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ELON, NORTH CAROLINA

# THE PENDULUM



**Meg Malone**  
Assistant News Editor  
@megretjeane

The motivations for traveling to Washington, D.C., are different for each person. Curiosity. Marching for a cause. Witnessing history in the making. Regardless of their convictions, a variety of Elon University students are planning to be in Washington, D.C., for the Inauguration of President-elect Donald Trump Jan. 20, and for The Women's March on Washington Jan. 21.

Scores of people, these students included, have said the inauguration is more than a just a historic day — it's a stepping stone toward an uncertain future.

Sophomore Evan Sassaman and senior Nicole Baugh will be at the inauguration as part of an experiential learning course, "Experiencing D.C.," taught by political science professors Betty Morgan, Joel Shelton and John Strange.

See **INAUGURATION**  
pg. 4

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE HAYS | Design Chief

## Elon takes steps to honor Martin Luther King, Jr.

**Anton L. Delgado**  
Contributor  
@aJADelgadoNews

The second line of the Declaration of Independence states that "all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

For more than 50 years, Martin Luther King Jr. has inspired citizens across the nation to reconsider their interpretations of equality and liberty. More importantly, he made citizens think about what those words truly looked like in practice.

Elon University students draw motivation from the Civil Rights Movement King led against injustice and inequality despite the adversity he faced.

"Despite the countless threats to his life, his family and the physical abuse he suffered, King held true to the belief that what he was

doing was right and that it was necessary," said junior Alexis Williams, president of the Black Student Union (BSU).

King's steadfast dedication to his cause is not the only admirable quality that students attempt to emulate.

"His tenacity is what influences me the most," Williams said. "When you are trying to change things, ultimately you are going to be faced with challenges but like MLK, you can't quit."

BSU didn't host just one event for MLK Day, but instead has planned a series of events throughout Black History Month in February.

According to Williams, these events will "focus on African-American Heritage, which is the nature of the BSU organization."

"We constantly try to remind students that understanding each other's differences is important to do on a daily basis," she said.

See **MLK**  
pg. 5



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY SIGMA DELTA CHAPTER OF ALPHA PHI ALPHA  
**Brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity attend a march in Burlington in honor of MLK Jan. 15**

### NEWS



Elon students face practicality of meal plan costs

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### STYLE



Senior finds confidence in pole dancing, modeling

**13**

### SPORTS



After quick search, expectations high for new hire Cignetti

**18**

THE PENDULUM

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NETWORK

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 CRIME REPORT

**BURLINGTON  
GARDEN ROAD**  
Indecent Liberties with a Child

Robert Alexander Hathaway, 40, was arrested at 1 a.m. Jan. 15 for taking indecent liberties with a minor. Officers conducting an unrelated traffic stop in the Walmart parking lot on Garden Road in Burlington made the arrest. A warrant for Hathaway's arrest was filed Jan. 12 after Burlington police responded to the reported sexual assault of an 11-year-old minor. Hathaway has been taken into custody at the Alamance County jail under a \$50,000 bond.

**GRAHAM  
S MAIN STREET**  
Robbery

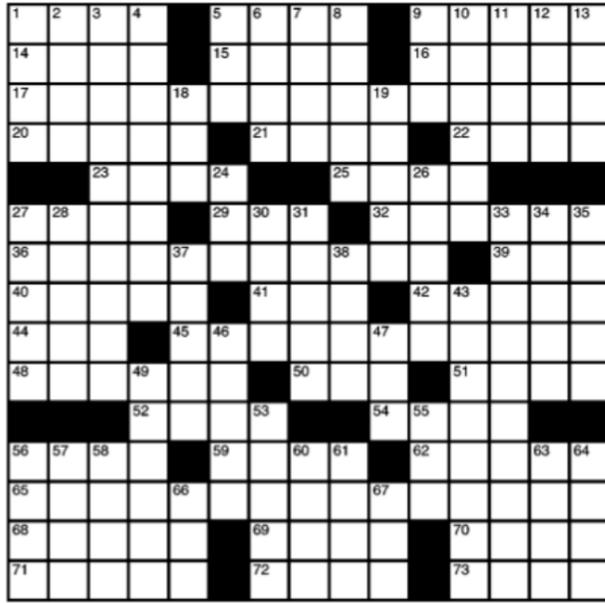
The Wells Fargo on South Main Street in Graham was robbed Jan. 14 when a man wearing a hooded black sweatshirt entered the store at 9:55 a.m. and handed a teller a note demanding money. The teller complied, and the suspect fled on foot.

 GAMES

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Early sitcom co-star Amaz
  - 5 It's over a foot
  - 9 Zagreb native
  - 14 Wolfs down
  - 15 Madre's boy
  - 16 Toy in many "Peanuts" panels
  - 17 Not a fearful place for acrophobia sufferers
  - 20 Casino lineup
  - 21 Starting on
  - 22 Palette choices
  - 23 Morose
  - 25 Droop in the garden
  - 27 Tight hold
  - 29 401(k) alternative, briefly
  - 32 Went ballistic
  - 36 Not a fearful fund for agoraphobia sufferers
  - 39 Folk rocker DiFranco
  - 40 Belittle
  - 41 Showy Japanese school
  - 42 To a degree, informally
  - 44 Haul to the garage
  - 45 Not a fearful Camus work for xenophobia sufferers
  - 48 Name on the 1967 album "I Was Made to Love Her"
  - 50 Pilot's stat
  - 51 Ward of "Sisters"
  - 52 City with ferry service to Copenhagen
  - 54 Damon of "Interstellar"
  - 56 Fix, as a pet
  - 59 Deft tennis shots
  - 62 Ragu rival
  - 65 Not a fearful roadster for arachnophobia sufferers
  - 68 Prolonged assault
  - 69 Way through the trees
  - 70 Curly cabbage
  - 71 Wielded an ax
  - 72 "Button it!"
  - 73 Actor Byrnes and announcer Hall



By C.C. Burnikel

1/18/17

- DOWN**
- 1 Cotillion attendees
  - 2 Banjoist Scruggs
  - 3 Admired reverentially, with "of"
  - 4 Elemental forms used in carbon dating
  - 5 NBC weekend skit show
  - 6 "Sup"
  - 7 Travel section listing
  - 8 "Not happenin'"
  - 9 Key econ. indicator
  - 10 Subjects of the first 10 Amendments
  - 11 Iolani Palace island
  - 12 Kitty starter
  - 13 Throw
  - 18 Sch. near Topeka
  - 19 TurboTax option
  - 24 Outer edge
  - 26 Mucho
  - 27 Future MBAs' exams
  - 28 High-tech worker
  - 30 Golf bunker tool
  - 31 Got up

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved



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12/8/16

- 33 Online pop-up tailored to individual tastes
- 34 Recon goal
- 35 Pageant headpiece
- 37 Elusive Himalayans
- 38 "Batman" actress Eartha
- 43 Picket line placard
- 46 Word of greeting
- 47 Aries symbol
- 49 Journey
- 53 Zing
- 55 Droid download
- 56 Pageant band
- 57 Ballet class bend
- 58 Small number
- 60 Main squeeze
- 61 Pub crawlers
- 63 Fix, as a horse
- 64 Tram loads
- 66 Chinese lantern color
- 67 "Button it!"

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 UPCOMING EVENTS: JANUARY 18 - 24

5:00 P.M. | Michael Kimmel, "Mars and Venus, or Planet Earth" 18

8:00 P.M. | Turner Theatre "Before the Flood" screening 19

12:00 P.M. | Presidential Inauguration Watch 20

7:00 P.M. | Men's Basketball vs. William & Mary 21

1:00 P.M. | Men's Tennis vs. Monmouth 22

7:30 P.M. | "You Can't Take It With You" production 23

All Day | Classes end 24

# TOP PHOTOS



AJ MANDELL | Staff Photographer  
Planes paint the sky over the Martha and Spencer Love School of Business as the sun begins to set Jan. 13.



AJ MANDELL | Staff Photographer  
Freshman Price Rowland and senior Michael Hemstreet volunteer for Habitat for Humanity by building a display out of donated materials Jan. 16.



MICHELLE KLEIN | Contributor  
Lake Mary Nell and other parts of Elon's campus were buried under 8 inches of snow Jan. 7.



DIEGO PINEDA | Photo Editor  
Sophomore Jordan Levine and freshmen Matt Reichenbach and Lumiere Rostick reflect at the memorial site of the Pulse Shooting in Orlando, Florida, Jan. 13.



“ WHEN I FIRST HEARD ABOUT THE MARCH, I WAS VERY MOVED — JUST A WHOLE GROUP OF WOMEN AND OTHER INDIVIDUALS GETTING TOGETHER TO STAND UP FOR WHAT THEY BELIEVE IN, THEIR INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS.

**MEGAN SIEPKA**  
FRESHMAN

AJ MANDELL | Staff Photographer

**INAUGURATION**  
from cover

Sassaman chose to take this course partially because of its correlation with the inauguration.

“There’s going to be no other time in my life when I can do something like this,” he said.

**Students will be attending the inauguration as a part of an experiential learning course, “Experiencing D.C.,” taught by political science professors Betty Morgan, Joel Shelton and John Strange.**

Sassaman said he is looking forward to the ceremony and is particularly excited to hear Trump’s first speech as commander-in-chief.

“Thus far, I have not been impressed with his Twitter account and his way of public speaking through that, so I would really like to hear what he has to say and what kind of tone and message he’s going to set for the people as he is inaugurated,” Sassaman said.

Baugh said she is taking this course because she is required to as a Teaching Fellow and is less enthusiastic than Sassaman about the upcoming event.

“For us, it’s required for our class that we attend, but I know for me — and a lot of other people have said this, people in our class — if we weren’t required to go, we wouldn’t,” she said. “Not necessarily because we’re so against the administration, but simply because there’s so much negativity surrounding it.”

Sassaman recognized the negativity too. As a Republican, he said that he is not especially fond of Trump but remains optimistic about the future.

“I know other people have taken the mindset of ‘not my president’ ... my thought process on that is ‘it’s happened,’” he said. “I really hope he does well just for the sake of this country ... as of right now, obviously, there’s a lot of controversy.”

Those who are upset, Sassaman said, should “continue to let it be known we expect certain things as people and as United States citizens and basically let our expectations be known.”

A number of rallies and protests have been

planned to take place the day of Trump’s inauguration and the following Saturday by pro-Trump and anti-Trump organizations.

Sen. Roy Blunt (R-Mo.) told Fox News the city could see as many as 750,000 demonstrators.

D.C. Council member Charles Allen told The Washington Post that as of Jan. 12, 1,200 buses had applied for parking permits in the District for the Women’s March on Washington rally taking place Saturday. This figure dwarfs the mere 200 buses which had, as of that time, applied for parking on Inauguration Day.

In the crowd will be a number of Elon students including junior Annie Skeadas, who heard about the event through Facebook on the day after the election.

“It’s not a protest against the inauguration or anything, but it’s a march that’s bringing together women from all over the country,” she said. “It’s more of a standing together in solidarity kind of thing — to show support for each other and showing that it’s important to stand together as women during times that we’re nervous about rights being taken away or nervous just in general about where our country is headed.”

Freshman Megan Siepka will be another face in the crowd, and she, like Skeadas, said she is looking forward to meeting and marching with like-minded individuals.

“I’m very excited — very anticipatory right now,” she said. “I’ve never been a part of something to do something about how I feel and what I believe in.”

Siepka said she could not just sit back and watch this march take place from afar.

“When I first heard about the march, I was very moved — just a whole group of women and other individuals getting together to stand up for what they believe in, their individual rights — and I was like, ‘Wow! That seems like a really cool thing to do,’” she said.

According to the Women’s March on Washington Eventbrite page, the event “will send a bold message to our new administration on their first day in office, and to the world that women’s rights are human rights.”

Siepka said she recognizes that while some might turn a blind eye toward the march, the event will be empowering for those who participate. She said she sees the event as an opportunity to remind the new administration that “women have voices and

**PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION**

**When:** Jan. 20 | 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

**Where:** United States Capitol

**Tickets:** No tickets required for general admission

**Who will be there:** Elon’s “Experiencing D.C.” Winter Term class taught by Betty Morgan, Joel Shelton and John Strange, including sophomore Evan Sassaman and senior Nicole Baugh.

we as Americans have voices.”

More than 10,000 individuals have said they will attend on the Women’s March on Washington Facebook page and even more have registered to attend through their Eventbrite page and website, www.womensmarch.com.

Among the women traveling across the country for this march, will be a number of celebrities including Amy Schumer, Padma Lakshmi, Katy Perry and Uzo Aduba, to name just a few.

Skeadas, who is attending the rally with a

**WOMEN’S MARCH ON WASHINGTON**

**When:** Jan. 21 | 10 a.m.

**Where:** Independence Avenue and Third Street SW

**Number of Attendees:** More than 10,000 individuals have RSVPd on the Women’s March on Washington Facebook page.

**What:** A march intended to remind the Trump administration that “women’s rights are human rights.”

**Who will be there:** Multiple Elon students including junior Annie Skeadas and freshman Megan Siepka, and celebrities, including Amy Schumer, Katy Perry and Uzo Aduba.

small group of friends from Elon, is anxious to see how many people will show up and what kind of people they will be.

“It is going to be kind of a nerve-racking time to be in D.C. because there are going to be millions of people in the city at that time with all different views and opinions,” she said.

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# SNOW STORM BLASTS ELON

MICHELLE KLEIN | Contributor

Multiple aspects of university life were impacted by the snow

## Meagan Gitelman

Contributor  
@meagan\_gitelman

Elon University received a heavier amount of snow than usual this year, turning campus into a winter wonderland overnight.

Though the first snowball fights and sled rides of 2017 have come and gone in a matter of days, faculty have spent months preparing for snow days at Elon to keep campus running safely and smoothly.

As soon as word of a winter storm reaches Vice President of Student Life Smith Jackson's office, he puts plans into motion — as he is at the forefront of planning for inclement weather.

"Once it gets closer, we start asking everyone, 'Do we have enough food? Are the generators tapped up?'" Jackson said. "Power is what we're concerned about."

The Friday morning before the storm, representatives from various offices met with Jackson. Physical Plant, the provost, Campus Safety and Police and the vice president of Business Finance and Technology all play significant roles in preparing for a snowstorm. Health Services, Dining Services and University Communications are also present.

"The actual call is generally between me

and the provost," Jackson said. "Usually we'd have it all planned and we'd just tell [Leo Lambert], 'This is what we think we're going to do.'"

In order to reach that decision, Jackson takes into account the staff, what resources are needed by students and the decisions being made by other local schools.

"We're very mindful that when public schools close, that can cause a disruption for parents with daycare and what they do with their kids," Jackson said. "Most of our students live on or within walking distance from campus, but we've got faculty coming from all over the place."

## Keeping admissions open

Jackson tries to keep Moseley, Belk Library and Campus Recreation open as much as possible as student resources. One building that is always open on campus is the Admissions Office.

"Admissions is open even when the university is closed because families travel far and wide to be here," said Greg Zaiser, vice president of Admissions and Financial Planning. "We want to honor that."

Once the possibility of a snowstorm arrives, the admissions staff carefully monitor the forecast and contact families that the university's schedule may change.

"If conditions are too poor to provide a tour, we tell them this and offer information sessions only," Zaiser said.

Even when faculty can't make it in because of inclement weather, they must still keep up with application deadlines.

"Most application reading is done from

home so being on a snow schedule — which means we have a skeleton crew in the office — does not slow things down," Zaiser said.

## Dealing with the cleanup

In order for important offices such as the Admissions Center to stay open, Physical Plant is outside working all hours of the day to clean up campus as soon as the storm hits.

"We start working as soon as the snow falls and work 24 hours a day until all roads, drives and walks are opened — as long as the conditions allow us to make progress," said Tom Flood, the associate director of Physical Plant. "Typically we continue for 24-48 hours after the storm continuing to widen sidewalks, clear parking lots or apply salt."

While the workload is heaviest once the storm hits, Flood says they plan for winter weather conditions months in advance. Before the winter season begins, Physical Plant restocks necessary materials such as deicer, road salt and equipment parts. In the days leading up to a storm, Physical Plant begins preparing their equipment and planning for long work shifts.

"Each storm is unique and requires strategic adjustments to the standard plan in order to make the best use of the resources and keep the campus as safe as possible," Flood said.

Because Elon is always expanding, Physical Plant has to keep up with the campus' needs. Last year, they acquired a new truck with a snow plow and salt spreader, as well as a shared-salt storage space with the town of Elon. Flood said developments like these allowed Physical Plant to manage the heavy snowfall this year well.

"We have plenty of equipment and years of expertise handling these events. In the long term, as Elon continues to grow we will continue to expand our fleet of equipment as necessary to keep the school open and the conditions as safe as possible," Flood said.

## MLK from cover

"Like MLK, we strive to bring about understanding between all."

Separately from BSU, Elon will host several events throughout this week to celebrate King before the start of Black History Month.

One of the weekend events was the Habitat for Humanity build in Alamance County.

Elon's 26th house started its build on MLK Day. According to sophomore Katie Mars, director of the Habitat for Humanity Chapter at Elon, "Jan. 16 is a big day of service nationally."

She added that the build has more than one meaning behind it.

"We wanted to do this not only to honor MLK, but also all of the others that fought for civil rights and equality. This build is for them," Mars said.

Like the rest of the country, Elon is taking strides to ensure King's dreams are a little closer to becoming reality.

Associate Vice President for Campus Engagement Randy Williams is one of the heads of the Center for Race, Ethnicity & Diversity Education (CREDE), and is a leader behind Elon's push to improve campus diversity.

Williams said he finds himself referring back to King's speeches as he works to help make Elon a more inclusive space for all students.

"During troubling times I just listen to some of his speeches. Hearing King's optimism and hope is just inspiring," Williams said. "There are various speeches and sermons that I have listened to throughout my life, but the most significant sermon to me was 'The Drum Major Instinct.' The lesson from that sermon was that anyone could play an important role as long as in that role they tried to be the best that there ever was and ever will be."

King delivered that sermon on Feb. 4, 1968 in front of his congregation. He said that "deep down within all of us is an instinct. It's a kind of drum major instinct — a desire to be out front, a desire to lead the parade, a desire to

Despite King's millions of supporters around the country and the globe, not everyone in the United States agreed with him.

This was violently proven when King was assassinated in 1968.

In an address to the nation on the night of King's death, President Lyndon B. Johnson referred to his killing as "a tragedy that denies the very meaning of our land."

"If we are to have the America we meant to have, all members of all races, all regions, all religions must stand their ground to deny violence its victory," Johnson said.

Program Coordinator for African and African-American Studies Buffie Longmire-Avital said she believes the misunderstanding that led to this act of violence came from citizens not understanding that King was working towards, which she said was "an improved society."

Longmire-Avital said she also believes that the American people misunderstood King's concept of redistribution.

"People get scared when they hear the word 'redistribution' because they think that they are going to lose something in order for others to have something. But in the end, redistribution just means that we are all gaining something," Longmire-Avital said. "You don't have to fear change, and sometimes the very thing that you can't even imagine is still very much possible."

IT IS WONDERFUL THAT WE HERE AT ELON ADVOCATE FOR STUDENTS THAT ARE UNDER-REPRESENTED OR ARE FROM MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES WHILE ALSO EDUCATING MEMBERS OF MORE DOMINANT COMMUNITIES.

## RANDY WILLIAMS

ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR CAMPUS ENGAGEMENT

be first."

That desire to lead the country into a new age of diverse education is something that many Elon students have been working tirelessly for.

"[I take] great pride in seeing the work that Elon has committed to creating a more inclusive community," Williams said. "It is wonderful that we here at Elon advocate for students that are under-represented or are from marginalized communities, while also educating members of more dominant communities."

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Elon University Oratorical Contest

Wednesday, January 18 | 7:30 P.M. |  
Yaeger Hall

### MLK Multifaith Service

Thursday, January 19 | 12:00 P.M. |  
Sacred Space

### MLK Social Justice Poetry Slam and Open Mic

Friday, January 20 | 7:00 P.M. | Irazu

Despite his short life, King's refusal to fight violence with violence is a decision and quality still honored today.

"Whether or not you agreed on how he did things, MLK was an abnormal man," said sophomore Eric Cunningham, a member of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, which King was a member of. "Despite everything he faced and endured, he continued to take risks by combating oppression and segregation with nonviolence."

Racial violence may not be as prominent in the United States as it was during King's time, but King's risk-taking is something Cunningham believes could greatly benefit all Elon students.

"We are affected by collegiate pressures everyday," he said. "We sometimes become less authentic and conform to other people's norms because that's what we think we are suppose to do, instead of taking our own routes and building something completely new."

# Analyzing cost effectiveness of meal plans

Majority of those on meal plans are required to have them

**Bryan Anderson**  
Enterprise Manager  
@BryanRAnderson

Nine in 10 Elon University residential students are on some sort of meal plan.

But though the university seeks to provide its students with a wide range of quality food options, there is little financial incentive for students to buy in.

Depending on a student's plan, costs per meal can range from about \$9 to \$11.65.

Freshman Katy Laser has noticed a discrepancy in how much she pays for a meal and what a meal is actually worth.

"It's frustrating, especially when you can see at places like Freshii the actual cost of what you're getting and know that you're still paying more for it," Laser said. "But at the same time, I don't really have a choice. It is what it is."

To understand a meal plan's cost-effectiveness — or lack thereof — it is important to break down each plan's price and recognize which students are on it.

## Breaking down the prices

The university offers the following five choices: "200 Block," "300 Block," "All Access Basic," "All Access +7" and "All Access +14." Prices for meal plans range from \$2,830 to \$7,318.

Those living in residence halls are required to have at least an

**If the cost of the "200 Block" is broken down with Meal Dollars removed from the total cost, each meal costs \$11.65. Each meal under a "300 Block" amounts to \$10.51 using the same model for calculation.**

"All Access Basic," though most select the "All Access +7." Block plans are particularly popular for those living off campus.

If the cost of the "200 Block" is broken down with Meal Dollars removed from the total cost, each meal

costs \$11.65. Each meal under a "300 Block" amounts to \$10.51 using the same model for calculation.

Assuming students eat three meals a day and stay on campus for the entire academic calendar, which is about 200 days, they could easily spend more than \$9 a meal.

Freshii and Biscuitville are some of the most centrally located retail facilities on Elon's campus. The average cost of a meal, with tax included, is far below the price per meal students typically

## Number of students with each meal plan per semester

PLANS	FALL 2013	FALL 2014	FALL 2015	FALL 2016
200 BLOCK	541	511	440	383
300 BLOCK	1140	1003	962	996
ALL +14	130	127	201	207
ALL +7	1338	1657	1761	1695
ALL BASIC	754	663	573	619
TOTALS	3903	3961	3937	3900

Statistics provided by the semiannual Registrar's Reports and Auxiliary Services

spend on their meal plans.

The average price of a full meal at Freshii is \$9.49 with tax, while the average price at Biscuitville is \$7.18. Students like Laser could be overpaying for their meals by hundreds of dollars each year.

## Dwindling meal plan interest

Data from the semiannual Registrar's Reports, Residence Life and Auxiliary Services, the employees responsible for staffing on campus retail facilities, reveal a declining interest in meal plans among students.

Sixty percent of Elon students have a meal plan, and the majority of them are required to have one.

Roughly three in five students on meals plans are required to have them because they live in residence halls. When students move off campus, they tend to shift to block plans or eliminate their plans entirely.

The number of students on meal plans has held steady around 3,900 the last four academic years.

Elon has increased its first-year and overall enrollment rates in three of the last four years, yet the actual proportion of students with plans has declined.

## Emphasis on quality, variety

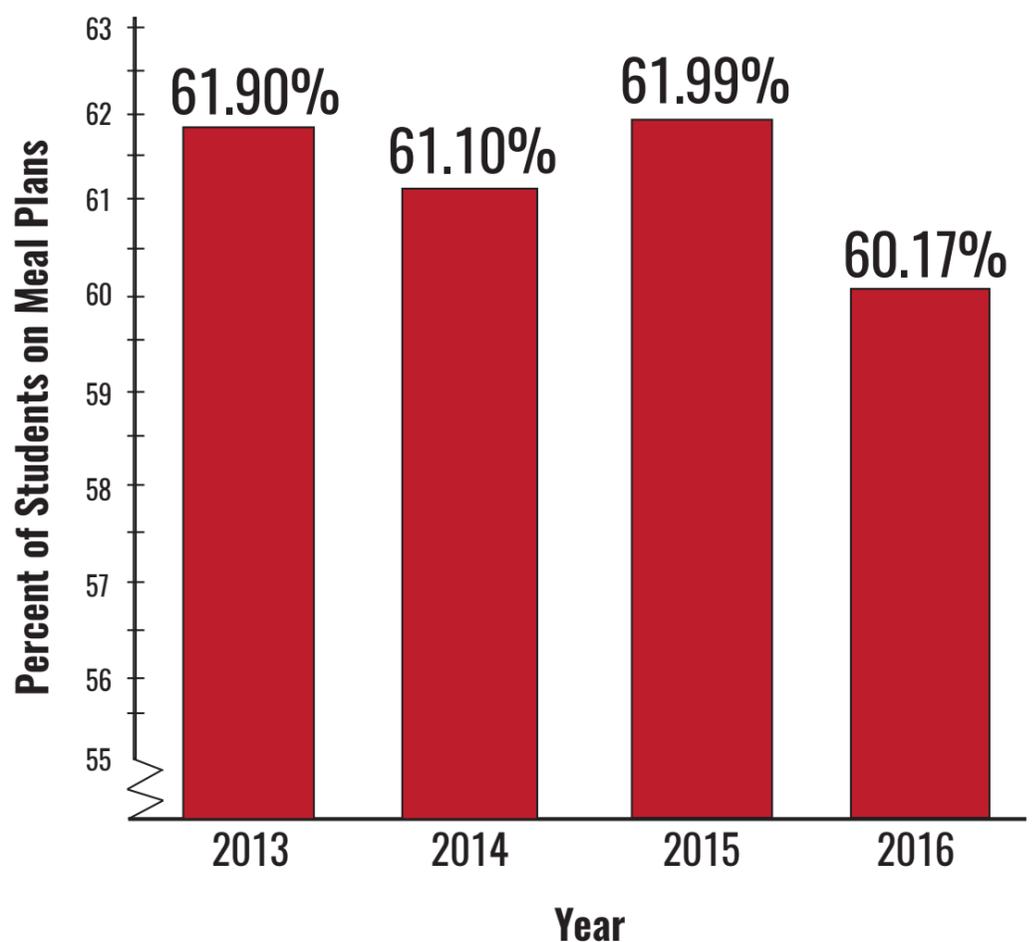
The university recognizes the high costs of its plans but notes that money should not be the only factor students consider when determining whether to buy a meal plan. Carrie Ryan, Elon's director of Auxiliary Service, praised the quality of the retail options on campus.

"You want to bring the high-

er-end food options," Ryan said. "You're not going to a Wendy's on our campus. You're not going to a McDonald's on our campus."

Ryan cited Biscuitville and Qdoba as some of Elon's higher-end retail facilities. She also said residential locations serve as a site for class discussions and a social gathering space. In essence, students are paying for

## Students with Meal Plans



KAITLYN FU | Designer

Statistics provided by the semiannual Registrar's Reports and Auxiliary Services

more than just a meal.

As a football player, senior Ikeena Nwokeji does not have to pay for his meal plan. Though he recognizes the expenses behind the plan, he appreciates the value he gets out of the all-you-can-eat dining halls.

"My favorite places are the dining halls just because it's all-you-can-eat," Nwokeji said. "I can

eat as much as I want and be full afterward."

Students saw a 3 percent increase in meal plan costs this academic year and will see another 3 percent increase next academic year.

"It's a little expensive, but I guess that's what you get when you get an Elon meal plan," Nwokeji said.

# A state divided: North Carolina politics in flux

## Cooper and legislature at odds after December meeting

**Emmanuel Morgan**  
News Editor  
@\_EMorgan704

Shuffling his snowy inauguration ceremony inside seems trivial compared to what new North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper has already endured.

The divisiveness of the gubernatorial race seeped into the new year. Before even settling into the Governor's Mansion, Cooper was already at odds with his legislative body.

The North Carolina General Assembly proposed an unprecedented motion in December to stifle the incoming Cooper's power regarding state Supreme Court selections and election board requirements, among other actions.

Headed by then-Gov. Pat McCrory, the GOP-controlled State Congress swiftly pushed these legislative acts during a mysterious special session for Hurricane Matthew damage relief. Almost a week of debate was trenced with public protests, and arrests of journalists and private citizens alike were prevalent.

Jonathan Jones, instructor in the Elon University School of Communications and director of the North Carolina Open Government Coalition, says this precedent can be a dangerous one in the future

"I think partisans can look at what's happened at North Carolina, and if you have a particular viewpoint, you see North Carolina as a great success story," Jones said. "A very specific agenda can be accomplished here, and if you're trying to accomplish that in another



A protester displays frustration during the North Carolina General Assembly meeting in December.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

state or maybe the national level, then I'd think you'd have to ask if you can repeat that elsewhere. That gives me great concern about seeing these tactics used more broadly."

Jones said the General Assembly was legally warranted to call the surprise special session. But he implied it was unethical because the hatefulness allotted citizens "little opportunity to make their voice heard to their legislators." When citizens denounced what was transpiring, they were met with handcuffs.

That outraged Jones.

At least 39 people were arrested, including NC Policy Watch reporter Joe Killian, a personal friend of Jones.

The GOP cited these arrests as public disturbances of legislative assemblies, which Jones somewhat agreed with. But he said there could have been a more effective way to handle the situation by only removing certain unruly characters and not those who were

peacefully observing. Because of this, Jones believes the legislature violated the "Open Meeting Law," which requires "that most meetings of public bodies be held in public," which is written in Chapter 143 of the North Carolina General Assembly bylaws.

"Citizens have a First Amendment right to be heard, and that includes the right to assemble and the right to speak in public places," Jones said. "The legislature took it a step too far and removed everyone. That is really deeply concerning to me. [...] When you have citizens being removed from government action that they're entitled to witness, then I think democracy is failing."

Elon sophomore Jacob Allen said he paid attention to the chaos transpiring in Raleigh, but did not completely understand it. Though he is an out-of-state student from New Jersey, he said this was concerning to him because it could affect him later.

"I just don't get it," Allen said.

"If the roles were switched, I don't think the people who were doing this would want that happen to them."

Jones agreed with Allen, saying that the legislative bodies of North Carolina were indirectly curtailing the power of the people by draining influence from Cooper, who was fairly chosen by the electorate. Because of this, Jones said it is up to the people to remain socially active in order to prevent a similar instance from happening. This includes voting and being cognizant of the latest news.

"I think its important for citizens to get engaged, whatever their viewpoint," Jones said. "We've reached a point in our political culture — in our political life — where being silent, sitting on the side and allowing others to make their voices heard, is not an option if you want to live in a just society. I think people need to let their politicians know about how they feel about important issues and hold their politicians accountable."

## HB2 fails to be repealed, despite special session

**Emmanuel Morgan**  
News Editor  
@\_EMorgan704

House Bill 2 caused North Carolina to lose millions of dollars in lost business, sporting events and possible future jobs.

It was also arguably a main reason for the loss suffered by the former governor, Pat McCrory. But the new one still has to deal with its effects.

Signed into law last March, HB2 struck down a Charlotte nondiscrimination ordinance allowing people to use their restroom of the gender they identify with. Politicians in Charlotte and Raleigh failed to unify on a proposed repeal of HB2 and dissolved into a session of "he-said-she-said."

The Dec. 21 special session was called to repeal HB2, but after Republican lawmakers learned Charlotte had not fully repealed its nondiscrimination ordinance, the deal fell through. Democrats accused Republicans of not following through on their promise to repeal HB2, while Republicans claimed Democrats failed to hold up their end of the bargain with a full repeal of the Charlotte ordinance.

The final vote was 32-16 against repealing the bill.

Jonathan Jones, instructor in the Elon School of Communications, director of the North Carolina Open Government Coalition, said regardless of whose fault it was, the failure to repeal HB2 was caused by people fearing a similar ordinance to the one Charlotte had passed would be passed again.

"There was a concern among the more conservative legislature that if they repealed HB2, Charlotte was going to leave the thing alone," Jones said. "But it wouldn't take long for another liberal city to pass a similar ordinance and cause the whole debate to come out again."

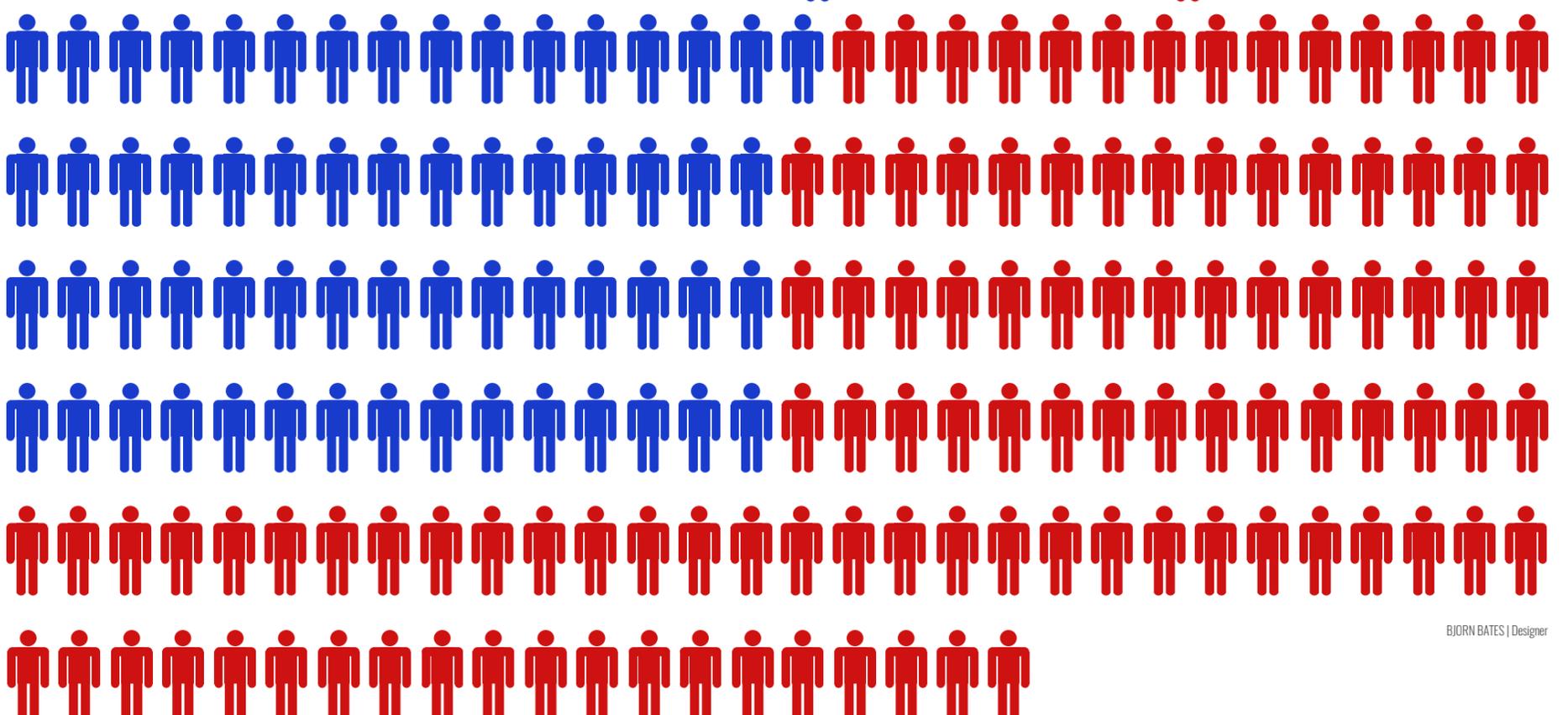
## NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY



61 Democrats



109 Republicans





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## CHEAT SHEET: RUSSIAN HACKING AND THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Want a complicated news story explained? Email [enn@elon.edu](mailto:enn@elon.edu) and find it in next week's Cheat Sheet.

Seventy-two days after the U.S. presidential election and three days before President-elect Donald Trump's official inauguration, concerns of foreign influence on the outcome of the U.S. presidential elections are still a major concern for the U.S. government and many of its citizens.

These concerns were so prevalent during the time of the elections that after the results on Nov. 8, 2016, Green Party candidate Jill Stein requested recounts in Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin — the three states that essentially sealed Trump's victory.

These same rumors about Russian interference in the elections were finally confirmed on Jan. 6, 2017, when a declassified intelligence report named "Assessing Russian Activities and Intentions in Recent U.S. Elections," was released to the public.

The version of the report released to the public was a "declassified version of a highly classified assessment." The documents conclusions were "identical to the highly classified assessment," but did not include all of the informa-



PHOTO COURTESY OF TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**Intelligence reports show that Russian involvement attempted to sway voters toward President-elect Donald Trump**

tion on "specific intelligence on key elements of the influence campaign."

Despite only having access to the watered-down version of the report, the conclusions from the report ordered by President Obama were very clear.

A key takeaway from the report was that the

CIA, FBI and NSA all agreed with the report that "Putin and the Russian Government aspired to help President-elect Trump's election chances when possible by discrediting Secretary Clinton and publicly contrasting her unfavorably to him."

This alleged interfer-

ence caused a wave of outrage from all voters in both major parties. Many of Trump's loyal supporters believed that this hacking was simply just another attempt to de-legitimize Trump's victory in early November. Clinton supporters on the other-hand felt that this hacking was

the main reason for her defeat during the election.

The full aftermath and effects of these foreign hackings are still unknown to the American public but it is clear that U.S. cyber security and foreign relations with Russia will not be the same in 2017.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Elon releases Spring Cultural Events calendar

Elon University has released its Spring Cultural calendar. Some of the highlights include a gender equity discussion, Spring Convocation with Harvard psychologist Daniel Gilbert, the first female U.S. Texas Senator visiting the Elon School of Law and TEDx @ Elon.

The calendar begins Feb. 1 with the Department of Performing Arts' presentation of "You Can't Take it With You." Later that month, the Vagina Monologues will return to campus. Another event called "Seeing Gender: Equity, progress and challenges in 2017" will feature a panel discussion outlining key issues regarding gender in society. That discussion will be held at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 15 in the Lakeside Meeting Rooms.

Spring Convocation will begin at 3:30 p.m. March 30 in Alumni Gym. Tickets go on sale March 9.

U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, the first female senator from Texas, will speak at Elon Law April 13 as part of the Distinguished Leadership Lecture Series.

One of the most notable events on the calendar is "TEDx @ Elon." TEDx will be held at 2 p.m. April 29 in Turner Theatre.

### Faculty members assume residential leadership positions

Three faculty members were selected to begin serving live-on leadership roles at Elon University in August.

Max Negin, assistant professor of communications, will serve as faculty director of the Historic Neighborhood. Mark Dalhouse, director of Study USA, will serve as faculty-in-residence of Story Hall. Alfred Simkin, assistant professor of biology, will work as faculty-in-residence of Kenan Pavilion.

Faculty directors and faculty-in-residence lead efforts to improve intellectual and academic engagement for students outside of class.

### Elon Law alum sworn in as NC District Court judge

Carrie F. Vickery L'09 was sworn in as a North Carolina District Court judge earlier this month. A student in Elon Law's charter class, Vickery practiced family law for Holton Law Firm.

She took her oath of office in Winston-Salem in front of about 200 people.

Among other responsibilities, Vickery will hear cases involving family law, misdemeanor criminal charges and juvenile justice. She is the first Elon Law alumna on record to be elected or appointed judge at a district court level or higher.

# University expands living options

**Tommy Hamzik and Meg Malone**

Executive Director and Assistant News Editor  
@T\_Hamzik and @megretjeane

Elon University's yearly enrollment has been steadily increasing, and so are living options.

The owner of College Station Apartments is leasing the entirety of the complex to Elon for the 2017-2018 academic year, according to an email sent by BC Parker Real Estate to current residents.

Residents are required to vacate their apartments on or before May 31, according to the email.

Jon Dooley, assistant vice president for Student Life and dean of Campus Life, said the university currently leases a number of apartments in College Station. For next year, students will apply to live in College Station through the university housing selection process.

Junior Katie Shannon had planned to live in College Station during her senior next year and through this upcoming summer.

"I'm planning on applying to internships in Raleigh, and I was going to live in our apartment over the summer because our lease just continues through the entire year," she said. "And now I don't have that option."

Shannon said she is going to miss living in College Station because it felt like a home, as opposed to the typical college dorm.

"We were able to put our own furniture in our apartment, so we got a couch and a carpet and



PAUL LEBLANC | Breaking News Manager  
**Elon University has leased all apartments of College Station, forcing students to leave.**

everything, so it was like our own living space," she said. "Instead of having a common room where the furniture is already provided by the school and everybody's in there all the time — it was sort of like our own little space that we could hang out in."

BC Parker asked that current residents interested in finding other off-campus housing options to call their office at 336-226-8411 or send an email to [info@bcparker.com](mailto:info@bcparker.com).

According to a recent email

sent to students by Dean of Students Smith Jackson, the expansion of university-provided housing options won't end with the addition of College Station.

His email alluded to plans to construct townhouses for students with shared interests or members of various campus organizations — similar to the already existing living learning communities.

Sophomore Colleen Cody said she loves the idea.

"I thought that was such a good idea honestly, living with

friends and people with same interest," she said.

A survey was included in the interview for students to share what types of interests and organizations they thought would benefit or be interested in this opportunity.

Cody, a member of Elon's womens ultimate-Frisbee team, said she believes that student club athletes should be offered a place in these future residencies.

*Meagan Gitelman, contributor, contributed reporting.*

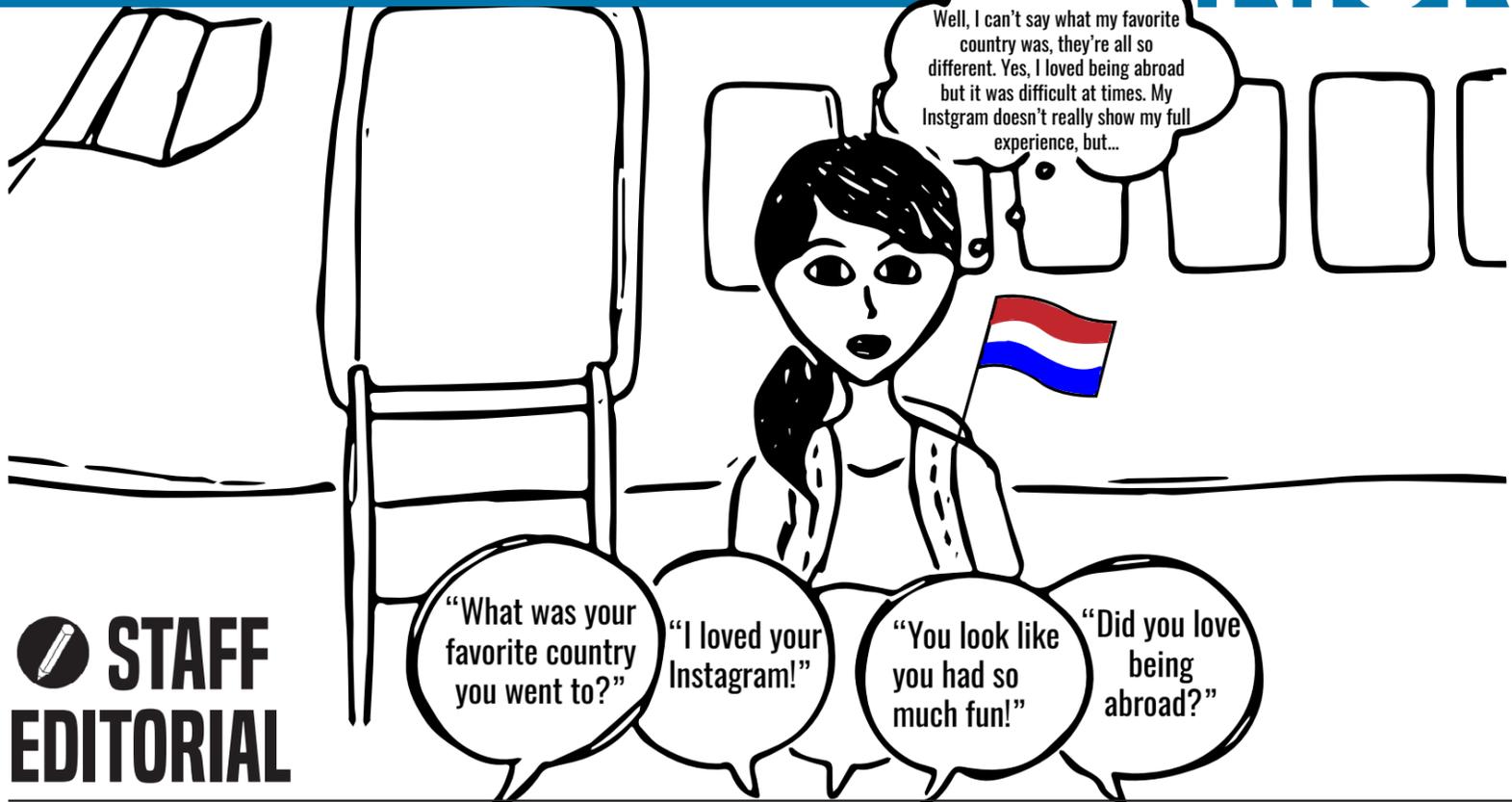
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**COLUMNS:**

Columns are written by ENN staff members and represent their informed opinions. Columns and other opinions content are separate from news coverage.

# OPINIONS



**STAFF EDITORIAL**

## Students need more support after returning from abroad

**HOW WE SEE IT**

The Global Education Center must invest in programming to support students returning from abroad experiences.

Elon University ranks No. 1 in the country for study abroad in the U.S. News & World Report. This high-standing is advertised on the homepage of Elon's website and on almost every brochure or publication about the university. Elon boasts that 80 percent of last year's graduating class participated in at least one study abroad or Study USA program.

The university spends plenty of time and resources encouraging students to study abroad, helping them apply for different programs and supporting them throughout the pre-departure process. But once students return to campus, this investment in their experiences is lacking.

On Elon's study abroad website, the Global Education Center (GEC) advertises a handful of ways that students can engage in global opportunities at Elon. Most of these opportunities focus on helping other students throughout their abroad application process. The GEC also partners with the Student Professional

Development Program (SPDC) to host a reentry program in the fall — though according to Shanna Van Beek, these sessions have not been well attended by students.

The personal and academic growth students experience while abroad should not stop when students return to campus. The Global Education Center (GEC) should invest in programming to support students' emotional and academic growth after they return from study abroad programs.

To accommodate students' emotional needs, the GEC should facilitate opportunities for conversations among and between students returning from study abroad. Too often, the conversations students have about their study abroad experiences are surface level. The conversations stop after the obligatory "How was being abroad?" and many students are left unable to communicate the inevitable struggles of being back at Elon.

Support groups, information sessions or facilitated conversations would give students the opportunity to have more meaningful conversations about their experiences. Students will also be able to find solidarity with other students who are experiencing a similar transition beyond those in their program.

Additionally, the GEC should organize a program during the College of Arts and Sciences' CELEBRATE! Week in April, similar to the Student Undergraduate Research Forum (SURF), that will allow students to present on their study abroad experiences. Studying abroad is a deeply enriching academic experience that deserves to be given similar prestige as undergraduate research. If an entire day of class is cancelled to celebrate undergraduate research, shouldn't study abroad experiences warrant some space on this day or on another time during this week for the same kind of attention? The academic and personal growth that occurs during study abroad should be celebrated and held to the same academic standard that undergraduate research is.

Other than social media posts

— which barely scratch the surface of abroad experiences — there is currently no outlet for students to share their more personal and complex experiences.

A program like this will have a ripple effect on a campus that celebrates global engagement; in addition to providing an outlet for students to meaningfully share what they've learned in their "global classrooms," it will also provide students who aren't able to study abroad a venue to learn about abroad experiences beyond promotional brochures, E-Net articles or Instagram photos.

While the GEC organizes some study abroad fairs, they are more focused on recruiting students to specific programs than allowing them to synthesize and organize their thoughts in a more formal, celebrated and independently-crafted manner.

If Elon is going to put so much pride and effort into its study abroad programming, it must match that same investment in its students when they return. By investing in better post-abroad programming, the university will be helping to continue students' learning, allowing them to truly get the most out of their experience.

## There is a problem with our binge generation



**Hannah Benson**  
Columnist

"The next episode of 'Grey's Anatomy' will play in 15 seconds," you read on your screen as Netflix churns out the next chapter in the McDreamy saga.

Without even having to blink an eye, you are soon watching season 8, episode 12, and wondering how you got here. You haven't moved in hours. There is a small crust building at the corners of your mouth from the Cheetos you ate two — or was it three? — episodes ago. You've been at it for hours. Maybe even days.

This is the binge generation.

It's in all the music we listen to, all the books we read, all the shows we watch. Millennials are addicts. Be it to music, Gilmore Girls, alcohol, love or other drugs, this generation knows how to sell its soul to something and do almost nothing else.

We indulge in over-consumption. We revel in gorging ourselves. This is what we do, and this is all we know, but hey, we aren't entirely to blame.

We hear it in our favorite songs playing on the radio on our way to Dunkin' Donuts for the fifth time this week — in the words of the Chainsmokers: "I drink too much and that's an issue, but I'm OK" and in the lyrics of our pals the Snakehips: "All my friends are wasted" — and we begin to get it inscribed into our minds that addiction,

obsession and bingeing are normal, even healthy, in the grand scheme of things.

But this is where we're wrong.

A study done by the Journal of the American Medical Association recently reported that 44 percent of students surveyed in the study willingly admitted to being consistent binge drinkers, and 19 percent of the total reporting that they binge drink quite frequently. A Time magazine article recently published that, in a sitting, the average Netflix-user streams one hour and 33 minutes of content — the equivalent to two episodes of a full-length drama, four episodes of a sitcom or one movie.

An article released in USA Today remarks that the average college student gains nine pounds in their first semester from overeating. This

could easily be due to stress. Young people everywhere are bingeing too much on the things they enjoy and are becoming products of an over-saturated society.

This generation has an issue with bingeing on everything and anything because we are told it's okay and it's what "everyone else seems to be doing." But there's another way to look at this dilemma: We can either embrace it and drown slowly in our overwhelming oceans of addiction, or we can go against the grain and try to employ a little something known as moderation.

This is our opportunity to rise above the crowd and vouch for personal health, the power of doing things over time and taking things in average doses, not choking back a world of television, movies, Adele songs, Pillsbury crescents, iPhone

games, food or drink at once.

We can stand against our friends and the popular media they're exposed to every day and do something crazy — that is, go to bed before midnight because you only watched one episode of "Parks and Recreation," not have to spend hours at a time at the gym because you only ate one serving of pasta for dinner and stay in and drink hot chocolate on a Saturday night instead of something stronger.

Moderation is the key to avoiding stress, weight gain and this underlying feeling so common to college students known as being overwhelmed. Moderation is a friend of mine and I'm sure the two of you would get along.

Just promise me you'll hang out with him, even if it's just once, OK?

Campus Voices are written by members of the Elon community, not ENN staff members, and represent their informed opinions. Campus Voices and other opinions content are separate from news coverage.

# Go 'green' to help save the lives of coral reefs



**Molly Baker**  
Freshman

When you hear the words “climate change,” what do you think of? Do you just brush it off because you’re tired of hearing about it? Well, don’t feel bad, because I felt this way, too.

In lower, middle and upper school, I was geared to think about the environment. My school was considered a “green” school, so we were always concerned about the environment. All the talk about “being green” started to annoy me. I felt like I had a general idea of what was happening and didn’t need people telling me about what would happen if we weren’t “green.” I didn’t think my actions had that much of an impact given I was only one person.

It wasn’t until I started learning about the environment in my science course, “Current Issues in Environmental Science,” this year that I realized my actions do have an impact on the environment. I didn’t realize how much my actions can affect climate change and how climate change can have a big impact on the lives of coral reefs. Some of you may be reading this and be thinking how you don’t want to read another piece about saving the environment,

but bear with me as I discuss the importance of keeping coral reefs alive by stopping coral bleaching, because we all can play a role in stopping this.

Coral bleaching is essentially when the corals are “stressed” and the balance between coral and the algae that inhabit their cells is broken. All of this might sound confusing, but when this happens, corals lose the algae and it takes away its color and nutrition, leaving it dead and appearing bleached.

You might be thinking how

**Using less heating and air conditioning can save about 2,000 pounds of carbon dioxide each year, according to “Climate Change, Coral Bleaching and the Future of the World’s Coral Reefs.”**

know what it was either.

Coral might not be as well-known as an endangered species, such as polar bears, but coral can also go extinct if problems are not addressed. This can also hurt nations where corals live.

you’ve never even heard of coral bleaching, and you’re not alone. Based on a survey I conducted, only three out of 32 students knew what coral bleaching was, and up until this fall, I didn’t

When coral communities collapse, it negatively impacts the fish and other species that depend on coral reefs for their well being. So next time you’re on vacation and are snorkeling, some of the pretty fish you see might not be there anymore, and the colorful coral might no longer be vibrant.

Coral reefs also are a crucial source of income for countries that depend on them for tourism, fishing, building materials, coastal protection and new pharmaceuticals.

The reefs also provide tons of fish for fishing, but without reefs, fish don’t have a place to live and fisherman can lose their jobs. Coral reefs also protect coastlines from storm damage, erosion and flooding by reducing wave action across tropical coastlines.

The question that might be popping in your mind is: Does any of this have to do with me? One of the big stressors that causes bleaching is elevated rise in the temperature of the air or sea. Our actions can indirectly hurt coral reefs by directly affecting the rise in air and sea temperature.

We can help stop this. Most of you have probably heard of how we emit fossil fuels that cause an increase in temperature. We can reduce this by walking or riding a bike. But, for people like myself who are too lazy to do this, car-pooling is a great way to emit less fossil fuels.

Another thing that can help is using less heating and air conditioning by turning the thermostat two degrees colder in the winter and two degrees warmer in the summer. This might seem like the end of the world because people don’t want to freeze in the winter or sweat in the summer indoors, but it could save about 2,000 pounds of carbon dioxide each year, according to a published journal article entitled “Climate Change, Coral Bleaching and the Future of the World’s Coral Reefs” by Hoegh-Guldberg.

Another big stressor that causes coral bleaching is run-off that ends up in the ocean. To stop this, it is important to sort your trash and not leave any trash lying around. As college students, it always feels like we are busy, and it would just be easier to throw our trash away without having to deal with the sorting and not having to awkwardly stand at the trash cans deciding what trash goes where with everyone watching you. But trust me, taking an extra 30 seconds figuring out sorting can really help save coral reefs.

It is also important to conserve water because the less water you use, the less run-off and wastewater ends up in the ocean. So on a cold day, running your hands under the warm water may seem like a good idea and taking an extra 10 minutes de-stressing in the shower may seem worthwhile, but it ends up hurting the

coral reefs.

More than 50 percent of the Great Barrier Reef in Australia is deceased and 90 percent of it is affected with coral bleaching, according to the Australian Government’s Great Barrier Reef Park Authority. This problem

**More than 50 percent of the Great Barrier Reef in Australia is deceased and 90 percent of it is affected with coral bleaching, according to the Australian Government’s Great Barrier Reef Park Authority.**

of coral bleaching is only getting worse because the air temperature has been rapidly increasing over the past 100 years.

Elon University as a school does some great things to be a green school

by having sorting trash cans on campus, water bottle-filling stations, water-saving toilets and using solar panel energy.

As students, we have the privilege to be at a campus that offers all these options at our disposal. Though we are all just one person and may think our actions don’t make a difference, as a community, we can make a big change in helping save the lives of coral reefs by being “green.”

# Remembering Dr. King’s words, ‘How long, not long’



**Stephanie Ntim**  
Columnist  
@elonnewsnetwork

I have been to the Martin Luther King Center for Nonviolent and Social Change in Atlanta maybe once or twice. But I cannot recall from memory how it looks or how large the haunting mausoleums of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his wife, Coretta Scott King, stand in the sea of buildings. I cannot describe the landscape of King’s beloved home. I cannot even say when I last visited the national historic site.

Still, when I reflect on my trip to the King Center, I remember the somberness surrounding the museum and the quiet invading the landmark. The gift shop, permeating with audio books, mugs, key chains and calendars, maintained a translucent loyalty to King with his face affixed to nearly every item. His voice carried the spirit of the store.

As the crusader of the Civil Rights Movement, King spoke eloquently, recognizing the gravity and desire for the movement to transcend social and political

ties and break the fundamentals of racial division in the American South.

Like my experience at the King Center, I have no true personal connection with King besides my dad’s infatuation with the coolly composed preacher and visionary. King’s booming voice calmed a generation heavy with grief and restlessness, and it struck a nerve with despondent and disengaged watchers of the civil rights movement. I know of him as the most influential proprietor and skilled craftsman of racial dialogue in the twentieth century.

My visits to the King Center have prompted me to identify the importance of locality. In every historical movement, there has been something to be said about understanding a people and granting them a space to flourish and become proprietors of land.

King was a champion of place. His speech, “How Long, Not Long,” describes desolate valleys, a meandering highway

and faces burned from the sweltering sun. Selma and Montgomery — both racial battlegrounds in Alabama — cannot be separated from the civil rights struggle of African-Americans. These cities were the

centers of a movement in which people marched in the streets no matter rain or shine, enduring hatred from others in surrounding neighborhoods.

King redirected the concourse of these racially divided cities, using scripture and nonviolent social change to reinvent the experiences of people of color people in the American South. His

attention to place was based on personal connection — a feeling that never leaves but follows wherever one goes. A native of Atlanta, King truly valued and acknowledged the importance of place in revolutionizing social and political change.

In every chapter of this country’s history, it is impossible to separate the narrative of African-Americans from the narrative of the United States. The two are one and the

same. In 2017, place cannot be based solely on geographical location. It is controlled by the universal human desire to belong to a society that recognizes its failures but continuously strives to create a respectable environment for all.

My dad, a Ghanaian man, often recites King’s speeches with great appreciation and thankfulness to the curator of the civil rights movement. One of King’s most poignant lines, “How Long, Not Long,” stays with me in every place. The quote is short, but its meaning is deep and far-reaching.

When we trust the places we call home and challenge the oppressive and closed minded, the march to justice and freedom might be burdensome but is indeed not long. Though the King Center is situated in Atlanta, the spirit of the movement pervades each part of the United States.

We recognize pioneers like Eugene Perry and Glenda Phillips, the first black students to attend Elon University, who laid the groundwork for change. It’s important as a community for us to remember that our place at Elon is not trivial, but rather an opportune moment for us to daily uphold decency and respect for each other. King’s vision of unity among all people is an ever-present beacon of hope that will continue to inspire us all over campus.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Elon University faculty, staff, students and greater community,

The undersigned students stand in solidarity with those who have been made to feel vulnerable or unwelcome by the rhetoric of hate surrounding the 2016 election. As students, we are here in support of our community members. We recognize that recent events have made some members of historically marginalized groups feel increasingly insecure. To those of you who have felt fear or discrimination because of your identity as immigrants, Latinx, African-Americans, Asian-Americans, Native Americans, people of color, Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, non-religious people, otherly-abled people, LGBTQIA, women or sexual assault survivors, we have heard your confusion, fears and concerns. We commit to listening to you and supporting you as valued members within our community. We repudiate hate and acts of violence and bigotry. We affirm that it is in our differences that we find strength. We will work alongside of you to strive for justice and acceptance.

*Editor's note: The absence of someone's signature below does not necessarily indicate one's lack of support for this statement. The signatures collected represent those students at Elon who responded to an invitation to sign this letter between December 2016 and January 2017.*

- |                             |                             |                         |                             |                              |                                |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Noah Rossen              | 31. Cassidy Levy            | 62. Delaney James       | 93. Sophie Bellemare        | 120. Jessica Perry           | 148. Jacqueline Silva          |
| 2. Monique Swirsky          | 32. Rachel Cole             | 63. Kyle Thomas         | 94. Betsey McCarthy         | 121. Carley Richards         | 149. Lauren Silverman          |
| 3. Carly Goldstein          | 33. Lauren Salig            | 64. Arya Boris          | 95. Emily DeMaio            | 122. Samantha Perry          | 150. Kristina Meyer            |
| 4. Johanna Hilpuesch        | 34. Ali Paul                | 65. Alexandra Bernosky  | 96. Newton                  | 123. Jessica Geralis         | 151. Emma Ridgeway             |
| 5. Jordy Baende Eliko Etafe | 35. Eliza Finn              | 66. Micah Spoerndle     | 97. Angelina Lu             | 124. Warren Barrett          | 152. Jane Kiley                |
| 6. Yousaf Khan              | 36. Kennedy Ojimadu         | 67. Lucy Northup        | 98. Brandon Reynolds        | 125. Steven Klausner         | 153. Maddie Grobe              |
| 7. Steff Milovic            | 37. Amy Rauch               | 68. Grace Carter        | 99. Olivia Lennox-Sanzone   | 126. Laura E. Clarkson       | 154. Kimmie O'Brien            |
| 8. Ashley Jacks             | 38. Morgan Bodenarain       | 69. Amy Zheng           | 100. Lauren Elizabeth Reed  | 127. Claire Hasson           | 155. Oscar Miranda             |
| 9. Micalah Collins          | 39. Mary Ellen Kempf Jordan | 70. Jenna Asarese       | 101. Hannah Podhorzer       | 128. Michaela Healy          | 156. Shilpa Mookerji           |
| 10. Joshua Glover           | 40. Devin Kiernan           | 71. Cody Hoyt           | 102. Meghan Aines           | 129. Devon Johnson           | 157. Nina Fleck                |
| 11. Rachel McGovern         | 41. Breanna Luckadoo        | 72. Lauren Schultz      | 103. Sarra Eddahiri         | 130. Aiden Connerty          | 158. Clare Shaffer             |
| 12. Beth Lester             | 42. Emma Sapio              | 73. Clayton Leasure     | 104. Sarah Luther           | 131. Spencer Wagner          | 159. Isabel Blanco Araujo      |
| 13. Aileen Bell             | 43. Natalia Conte           | 74. Sara Blough         | 105. Sydney Spaulding       | 132. Ella Fies               | 160. Amy Belfer                |
| 14. Annie Kitchin           | 44. Lucy Jones              | 75. Lindsey DeLorey     | 106. Kaite Paris            | 133. Tres McMichael          | 161. Sophie Parker             |
| 15. Iliana Brodsky          | 45. Wynne Treco             | 76. Jacob Keisler       | 107. Kaitlyn Hartman        | 134. Jamal Joseph            | 162. Annie LeMasters           |
| 16. Pauline DiLorenzo       | 46. Ally Bolton '18         | 77. Hailey Fleishman    | 108. Sydney Simmons         | 135. Hanna Smith-Benjamin    | 163. Neeni Nagaraj             |
| 17. Ozelle J. Bower         | 47. Meg Kell                | 78. Charlie Cheema '19  | 109. Scott Armstrong        | 136. Eliza Singleton         | 164. CJ Porterfield            |
| 18. Alonzo Cee              | 48. Megan Garnache          | 79. Maria Santan-Garcés | 110. Sam Ash                | 137. Shayna Nash             | 165. Michael Goldstein         |
| 19. John Osborn             | 49. Nicole Ackman           | 80. Rebecca Sommers     | 111. Shanon Brits           | 138. Kelsey Lane             | 166. La'Shaundranique Marshall |
| 20. Miki Salamon            | 50. Katie Shiflette         | 81. Selina Guevara      | 112. Brittany Walsh         | 139. Konnor Porro            | 167. Robyn Lane                |
| 21. Abbie Williams          | 51. Rebecca Scott           | 82. Tyler Jordan Major  | 113. Rebecca Schwartz       | 140. Sophie Zinn             | 168. Sara Levine               |
| 22. Camaya Miller           | 52. Craven Poole            | 83. Alix Walburn        | 114. Ray Pioppo             | 141. Kyle Porro              | 169. Joyce Choi                |
| 23. Maria Idalia Gant       | 53. April Roberts           | 84. Keikichi Littleton  | 115. Alex Vandermaas-Peeler | 142. Elizabeth Sellers-Bruch | 170. Jessica Womack            |
| 24. Ben Bridges             | 54. Katherine Mars          | 85. Julia L. Jofe '19   | 116. William Wetter         | 143. Sawyer Parker           | 171. Natalia Atwal             |
| 25. Simone Royal            | 55. Mary McDonald           | 86. Ari Denberg         | 117. Briana Pfeuffer        | 144. Kat Milbradt            | 172. Molly Creeden             |
| 26. Meg Yamin               | 56. Mary McDonald           | 87. Scott Echols        | 118. Catherine Pendry       | 145. Ryan McElroy            | 173. Martha Archer             |
| 27. Maddy MacKenzie         | 57. Joel Green              | 88. Olivia Erskine      | 119. Amanda Martinez        | 146. Fiona Zahm              | 174. Nicole Schmidt            |
| 28. Ian Pomeroy             | 58. Jessica Bruchett        | 89. Michael Dryzer      |                             | 147. Daniel Weiss            | 175. Tom Murphy                |
| 29. Aislinn Gherman         | 59. Marissa Costner         | 90. Rachel Wingrat      |                             |                              |                                |
| 30. Noah Brown              | 60. Skye Sisk               | 91. Molly Kearns        |                             |                              |                                |
|                             | 61. Jessie Clodfelter       | 92. Lindsay Teske       |                             |                              |                                |

Consider the effect smoking has on others



Cassidy Levy  
Columnist

College parties have a bad reputation, and it's not exactly unearned. They are often centers of illegal and unsafe activity in small rings surrounding college campuses.

Most students know that the legal drinking age is 21 and that excessive drinking can be dangerous. The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism estimates that 1,825 college students die annually in alcohol related injuries, and that alcohol is involved in about 97,000 cases of sexual assault for 18-to-24 year old students.

Here at Elon University, students may not know the numbers, but they're usually aware that alcohol is dangerous. Part of this is because Elon and student organizations do their best to prevent and address the issues endemic to college parties. If you don't want to drink at a party, you don't have to. If you're worried about peer pressure, there are dry parties and events on campus that you might be more inclined to attend.

But as winter sets in and fewer parties spill onto porches and into backyards, another problem becomes more apparent: Students at parties smoke.

In the winter, I've noticed that people tend to smoke closer to the doors, creating a toxic haze anytime someone enters or exits a party. The chemicals cling to party-goer's clothes and hair and enter the house as an uninvited guest.

But while turning down a drink in the face of peer pressure can be difficult to some, it's not as difficult as trying not to breathe on the dance floor. I know because I'm fairly sensitive to air pollutants and I've tried. Eventually, some irritation is

preferable to passing out.

Also unlike drinking and sexual assault, it feels as if the university and its student organizations are doing relatively little to combat student smoking.

According to Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights, there were 1,757 smoke-free campuses as of January 2, 2017. Twenty-five of those campuses are in North Carolina, but Elon is not one of them.

The university policy prohibits smoking within 30 feet of university buildings — in Rhodes Stadium or in any campus building — but doesn't apply to off-campus party houses. I don't hear about anti-smoking speakers coming to campus. I don't see tables in Moseley or at the Speaker's Corner warning students about the dangers of tobacco. SPARKS doesn't have any workshops or presentations on the dangers of smoking and secondhand smoke.

Perhaps it is because smoking doesn't seem like such a big deal compared to the other issues that exist on campus and in the surrounding community. Perhaps some people just don't notice the smell.

But not noticing the smoke doesn't make it any less deadly, and it doesn't make parties any more accessible to students with asthma. Ignoring its health risks to students by not including it in health and wellness programming doesn't make it any less pervasive.

For better or worse, parties are a part of the college experience. Working to minimize smoking at parties isn't going to detract from working to minimize dangerous drinking habits and sexual assault. One thing that my professors and mentors at Elon have taught me is that an important part of our time at Elon involves learning how you fit into the world, which often includes a deep understanding of how you interact with others. It's time the Elon community put a little more effort into highlighting the effects smokers can have on the people they interact with.

Where I'm 'really' from is here



Olivia Zayas Ryan  
Opinions Editor  
@oliviazryan

I was sitting by myself outside of Freshii waiting for a friend when a guy sat down across from me. Clearly not interested in talking to anyone, I continued scrolling through Instagram on my phone. He stared at me as his friends watched and laughed.

"Can I guess?"

I looked up briefly and acted confused, but I knew exactly what he was trying to ask.

"Can I guess your nationality?"

Without looking up from my phone, I answered calmly. "I am American."

Disappointed with that answer, he continued to sit and harass me with more questions, as if he was entitled to the answers. His friends kept laughing but walked away once they saw the conversation wasn't going the way their friend had planned.

"You look foreign. You're too tan to be American. Where are you really from?"

I looked down at my skin and then back at him. Though I've had interactions like this more times than I'd like to remember, I still didn't know what to say.

I was born in New Jersey. I lived in New Jersey all my life. I recited the Pledge of Allegiance every morning in high school and sang the National Anthem at basketball games.

I am American. The color of my skin or the blood of my ancestors does not make me any less American.

By asking people "where they are really from," you are othering them. You are telling them that they do not look like they belong here.

It's not innocent curiosity — it is a deliberate way to put people of color into boxes for your comfort. Especially at a predominantly white institution such as Elon, where diversity is already lacking greatly, asking questions like this makes people feel like they do not belong.

The man sitting across from me began listing off every Latin American country he could think of, lumping them

together as if they were interchangeable. He asked me where my parents were from, saying over and over again that I don't look like I am "just" American.

Finally too tired to continue this conversation, I told him that my father was born in New Jersey and my mother in Puerto Rico.

"You should've led with that. You know that's what I was asking."

But that was not what he was asking. He

asked me where I was from. I am from New Jersey.

I am proud to be Latina. There is no doubt about that. But, my being Latina does not cancel out the fact that I am American. It may come as a shock, but American is not synonymous with white. You cannot define American with a skin color.

So, no. The color of my skin is not an invitation to a fun guessing game. You do not get to put me or any other person of color into a box. We are just as American as anyone else. You do not get to make us feel otherwise.

BY ASKING PEOPLE  
"WHERE THEY ARE  
REALLY FROM,"  
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LIKE THEY BELONG  
HERE.

## ONLINE:

Elon senior develops new smart walker design

## LIFESTYLE

# IN HER OWN SKIN

Elon senior tackles body positivity through pole dancing, modeling after move from Canada

**Alyssa Potter**

Contributor  
@\_apottss

Senior Stephanie Bedard found her own form of female empowerment when, last fall, she took the initiative to finally do something she had considered doing for years: taking pole dancing classes. She found a new exercise regimen and, along the way, said she discovered a love for her body she never had before.

“Before I started pole dancing, I did not own shorts,” Bedard said. “I did not own a bathing suit, dresses, anything like that. I just wore athletic clothing because that’s all I felt comfortable in — I felt like I needed to hide my body.”

Bedard had wanted to take pole dancing classes ever since she passed a local studio in downtown Burlington her first year at Elon. It piqued her interest, but she said she kept putting off joining.

“I finally told myself that there’s no more putting things off,” Bedard said. “If I want to do something I need to attack it and do it now.”

## Finding pole dancing

Bedard started searching for classes and found that the local studio had since closed, and the closest — Descending Angels — was in Trinity, roughly 40 minutes away from Elon. She ventured to a class and loved it and has taken classes with this studio ever since, even following it as it relocated to downtown Greensboro within the last year. Now, Bedard says that the studio provides a great workout and is a great place to express herself and find her confidence once more.

“It was really something that I wanted to do for my own self-confidence,” she said. “I had never taken any kind of dance class before in my life. I’ve never been primarily athletic, but it’s something I chose to do to get a self-esteem boost.”

Bedard, an international business major and Honors Fellow, had always been the studious type. And now, she’s been able to develop an artistic flair that she said she hopes to take with her in her post-grad life.

## Finding modeling

When the Descending Angels studio moved to downtown Greensboro, Bedard was asked to be body painted as part of the grand opening activities. There were no clothes besides undergarments — she would be painted head to toe. Bedard happily agreed, noting that her willingness was because of her newly obtained self-confidence from pole dancing. It turns out, this moment led her to another artistic avenue — modeling.

“The person who painted me asked if I’d ever gotten into modeling, and when I said no, he told me he thought I’d be really good at it,” Bedard said. “He added me to some different Facebook groups that are for North and South Carolina models and photographers, saying

that if I was interested, I could join and maybe get some photographers interested in me, too.”

When the first photographer contacted her, Bedard quickly verified him and, in early September 2016, she had a blast at her first professional photo shoot.

Bedard is an international student from the greater Toronto, Ontario, area, so she is unable to receive payment for her work without a work visa. Instead, it’s designed to be a portfolio booster for both the model and photographer.

After her success in September, she has gotten several more offers, and even started doing boudoir shoots, which are commonly known to portray romantic settings.

Once she gets a work visa, she said she may seek out paying modeling jobs on occasion.

## Journey to confidence

Bedard wholeheartedly believes her current body confidence came from her involvement in pole dancing and modeling. Through these activities, Bedard said she has been able to combat the part of herself that restrained her from feeling comfortable in her own skin. Bedard said that coming to Elon was a “shock” in terms of her perceived lack of fitting in.

“I remember thinking all the girls here are just gorgeous ... I don’t look like them,” she said. “So my self-esteem from first coming to Elon just totally plummeted. But when I started doing pole dancing ... it really helped me learn that there’s really no one ideal for beauty. You don’t have to look a certain way to be able to wear a bikini. You don’t have to look a certain way to love your body.”

She also credits much of this changing attitude to her instructors — one of whom, Ashanti Gray ’09, is an Elon alumna.

“They are just so positive and embracing of everybody,” Bedard said. “They’ve obviously seen how pole dancing can transform their lives. They’re so happy to see you grow and embrace yourself ... They’ve made a huge difference.”

Gray graduated as a psychology major with a biology minor, and after taking a pole dancing class in 2010, quickly rekindled her love of dance and turned it into something more lucrative. She’s been instructing for more than four years, and joined Descending Angels in May 2016.

“In my mind, all bodies are beautiful and have the ability to create divine movement,” Gray said. “It’s normal to hear: ‘I’m not strong enough, I’m not thin enough’ the list of reasons not to try is ridiculously long and steeped in fear and doubt. I urge everyone to accept their doubts and try pole dancing, or anything new, anyway.”

This “can-do” mindset is one that Bedard quickly took on, claiming it changed her life for the better.

“Now I look a lot more at how I feel about myself and how I look at what I can do — that’s beauty,” Bedard said. “You gain so much strength and flexibility as you go that you start to really love your body for what it can do.”

## Future goals

Since she has found so much enjoyment and success in both pole dancing and modeling, Bedard said she hopes to do something to encourage other women to follow in her steps. She often posts on social media about her experiences and is considering making a blog soon.

“If I can have a small part in helping even just one other woman discover her potential, then I would love to do that,” she said.

She hopes to have candid conversations about how women don’t need to feel limited in their potential, knowing very well that this mindset caused her to spend many nights during her first two years at Elon not leaving her room to socialize on account of feeling the pressure to look perfect.

Gray hopes her encouragement in class will be a voice of reason for some of her students.

“Fear is a powerful oppressor,” Gray said. “Most of the time we limit ourselves, we prevent ourselves from going further and doing or being more. I can’t help but tell anyone who will listen to acknowledge their fears and doubts and then continue to move forward — it’s the only way we can truly thrive.”

This is exactly what Bedard has done — move forward. Out with the negativity and in with finally getting those bikinis, shorts and anything else she can enjoy.



PHOTO COURTESY OF STEPHANIE BEDARD

# Elon Art Collection explores history within its archives

**Deirdre Kronschnabel**  
Contributor  
@kronschd

A walk into Alamance Storage seems like an unglamorous endeavor, but among units of old mattresses and veneered plywood panels, a unit rented by Elon University is home to priceless works of art.

Ethan Moore, coordinator of the Elon University Art Collection, oversees the handling, codification and organization of the art and artifacts. The university collection is made up of nine distinct collections, from the portrait heavy Joseph Wallace King Collection to the more contemporary Davidson Print Collection.

Not all art that is donated to the school is moved into the collection. The pieces must fit into one of the nine collections to meet the collections policy criteria.

Once the art reaches the collection, Moore works with students, faculty, staff and interior designers to pull objects from storage and display them on campus.

"The idea of the collection is to have it have a life outside of storage," Moore said. "Having it out can help raise awareness of the collection, but it can also sort of highlight engaged academic processes that are going on in various classrooms, or particular departments or jobs that staff are doing."

The art collection spans thousands of years, from cuneiform tablets that are estimated to be more than 4,000 years old, to recent Elon student work.

"The collection that I am most pleased that we were able to cre-

ate here is the one of student art," Moore said.

Faculty from the art and art history department choose pieces of student work from three different student art shows on campus — the Student Art Exhibition, the Senior Thesis Exhibition and the Faculty Select Show.

"We have a criteria, and we'll select pieces of student work, and we'll pay a small honorarium to the students. Then we'll put those pieces in the collection," Moore said. "It's my hope that we can get these pieces out on campus to show some of the great work that our students here are doing."

Students are also involved behind the scenes in the upkeep and transport of the artifacts.

"I have seven student workers, and they're trained on object handling, so they're usually who we rely on," Moore said.

The students work closely with the collection in different ways depending on their varying interests. Sophomore Lindsay Maldari, an art history major, learned about the collection after taking a class with Moore.

"Some students work more with organizing the collection in storage, while others are currently working to create an art catalogue on a recent donation," Maldari said. "I personally specialize in curating an annual exhibit that the Collection displays in the Isabella Canon Room over the summer."

When the pieces are larger or more cumbersome to move, the heavier work is transported by Physical Plant. In some cases, Moore uses his own truck or van to move pieces back and forth.

"Sometimes there are logistic issues, but like with any small museum or cultural institutions we kind of make do with what we have and try to be creative," Moore said.

The art collection is undeniably dynamic, and a certain piece may spend its life in several different locations around campus once it is brought out of storage, before coming back to settle for years before it is brought out again.

"It gets recycled from area to area. Oftentimes if someone is renovating a space and wants something new, perhaps wants something that we don't have in the collection, we'll receive those pieces back. And then another person down the line will say they want those pieces," Moore said. "So it comes to storage for a little while, we'll do some condition reporting, and then we'll send them back out."

Sometimes artwork leaves the limelight for other reasons.

During Moore's years as a coordinator, a portrait was found by campus security in the bushes outside McMichael. The portrait, which had been originally hung inside the building, cost the collection hundreds of dollars in restoration fees due to damage to the plaster frame and the removal of a pencil-drawn mustache.

"All of the pieces in the collection have a life and story of their own," Moore said.

Collection pieces are on display all across campus, including second floor of Belk Library and the Moseley Center. A new student-organized exhibition will soon be on display in the Great Hall of Global Commons.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AJ MANDELL

Art depicting Chinese characters are found in the collection, among other aged art pieces.

# Markson lands MAMMA MIA! final tour

**Jamie Snover**  
Contributor  
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Lizzie Markson '16's story of success is not without thanks to her mentors, focused work ethic and an early pursued passion. This spring, just a week after commencement, Markson landed the role of Sophie in the farewell tour of "MAMMA MIA!" — a role that would take her career to new heights.

Markson had her first experience with theater at eight years old at Stage Door day camp in Allentown, Pennsylvania, where she had roles in four shows.

"I was hooked," she said. "For the rest of my time in high school, I took advantage of everything the theater department had to offer, from musicals to classes to just working one-on-one with my theater teacher."

From there, Markson went on to the college audition process, landing herself at Elon University, where she earned her BFA in music theatre.

"I spent four years committing almost all of my time and energy to dance and acting classes, voice lessons, rehearsals for class, rehearsals for shows, going through frustrations, putting together musical numbers for cabarets, auditions, rejections, celebrations, and learning how to work as a team," she said.

A week after graduation last spring, Markson received a call from Joy Dewing, the casting director for "MAMMA MIA!," that she

had been cast as the lead role of Sophie in the farewell tour.

"I think my jaw stayed dropped for about five minutes after I hung up. It didn't feel real," Markson said. "That was hands down one of the happiest, coolest moments of my life — to realize that after four years of hard work, growth and my fair share of rejection, I was getting the job of my dreams."

Markson's voice professor, Dan Callaway, believes every Elon student has something special to give. For Markson, it was her work ethic.

"I was working with a young artist who had incorporated the skills she had gained from all her classes: acting, singing, dance, musical theatre performance, all of it," Callaway said. "Any of her teachers and peers would tell you what a hard worker she is and how she never stops in the face of obstacles. They stoke her fire."

One of the obstacles Markson faced was handling the weight of the role of Sophie — especially on the farewell tour.

"Instead, I focus on truthfully telling the story, staying grateful and having as much as fun as possible," Markson said. "I have to get lost in Sophie's childlike optimism. I have to have fun, or the audience won't."

The tour opened in a 2,650 seat theater in Houston. Until opening night, Markson had never performed in front of such a large crowd.

"When the curtain comes up, it is just me

on stage, which is a vulnerable feeling," Markson said.

It's the audience that helps Markson calm her jitters. Since the music of "MAMMA MIA!" is so recognizable the audience can't stay in their seats.

"Every night, we get to live a rock concert in the finale. The audience is on their feet, dancing in the aisles and singing along," Markson said. "Feeling that energy and love surrounding us every night on stage is surreal."

Though performing on the tour is Markson's dream, traveling to the tour destinations is unlike anything she has ever done.

"We're all going through it together as a cast. It bonds us in a really special way — it makes us family," Markson said. "Through everything that constantly changes with life on the road, from our hotel beds to the climate outside — our source of stability is each other."

Callaway, who worked with Markson on callback material for "MAMMA MIA!," knows she can handle anything the tour will throw her way.

"She was game for anything and would try anything," Callaway said.

Markson took a unique route on making the character of Sophie her own, with the help of what she learned at Elon.

"I don't try to get rid of my quirks. Instead, I let them filter into Sophie's circumstances and life experiences," Markson said. "And that is something I definitely learned from Elon —

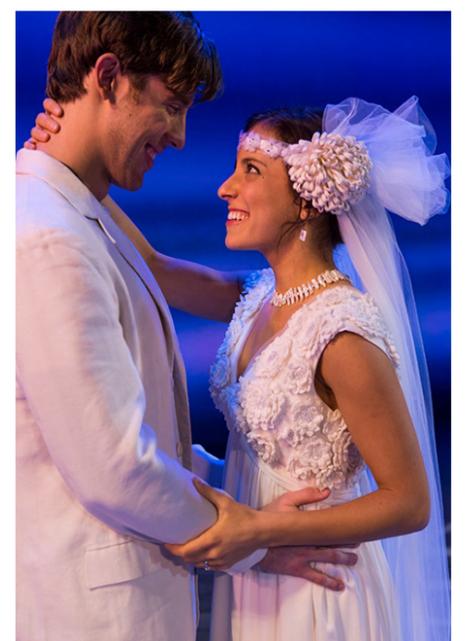


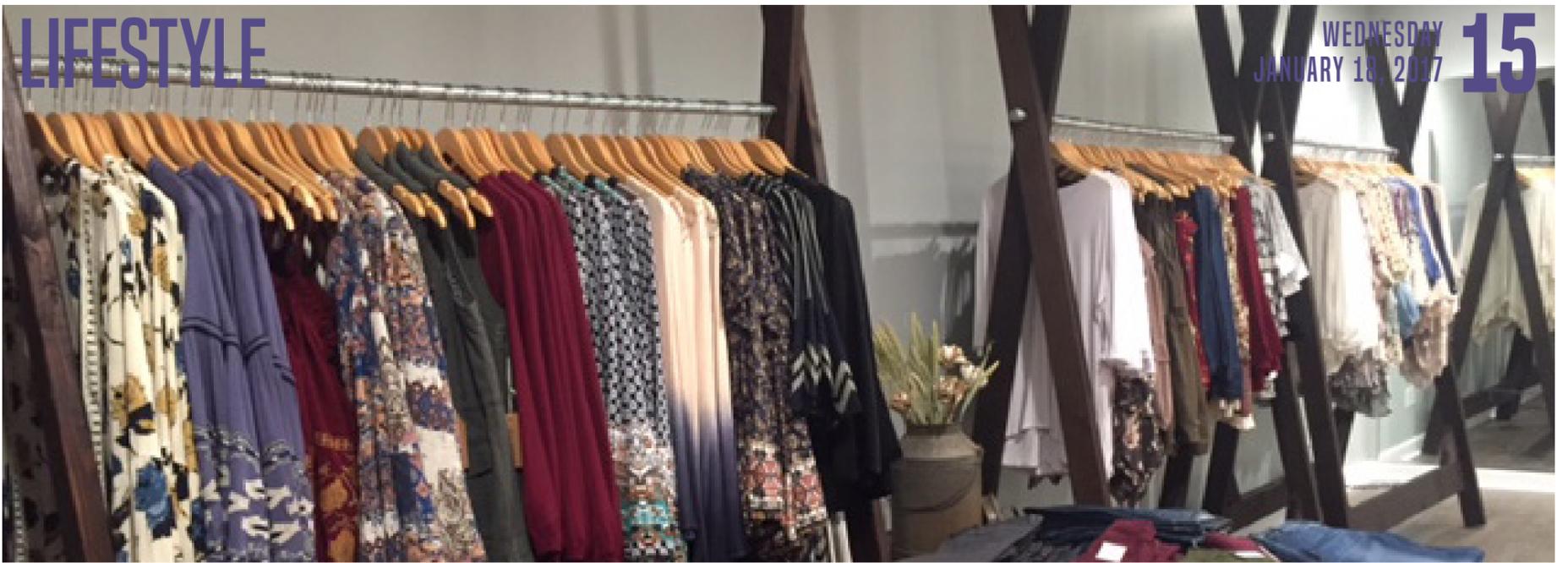
PHOTO COURTESY OF LIZZIE MARKSON

The spotlight shines bright on Elon alumna Lizzie Markson.

not to filter the exciting, weird stuff that makes us human, because that's the good stuff."

Markson hasn't forgotten where she started and who helped her get to where she is today. Not long ago, she and Callaway caught up over Skype.

"It was great to see how much she is enjoying her time on the road and to see how grateful she is for the opportunities that are coming her way," Callaway said.



## Elon alumna to open Simply Oak Boutique in downtown Elon

**Alexandra Schonfeld**

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On Jan. 21, the vacant storefront on W. Lebanon Ave. — the previous home to Mynt Boutique — will open its doors to a new boutique run by Elon University graduate Melissa Deaton '13.

**Simply Oak Boutique will sell candles, pillows, blankets and handmade jewelry.**

Deaton graduated with a double major in accounting and finance and has since been working in the Phoenix card office, where she is now the business coordinator.

Swiftly after graduation, Deaton enrolled in Elon's MBA program and graduated in 2015. During her two years in the graduate program, Deaton was presented with the task of creating a mock business plan.

"I was like, 'Wait a minute. Let me do something that I am actually interested in.' So I did the mock business plan for a boutique, and the more I thought about it, I realized I could actually do it," she said.

After spending years as a student

at Elon, Deaton decided there was no better place to open a business.

"I want to do this for the students, faculty, staff and community," Deaton said. "I knew I wanted it in Elon from the very beginning."

And when coming up with a name for her store, Simply Oak, Deaton did not have to look far for inspiration.

"Everyone knows as a student here the symbolism of the oak tree. When you come in here, you're given the acorn, and when you leave, you get the oak," she said. "I wanted it to represent the student growing into a oak — they're becoming a person. They're finding themselves. I want this to be a place where they can come and find clothes they feel comfortable in."

At first, Deaton envisioned placing her store on the first floor of Park Place, which is still vacant. But when she heard that 108 W. Lebanon Ave. was available, she knew it was her shot.

Since then, it has been a nonstop adventure for the budding entrepre-

neur. In October, she attended the Atlanta Apparel Market, where she purchased around 80 percent of the store's merchandise.

"When I went to Atlanta, they actually had more, what I call, boutique brands — brands you don't find in the department stores, and stuff they strictly sell to boutiques," Deaton said. "It'll be more unique pieces and there will only be a few

made jewelry that Deaton says will appeal to everyone.

Simply Oak's price points will be more affordable than Mynt Boutique, a common criticism of the previous downtown Elon store.

"That was something I heard when I was doing my initial research on getting the boutique started: What did people want to see? What sorts of price points did they want?"

Deaton said. "They mentioned that they couldn't afford some things [in Mynt] and that they would like to be able to go in and purchase multiple items at once."

Deaton has received a lot of help from friends and family in preparation for the grand opening. In addition, she took out a loan to help financially support her endeavor.

One of her friends and former classmate Byron Bellman said he is not surprised that Deaton is opening her own business after watching her dedication and hard-working attitude first hand.

"Two of our last classes of the Winter and Spring sessions were Entrepreneurship I & II, which required us to create a business based on real life market conditions.

During this five-month period many conversations were had about going out on our own and what types of businesses we would want to go into so I am not shocked in the least with Simply Oak," he said. "I personally believe that Melissa has what it takes to make Simply Oak a success story considering her local connection and Elon education."

Deaton says her education at Elon prepared her substantially to take on owning her own business, both as an undergraduate and when pursuing a MBA. Since graduating, she has kept in contact with many professors, but in particular, it has been Professor Richard Hackworth who has provided guidance over the past few months.

"I've sent him my business plan and he's gone over it," she said of Hackworth. "He has been absolutely amazing. I can send him a message, and if doesn't have the answer, he will find someone who does. He has been super helpful."

Deaton also gives a lot of credit to her accounting and finance background that she gained from Elon.

"I've been able to pull bits and pieces [from all of my business classes] that will help to hopefully make this successful," she said.

I WANTED [THE NAME] TO REPRESENT THE STUDENT GROWING INTO AN OAK — THEY'RE BECOMING A PERSON. THEY'RE FINDING THEMSELVES.

**MELISSA DEATON '13**

OWNER OF SIMPLY OAK BOUTIQUE

numbers of each piece. Once they're gone, they're gone. It'll be a different piece the next time I re-order."

Deaton also did her own research on various brands and has been choosing items to stock the shelves with come opening day. In addition to clothing, Simply Oak will have candles, pillows, blankets and hand-

## 'You Can't Take it With You' to engage audiences of all ages

**Deirdre Kronschnabel**

Contributor  
@kronschnabel

This winter, Elon University's department of performing arts' "You Can't Take it With You" explores what it means to be an individual in a world that urges us to conform.

A classic comedy written by an incredibly funny playwrighting pair, Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman, "You Can't Take it With You" follows the relationship of Alice Sycamore and Tony Kirby and the union of their two delightfully dysfunctional families.

Department Chair, Professor of Performing Arts and Director Fred Rubeck leads the artistic team in bringing new life to Hart and Kaufman's timeless production.

The show was carefully selected by the department faculty with hopes of providing opportunities for both actors and designers to expand their abilities. Already, two weeks into production, sophomore Jacqueline Silva and junior Daniel Roth have stretched out of their comfort zones as actors and settled into their positions of assistant directors.

"We're responsible for helping

out Fred with whatever he sees fit, whatever he needs throughout the process," Silva said. "Whatever he needs, we're there for him."

**"You Can't Take it With You" follows the relationship of Alice Sycamore and Tony Kirby and the union of their two dysfunctional families.**

Roth, who has stage combat experience, works with actors on staging falls, and also spends time coaching two characters in the show who speak in a Russian accent.

"I'm still planning on acting and performing, but this is really the chance to experiment with directing," Roth said.

But more experience means more opportunity for growth, and Rubeck seems to be the ideal director to nurture their skill sets.

"I am so convinced that he is a certified genius," Silva said. "He just sees things and thinks of things. He'll think and find a solution before we even have the chance to process what he's said. It's insane."

"You Can't Take it With You" is an ensemble cast show, which

means that each character is of relative equal importance to the story. Senior Austin Larkin plays Paul Sycamore, the childlike father of Alice. Larkin believes the jumble of characters and ensemble is what makes the show special.

"We all work and play off one another," Larkin said. "I think the audience falls in love with every character in very different ways."

Chip Johnson, adjunct professor of performing arts, revives his role of Grandpa after a 16-year interlude, when he and Rubeck last performed the show. Not only is this his second time playing Grandpa, but even earlier in his acting career, Johnson played the male lead, Tony Kirby.

Unlike fall- or spring-season shows put on by the department of performing arts, Winter Term productions provide a challenging and unique platform for Johnson and the student actors.

"We are going at warp speed," Johnson said. "We don't have as much time, but the time is so concentrated that we're all really focused on telling this story."

Rehearsals go from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. almost every day, and the constant expenditure of energy can be exhausting. With such a

short time frame, there are only about two weeks to get everything running smoothly before tech rehearsal, and "You Can't Take it With You" is a three-act show.

Younger crowds will appreciate the vibrancy of the show even amid some of the more dated references.

Senior George Whitaker, who plays the character Donald, is sure college students will also be able to identify with many of the characters, especially college-aged Tony and Alice, the leading couple.

"We all have those moments where our mom or dad embarrasses us in front of our friends," Whitaker said.

While on stage, sophomore Claire Lord's character portrays the antithesis of the play's message. Lord, who plays Mrs. Miriam Kirby, summarized the show with an unmistakable enthusiasm and sharp clarity.

"When this life is over, it doesn't matter how much money you make. It doesn't matter what you did. It doesn't really matter what you accomplished," Lord said. "It matters what kind of a person you are. All the other stuff — you can't take it with you."

Even if a reference goes over a head or two, Rubeck is confident

### WHEN & WHERE

**Where:** Roberts Studio Theatre, Scotts Studio Arts West

**When:** January 20, 7:30 p.m.  
January 21, 2 p.m., 7:30 p.m.  
January 22, 2 p.m.

January 23 & 24, 7:30 p.m.  
February 1, 2 & 3, 7:30 p.m.  
February 4, 2 p.m., 7:30 p.m.

**Admission:** \$13 or Elon ID  
Call (336) 278-5650 to make a reservation

that "You Can't Take it With You" will nonetheless serve its intended purpose.

"Whether Shakespeare or Jane Austin or Kaufman and Hart, great works of art survive because they are indeed relevant," Rubeck said. "The point of the play is not to educate about the life of this family in the 1930s, but to reveal human truths that apply to any age."

"You Can't Take it With You" will be performed Jan. 20-24 and Feb. 1-4 at Roberts Studio Theatre in Scotts Studio at Arts West.

**ONLINE:**

Men's basketball: JMU press slows Elon offense

**SPORTS**

## Women's basketball scorching through start of CAA play

**Alex Simon**  
Sports Director  
@alexsimon99

It would be forgivable if junior guard Shay Burnett and the Elon University women's basketball team showed off a little bit of their confidence right about now.

The Phoenix has won nine straight games — a program record for the Division I era and the longest winning streak since 1981-1982 — and currently sits alone atop the Colonial Athletic Association standings, holding a perfect 5-0 conference record and a 13-4 record overall.

But Burnett is following the direction of her head coach, Charlotte Smith, and trying to keep the displays of confidence to a minimum on the court.

"Coach says, 'Don't let your head get too big to where you can't get through the door,'" Burnett said. "We're a confident team, but we try not to show it. We don't want to be too confident where we're too hyped for a game and let it slip away from us."

But Burnett acknowledged that Elon is feeling "hyped" when it's in the locker room or practicing among itself, as Elon seems to be clicking on all cylinders. It's something that Smith can agree with, too.

"I'm just really pleased and excited with the way the team is playing right now," Smith said. "We're playing with a lot of confidence, and that makes all the difference in the world right now, and we're playing together."

The Phoenix has been clicking offensively, averaging 74.1 points per game in the nine-game winning streak. Smith has really been impressed with how the team has handled the different looks defenses are sending at them.

"Offensively, I feel like we really, really understand our zone offenses a lot bet-

ter," Smith said. "We've seen a lot of zone, and we'll probably continue to see a lot of zone, so I feel like we're doing a good job of executing. Man-to-man defense — our offense against that is bread and butter."

That was on display Sunday against Drexel University, the best defensive team in the conference and the eighth-best defensive team in the country entering the game. After beating the Dragons 48-45 in Philadelphia Jan. 6, the Phoenix dropped 75 points on Drexel in a 10-point victory. To beat the Dragons twice in a 10-day span was something that Burnett believes sent a message.

"They were number one in the mid-majors a couple of weeks ago before

Smith has been impressed with the team's ability to learn, understand and execute defensive philosophies, and senior guard Maddie McCallie — who made all four shots she took against Drexel, including three 3-pointers — feels that the focus on defense is key for the nights when the offense isn't there.

"I think just continuing to be really strong defensively [is key]," McCallie said. "That's always been our focus, so that when shots aren't falling down, we'll fall back on our defense. So just continue to do that here on out."

The wins over Drexel leave just one program left in the CAA that Elon has not beaten: three-time defending conference champion James Madison University. Burnett finds it convenient that Elon's next opponent is none other than the Dukes.

"I'm glad that they're next because we're on a high right now," Burnett said. "It makes me feel better that we can go in and beat them. Especially with the crowd out here [Sunday] — our fans were amazing, and I hope they're that way against JMU. We've got to come in, be levelheaded and play like we know how to play."

Elon will get a chance to beat James Madison for the first time in its sixth try since joining the conference, with the sting of the two painfully close losses last season still lingering for the returners like Brown. But she was quick to clarify that the team isn't treating the game as do-or-die.

"Definitely approaching this game, we want to beat them. Just like Drexel, we haven't beaten them yet, so it'd be a huge win for the team," Brown said. "But we try to go into each game with the same mindset, be emotionally stable and know, if it's us against perfection and we do the little things, we put ourselves in the best position to be successful and hopefully pull out a win."

WE DON'T WANT TO BE TOO CONFIDENT WHERE WE'RE TOO HYPED FOR A GAME AND LET IT SLIP AWAY FROM US.

**SHAY BURNETT**  
JUNIOR GUARD

we beat them, so we're getting ourselves out there by winning, beating the number one team in the mid-majors. That's huge," Burnett said, stretching out the 'U' for emphasis. "That's a big team accomplishment, and we're making history."

But Elon's commitment to defense shone through as well, holding Drexel to 40.4 percent from the field. It's the best a team has shot against Elon during the streak, even though the number barely edged above Smith's stated goal of keeping opponents under 40 percent. Drexel's number had Burnett and Smith joking with each other after the game.

"They got 40.4? It's unacceptable, but we'll let it slide this time," Burnett said.

Smith retorted, "They'll have to come back tonight to run sprints."

## Smith gets 100th career win

**Alex Simon**  
Sports Director  
@alexsimon99

The ninth-straight victory for the Elon University women's basketball team was also a milestone



**Charlotte Smith**

victory for head coach Charlotte Smith.

The sixth-year head coach picked up her 100th career victory in the Phoenix's 75-65 win over Drexel

University Sunday. After the game, the Elon players mobbed their coach at center court while the crowd gave her and the team a standing ovation.

"It's so exciting just to know we've been a part of it," said senior guard Lauren Brown. "Obviously 100 is a milestone, but we know there's so much more to come for Coach Smith. Being able to celebrate and be a part of that is a great feeling as a team."

Smith said it is special to get to 100 wins, but added, "You don't get to 100 wins by yourself. I have an amazing staff — a loyal staff that grinds it out to help me. You have to have players to get wins, and I'm thankful for the talent that we've had in this program the six years that I've been here.

"And I'm thankful for this senior class. When they came in their freshman year, I sat them down and told them they're a special class, and they can be the ones to turn this program around. They've done just that."

Smith becomes the fourth women's basketball coach at Elon to reach 100 wins.

# Elon makes strides early in CAA play

Men's basketball feels on right track despite 2-4 start in conference

## Tommy Hamzik

Executive Director  
@T\_Hamzik

When assessing the Elon University men's basketball team's performance after six Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) games, head coach Matt Matheny looked past the statistical strides and was pleased with the way the Phoenix has approached games.

First, there was the stretch of four games in eight days that Elon ended with a slew of offensive successes, leading to a victory over Towson University.

Then, one of the best shooting displays in Elon's CAA tenure in a 96-80 win against Hofstra University.

And, finally, even in a loss against James Madison University, a step forward in knowing its ability to compete at a slower pace when one of the key contributors isn't having the best night.

"It hurts to lose," Matheny said Jan. 14. "But when you take a step back, I love our mindset. I love the way we're playing. I like how tough our guys are. I like the execution in late-game situations, both offense and defense."

Elon lost three straight to start CAA play — home against College of Charleston, at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and at College of William & Mary — before beating Towson.

The Towson victory was vital, not only for avoiding a 0-4 start to CAA play, but for finding some positive results to work with in the days of practice afterward.

The Phoenix overcame a slow start — it missed its first nine shots from the field — against a Tigers team that is known for its defense. That defense has troubled Elon in the

past, delivering the Phoenix its worst shooting performance in each of the last two years.

But that wasn't the case then, as Elon shot 42.3 percent from the field and grabbed 37 rebounds, tied for its most in six meetings games Towson in the last three years.

"Reap the benefits of getting a victory, then you can feel better when you're resting," Matheny said.

It showed against Hofstra, when the Phoenix shot a flaming 57.9 percent from the field and 51.9 percent from 3-point territory.

In CAA play, Elon's offense ranks sixth in the league in scoring offense at 71.5 points per game and fifth in field goal percentage at 46.1 percent. Sophomore Steven Santa Ana has been a huge part of that, posting 29 points in games against both William & Mary and Hofstra.

But he struggled against the Dukes, missing his first six shots and not scoring until more than halfway through the second half. He finished with just five points on 2-of-10 shooting.

All that considered, Elon still was in the game and had a chance to win in the final moments — sophomore Tyler Seibring's elbow jumper was no good, and junior forward Brian Dawkins' follow tap missed.

This was a game during which James Madison slowed the pace, and, with its trapping press, got Elon out of its offensive rhythm.

That left some encouraging prospects about where the Phoenix stands on offense, but also where it needs to go.

"Our motion was pretty crisp early on," Seibring said after the James Madison loss. "We were able to get good looks, looks we know we can knock down. We shared the ball pretty well. Once we get flowing like that, and setting screens the way we did, we're going to get good looks. We have to defense to be able to get those looks in the fast break."

Elon hosts Drexel University and William & Mary in CAA action this week.

"I like our confidence right now," Matheny said. "I think our mindset is right, and our confidence is right. I think we're getting better."



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

Sophomore guard Dainan Swoope (13) lays the ball in during Elon's 72-61 win over Towson University Jan. 7.

# Volleyball alumna races to raise money for Yow

Alumna honors Elon's first women's athletics coach by fundraising for race

## Alyssa Potter

Contributor  
@\_apottss

Some students may use Feb. 18 as a sleepy Saturday, but one Elon University alumna will be racing in honor of a lost role model.

Kay Yow, a renowned women's basketball coach famous for her time at North Carolina State University, founded women's sports at Elon and was the first women's basketball and volleyball coach. Though she went on to greatness in her career, earning induction into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 2000, she died from breast cancer in 2009. The Kay Yow Cancer Fund was created in 2007 based on Yow's ideas and desire to find an answer to women's cancers.

This year, the foundation will have its first annual 4K "Celebration Run/Walk" on NC State's campus. Megan Gravley, '16, a former Elon student and volleyball player, will be attending.

Gravley has a personal connection to Yow, as she was raised locally in the Raleigh area and played basketball from age 6 to 14, when volleyball ultimately won over her schedule.

"I grew up idolizing Coach Yow," Gravley said. "She was a great friend to my family and served as an inspiration to everyone around



Megan Gravley '16 with Kay Yow at a basketball camp in 2003. Gravley is running for Yow's Cancer Fund Feb. 18.

her, from her players to her staff, the fans to her opponents."

Gravley will be accompanied by her family on the course beginning at 11 a.m. and has begun fundraising to benefit the Kay Yow Cancer Fund. She has a personal fundraising page through the cancer fund's website with a goal of \$500.

"It's so special to contribute to an organization close to my heart, even if it doesn't seem like much in the grand scheme of things," Gravley said.

Her connection to the organization goes beyond seeing Yow as an inspiration. Grav-

ley's mom and aunt have both been affected by cancer, too.

She and her family, Gravley said, are thankful for an organization so passionately devoted to helping women who aren't as fortunate as Gravley's family was. The organization at large raises money for research and assists those who do not have the funds for treatment, all the while unifying people for a common cause.

And many were unified over Yow's famous phrase: "When life kicks you, let it kick you forward." This phrase, Gravley said, was used to push the Kay Yow Cancer Fund into full force.

Yow's powerful words and relentless spirit even during her long-standing battle with her health, touched hundreds on and off the court. Her fight began in 1987 and ended with her passing in 2009 after her third round of breast cancer. Because of Yow's influence in the women's basketball community, they began the initiative "Play4Kay," for which many sports, groups and organizations have hosted fundraisers and played in pink in Yow's honor.

Elon participates every year. Charlotte Smith, the current women's basketball coach, said that it's a great initiative in helping to cure a disease that affects so many.

"Kay Yow was a legend, and it's an honor to be able to coach here at Elon University where she got her start," Smith said. "The Kay Yow Cancer Fund does a phenomenal job of bringing awareness about cancer and fundraising for research. ... We're excited to be a part of the program and play the pink game. Every pink game — but really, every game — we try to represent her legacy."

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY MEGAN GRAVLEY

A SURPRISING  
CHANGE

PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS  
Curt Cignetti laughs while at the podium during his introductory press conference Jan. 2.

Cignetti brings high expectations after rushed coaching search

**Alex Simon**  
Sports Editor  
@alexsimon99

The phone in Curt Cignetti's office was ringing regularly once the Indiana University of Pennsylvania football team's season ended. The sixth-year coach was content with the Crimson Hawks, seeing a future with at least 10 wins a season for the next two years.

So he graciously declined each request, taking the time to answer the call but never giving what the person on the other end wanted.

But in late December, Cignetti got a call from Elon University. This was a school he remembered from his time at North Carolina State University, where he was before he was an assistant at the University of Alabama

**Former Elon football coach Rich Skrosky resigned to take the offensive coordinator position at Florida International University.**

and won a national title on Nick Saban's staff. And Elon had an opening, as head coach Rich Skrosky resigned to take the offensive coordinator position at Florida International University on Butch Davis' staff.

Cignetti made a promise to someone close to him that he would head down to Elon to visit, but he was not anticipating departing IUP. But, just as Elon found out a week prior when the head coaching position opened in the first place, Cignetti saw that surprises are just around the corner in the wild world of college athletics.

"I thought I knew what to expect when I came down," Cignetti said. "However, once I got down here and saw the growth and development that had taken place on campus, it was extremely impressive to me. By the time I left campus, my whole thought process and mindset had changed. I said to myself, 'Why not? Why can't we get it done here?' And I couldn't come up with an answer.

"I had a great job. But I saw the challenge as an exciting opportunity. Every single day I've been here, I'm more convinced that we can build a championship program, make progress on a daily basis and really get people excited about Elon football."

#### 'An unexpected development'

Director of Athletics Dave Blank found out from Skrosky on Thursday, Dec. 15, 2016, that FIU was interested in him as its offensive coordinator, and Skrosky took a weekend trip to Miami and visit with Davis. Skrosky told Blank Tuesday afternoon that he was taking the job.

Within moments, Blank was at the side of Director of Athletics Communications Dan Wyar, and the school put out a press release on the resignation within 20 minutes where Blank called it "an unexpected development." He stressed that the timing of the move made it essential for Elon

to get the word out quickly about the opening.

"Recruiting is at a pinnacle right now in the sport of football, so the reason this was a rushed process was every bit about recruiting as it was about continuing to have leadership in the program," Blank said. "Everyone knows January is a huge recruiting month and here we are sitting on Dec. 20 — late in the day, even — and we don't have a head coach. So what's that going to do to our recruiting?"

Blank immediately compiled a short list of candidates, and felt that the interest in Elon's job was "plentiful," with some big names reaching out to him about the job. Given recent results in the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA), Blank had some skepticism of the unknown.

"I learned through this process that Elon University and our football program are very desirable on a national level," Blank said. "Sometimes you're not sure about that. If you think about transitioning to this difficult conference and we haven't had a lot of success in the first three years of football, which coaches are going to be interested in your job? There was no hesitation around the country. People see Elon as a desirable university and a desirable football program and certainly the strength of the CAA all stood tall."

The first thing that Blank had to evaluate is what Elon needed as an institution, with a sharp focus on the players currently in the school. Being connected to the current team and knowing what to seek for the head of the football program were vital for Blank, especially in poor timing.

"I have student-athletes relying on me to help solve the problem of

## CURT CIGNETTI

### Playing Experience:

West Virginia | 1979-82 | Quarterback

### Head Coaching

Experience: Indiana University of Pennsylvania | 2011-2016

### Overall Head Coach

Record: 53-17 (33-11)

them not having a leader," Blank said. "I take that very seriously. Anytime we have a head coach vacancy, my responsibility is to find the right person. In this situation, it was really challenged with the timing.

"Normally, you meet with the team and have a conversation, but they were all home for the holidays, so you don't have the ability to do the normal process. That didn't slow anything down, but it would've made me feel better about communicating with our football players and saying, 'Here's what's going on,' and explaining the situation to them myself."

In discussing the opening with President Leo Lambert and other members of Elon's senior staff, it became quickly apparent that Elon wanted somebody that, as Blank put it, "has been in the head coach's chair." Blank found the candidates Elon chose to be serious with and, throughout the process, Cignetti's profile kept him near the very top of Elon's interest.

See **CIGNETTI**  
pg. 19

## THE NEW STAFF: Cignetti has hired an almost entirely new coaching staff. Here's who's who.

**DREW  
FOLMAR**



**Position:** Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks

**MATT  
MERRITT**



**Position:** Running Backs/Special Teams Coordinator

**MIKE  
SHANAHAN**



**Position:** Wide Receivers

**CRIS  
REISERT**



**Position:** Tight Ends/Recruiting Coordinator

**DAMIAN  
WROBLEWSKI**



**Position:** Offensive Line

**TONY  
TRISCIANI**



**Position:** Defensive Coordinator

**JERRICK  
HALL**



**Position:** Defensive Line

**BRYANT  
HAINES**



**Position:** Linebackers

**RYAN  
SMITH**



**Position:** Defensive Backs

### CIGNETTI from pg. 18

#### 'Same trajectory'

One thing Blank stressed was that, despite the 7-27 record in Skrosky's three years in the CAA, he felt Elon was going in the right direction.

"In this specific situation, I believe progress was being made even though success wasn't being found regularly on the field," Blank said. "But I also understand where the program was going and what we were trying to do. I still believe we're going in that same trajectory. Now we have a different coach leading the way, and we'll see what kind of success and results that brings on the field. But I'm not to discount the transition for football in the CAA has been a rough transition relative to wins and losses, but not relative to the progress that our program is making."

Skrosky's departure will give Cignetti an opportunity to bear the fruit of the three years of laborious progress, something he hopes he can build around.

"I think there was a lot of good work done by the prior staff in laying the foundation," Cignetti said. "73 percent of our players have two to three years of eligibility left, and that's encouraging. I think we have to add to the existing roster, particularly in the key positions, the difference makers that can turn a game around quickly. It's a process, but I've been very encouraged by the process."

Cignetti acknowledged that the change is making him juggle many

tasks right now, as he's working to hire his coaching staff while trying to evaluate the players he currently has in the program and recruit the high schoolers he wants to come to Elon. While it's a lot of work, one impression he's left with Blank is in his approach to hiring his coaching staff.

"I also know his roots relative to his family and being a football person growing up, and I'm seeing it in the decisions he's making," Blank said. "He's not settling for, 'Well, I've got to get people into this position or that position.' He's being selective in who he is bringing in. The theme that you'll see if you look at the background of those coming in is they're all currently winning."

"That's going to be really attractive to our current players, but it's also attractive from a standpoint of he's bringing in people that know how to be successful. That's really important to him. He hasn't done, 'Ta da, there's your football staff.' He's making sure that he's getting the right person for what he wants. I've seen it done both ways. It wasn't a, 'He's bringing his entire raft of people from IUP.' He's looking for who fits with him at Elon, and man, that's the right formula for success."

Cignetti has kept two coaches

from Skrosky's staff: tight ends coach and recruiting coordinator Cris Reisert, who Cignetti quipped "has all the information for recruiting," and offensive line coach Damian Wroblewski, though he is losing the offensive coordinator title. He's also brought back two coaches with experience at Elon in the past, as Jerrick Hall returns to coach the defensive line like he did on former Elon head coach Jason Swepson's staff.

But the big name returning is Tony Trisciani, who will be the defensive coordinator. The one-year assistant under Pete Lembo, Elon's head coach from 2006-2011, had spent the previous five years as recruiting coordinator and defensive backs coach at Villanova, a fellow CAA school that finished last season as the top-ranked defense in the Football Championship Subdivision.

"I'm an offensive coach. I have been involved with the offense through the years and I will continue to be involved with the offense, so my defensive coordinator hire was very critical to me," Cignetti said. "Tony Trisciani came very highly recommended from people I knew and trusted, and when I reached out to more people I knew and trusted, I heard nothing but great things."

#### Preparing for the next step

With National Signing Day — slated for Feb. 1 this year — charging hard at the coaching staff, Cignetti has been trying to evaluate the players that are currently in the program to see which areas they will need to recruit to, taking a unique avenue to do so.

"One thing we did as a staff is

we watched the high school Hudl of every single player on the team to get a feel of where we're at, what kind of players have been recruited here, what we need, what our strengths and weaknesses are, what our short-term needs and long-term needs are," Cignetti said. "I feel like I have a good, firm understanding of where we are today and where we need to go."

Elon's already seen some positives come out of that, with well-regarded Southern Durham High School quarterback Jalen Greene committing to Elon. The coaching staff has also tweeted about a few more commitments, the signs of a successful recruiting weekend on campus.

While the future is unknown, Cignetti is hard-pressed to give any number of wins he hopes Elon can achieve in the next year or two. Rather, Cignetti is striving to do things right in the super-short-term, hoping that focusing one day at a time will get Elon up to his lofty goals sometime down the line.

"Everything around here is going to be a process — living in the moment, positive energy, total focus to what you're doing, getting the most out of every day, maximizing every opportunity, controlling the controllables, putting yourself in the best position at the end of the day for tomorrow," Cignetti said. "There will be no self-imposed limitations on what we can accomplish, and that's how we're going to go about our business. That gives you the best chance for success, the best chance to attain the desired result."

"The goal here is to build a championship football program, and that's what we're going to do."



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