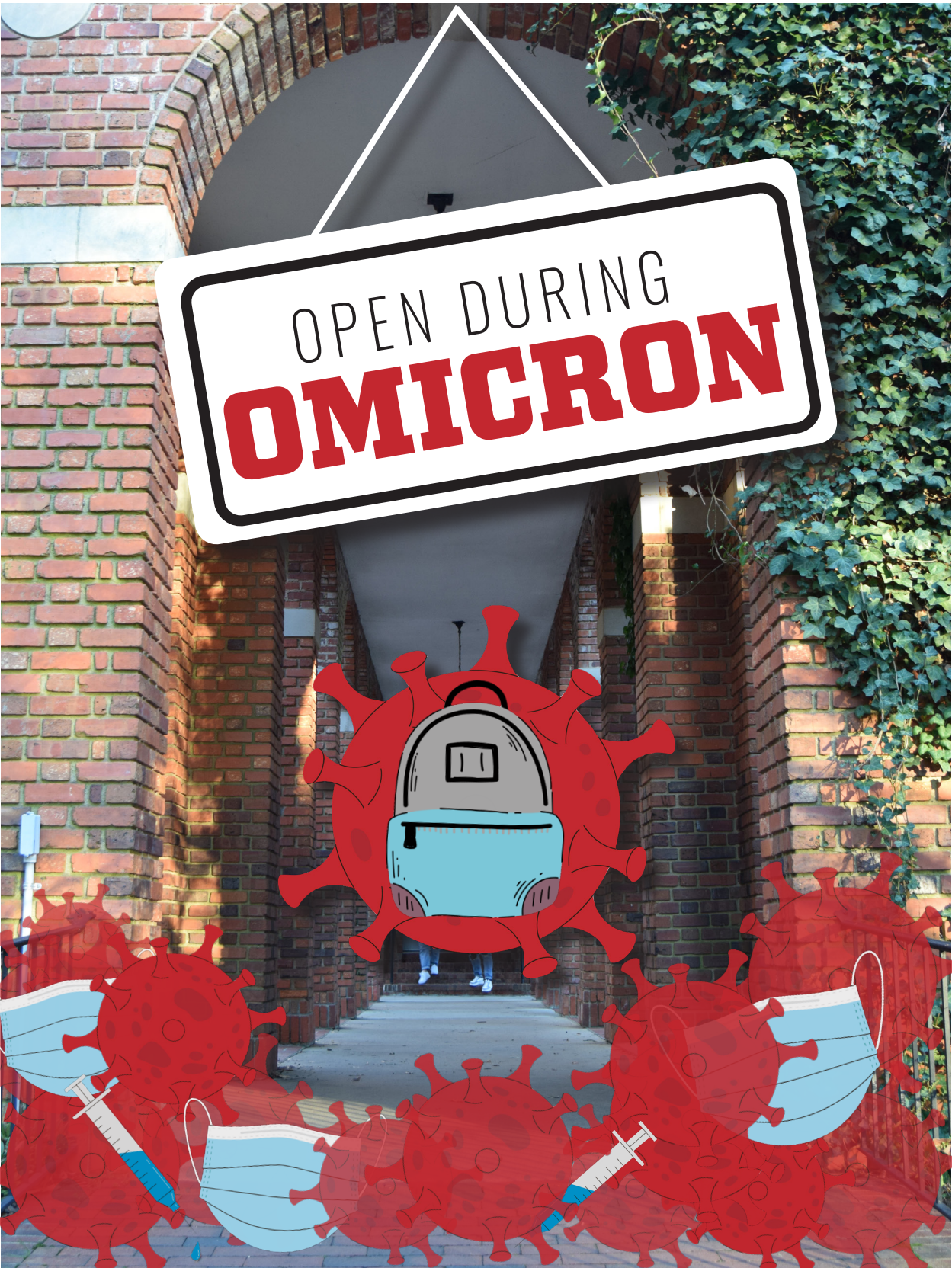


WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2022
ELON, NORTH CAROLINA
VOLUME 51, EDITION 14

THE PENDULUM



Students, faculty and staff returned to campus at the beginning of January for Winter Term. As the university welcomes students back, the Omicron variant, a more highly transmissible strain of COVID-19, raises concerns for some students.

As cases surge, Elon University students worry about safety, call for hybrid options for classes

Kyra O'Connor
Executive Director | @ko_reports

ELON UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, FACULTY and staff returned to campus for Winter Term amid rising cases of COVID-19. As the Omicron variant, a more highly transmissible strain of the virus, increases cases across the nation, some students are concerned about safety in the classroom and the lack of hybrid options.

“It’s just so hard being on campus around all these other people and not knowing what they’re doing,” sophomore Rachel Mullenix said. “It’s the university’s role, it’s their responsibility to keep up with us and I feel like they’re not doing that.”

Daily cases increase

Chair of the Healthy Elon Committee Jeff Stein said the university was prepared for the possibility of more cases on campus. Elon University had 87 total active cases among students and 54 among faculty and staff as of Jan. 9, according to the Healthy Elon COVID-19 dashboard. This compares to seven new cases on campus reported in the weekly Healthy Elon update of the semester, Dec. 8, 2021, just one month earlier.

As news of waning immunity in vaccines and new variants emerged, Stein said the university stayed in contact with local and state health officials to prepare for Winter Term.

“This will be a challenging month, at the very least,” Stein said. “The way Omicron seems to spread, it would be natural for us to expect students to get infected, faculty to get infected and staff to get infected, and with class being so intense ... that puts a lot of pressure on the students and faculty.”

The university announced it will be following the new guidance put forth by the Centers for Disease Control — individuals who test positive but are asymptomatic will only have to isolate for five days, and they do not have to have a negative test result after that period. Previously, individuals had to quarantine for 10 days.

Additionally, the CDC has determined that individuals who are exposed to COVID-19 and are not fully vaccinated should quarantine for five days, regardless of whether or not the individual has symptoms.

Stein said with tools gained in the last two years of the pandemic — vaccines, boosters, masks and increased ventilation in buildings across campus, for example — he hopes the university will not have to institute policies similar to last year, such as social hiatus.

“There is going to be a surge of cases. It’s happening all over the country,” Stein said. “Together we’ve managed to work through some of these, we just need to rely on each other. We need to use these tools that we have and take care of ourselves in particular, because it is stressful.”

See **OMICRON** | pg. 2

Jim Merrill returns to ABSS as interim superintendent

Merrill last served as superintendent in the school system in the early 2000s

Nyah Phengsitthy
Managing Editor | @nyahphengsitthy

It’s been over 16 years since Jim Merrill walked down the halls of Alamance Burlington School System as the superintendent. Now, after serving in three other school districts and an official retirement, Merrill returns to ABSS this year as the interim superintendent.

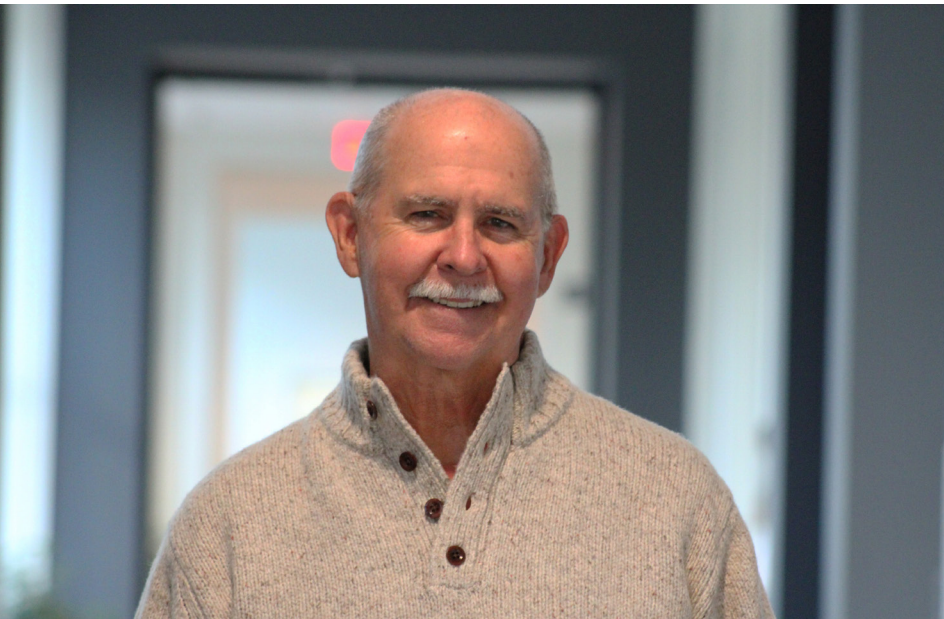
His new role comes after former ABSS superintendent Bruce Benson resigned at the end of 2021, cutting his contract short with three and half years left. As ABSS searches for a new successor in the coming months, the school system can say they’ve found someone deeply familiar with the position for the meantime.

“It’s strange to return to that office. To

walk those same halls ... There’s a lot of images that walk down with me,” Merrill said.

Merrill, who started at the beginning of January, returns with 20 years of experience — he served as the superintendent in Alamance from 2000 to 2006, Virginia Beach City Public Schools from 2006 to 2013 and then at Wake County Public Schools from 2013 to 2018.

Named North Carolina Superintendent of the Year in both 2005 and in 2017, Merrill finally announced his retirement as superintendent in 2018, but returned to the job two years later. During the height of the pandemic, Merrill was asked to serve as the interim superintendent for Wayne County Schools from June 2020 to December 2020, where his experience in leading during a pandemic began.



Interim superintendent of ABSS Jim Merrill returns with 20 years of experience and was named North Carolina Superintendent of the Year in 2005 and 2017.

See **SUPERINTENDENT** | pg. 4



NEWS • PAGE 7
Elon, journalism community remembers Madison Taylor



LIFESTYLE • PAGE 9
Mobile Library brings its wheels back to the local community



SPORTS • PAGE 10
Brie Perpignan continues final basketball season

THE PENDULUM

A PUBLICATION OF

ELON NEWS
NETWORK

Established 1974
Volume 51, Edition 14

Elon News Network is a daily news organization that includes a newspaper, website, broadcasts and podcasts. Letters to the editor are welcome and should be typed, signed and emailed to enn@elon.edu as Word documents. ENN reserves the right to edit obscene and potentially libelous material. Lengthy letters may be trimmed to fit. All submissions become the property of ENN and will not be returned.

KYRA O'CONNOR

Executive Director of Elon News Network

NYAH PHENGSIITTHY

Managing Editor of The Pendulum

BAYLOR RODMAN

News Director of Elon Local News

SOPHIE ROSENTHAL

Chief Copy Editor

JENNA MANDERIOLI

Social Media Coordinator

HALEY PHELPS

Video Production Manager

ELIZA TEWS

Analytics Director

JOSEPH NAVIN

Photo Editor

AVERY SLOAN

Politics Editor

SAMANTHA SUSSMAN

Lifestyle Editor

JACOB KISAMORE

Sports Director

RYAN KUPPERMAN

Enterprise Story Coordinator

Nyah Phengsitthy, Sophie Rosenthal and Sydney Koopman contributed to the design of this edition. Samantha Sussman, Abigail Hobbs, Miranda Ferrante, Gram Brownlee and Ryan Kupperman contributed the copy editing of this edition.

EDITORIAL POLICY:

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

CORRECTIONS POLICY:

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

Contact

corrections@elonnewsnetwork.com
to report a correction or a concern.

WHEN WE PUBLISH:

The Pendulum

publishes weekly on Wednesdays

Elon Local News

broadcasts Mondays at 6 p.m.

ELN Morning

broadcasts Thursdays at 10 a.m.

ENN On Air

broadcasts Tuesdays at 4:30 p.m.

ENN Radio Podcast

publishes Friday afternoon

CORRECTIONS

There are no corrections from the last edition of The Pendulum.



CARTER CRAIG | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Junior Rachel Mullenix said her Winter Term course has more students than her previous classes, which worries her as cases spike globally.

Omicron spurs confusion, anxiety among students

OMICRON | from cover

But for students like Mullenix, Elon's new guidelines feel like a step in the wrong direction. Mullenix said the absence of precautions such as weekly mandatory testing that were on campus last spring, despite the increase in cases, makes her wonder if the university's rules and mandates protect students well enough.

"We don't have weekly testing, except for people who were unvaccinated, which is a very small minority of students, even though we know that there's a lot of COVID," Mullenix said. "Obviously, something has changed. But if anything, they're reverting the rules to be less protective."

Senior Amy Moore's biggest concern is the asymptomatic spread of Omicron, especially among vaccinated individuals. Elon University requires all students to be fully vaccinated, including a booster shot to return to campus by Jan. 31. Moore said with the variant causing a higher rate of breakthrough cases in vaccinated individuals, she is worried.

"There can be people who are completely healthy outwardly, but actually are carrying COVID," Moore said. "I wish that we had more asymptomatic testing, but on the other hand, I don't know how effective that would be anyway ... It's kind of like a Catch-22 situation."

Hybrid options

Mullenix said in addition to no longer having mandatory weekly testing, the lack of a hybrid option for her course and the amount of students in her Winter Term classroom are also of concern.

While some professors have allowed students to attend class online throughout Winter Term, others do not, and according to Stein, this is by design. Professors have the ability to decide what method of instruction is best for their classrooms and students.

"The faculty are ready to work with students," Stein said. "We just all need to understand that every single faculty member in every discipline is a little bit different."

Especially during Winter Term, Mullenix said she worries students who do not have a Zoom option will feel pressured to come to class even if they feel sick to avoid missing material. Especially after hybrid classes were an option throughout the majority of last year, Mullenix said she questions why professors are allowed to not give students a Zoom option.

"We have the bandwidth to be able to let those students participate in class, and we're not doing it consistently," Mullenix said.

The attendance policy is on sophomore Danny Gutierrez's mind for Winter Term and beyond, as the campus community copes with COVID-19, but also with other illnesses.

"If I feel sick, I shouldn't have to go to class, even if it's not COVID. What if I had strep? What if I had the flu? What if I had something contagious? And I couldn't stay home? What then?" Gutierrez said. "COVID is making it very hard for people who are sick with other things to get sick days."

In previous years when students were unable to attend Winter Term classes due to illness, such as the flu, Stein said faculty worked with individual students as they're doing now. In some cases, the student was able to remain

in their class. In other cases, a student may have had to medically withdraw from the course.

Both Gutierrez and Mullenix said hybrid options are a tool they hope professors use during Winter Term and the spring semester to support students who are in quarantine, feel ill or are having mental health challenges.

"This is a matter of mental health and just taking care of your students. The fact that you are so unwilling for some reason to turn your computer on and send out a link really shows how much you care," Gutierrez said. "If you can't do that for your students, I really don't know if you care about your students' success."



WE DON'T HAVE WEEKLY TESTING, EXCEPT FOR PEOPLE WHO WERE UNVACCINATED, WHICH IS A VERY SMALL MINORITY OF STUDENTS, EVEN THOUGH WE KNOW THAT THERE'S A LOT OF COVID. OBVIOUSLY, SOMETHING HAS CHANGED. BUT IF ANYTHING, THEY'RE REVERTING THE RULES TO BE LESS PROTECTIVE.

RACHEL MULLENIX
SOPHOMORE

Looking ahead

As students navigate winter term, Stein said he hopes students, faculty and staff alike continue to take care of themselves, both by staying connected and involved in the community but also by wearing masks, keeping social circles smaller and getting the booster.

"This is also a time to remember that hopefully this is not forever. We are seeing this virus, even with the need for boosters, even with continued masking, we are seeing that we are moving towards a more endemic stage and hopefully that will come sooner than later," Stein said.

Gutierrez said he hopes professors offer both hybrid options and more testing is offered on campus throughout Winter Term and heading into spring. But he also hopes as the university and the world transition away from the policies from the onset of the pandemic, the empathy gained throughout the pandemic sticks around.

"There's no sympathy for anything. No empathy for anything. It's very unforgiving," Gutierrez said. "It's a very unforgiving environment right now."



Snow falls on Young Commons during the morning of Monday, Jan. 3, which was the first snowfall in Elon in 2022.

JOSEPH NAVIN | PHOTO EDITOR



Visitors watch a lion during the annual Tree Toss event on Saturday, Jan. 8 at the Animal Park at the Conservatores Center in Caswell County.

JOSEPH NAVIN | PHOTO EDITOR



A guitar player from Two Guys With a Guitar and Keyboard performs inside The Oak House on Friday, Jan. 7.

JOSEPH NAVIN | PHOTO EDITOR



Burlington resident Jackson Murray skates on Medallion Plaza in front of the Lakeside Dining Hall on Monday, Jan. 10.

JOSEPH NAVIN | PHOTO EDITOR



Students participate in the Ugly Sweater Bingo Night, hosted by Late Night Elon and the Student Union Board, on Thursday, Jan. 6 inside Lakeside. For more events hosted by Late Night Elon during Winter Term, visit latenightelon.com.

ABBY REED | ELON NEWS NETWORK

Merrill brings past experience to Alamance County

SUPERINTENDENT | from cover

Though he's only in the position for the next six months, Merrill plans on treating the role like he did in the early 2000s.

"As long as I'm here, I'm going to be operating as if I'm permanent. I'm not going to ignore stuff that needs to be addressed ... That's just the way I am," Merrill said. "Anybody can tread water for a while, but I was asked to help. There's a vacancy that's been there for a while, and it needs to be filled. It's a critical position."

“

WE ARE EXTREMELY BLESSED AND FORTUNATE TO HAVE SOMEBODY WHO HAS SERVED US PRIOR, WHO KNOWS OUR COMMUNITY AND COME BACK AND LEAD US IN A TIME OF TRANSITION HERE.

SANDY ELLINGTON-GRAVES
ABSS BOARD CHAIR

Merrill said many of the goals he has for the school system come from trying to recognize the severity of what ABSS is facing in terms of its challenges — teacher and staff shortage, overall school system funding, issues surrounding COVID-19 and more. His goals include increasing communication throughout the school system, finding consistency across schools in management, leadership, discipline implementation, creating board cohesion



Jim Merrill returned to the Alamance-Burlington School System in January to serve as the interim superintendent after former ABSS superintendent Bruce Benson resigned at the end of 2021. Merrill will serve in the system until June 2022 or until the school board finds the next successor.

and portraying the correct image of the district.

According to Merrill, many of the challenges ABSS and other school systems across the country face today have to do with funding. This is one thing he will keep in mind as he plans to move schools forward with the pandemic still strongly affecting education.

"Funding is always an issue in various states and from community to community, and whether folks want to hear it or not, compensation is related to retention and turnover. It's not just that, but it is certainly a piece that can cause people to leave ... But if you want someone to stay here and not go to a district next door, or halfway across the state, or to the Union state up north that pays 10, 15 grand more, you got

to step up."

New ABSS board chair Sandy Ellington-Graves will work closely with Merrill and the rest of the school board to accomplish these goals, as she believes the school system is in a "pivotal time right now."

Besides the years of experience Merrill brings to the table, Ellington-Graves said she looks forward to the ways he plans on strengthening the school district such as implementing a quarterly forecast to the school board that will map out goals and possible accomplishments and give a framework for moving forward.

"He has an extensive resume and just so many accomplishments and education," Ellington-Graves said. "As a district, we've got a lot on our plate right now. We are extremely blessed and fortunate to have

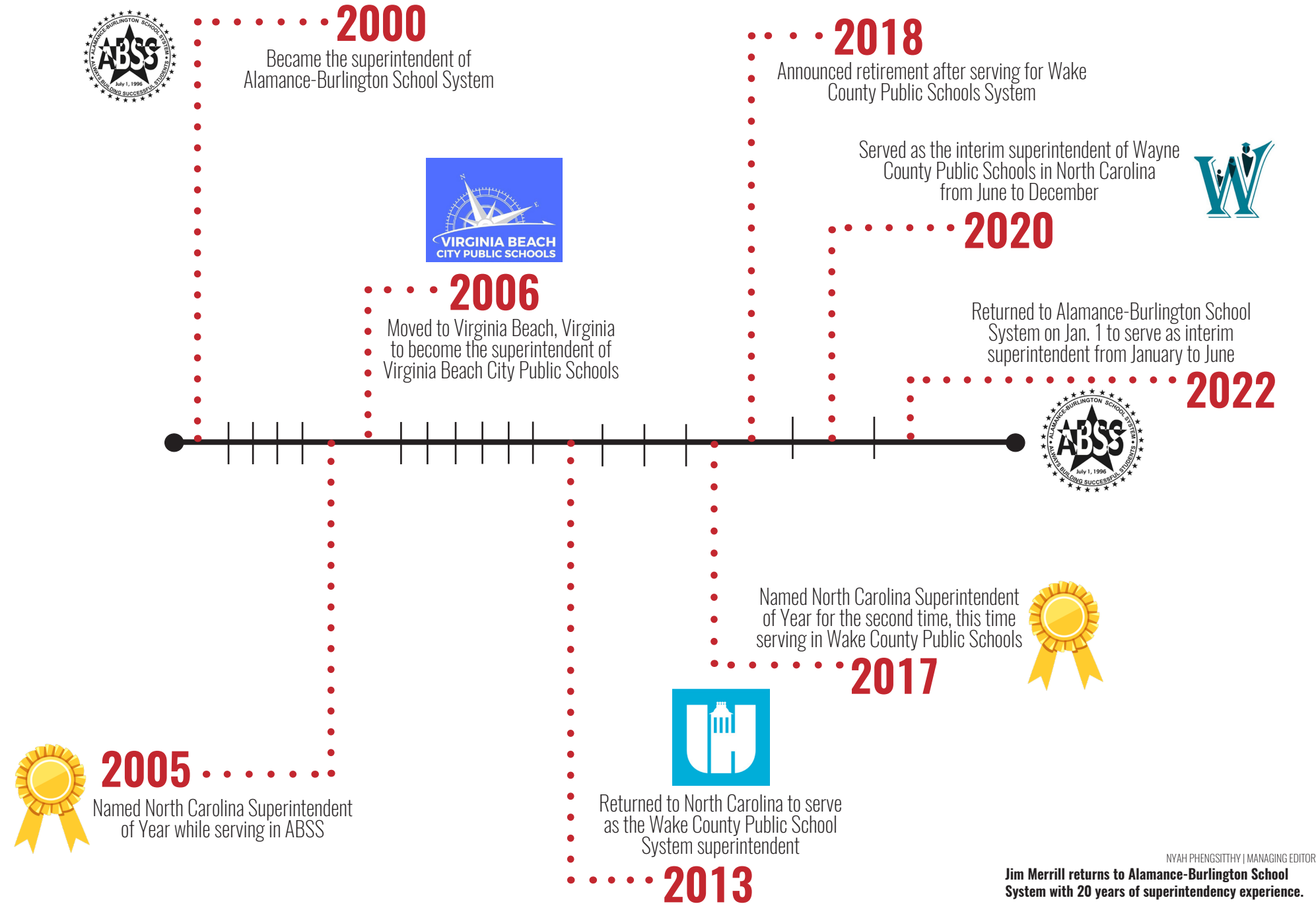
somebody who has served us prior, who knows our community and come back and lead us in a time of transition."

Ellington-Graves said she knew Merrill back in the early 2000s when he served as the superintendent when her children were enrolled in ABSS — a full 360 moment for her.

The school board will continue to search for the next superintendent as Merrill serves as interim until June 2022. Merrill, meanwhile, will continue to work in the place where his career first began.

"I've had a lot of love, and sweat and blood in this community from my first superintendency," Merrill said. "I'm living here again, and I could be living anywhere in the world probably, but I'm back here and I'm excited to be back."

ABSS INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT JIM MERRILL CAREER TIMELINE



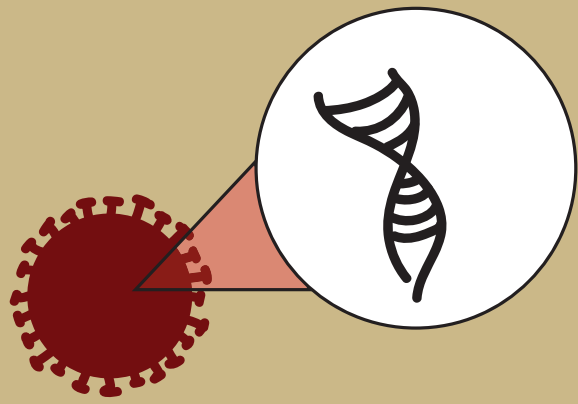
TESTING 1... 2... 3...

Where to get a COVID-19 test in Alamance County and which one you need

Sophie Rosenthal
Chief Copy Editor | @sophrosenthal

WHAT TYPE OF TEST ARE YOU GETTING?

POLYMERASE CHAIN REACTION TEST (PCR)

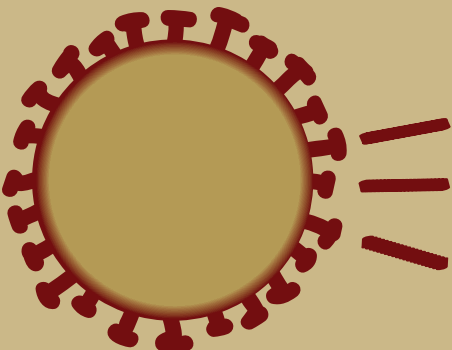


PCR tests work by identifying the genetic material of the COVID-19 virus.

PCR tests are administered by taking a nasal fluid or saliva sample. These tests use a polymerase chain reaction machine, and must be analyzed in a lab. Results are typically returned within a few days and are highly accurate.

SOURCE: MAYO CLINIC

ANTIGEN TESTS

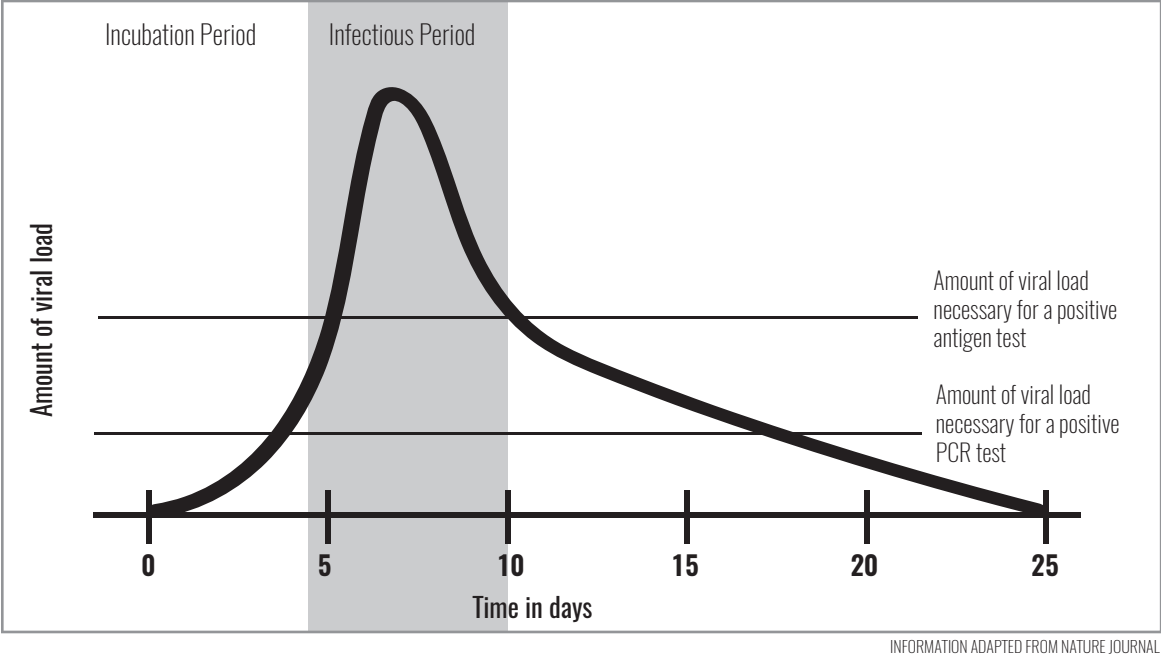


Antigen tests work by identifying the proteins on the outside of the virus molecule.

Antigen tests are administered by taking a nasal fluid sample. These tests do not have to be analyzed in a lab, and results are typically returned within a few minutes. They can be taken at home and are accurate when correctly administered.

SOURCE: MAYO CLINIC

VIRALITY OVER TIME IN A COVID-19 INFECTION



During the time a person has COVID-19, the viral load, or the amount of the virus they carry, varies. PCR testing can detect infection earlier and for a longer period of time because these tests can detect small amounts of viral genetic material. Someone could test positive even after they are no longer infectious. Rapid antigen tests, however, will only detect the presence of viral proteins when a person is most infectious.

WHERE CAN YOU GET A COVID-19 TEST?

ON-CAMPUS

Asymptomatic
McCoy Commons 207 (Located in Oaks Neighborhood)
Monday, Tuesday: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1 - 3:30 p.m.
Wednesday: 1 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Thursday: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1 - 3:30 p.m.
Friday: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Saturday, Sunday: Closed

Symptomatic
Student Health Services, Ellington Center
Monday - Friday: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1 - 3:30 p.m.
Saturday - Sunday: 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

On-campus testing uses antigen tests and PCR tests by request.

OFF CAMPUS

Walgreens
3465 S. Church St.
Burlington, NC 27215
Monday - Friday: 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Sunday: 10:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
By appointment PCR testing


CVS Pharmacy
1149 University Drive
Burlington, NC 27215
Monday - Thursday: 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Friday: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Saturday: Closed
Sunday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
By appointment PCR testing

AT HOME

PCR
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services partnered with Labcorp to offer free home self-collection tests to North Carolina residents. These tests can be ordered online.

Antigen
Walgreens, CVS Pharmacy and Target carry antigen tests that can be administered and read at home.

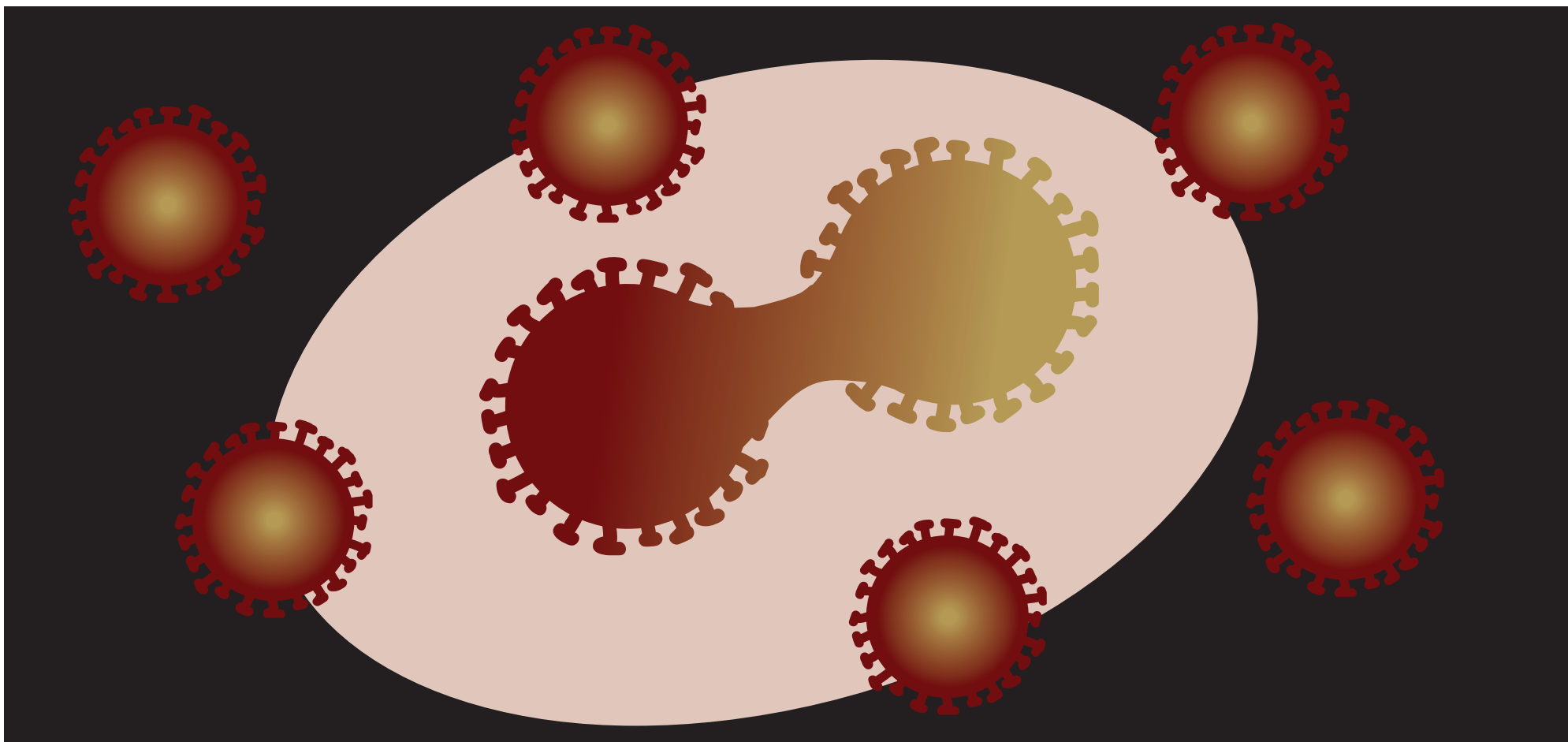
Online
Find a testing location near you with the NC COVID-19 test finder at covid19.ncdhhs.gov or scan the QR code



CHEAT SHEET

THE CHEAT SHEET IS AN INTERVIEW WITH A RELEVANT EXPERT TO EXPLAIN COMPLEX TOPICS

Omicron: Understanding the leading COVID-19 variant



SOPHIE ROSENTHAL

Illustration of COVID-19 variant Omicron mutating as a leading strain.

Epidemiologist Joann Gruber discusses Omicron variant, changes to pandemic response

Gram Brownlee
Elon News Network

Joann Gruber, an epidemiologist and professor of public health and epidemiology in Elon's department of public health, discusses the spread of the Omicron COVID-19 variant. Gruber has worked in different federal, local and state governmental agencies around public health during her career before she arrived at Elon in 2020.



Joann Gruber

What is so different about Omicron, compared to the previous few variants that we've seen, that causes it to spread so fast?

"I don't necessarily know exactly the biological mechanism. In terms of the shift, I think there's a few things going on.

There's an intersection between the biology and the social aspects because we have these changing viruses, they can make these little slight changes, and it sounds like Omicron sort of comes in, it really goes into your very upper respiratory tract.

And so that's one of the reasons they think is so contagious — it stays in this upper part of your respiratory tract and then can exit and leave and be spread easily from person to person.

Also, I think we've missed a lot of different mitigation strategies as well.

There's been more gatherings with the holidays and travel and these kinds of things that also feed that spread. ... We're still trying to kind of understand exactly why it is so contagious, but it definitely is much more easily spread from person to person than the other variants."

Does the fast spreading make it more dangerous as a variant?

"It's complicated with diseases because mild diseases can spread really fast, so it could be, it seems like it's a little less severe. The problem is, it's kind of yes and no.

Yes, part is that it is dangerous because you can just end up with massive cases. We've seen this big spike, and then this big increase in hospitalization, especially among unvaccinated people.

I think that's the real concern when you have such a wide spread of the virus, from my perspective, I'm concerned about our healthcare resources and how we can keep adequate care for people and both people who have COVID and don't have COVID, and so it kind of becomes a societal problem in that way, versus, I think there is some more mild disease happening, which is good, especially among vaccinated people.

The vaccines are so important, and a lot of vaccinated people seem to have asymptomatic infections or very mild infections, which is really good.

Disease spread doesn't always correlate to that severity, but Omicron still hits that point where we're concerned because there's still enough unvaccinated people globally as well."

Elon recently mandated the vaccine boosters for everyone starting in the next semester. So, have the boosters basically been proven at this point to be effective?

"The boosters are really important for helping manage disease, and I think, protect against Omicron and maybe Delta too.

I think it's a great move on the part of the administration, and I think it can help mitigate the spread within the campus and also externally to the community. Hopefully, it can help minimize the amount of spread in both places.

I think it is really important that students get the booster, both students, staff, faculty, everybody get boosted because it does really increase that antibody titer, which is one part of our immune response.

We also have other parts of our immune response that are harder to measure, usually, but it has been shown to really bring up those levels, and those levels do help you a lot against Omicron.

It's really important, especially with these surges, to get boosted as soon as you can.

And if you did get Johnson and Johnson as your first dose, try to go ahead and get one of those mRNA, Pfizer, Moderna vaccines, they complement each other really well, because I think that J&J vaccine gives

some more sustained protection too, so it's a good move."

Has this variant been more damaging to younger populations?

"I haven't heard a ton. I tried to do some reading here and there, but I have heard that there are some — hospitalizations have increased among children.

I don't know if those are children that can't be vaccinated, and that's always a concern because we still have this swath of the population that can't. They're vulnerable, susceptible. And then you, of course, don't want them to have severe outcomes in these really young age groups.

I know that there has been some increases there. And you kind of expect that when you just have a lot more spread of disease that you're, even if it's really rare, you're going to see these things happen.

But I don't necessarily know of a big shift in the dynamics, I think it's really the unvaccinated who are the most susceptible still."

Do you think that what Elon is currently doing with requiring boosters and masking inside is enough to curb the spread on campus?

"Yeah, I think it's definitely a great place to start, and I think those indoor mask mandates are absolutely essential.

It's really important, especially where people have to be in required spaces. Students may choose to do things; when there's a choice involved, it's different than when you have to be there and thinking of how we can protect staff, faculty, students, who have to come together in classrooms.

For example, some people might be taking care of older people or very young people that can't be vaccinated, and so I think that masking requirements are really important.

I think that booster, anything we can do to layer those interventions on top of each other, I think is really important ... I'm glad that the administration is doing that."

How do you think North Carolina at large has been handling the restrictions?

"I think it's been like a lot of places in the U.S. public health is a local issue, and so states can get involved. I'm really disheartened by the politicization of the pandemic, it's really disheartening as a public health person because it just does so much damage to public health and just us working together to get past this pandemic. So I think it really comes down to all these

political issues, but I know some of the bigger cities and things in North Carolina are going back to the mandates. I think it's important, I wish we could keep those in place because I live in Guilford County and we had a mandate, and then it let up right before the holidays. And then right as everything was really expanding, they were scrambling to get it back into place. The CEO of Cone Health was begging to have it be re-implemented because of the health-care utilization problem.

I just think we have to be kind of patient and maybe keep holding those things in there in place because they actually can help. And especially where people have to go and do their shopping, and there can be older people who are even vaccinated that need to go get their prescriptions, things like that. I think, when we think about our collective society, and what we can do, I think that's really important.

As a state as a whole, I don't necessarily expect to see anything a lot different than we have, but I could be wrong, and I could be surprised. I think there's going to be more focus on also getting out more testing. And I think that's really helpful to complement the masking, you know, again, thinking about the layers of the interventions — we have vaccines, we have indoor masking, you know, we have social distancing, we isolate people who are sick. We layer them on top of each other to try to get a hold of the case numbers, and, of course, our healthcare utilization. That's a big one."

Is there anything else that you think we should be doing as a community, or is this just the sort of thing we've got to ride out?

"I think at this point, you know, we've been in the pandemic, everybody's sick of it. I'm sick of it, we're all sick of it. But it's hard because the pandemic goes on whether or not we want it to end, whether we pretend it ends.

It's funny, because it's not like anything sexy or new. It's just the same things we've been doing all along, just really committing to those interventions that we do. ... That's part of it, it's hard sometimes, the communication around it, because we're still learning about the virus, how it spreads, how long you have immunity, how sustained is your immunity, how high is it, all these things. So, we might need additional boosters, who knows, and there could be other variants that emerge.

So it will end, the pandemic will end. We always have to remember that and I think just do the things that we know we need to do until it ends."

Madison Taylor Special to the Times-News By Madison Taylor, staff | June 21, 2021



COURTESY OF BURLINGTON TIMES-NEWS

REMEMBERING
MADISON TAYLOR

AUG. 12, 1959 — JAN. 6, 2022

Elon University staff member, former Burlington Times-News editor, dies at 62

Madison Taylor, development writer for University Advancement and career journalist, is remembered by family, friends and the community

Kyra O'Connor
Executive Director | @ko_reports

ROSELEE PAPANDREA TAYLOR MET her husband at a job interview. Madison Taylor, who worked at the Jacksonville Daily at the time, interviewed her and immediately became her editor. The pair worked together for months before going on their first “non-date date,” and then making their relationship official the day before Thanksgiving. That day, Roselee told Madison to meet her at her father’s house, where her father looked at the two and said, “Lois and Clark.” That sealed the deal, Roselee said, and the two were engaged and married shortly after.

“There wasn’t a day in our marriage that I did not know he was in love with me,” Roselee said, “I was the center of his world, and that was always apparent to me.”

Madison is survived by his wife, Roselee, who serves as Elon University’s associate director of university communications for admissions communications, and their rescue cat, Typo.

Madison, who served as a development writer for University Advancement and was a former Burlington Times-News executive editor, died on the evening of Thursday, Jan. 6, at age 62 at Duke Hospital after battling pulmonary fibrosis and emphysema.

Madison joined the Elon

University community in 2017, after over 30 years as a newspaper reporter, designer and editor. As a development writer, Madison told stories of what scholarships meant to Elon students and how new buildings and programs enrich the student experience, and he produced requests of support for scholarships and campus initiatives.

“He really loved talking to Elon students. That was probably his favorite part, is actually interacting with students, and being inspired by them and their stories,” Roselee said. “It was very important to him that what he wrote actually did the job, he wanted to know that what [he] wrote, that they were able to use it to actually get a donor to donate money, that was a big deal.”

Madison was a native of Stokes County, North Carolina. He wrote for the Reidsville Review, Burlington Times-News and the Jacksonville Daily News. For the last 10 years of his career, he served as the executive editor of the Burlington Times-News.

It was his work at the Burlington Times-News that Elon alumna and former Burlington Times-News reporter Natalie Allison remembers most about Madison. Allison grew up in Elon and learned about Madison through reading the paper, then

interning and later working under his leadership. Madison hired Allison for her first job out of college, and Allison eventually took over Roselee’s role as crime reporter for the paper when Roselee went to work for the university.

“He was a realist and a skeptic while still trying to see the best in people,” Allison said. “I learned so much from five years sitting in the newsroom watching and hearing him interact with his staff and with readers, and he was the role model.”

Allison said she can still hear his goofy laugh, but what she remembers most about Madison is his willingness to talk to anyone and everyone. Madison wanted to make sure that people in Alamance County knew that the newspaper was a place they could go to be heard.

“He made time all throughout the day, to take the calls of people in the community, some of whom all they wanted to do was to lash out and to complain, but he would listen to them and he would field their comments, and he would talk to lonely old ladies who really didn’t have anything they wanted to say, but just wanted someone to talk to,” Allison said.

Under his leadership, the Burlington Times-News won numerous awards and Madison

himself won awards for columns, opinion writing, sports reporting, and film and book criticism throughout his career.

“Madison’s impact on Alamance County can’t be quantified. He had a pivotal role in making sure we were holding those in power accountable, elevating the voices of the marginalized who hadn’t always gotten space in print and giving people a reason to subscribe and read the paper every day,” Allison said.

Madison had an impact on the community through print newspapers, but his impact online was large, too, Roselee said. After posting about Madison’s death to Facebook, Roselee had hundreds of comments from family, friends and community members alike.

“I will tell you that he died on Thursday and guarantee you, whoever’s birthdays were on Wednesday on Facebook, he wished them a happy birthday,” Roselee said. “Right now, the number of people, the number of stories that people are posting on Facebook about him, it’s overwhelming me ... it’s all just very overwhelming and very moving and a testament to the impact he had on the community.”

Messages of sympathy can be sent to 480 Whitt Avenue, Burlington, NC 27215.

STUDENT CLOTHING BRAND SYMBOLIZES PERSONAL GROWTH

Sophomore David Lenenberg started his own clothing business that sells a variety of merchandise

Ana Luisa Scholtes
Elon News Network



Clothing and merchandise items from Outlasting, a business that was created to symbolize overcoming and growing from one's past.

TO OUTLAST IS TO live or to last longer than — this is exactly what sophomore David Lenenberg keeps in mind as he creates clothes.

What started as a passion project quickly turned into a clothing brand business for Lenenberg. The business, Outlasting, was created to symbolize overcoming and growing from one's past — this meaning has had an impact on Lenenberg's life as he shares his story through his merchandise.

"I have dealt with my fair share of struggles due to my mental health. Anxiety and depression has always been difficult for me, but I refuse to let it define me or Outlasting," Lenenberg said. "Outlasting is a passion project that has saved me and I am hoping it does the same for others."

From self-designed t-shirts to collaborating with other brands in designing apparel, Lenenberg has developed his business into a brand selling a multitude of merchandise. Outlasting was created in 2018 to inspire other young entrepreneurs through street-style wear. After two years in development, the first clothing launch was in March 2020.



IT TOOK ME A LOT OF PLANNING, PREPARATION AND RESEARCH BEFORE I COULD START ACTUALLY SELLING CLOTHES.

DAVID LENENBERG
FOUNDER OF OUTLASTING

"It took me a lot of planning, preparation and research before I could start actually selling clothes," Lenenberg said. "I really had no idea how much work there was until I began Outlasting."

Lenenberg said the majority of the work came from finding a manufacturer within his price range and developing the brand's website.

Growth is a large aspect of the branding for Outlasting and is often incorporated into the designs. Each piece is carefully curated to exhibit a deeper meaning in a street-style manner. The butterfly is a meaningful symbol for Lenenberg, and it has appeared in some designs because it resembles growth and transformation.

The social media presence of Outlasting



Sophomore David Lenenberg packs up his car with merchandise customers have ordered from his business, Outlasting. The clothing brand was created to inspire other young entrepreneurs through street-style wear and was launched in March 2020.

has grown tremendously in the last year. The Instagram has collected over 3,500 followers consisting of Elon students, street-clothing enthusiasts and other street-style brands. In September of 2020, Outlasting released a UV-activated shirt and hoodie, which resulted in one of the brand's most successful drops bringing in over \$5,000 in revenue. Lenenberg credits the response to a video he posted on TikTok to promote the drop, which collected over 15k views.

"TikTok has been a really great platform to promote Outlasting," Lenenberg said. "Showing my face in the videos makes everything a little more personal and gives me an opportunity to connect with other small brands and people interested in starting their own brands."

During his time at Elon, Lenenberg had the opportunity to promote his brand to his friends, colleagues and classmates. Sophomore Claudia Held said she is an avid supporter of Outlasting and is a friend of his.

"I first ordered from Outlasting last fall. The UV t-shirt is one of my favorites to wear. The shirt is made of quality material and is super soft," Held said. "David really knows what he is doing."

Lenenberg has also used his brand to promote other topics such as environmental protection. On Earth Day last year, Outlasting collaborated with 15 small brands to create and sell a shirt promoting environmental protection. Each shirt sold was worth three trees and the proceeds were sent to Team Trees in collaboration with the Arbor Day Foundation, which has planted 22 million trees nationwide.

In July 2021, Outlasting participated in another collaboration with 16 other small brands to create a shirt promoting awareness for the Cuban crisis. All of the profits made were donated to the Center for Cuban Studies. Both projects have had a positive response from Lenenberg's audience.

Sophomore Elizabeth Kerfoot is one customer who recognizes the work and messaging Lenenberg promotes with Outlasting.

"David's collaboration with Team Trees and Center for Cuban Studies was really cool," Kerfoot said. "I didn't expect him to take his brand in that direction. It's pretty amazing."

Though it's been almost two years since Outlasting's launch, it's still only the beginning for the business. Lenenberg said

he hopes to continue to grow Outlasting into a positive brand that is equally accessible and affordable.

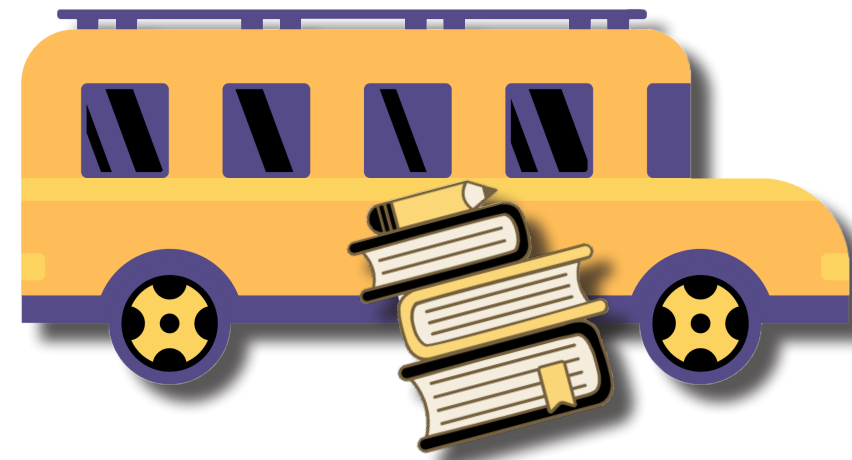
"There are still so many things I want to do with Outlasting," Lenenberg said. "I have so many ideas and could take it in so many directions. I cannot wait to see where I am 10 years from now."

SCAN TO LEARN MORE ABOUT
OUTLASTING CO.
OR VISIT
INSTAGRAM.COM/OUTLASTINGCO/



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

A LIVING LIBRARY:



ALAMANCE COUNTY’S MOBILE LIBRARY RETURNS

Mobile library provides an array of educational services for local community

Amanda Cantale
Elon News Network | @AmandaCantale

Susie Flores spends her days driving a bus filled with books and other educational materials. She takes the Alamance County Mobile Library around the local community, delivering materials and resources to people who need them.

“We have a large print selection. We have some DVDs and playaways,” Flores said. “If the patron wants to get a book that we don’t have, we can request it, we can bring it but we also have our own collection of books, which are brand new materials basically. We also have internet access and we are working on getting some printers as well.”

As the manager of Alamance County Mobile Library, Flores works to deliver literary and some electronic media to those who need it. The mobile library travels around the county, providing the same services as the physical branches. Flores works closely with director of the Alamance County Public Library system, Susana Goldman, to make sure that the library makes it to children around the county.

FIRST MOBILE LIBRARY

The first mobile library in Alamance county started in the 1940s.

The first mobile library in Alamance County started in the 1940s and lasted until the 1980s. The last vehicle in the early ‘80s wasn’t replaced until the mobile library was brought back in 2021. The current mobile library was custom built in July and has been on the road since October of 2021. Within the first three weeks, Goldman said that they saw over 600 people on the vehicle. And now with the year ahead of them, the mobile library hopes to reach more people.

The vehicle travels to various locations such as charter schools, retirement facilities, churches, daycares, parks and far away or lower class neighborhoods.

“We have the adaptability to take all the services that we can provide in a library to our community out where they are while recognizing that people have bigger needs, allowing them to be able to come to us all the time,” Goldman said.

Goldman said that having a vehicle that can travel has been a real benefit to the community with more requests coming in for various locations to be included around the county. The library on wheels has visited festivals, fairs, special requested events and other areas.

“People still need access to information and we are able to help them with that,” Flores said. “I think it definitely meets a real need, and the mobile library makes that even more accessible.”

The mobile library is on a three-week rotation with two or three stops a day, four days a week. There are around 28 to 30 stops in the three week period alone. The three week rotation period is how long a patron can keep a book they checked out from the library.

Resources are the same as inside the Alamance County Public Library, such as



LUKE JOHNSON | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kids from a Salvation Army afterschool program in Graham leave the Graham Recreation Center and line up to check out books from the mobile library on Jan. 6. The mobile library started operation in October 2021. According to driver Susie Flores, it makes three stops at various locations around Alamance any given day.

checking out books and requesting items. Anyone who lives or works in Alamance County, or lives in a county that is directly touching Alamance County, is eligible to obtain a library card — including college students.

In addition to the mobile library, the mobile



WE ARE NOT TIED DOWN BY ONE LOCATION. THE IDEA IS TO BREAK THE CONCEPT OF A TRADITIONAL LIBRARY AND MAKE IT ACCESSIBLE ANYWHERE.

SUSAN GOLDMAN
DIRECTOR OF THE ALAMANCE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

cafe also plays a major role in the county, according to Goldman. The mobile cafe is a smaller vehicle that provides internet access for patrons as well as the same print and nonprint materials.

“During the summer, people would be able to pull chairs out and use the internet. I’ve noticed some of those neighborhoods and parks are in the places that people are really needing the second vehicle,” Goldman said.



LUKE JOHNSON | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Two kids from a Salvation Army afterschool program in Graham grab for a book simultaneously inside the mobile library outside at the Graham Recreation center on Jan. 6.

Though the mobile library vehicle was delayed for over a year because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Goldman said it’s now an easy alternative to get ahold of library resources faster and in a much safer way.

“We do see that it’ll continue to expand what we can do in the future, even if variants remain for the foreseeable future. I think the mobile libraries will still be very popular,” Goldman said.

The mobile library is used by patrons of all ages, however, they often get positive feedback from children — especially in lower income housing locations.

“Being able to get out there into the community so people have access to these free things for whatever they need them for, that’s what it is all about,” Goldman said.

Flores said even in locations with fewer patrons, the mobile library making an appearance is still important and rewarding.

“It’s exciting to be able to see them check out books and then they know that I’m going to be back in a few weeks,” Flores said. “Getting them interested in reading and in educating themselves and learning, you know, all those good things.”

SPORTS



Senior guard Brie Perpignan bringing the ball up the court during Elon’s match against Howard University in Schar Center on Monday, Nov. 15. The Elon Phoenix won the game 60-44.

JOHN LUKE FARAH | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A SENIOR STAR

Brie Perpignan enters her final season at Elon as one of the team’s most important pieces

Joanna Dwyer
Elon News Network

Senior guard Brie Perpignan has been a leader for Elon University’s women’s basketball for the last four seasons. After the team’s last season was shortened due to COVID-19, Perpignan said she is ready to be back on the court.

“I’m just excited to play all of our games we do have on the schedule, and it’s something we’re really looking forward to,” Perpignan said.

Head coach Charlotte Smith said Perpignan has been an influential player for the program from the very first day she arrived on campus.

“Brie’s always been a leader for us,” Smith said. “Brie brings great energy to practice every day. She brings a smile on her face every day. She’s done a great job of leading this team in the preseason, holding people accountable, being fearless and stepping up.”

Perpignan leads the team in scoring through 12 games this season, averaging 13.5 points per game. While several in the program view her as a leader, she said everyone on the team plays a leadership role — no matter their age or experience.

“Even our younger players, they’re still leaders themselves,” Perpignan said. “We hold them to the same accountability that the seniors are held to also. So we don’t really look at them as younger players. They’re still just other players on the team just like us.”

Elon holds an 8-4 record this season. Perpignan said the group works to create a positive environment for one another so they can grow as a team.

“We’re all lifting each other up, elevating each other every day and practice on the court and off the court,” Perpignan said. “So just being out there with my team is like, we’re just a team.”

Going into her final season at Elon, Perpignan said she has created some great

memories and is looking forward to having more this season.

“My favorite memory is probably just freshman year coming in here to the Schar Center and learning the whole Elon atmosphere and learning my teammates, especially the people I came in with,” Perpignan said.

“

BRIE BRINGS GREAT ENERGY TO PRACTICE EVERY DAY. SHE BRINGS A SMILE ON HER FACE EVERY DAY. SHE’S DONE A GREAT JOB OF LEADING THIS TEAM IN THE PRESEASON, HOLDING PEOPLE ACCOUNTABLE, BEING FEARLESS AND STEPPING UP.

CHARLOTTE SMITH
WOMEN’S BASKETBALL HEAD COACH

As Perpignan continues her senior season, she said teamwork is what she values most and believes this year’s team works very well together.

“We’re out there playing with each other, playing for each other,” Perpignan said. “It’s never just one of us out there. It’s all of us out there together, battling together. There’s nobody I would want by my side other than my team.”



Perpignan shooting a layup during Elon’s match against Howard University in Schar Center on Monday, Nov. 15. The Elon Phoenix won the game.

JOHN LUKE FARAH | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SCAN TO KEEP UP WITH ELON
WOMENS BASKETBALL
OR VISIT
ELONNEWSNETWORK.COM/
SECTION/SPORTS



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



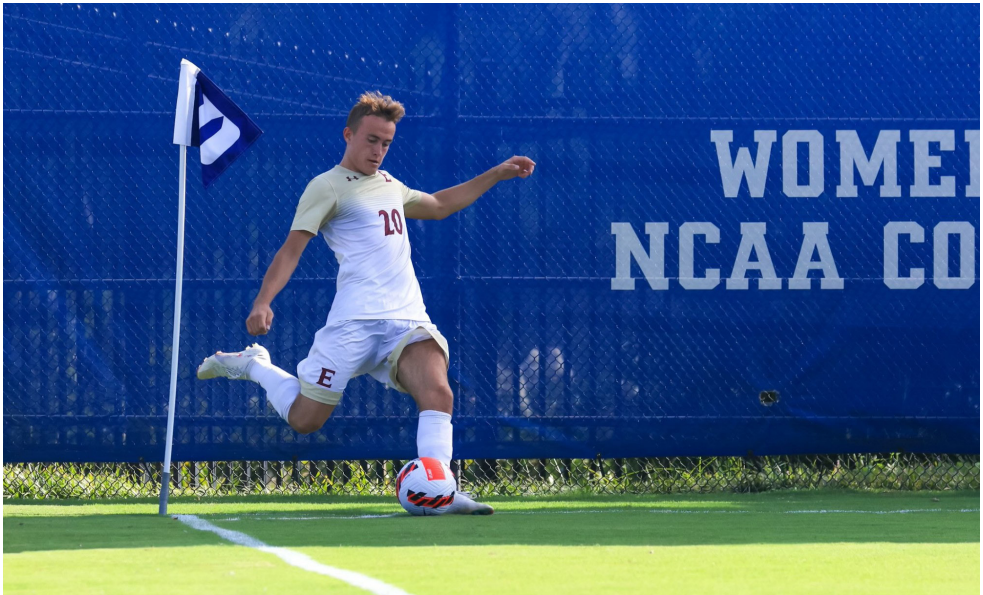
CHORR-KIN CHIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Left to right: Senior Jeppe Jordoson and junior Jack Dolk dribble the soccer ball. Jordoson and Dolk hail from Denmark and Sweden respectively and both love the atmosphere that having other Scandinavian teammates has created. “I have a new family here and I’m very happy with the family I’ve got here,” Dolk said.

LUCAS CASEL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SCANDINAVIANS FIND HOME AT ELON



Left to right: Junior Jannik Videbaek and sophomore Scott Vatne originate from Denmark and Norway, respectively, and have contributed to bringing Scandinavian culture to Elon. Videbaek and Vatne are two out of the 10 Scandinavian players on Elon’s 2022 men’s soccer roster.

LUCAS CASEL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Men’s soccer sees high recruitment from Scandinavia

Jacob Kisamore
Sports Director | @jacobkisamore

A third of Elon University’s men’s soccer roster last season — 10 of 30 players — hailed from Denmark, Norway or Sweden, which are part of a region in Northern Europe known as Scandinavia.

Scandinavian players played a critical role for the team last season, making a combined 102 starts and scoring 15 of the team’s 24 goals.

Soccer is the most popular sport in Europe and the continent has risen to prominence with its success on an international level, as European countries have won five of the last six FIFA World Cups. While Scandinavia has never won a World Cup, soccer is still the most popular sport in the region — according to World Population Review.

Soccer has always been a part of Elon senior Jeppe Jordoson’s life. His uncle played the sport professionally and, at age 3, Jordoson began playing the game in his home country of Denmark.

“It’s been in the family and it’s always been like the family’s ‘go to’ sport,” Jordoson said. “When we don’t play it ourselves, we watch it, we go to games and it’s just a passion that we have. Sharing it and going to games is just like great social stuff to do with your family. So it’s always been a part of my life.”

Similarly, Elon junior Jack Dolk was two years old when he got his first soccer jersey. A native of Enberg, Sweden, he was introduced to the game by his grandpa. The game created a bond between them that inspired Dolk to

start playing.

“He was the one that pushed me to it,” Dolk said. “He was the one that took me to my practice and made sure that soccer was the sport for me.”

From Scandinavia to Elon

Advancements in technology have made recruiting foreign players much easier, according to head coach Marc Reeves. While coaches used to have limited access to short highlight tapes of international players, they now can watch high quality video of entire club and junior games from around the world to get a better sense of prospective recruits.

Reeves said he built strong connections in Denmark during his time as an assistant coach at St. John’s University and that his assistant coaches also have connections in Scandinavia that alert them of talented young players in the region to scout. He said he is not only looking for talented players but high integrity students who will represent the program well.

“Once we find or have an interest in a player, we try to do as much background as possible, not just on their play, but also their personality,” Reeves said.

Agencies help create opportunities for soccer players in Scandinavia to play at American colleges and universities by sending video to and contacting coaches about their clients.

Dolk wanted to continue his education beyond high school while still playing soccer. To do that in Sweden, he would have had to move towns and play for a different club team. He instead decided to let an agency known as College Scholarship USA represent him. He participated in the agency’s showcase event during his second year of high school, where

Elon had representatives in attendance.

Later that week, he learned from his agent that Elon’s coach wanted to meet with him. For Dolk, committing to the school was an easy choice.

“IT WAS JUST LIKE FEELING HOME WITHOUT EVEN BEING THERE. THEM SHOWING ME THAT WE REALLY WANT YOU, I REALLY APPRECIATED THAT.”

JEPPE JORDOSON
SENIOR

“Elon was the only school that I talked to,” Dolk said. “Things clicked and it was a good match.”

Jordoson was also represented by College Scholarship USA and said Reeves flew to Denmark to meet with him and his family, as well as watch him practice with his club team. Jordoson said that this expressed effort helped seal the deal in his commitment to Elon.

“It was just like feeling home without even being there,” Jordoson said. “Them showing me that we really want you, I really appreciated that.”

Adjusting to college

Reeves said that because players from Scandinavia play at either a club or professional level from a young age, they often have an edge over other recruits from playing against other physical, talented players.

“Maybe they’ve played in men’s league football, which means the physicality and pace is a lot stronger and faster,” Reeves said. “So those guys are maybe a bit more ready.”

While Scandinavian players must adjust on the field, they must also adapt to attending college and being away from family. Even with a six hour time difference between Elon and Sweden, Dolk said he calls his family every day to stay close with them. While he misses being with his family, he said he has developed several close knit relationships throughout his time at Elon.

“I am a mama’s boy, but I’m old enough to take care of myself,” Dolk said. “That physical contact, you’re missing that, you’re missing being served your mom’s food and just being around them. But I have a new family here and I’m very happy with the family I’ve got here.”

One of the biggest comforts for both Dolk and Jordoson since arriving at Elon has been the strong presence of other Scandinavian players on the men’s soccer team. Jordoson said it is nice to be able to speak with other Scandinavians, as they are from similar cultures and are going through similar experiences.

“We have the same understanding, like socially, culturally, the same standpoint of where we come from, so that’s helpful,” Jordoson said.

MAKE HEADLINES

**INTERESTED IN JOINING
ELON NEWS NETWORK?
WE'RE HIRING.**

OPEN TEAMS:

- Multimedia Reporting
 - News
 - Politics
 - Lifestyle
 - Sports
 - Opinions
- Photography
- Design
- Broadcast Production
- Copy Editing
- Social Media
- Media Analytics
- Business
- Web
- Public Relations

WHY JOIN:



Elon News Network is an incredible organization that has presented me with endless opportunities to learn and grow. I am constantly inspired by hard-working individuals who push me to step out of my comfort zone and try new things. ENN provides me with resources to further develop my skill set and ultimately, make me more marketable for future employers.

MIRANDA FERRANTE
REPORTER

**WATCH ELON LOCAL
NEWS LIVE
AT 6:00 PM ON
MONDAYS**

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE ANY TIME
ELONNEWSNETWORK.COM**

**GRAB A COPY OF
THE PENDULUM
ON WEDNESDAYS**

CONTACT US:

MCEWEN 108 | ENN@ELON.EDU