posted on their websites.

**Post-Election Reflection  
and Conversation Spaces**  
*Wednesday, Nov. 4 – Friday, Nov. 6,  
8 a.m. – 5 p.m.*



**Protesting:  
Understanding Your Rights**  
*Thursday, Nov. 5, noon, and  
Thursday, Nov. 11, 7 p.m., register  
online*

The Center for Leadership is hosting this workshop to give information on protester safety, rights and responsibilities as a part of its “Good Trouble: Sustained Activism” series.

Faculty members from the political science and policy studies departments will be breaking down election results over Zoom, as well as the implications of races that get decided — or require more vote-counting or decisions from the court system.

**After the Vote: Political  
Science Faculty Panel  
Discussion**

*Thursday, Nov. 5, 4:15 p.m. via Zoom*

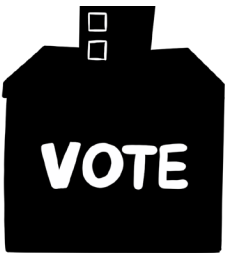


**Post-Election Wellness  
and Opportunities Panel:**  
*Monday, Nov. 9, 4 p.m. – 5 p.m. via  
Zoom*

Dr. Mark Eades, a counselor at Elon Counseling Services, will be presenting to students about how they can maintain good mental health during a stressful election week. Eades will also be moderating a panel that will call attention to several related opportunities for students to take their mind off the election or positively involve themselves in the community.

Faculty and staff will have the opportunity to reflect on the election over a week after the final day of voting. Some questions that will be considered involve the continued interaction with students about the political process, maintaining the attitude of an active citizen after the election and keeping students politically engaged.

**2020 Election  
Faculty/Staff  
Reflection:**  
*Friday, Nov. 13, 1:50 p.m. –  
2:50 p.m., via Zoom*





# 2020 ELECTION RESULTS

## N.C. GOVERNOR



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO FROM THE ROY COOPER CAMPAIGN

### PROJECTED WINNER: ROY COOPER DEFEATS DAN FOREST

Miranda Ferrante  
Elon News Network | @ferrantemiranda

DEMOCRATIC GOV. ROY COOPER is projected to win reelection in North Carolina, defeating his challenger Republican Lt. Gov. Dan Forest, according to the Associated Press.

Cooper was first elected in 2016 after winning 49% of the vote, and Forest has

served as lieutenant governor since 2013.

As governor of North Carolina, Cooper has fought to establish good-paying jobs, strong public schools and affordable health care and has issued executive orders prohibiting workplace discrimination, establishing paid parental leave for state employees and launching the Clean Energy Plan, according to his website.

North Carolina was one of 11 states holding an election for governor this year.

## U.S. HOUSE 13



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO FROM THE TED BUDD CAMPAIGN

### PROJECTED WINNER: TED BUDD DEFEATS SCOTT HUFFMAN

Anna Terry  
Elon News Network | @atterry63

CONGRESSMAN TED BUDD, A Republican, is projected to win the 13th District in the U.S. House of Representatives. Budd has served as a representative the past two terms; winning the seat for the first time in

2016 and then again in 2018. In this term, Budd ran against Navy veteran and Democrat Scott Huffman.

Currently, 174 out of the 189 district precincts have reported votes with 68.21% of the votes cast for Budd and 31.79% of the votes cast for Huffman, according to the North Carolina State Board of Elections.

## N.C. SENATE 24

### PROJECTED WINNER: AMY GALEY DEFEATS JD WOOTEN

Kieran Ungemach  
Politics Editor | @kieranungemach

REPUBLICAN AMY GALEY HAS won the North Carolina District 24 Senate seat against her opponent Democrat J.D. Wooten after all the precincts have reported their results.

Election results show Galey winning with 52.53% of the votes, against Wooten's 47.47%.

Galey is still cautious and waiting for absentee ballot numbers to come in, but said she is excited to have the opportunity to serve the people of District 24 in Raleigh.

"I'm humbled to be given the responsibility of representing

this district in the North Carolina Senate," said Galey, who formerly served as the board chair for the Alamance County Commissioners, now leaving that seat open. "I'm optimistic about being able to address the issues facing our community."

The Republican state senator-elect plans to focus on giving communities a say in local monuments, addressing shortfalls in the state budget with public transportation and working on safely opening businesses in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The most important [issue] is coming out of the cycle of this virus," Galey said. "Addressing the health and welfare of the community, and getting businesses financially stable. That's really number one."



FRANCES O'CONNOR | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## N.C HOUSE 63



GRAYSEN SHIRLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

### PROJECTED WINNER: RICKY HURTADO DEFEATS STEPHEN ROSS

Graysen Shirley  
Elon News Network

RICKY HURTADO HAS WON the race for District 63 of the North Carolina House of Representatives.

According to the North Carolina State Board of Elections dashboard, 20 out of 20 precincts are now reporting tallied votes. The NC District 63 race was a close, tight one between the two candidates.

Hurtado won the race with a ballot count of 20,264, which represents 50.49% of all counted votes. Ross lost the race with a ballot count of 19,869, which represents 49.51% of all counted votes.

Hurtado said he is excited having won the race.

"I'm excited to provide a new perspective in a growing electorate, a growing diverse community and making sure that we're doing everything we can to represent everyone in our community" Hurtado said."

Jon Sarver contributed to the reporting of this story.



PROJECTED WINNER: DENNIS RIDDELL

DEFEATS ERIC HENRY

Julianne Quinn  
Elon News Network | @jqquinn383

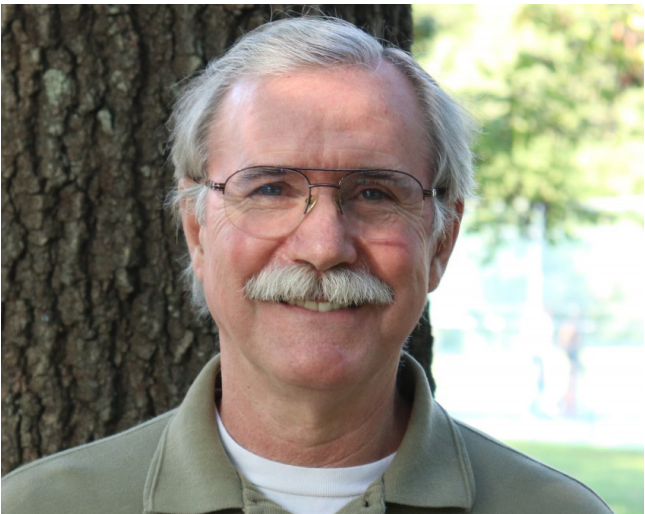
INCUMBENT DENNIS RIDDELL HAS won the N.C. house representative seat for District 64. According to the North Carolina State Board of Elections dashboard, Riddell beat his opponent, Eric Henry, by almost 20% of the vote. He will now be serving in his fifth term.

“I’m conservative. I think that the things we’ve done in Raleigh over the last eight years that I’ve been there are conservative

basic principles. And we’ve proven that they work,” Riddell told Elon News Network in early October.

Riddell did not respond to Elon News Network’s request for comment.

Riddell is a small business owner which has impacted his views on the economy. During the pandemic, he has voted for legislation that helps small businesses. the Golden LEAF Program allows for businesses to apply for emergency loans during the coronavirus pandemic. In September, Riddell voted for House Bill 1105, which provided more funding for the program.



JON SARVER JR. | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



MADDIE SHOSTEN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



MADDIE SHOSTEN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



JOSEPH NAVIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

PROJECTED WINNER:

JOHN PAISLEY JR.

PROJECTED WINNER:

BILL LASHLEY JR.

PROJECTED WINNER:

PAMELA THOMPSON

DEFEAT DREAMA CALDWELL, BOB BYRD AND KRISTIN POWERS

Kyra O’Connor  
Enterprise Story Coordinator | ko\_reports

WITH 38 OF 38 precincts reported in, the three Republican candidates for county commissioner took the three seats available. Bill Lashley did not respond to Elon News Networks request for comment.

John Paisley won the majority of votes for county commissioner with 18.48%. Paisley said he had so many people encouraging and helping him throughout the campaign.

“It shows that getting out and working, and being well known and hopefully respected and so forth is much more important than money and contributions,” Paisley said.

Paisley, who is also an Elon University alum, said he wants to bring the community back together as county commissioner, with safety as “the ultimate goal for everyone.”

“We’ve got to calm things down and get this county back to normal, and instead of arguing and fighting, we ought to be talking and reasoning with each other,” Paisley said.

“At the same time, we do not need to defund our law enforcement. We’ve got to be strong.”

After losing in 2016, Paisley was not going to run for county commissioner again, but he said a lot of people “really encouraged” him to run again. Paisley has served on the county board of commissioners previously.

“I plan to do the same thing again, listen to all constituents and take the calls or talk to people,” Paisley said. “And represent the entire county, not some segment of the county.”

Pamela Thompson, who won 18.08% of the vote, said she feels thankful, “but very surprised” that she won tonight’s election.

“I ran against some really good people, and so I’m just very thankful that I got to do this,” Thompson said.

As county commissioner, Thompson said she will be focusing on expanding veteran services and working on crime in the county.

“I’ve really seen how drugs trickle down from home to the school, and it’s heartbreaking because I see what it does to those lives, and they deserve so much more,” Thompson said.

U.S. SENATE



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO FROM THE THOM TILLIS CAMPAIGN

THOM TILLIS DECLARES VICTORY

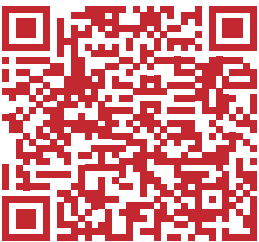
Grace Terry  
Managing Editor | @gfterry9

INCUMBENT REPUBLICAN THOM TILLIS declared victory over Cal Cunningham, however the race is close and the Associated Press has not called this race.

As of 12:30 Tillis leads with about 48% of the vote and Cunningham trails with about 47% of the vote, which puts Tillis ahead by less than a 100,000 votes.

“What we accomplished tonight was a stunning victory,” Tillis said at his press conference.

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# DAYS LEADING UP TO THE 2020 ELECTION



As the demonstrators at the “I Am Change” march arrive at the Alamance County Courthouse, the marchers put up their hands while chanting that they come in peace with no weapons on Oct. 31. Read more about the march and events in Graham, North Carolina on page 3.

CLARE GRANT | PHOTO EDITOR



On the night of Oct. 31, a Washington D.C. police officer parks in front of St. John's Episcopal Church and Black Lives Matter Plaza to secure the area as tensions grow leading up to the election.

LUKE JOHNSON | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Supporters of the Confederate statue in Graham protest outside on the evening of Election Day.

GRACE TERRY | MANAGING EDITOR



Workers board up the windows of Park Place Gourmet on Nov. 1 in preparation for expected unrest and First Amendment activity leading up to and following the election.

LUKE JOHNSON | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Shon Green cries after getting pepper sprayed by the Graham Police Department on Oct. 31.

CLARE GRANT | PHOTO EDITOR





Protester on the evening of Election Day in Graham holds up his fist in honor of the Black Lives Matter movement.



Political activist Lisa Fithian holds up a sign for passing motorists to see at Black Lives Matter Plaza in Washington D.C. on Nov. 1 as the crowd of out-of-state activists prepare for the election.



Protesters vacate the road after law enforcement officers pepper spray marchers to disperse the crowd.

Trump supporters stand by their trucks in Graham on Election Day during a march to the polls event.



CLARE GRANT | PHOTO EDITOR



Burlington mayor Ian Baltutis stands with the "I Am Change" march while marching down main street on Oct.31. Congressional candidate Scott Huffman joins the march.

BEN MUSE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



# ABSS teachers, families grapple with online learning



Derek Tang, a Turrentine Middle School teacher, teaches his class from an empty classroom. The only other people in the room are his own kids, who are in their own classes online.

GRACE TERRY | MANAGING EDITOR

Alamance-Burlington School System teachers and students will be doing remote learning until 2021

**Mackenzie Wilkes**  
Executive Director | @macwilkes

Jessica Bowman had to stop working in the spring when it was announced that her kids would be learning remotely as the coronavirus began to spread. Bowman — who works as a house cleaner — still hasn't started working again and her kids are still doing school online. She said her kids have not adjusted.

"They're just not doing as well as they would in-person," she said. "And I think my kids have to have that hands-on training or hands on learning."

The Alamance-Burlington School System originally planned to start the year remotely and transition to Plan B halfway through the semester. But on Oct. 23, ABSS reversed course and decided pre-K through 12th grade students would not return to the classroom until January 2021. When it came to reopening schools, Gov. Roy Cooper decided to give schools the option between Plan B, a hybrid of remote and in-person classes, or Plan C, all remote classes. Plan A — all in-person — was not allowed.

Being online has been difficult for Bowman's youngest son, Liam. Bowman said that with classes online, he has not wanted to go to class and has had trouble paying attention.

"He was doing real good whenever he went to headstart and pre-K," Bowman said. "But now that it's online and at a computer, he just can't sit still [...] it's like everything distracts him."

She said she's afraid he'll fall behind. Bowman has no one to help her elementary-age kids with their school work as they do classes remotely.

"I have to sit with him," she said. "And then he still doesn't do it."

According to a recent survey from the Elon University Poll, 39% of North Carolina residents think their students are learning less this school year compared to previous school years.

Turrentine Middle School teacher Derek Tang has been teaching social studies full time for two years. But now, he sits in a mostly empty classroom with unoccupied desks except for his two children. Every day

is "take your kids to work" day as he teaches on Zoom.

Tang spent the summer preparing for online instruction. He said most of his students aren't having trouble grasping the curriculum, but those who would need extra help understanding the material during instruction still need that help with online classes.

"The students who would get it are doing fine in this setting and I don't think that that's any different from how it would be if they were in-person," Tang said. "And I think the students who I'm having to put in a bit of extra effort to prod them to turn in their assignments and keep up with the lessons and stay on top of deadlines, I think that group is also turning out to be the group that I would probably have to stay on top of in a in-person setting."

“

IT'S A LOT HARDER WHEN YOU CAN'T ACTUALLY SEE THEM AND POINT TO THEM THINGS AND HAVE THEM POINT TO THINGS AND MANIPULATE.

**AUBRIE CIFELLI**  
THIRD GRADE TEACHER AT  
ANDREWS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Aubrie Cifelli '05, a third grade teacher at Andrews Elementary School, said her students who would normally struggle in-person are struggling online and it's a matter of giving them more help like she would if the school was in-person.

"I would say the ones that are already strugglers that they're still struggling [...] I try to give them one-on-one support," Cifelli said.

She said it has been difficult for students who are hands-on learners and need to manipulate things, but ABSS has online programs that can help struggling students in areas such as reading.

"It's a lot harder when you can't actually

see them and point to them things and have them point to things and manipulate," she said.

While Tang's students aren't having more difficulty than typical with understanding the material, he said the biggest challenge with online instruction is engaging students who don't have the resources at home for online learning.

ABSS has been able to provide students with resources and materials to bridge the technology gap. ABSS has distributed 17,204 Chromebooks and 3,850 hotspots to students across the district, according to the public information officer for ABSS.

The district has also boosted the Wi-Fi of three daycares across the county during the school day.

But ABSS' efforts haven't been able to reach all students. Tang said he has students who he's only seen once this semester.

"I do still have student[s], unfortunately, several students on my roster who I have not seen since day one," Tang said. "But we've tried and exhausted pretty much every method that we've had available in which to reach out to these students and their families."

Tang said his school has repeatedly tried contacting families via phone, email and even home visits, but some students still haven't shown up to class.

Although she wishes she could see her students in person, Cifelli said her students are still engaged even through the screen.

"There was this discussion of going possibly back to this Plan B going back to school that hybrid [model] and I was like, it kind of stinks cause like, we're in a groove now. We were really rocking it," Cifelli said. "They know my expectations, they enjoy the things that we're doing. We try to keep it as interactive as possible. We don't want a bunch of just lecturing like 'Hey manipulate these things, match things, drag these things on the slides, watch this video.'"

Tang made his expectations clear for students at the beginning of the year: assignments were going to be graded like an in-person semester.

"I hope that the students are able to maintain consistency, you know, and I think now that routines have been established expectations have been made clear," Tang said. "I think that students have a much clearer understanding of what's expected from them."

Bowman wants her son back in the classroom as soon as possible, but recognizes

## BY THE NUMBERS

17,204

Chromebooks distributed to students for online learning by the Alamance-Burlington School System

3,850

Hotspots provided for students to connect to for school and homework hours by the Alamance-Burlington School System.

the return to the classes must be done safely.

"I think that they should have ... went back to school. Like, they should have just started off the year in school actually in the school building or to have the option of [going to school]," Bowman said. "I mean, I was glad they were taking the precautions that they take."

ABSS opted to begin the year with remote learning and transition to a hybrid model halfway through the fall.

That same Elon Poll survey found that 22% of North Carolina residents think K-12 schools should return to full time in-person classes "as soon as possible" and 34% think that they should return "only when there is a vaccine and/or treatment for COVID."

Bowman said she not only wants her kids to be back in school for the better of their education, but so she can return to work.

"If I was to want to go back to work or something, that would have to happen," she said. "They would have to be back in school."

She said there's not someone to look after her kids every day.

"I don't make enough to pay for daycare," she said. "That's too expensive."

While her students are still engaged online, Cifelli misses the interactions she had with students in-person.

"I've been telling everybody and the parents 'Like, believe me, I absolutely wish we were all back in school. I wish we could rewind time and go back to February and go back to just like being with them,'" Cifelli said. "I truly do miss those kids and would love to be hugging them every morning, and high-fiving, fist bumping, celebrating, everything in-person. I really do miss it."



# COVID-19 affects early decision applications for incoming students

Elon is receiving fewer early decision applications during an unusual school year impacted by COVID-19

**Sophie Rosenthal**  
Elon News Network | @sophrosenthal

The college application process is always stressful, but this year, high school seniors have even more on their minds than normal. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has created more variables for students deciding where to go to college, and students that had been thinking about applying early decision to their top-choice college are reconsidering.

Colleges and universities offer three main types of applications — early decision, early action and regular decision. Early action and regular decision applications are typically submitted at the end of October and December respectively, and they do not commit a student to the school.

Early decision is typically submitted by Nov. 1, and is binding. Students can only apply to one school early decision, and if they get into that school, they must go. Although early decision is not technically legally binding, it automatically enrolls a student at their college if they get in.

Elon University offers all three of these options and on average, 393 students apply early decision per year. This year, however, the COVID-19 pandemic has thrown a wrench into the college application process. As the pandemic has impacted the economy and workforce, many students have had to reevaluate what schools they can realistically afford, and with closed campuses and locked down travel, many students have not been able to visit colleges.

According to the Vice President



This year Elon University has seen a lower amount of early decision applications at 261 which is down from 372 from last year.

of Undergraduate Admissions Greg Zaiser, Elon received 261 early decision applications this year, compared to 372 applications last year.

Applicants in 2020 are also taking into consideration how the colleges that they're applying to are handling the pandemic. Elon early decision applicant and high school senior Camilla Bondy said she

hopes restrictions will be eased by next year, but the way colleges are handling the pandemic is still important.

"I hope this will be over by the time I get into college, but I did take [how colleges are handling the COVID-19 pandemic] into account just because I want to feel safe in my college environment," Bondy said.

Bondy made the decision to look at Elon

**EARLY DECISION APPLICATIONS BY THE NUMBERS**

## 261

early decision applications have been submitted so far this year, compared to the 372 applications last year, according to Vice President of Admissions, Greg Zaiser

after her college counselor recommended it to her in August of this year. Elon's campus was one of only two schools that she visit during the application process in early October. She said visiting the campus was the deciding factor.

"I think it is definitely harder [for applicants], especially if they don't get the chance to visit," Bondy said. "I feel like that's a really big part of where you go. I feel like you have to see it."

Applicants for Fall 2021 have the option of applying to Elon with a test-optional program. In the past, Elon has required SAT or ACT scores in the application process, but due to the pandemic, many high school students were not able to sit for the exams.

Although Bondy was able to take both the SAT and ACT once, she opted to utilize this year's test-optional program.

"I think that colleges should go test-optional because of the situation we are in," Bondy said. "It's not fair to students who haven't gotten the opportunity to take it to have to submit a score."

Although the early decision numbers are lower than in previous years, Zaiser said Elon has already received 14% more early action and regular decision applications — the two non-binding options — than at this point last year.

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# LIFESTYLE



## Marketplace Under the Oaks PROMOTES STUDENT BUSINESS



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MORGAN FLYNN

Seniors Claire Bach and Laura Welch create a virtual network to promote students' self-made products

**Amanda Cantale**

Elon News Network | @AmandaCantale

Elon senior Claire Bach went to Ecuador for spring break to visit her boyfriend for what she thought was going to be a eight-day trip. Instead, she found herself stuck in the capital of Quito for about two months due to the COVID-19 pandemic. She was isolated and bored, so she started drawing

graphics on her iPad.

She began posting her art on a Facebook group in April. Bach gained customers quickly and created her own Instagram account to share her drawings online. This was one of the inspirations behind Marketplace Under The Oaks, an entirely virtual community that promotes student-made creations.

Marketplace Under The Oaks helps students, alumni and faculty with small businesses gain attention by sending out newsletters every Tuesday afternoon and posting about companies on their Instagram account. Bach, senior Laura

Welch and Director of the Doherty Center for Creativity, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alyssa Martina created the platform to allow Elon students and alumni entrepreneurs to gain exposure.

“

OURS IS NOT A BUSINESS. WE'RE NOT MAKING MONEY FROM OUR STUDENTS. WE'RE JUST HIGHLIGHTING, SHOWCASING OUR STUDENTS.

**ALYSSA MARTINA**

DIRECTOR OF THE DOHERTY CENTER FOR CREATIVITY, INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

“This is a way for us to kind of acknowledge them and amplify their work,” Martina said.

The market has featured students and alumni like senior Scott Goldstein — who created his own clothing line called Advanced Placement — Tony Weaver Jr. '16 — who has been featured on CNN for his comic writing — and senior Morgan Flynn — who runs her own charcuterie board business.

Flynn said Marketplace Under the Oaks has improved her business significantly.

“I have had a lot more students reach out to me about placing orders, and I have a lot more followers on my Instagram page,” Flynn said.

Anyone can be promoted on the market account. In addition to businesses, the

All boards above were created by Morgan Flynn. Flynn's charcuterie board business is Boards by Morgs.

account features blogs and alumni social media influencers who promote themselves and their marketing strategies.

Martina said Marketplace Under the Oaks differs from the Student-Made Store — an alumni-run online network — because they have different purposes. The Student-Made Store makes a profit as they help students sell their products on the website. Marketplace Under the Oaks simply wants to celebrate students and alumni located on campus.

“Ours is not a business. We're not making money from our students. We're just highlighting, showcasing our students,” Martina said.

Physical products or tangible services like the charcuterie boards or clothing apparel are included in the marketplace. However, other creations are promoted as well. Some of this work includes a podcast series, management of the Innovation Living Learning Community and workshops created by interns.

When the pandemic allows for in-person meetings safely, Bach hopes the entrepreneurs involved in Marketplace Under the Oaks will meet eventually.

“It is a possibility in the future for Marketplace Under The Oaks to become a place where small businesses can meet with each other small business owners and connect,” Bach said.

Martina said she hopes the marketplace will continue to thrive and be something that Bach and Welch will be proud to be a part of.

“In three or four years, the goal is for it to grow and mushroom and continue to evolve,” Martina said. “And when Laura and Claire are alumni, they'll look back at something that's bigger than what they ever envisioned.”

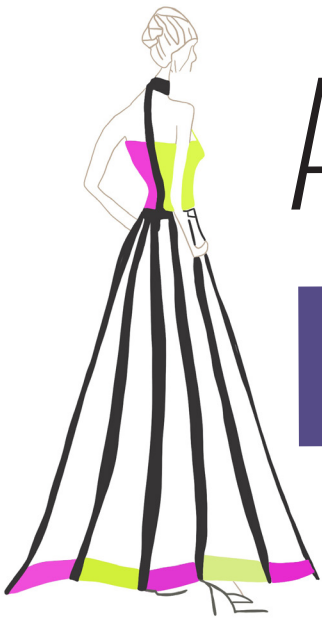
Bach and Welch encourage all to go follow @marketplace\_under\_theoaks on Instagram.



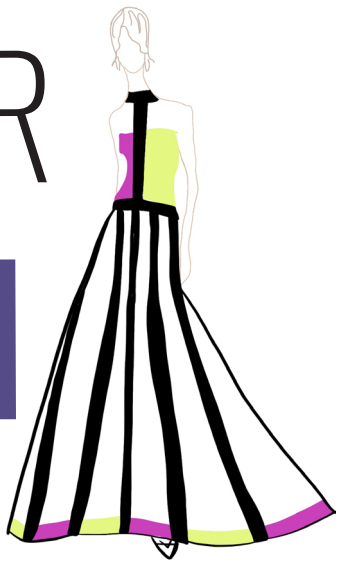
PHOTO COURTESY OF MORGAN FLYNN

Morgan Flynn shows off her cheese, vegetable and fruit charcuterie board.





# A PASSION FOR FASHION



Rent the Runway's campus rep. program has been paused amid the COVID-19 pandemic

**Miranda Ferrante**  
Elon News Network | @ferrantemiranda

Elon junior Maddie Distenfeld, an aspiring fashion industry worker, could've worn virtually anything she wanted for a few months — all without paying a penny out of her own pocket. At the start of her sophomore year Distenfeld applied for Rent the Runway's campus representative program and had the opportunity to connect her campus community with the company.

Rent the Runway is an online subscription service that provides designer dress and accessory rentals, according to Distenfeld.

The service offers a campus rep program which allows college students the opportunity to promote the brand on their own campuses through social media posts and events. Campus reps received a free subscription to Rent the Runway and were required to create and promote content on social media each month, according to Distenfeld.

Distenfeld is a communication design and media analytics double major from Oxford, Pennsylvania and she hopes to find future work in the fashion luxury industry. She said the campus rep program was a hugely positive venture for her.

"I have nothing but really good things to say about the rep program," Distenfeld said. "It was a really great experience for me. After hearing about the Rent the Runway opportunity, I figured that it would be nice for me to expand my networking capabilities and be able to implement it on my own campus."

The campus rep program is currently paused as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and Distenfeld said she is unsure of when the program will be reinstated, if at all.

Hannah Jablonski, a junior communication design and media analytics double major from New York City, said her love for the fashion industry led her to work with Rent the Runway's ambassador program. The company has gone through much hardship during COVID-19 and it seemed that they did not have a handle on everything at the beginning, according to Jablonski.

"I'm not sure if the program's actually paused. I think it might be done, which is so sad," Jablonski said. "I don't know if they're going to bring it back. I think they're exploring different ventures right now and focusing more on being more inclusive."

Jablonski believes the company is headed towards a great future.

"They've pioneered the entire rental industry, and I don't think that it's going to stop anytime soon,"



ILLUSTRATIONS BY CAROLINE BUNDER

Jablonski said.

Distenfeld believes there were a number of reasons for the pause of the program. She thinks the company could not afford to keep the program on as a result of fewer subscribers and more people working remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“WE THINK THEY’RE TAKING THEIR MOTIVES AND REDIRECTING THEM SOMEWHERE ELSE, WHICH IS GREAT, BUT JUST UNFORTUNATE FOR US.

**HANNAH JABLONSKI**  
JUNIOR

One of the highlights of Rent the Runway is that it is sustainable because the same types of clothing are being rented out and being sent back, according to Destenfeld. She said that the online-based platform is a cheaper alternative to buying new clothes for every occasion and works great for people in the business world.

Distenfeld said last year she often avoided splurging on items that she would typically only wear once by utilizing the service to rent dresses for formals and other occasions.

Jablonski said she thinks that the ambassador program was a great way for Rent the Runway to get its name out to the public.

"We think they're taking their motives and redirecting them somewhere else, which is great, but just unfortunate for us," Jablonski said.

Distenfeld said she was not aware Rent the Runway had a campus rep program at all and one of her friends encouraged her to apply.

"It was a lot of fun to be able to start the program on Elon's campus," Distenfeld said.

The ambassador program is made up of five Elon students, according to Distenfeld. There are four campus representatives and one campus coordinator, who graduated last semester, but served as the liaison between Rent the Runway and the Elon community.

For campus representatives like Distenfeld and Jablonski, responsibilities include promoting the clothes received from Rent the Runway on their respective social media platforms in addition to talking about the service with different organizations around campus. According to Distenfeld, the purpose of the campus representative program is to make other people aware and understand the service to potentially get involved.

"We also would host experiential activations around campus," Distenfeld said.

Although the program is paused, Distenfeld said that she understands the reasons behind the pause and hopes the program will be brought back eventually, as she believes it benefited the brand.

"I was sad that it was canceled, but I completely understand why they did it," Distenfeld said. "I hope they bring it back. It was a great program."

Both Distenfeld and Jablonski said the opportunity to serve as campus representatives for Rent the Runway was a great experience, though it was cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jablonski said she loves the brand and what they are working toward.

"It would be a dream company to work for," Jablonski said. "It is so hard to get interview, but if you do, it's totally an incredible opportunity."

## THE ELON BITE

THE ELON BITE IS A COLUMN THAT REVIEWS RESTAURANTS AND FOOD VENDORS IN THE LOCAL AREA

# Mykonos Grill: Bright and dull in different areas



JACK CHAMBERS | ELON NEWS NETWORK

Gyro wrap, french fries and fried calamari from Mykonos Grill in Burlington.



**Jack Chambers**  
Senior

This week, I went into Burlington to one of my favorite local spots: a Greek restaurant called Mykonos Grill on South Church Street. I have eaten there numerous times, but all of them prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. This time, I ordered for pickup and took it home to eat. I ordered the gyro wrap with fries and their fried calamari.

I opened up the calamari first and dug in. As opposed to other times where I had it fresh in the

restaurant, taking it home was not the same experience. The food got cold in the car and it was slightly off-putting, but the texture was firm but chewy and the flavor was mild. The fry batter was still crunchy, and the freshly squeezed lemon juice was a huge boost. Additionally, the actual calamari was not fishy or gummy. Instead, it was firm but tender, as it is meant to be. In the end, I would say that this is definitely a dish to order in-person at the restaurant, which is open with physically distanced in-person dining.

Next, I opened up the gyro, a pita filled with meat, onion, tomato and tzatziki sauce, was pretty good, but not much more than that. The meat was uncharacteristically dry, but the tzatziki sauce was a flavor boost and made up for what the meat lacked. It is also important to note that the assembly of the wrap was well done; the meat was not overpacked and the vegetables were cut into pieces you could bite through instead of dragging out a whole slice of onion or tomato when I just wanted a single bite, which earns bonus points from me.

Last but certainly not least were the french fries. Normally I would not have much to say about french fries, because everyone knows french fries. However, every time I get Mykonos I always order the fries because they are really quite good. They have a quality about them that takes me back to going to a diner on a Sunday morning with my family — really crisp on the outside and exceptionally light and fluffy on the inside. These fries are some of the best I have had in my four years at Elon. It was nice to have these where the meal was lacking in other places.

Overall, Mykonos was not as good as I remember, but still pretty good. I would give this particular meal a five out of 10, only because the calamari and gyro were underwhelming. However, I would still recommend Mykonos to anyone who likes Mediterranean-style cuisine, and given the better meals I have had there before, I believe this is a one-off mistake. I will also give Mykonos a seven out of 10. Go and try it yourself with their extensive menu and different options. Dine in if possible and you will have a considerably better experience than you would with pickup or delivery.

As always, if you have any local restaurants that you would like to see featured, email me at jchambers5@elon.edu.

## JACK'S SCORE

# 7 of 10

Every week the restaurant reviewed is given a score out of 10



# WOMEN’S SOCCER ENTERS THE UNKNOWN



CLARE GRANT | PHOTO EDITOR

The women’s soccer team has found new challenges in connecting with underclassmen due to coronavirus physical distancing regulations.

Still without a spring schedule, women’s soccer tries to remain hopeful for a season

**Caitlin Rundle**  
Sports Director | @caitlinr\_21

The 2019 campaign for the Elon women’s soccer team was a historic one. Making it to the second round of the Colonial Athletic Association Championship tournament for the first time in program history capped off the team’s best season in the conference to date.

Though she said she is disappointed with the team’s final loss against Hofstra University, senior goalkeeper Valentina Estrada said the team is hopeful to produce the same results, if not better, this season. She said they are always striving to improve.

University football and basketball teams have been given a schedule for CAA play, but women’s soccer has yet to confirm that its spring season will actually happen. Senior midfielder Kara Kimberl said that it can be difficult to maintain a positive mentality while the fate of her final season remains unknown, but she still tries to go out to practices and give everything she has.

“We’re just kind of making the most of it. I mean, it’s tough. This isn’t how we had always planned this year to go,” Kimberl said. “It’s kind of hard because at this point, we would have been done with our soccer careers, and now it’s all kind of hanging in the balance, and we don’t really know what to expect.”

When the team first received news that the fall season would be postponed to at least the spring, Estrada said she wasn’t surprised. Though she said the team is still apprehensive about whether the spring season will occur, she’s happy that there’s at least the chance that she will have a final season. She said that she has been satisfied with athletic’s communication with athletes.

“They’re trying to communicate with us as best as possible because there’s a lot of

questions still up for administration, and then also for us. It’s also just a question of how the pandemic goes along. I feel like they’re telling us what they can tell us when they find out things,” Estrada said. “It’s not as quick, but I mean, you can’t really ask for more during this time.”

The team started off practices with small groups of four members and no contact during drills.

They’ve now worked up to full team practices with contact and weight training in two groups. Masks must be worn when the players are in contact with each other as well as in the weight room. No athletes share equipment and each athlete is provided individual racks for lifting.

“

WE’RE JUST KIND OF MAKING THE MOST OF IT, I MEAN IT’S TOUGH, THIS ISN’T HOW WE HAD ALWAYS PLANNED THIS YEAR TO GO.

**KARA KIMBERL**  
SENIOR MIDFIELDER

Though the team is practicing in full now, the initial lack of social interaction between the team led to some challenges creating connections with the underclassmen.

“It is hard though because even living-wise we’re so separated from them, because all the upperclassmen, we all live together, so we’re close in that way and they’re all separated in the dorms,” Kimberl said. “I definitely think the full team practices have helped them. Some of them have told me that they’re almost feeling kind of



CLARE GRANT | PHOTO EDITOR

Women’s soccer has gone from four person practice to full team practices in preparation for a spring season.

depressed, not having somewhere to go in the morning. Now having these practices to go to and being able to interact with their older teammates, I think it’s really helped them a lot to transition into college.”

Estrada agreed that the introduction of full team practices has helped build connections with the underclassmen, especially the freshmen. She said that it’s required more effort from the upperclassmen than in previous years to continue to build relationships, especially with the lack of a pre-season.

“Usually every single year [the pre-season] happens, it’s like an immediate bonding thing. You’re spending every single day, like two meals a day, three meetings a day, every single day for like a month, so then you really get to know people very quickly during pre-season,” Estrada said. “I’d say that everybody individually has had to put in three times the effort to be able to connect with the freshmen especially.”

The NCAA announced that it would extend eligibility for fall senior athletes

through a blanket waiver, though it is up to the individual program to decide how scholarships are allocated. Kimberl said that she wouldn’t take the extra year because she has already received a full-time job offer for next fall. Estrada said that she “personally doesn’t believe” she’d take the extra year if offered. She said that there are seniors on the team considering taking the extra year. Though it would pair easily with master’s programs on campus, she said that there are pros and cons to weigh for those still debating the offer.

For now, all the Phoenix can do is continue to train, practice and wait for the decision to be made regarding their spring season. For Estrada, this means maintaining their level of focus to continue to improve not just as a team, but as individuals as well.

“I think that’ll be important come this big break that we’re about to hit in making sure everyone stays motivated,” Estrada said. “We’re playing as if we’re going to have a season in the spring.”



# VOLLEYBALL SENIORS ADJUST TO NEW REALITY

Volleyball’s season postponement until the spring comes with pros and cons for two seniors on the team

**Annemarie Bonner**  
Elon News Network | @anne\_mariebon

Senior Kodi Garcia wakes up, showers, goes to class, meets with her adviser, heads to the gym for treatment, goes to practice, lifts, showers again and then goes to tutoring. If she has time, she then hangs out with her friends. This is another day not only in the life of a college student, but as a senior on the volleyball team.

Garcia has been playing volleyball at Elon University for the past four years. However, her last year is looking a little different.

Because there is no volleyball season this semester, Garcia has more time to focus on her studies. She also has found other hobbies during the time of no practice, including golf and tennis. She said she stepped away from her role as a Division I athlete and took advantage of a less structured daily schedule.

“During that time I was able to be a normal college student, which is totally different,” she said.

Senior Madison Genaway said the delay in beginning the season has a major benefit: delaying the end. In a normal year, the season would almost be over by now and Genaway’s time on the team would be coming to an end. For reference, last season ended on Nov. 23.

“The fact that it’s not over yet, we haven’t even started our senior season yet, is kind of nice,” Genaway said. “It’s prolonging the inevitable, but it’s just more time that we get to spend with our team.”

Genaway said thinking about the loss of a senior season and a senior day is difficult for her.

“I have been dreading senior season since freshman year because obviously I never wanted to stop playing or graduate,” Genaway said. “This year I was like, ‘well, you know what, I’ll be graduating with like my five best friends.’ We’ll get through this together. And then not having a season, it’s just hard.”

However, Genaway said she finds comfort in her coaches’ ability to honor her class, even amid the current COVID-19 restrictions.

“I know that no matter what, we’re still going to be able to be celebrated. Our coaches wouldn’t let us down like that,” Genaway said. “We were still going to be able to feel appreciated. They’ll still do something to represent us.”

Garcia said, the fall season cancellation has negatively affected her and prepared her for any new announcement.

She has taken this uncertainty to heart,



CLARE GRANT | PHOTO EDITOR

The Phoenix congregate before a 3-0 win against North Carolina Central University on Sept. 10, 2019. The cancellation of the 2020 fall season has prepared senior Kodi Garcia for the possibility of losing her senior season.

realizing that she may not get to play with her teammates for one last season in the spring. However, she has accepted that it is her time to move on from being on the volleyball team at Elon.

“I’ve already taken not having a season in the spring pretty hard and not having a full season already pretty hard,” she said. “I’ve been preparing myself for a text any day now saying that we won’t have spring sports.”

Garcia’s largest motivation heading into the spring season is giving it her all for her last ride.

“If it gets canceled, it gets canceled, but I know that I did everything I could and played the best I could with the ability I have,” she said.

Genaway has a similar rationale, and said her last season is motivation for her to play at the best level she can. Because she is ending her 10-year volleyball career, she wants to bow out on a successful note.

## COVID-19 restrictions

Along with the schedule shift, another major change is the mask requirement during all team practices and lifting sessions. The coaches are responsible for mandating

the six feet of distance rule. Genaway said that they are reminded at least 20 times throughout practices to remain distanced.

The mask requirement was not easy at first, but that has changed as time has passed, Genaway said.

“

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**MADISON GENAWAY**  
SENIOR

“It definitely takes some getting used to, but with wearing the masks, it’s getting a little bit more comfortable. I guess we’re getting used to it,” Genaway said.

The players are also not allowed to physically congratulate each other after plays, something that would be standard in practices and games. If a player breaks this protocol, their coaches will warn them. Players also hold each other accountable. The team is also allowed to step away from practice if they need a second to breathe without a mask on.

Genaway said the mask mandate required more adjustment when they first started to condition while wearing one.

“Now that we’re playing and I’m wearing the mask, I don’t even notice it, especially during play,” she said.

Another change is team bonding. Because of the current situation, the team is limited outside of practice activities. They can not all gather together in one space because it would be above the current limit on gatherings at the university.

The team typically participates in a “big-little” system, where an upperclassmen is matched with a younger player. However, those activities, along with other team

gatherings outside of the court can not operate.

“It’s a little bit hard now because since they’re not technically in our close contact circle, we can’t be obviously around them that much. We’re missing out on ‘big-little’ things and just being able to be as a whole team together,” Genaway said.

Their schedule now has returned to almost normal. The team practices every day except Wednesday.

They could not do their standard offseason routine in the spring, but are now practicing as they typically would. They hope to play a full season next semester. Even that is still uncertain.

As seniors, Garcia and Genaway both agree they may not miss the sport of volleyball itself, but they will miss the competition involved with the Division I program and their teammates. After they graduate, they will both have less structure in their daily routine, something that is different from being a Division I athlete.

Genaway said that while her next step is to get a job, she has the freedom to do that wherever and whenever she chooses.

The skills they have acquired, both physical and social, will lead them into their professional careers.

“The relationships and the connections,” Genaway said, “that we’ve made are going to be brought throughout our lifetime.”



CLARE GRANT | PHOTO EDITOR

It’s not the sport of volleyball Kodi Garcia and Madison Genaway will miss most after they graduate, but the competition and their teammates that comes with being a part of the Division I program.

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