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THE PENDULUM



‘IT GENUINELY BROKE MY HEART.’

ELON COMMUNITY DENOUNCES ANTI-ASIAN HATE IN THE U.S.



Protest signs recognizing the recent hate crime and violence against the Asian American community in Atlanta.

CAROLINE BUNDER | DESIGNER

Elon students and faculty reflect on anti-Asian violence and discuss action steps to support Asian communities

Jinger Callwood | Elon News Network | @jingercallwood

JUNIOR ETHAN GABRIEL ALREADY knew what it was like to experience anti-Asian discrimination before the lethal Atlanta spa shootings that occurred March 16. “From personal experience, my mom and I will go grocery shopping, and then you see people just completely take a few steps away,” Gabriel said. “Or my mom would cough, and they’ll just go the other way. It’s one of those things where I’m just like, ‘that sucks.’”



THE EVENTS IN ATLANTA BROKE MY HEART. IT GENUINELY BROKE MY HEART.

ETHAN GABRIEL
JUNIOR

Gabriel, who identifies as multicultural with a Japanese, Filipino and Black background, took a deep breath as he described the heartache he felt after the Atlanta spa shootings. “The events in Atlanta broke my

heart. It genuinely broke my heart,” Gabriel said.

A 21-year-old white male took the lives of eight victims — Xiaojie Tan, Daoyou Feng, Delaina Yaun, Soon Chung Park, Hyun Jung Grant, Suncha Kim, Young Ae Yue and Paul Andre Michels — six of whom were women of Asian descent.

Over the past year, the United States has witnessed an increase in hate crimes against Asian Americans. The Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University-San Bernardino reported data showing a 149% spike of anti-Asian violence in 16 of America’s largest cities.

The surge of Asian hate crimes just this month includes the Atlanta shootings and the killing of 75-year-old Pak Ho, an Asian man who died after he was attacked while going for a walk in Oakland, California.

Authorities in Cherokee County, Georgia have not yet officially labeled the spa shootings as a hate crime due to the perpetrator’s claims of sexual addiction, which has sparked controversy and outrage from members of the Elon community.

See **HATE CRIME** | pg. 6

SGA announces the 2021–22 winners



FRANCES O’CONNOR | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Junior Jack Corby was elected 2021–22 SGA executive president, winning 82% of the vote.

Over 1,700 votes were cast in Elon University’s 2021 Student Government Association election

Claire Schoenfeld
Elon News Network

Jack Corby has been elected executive president of Elon University’s Student Government Association. Corby, a junior policy studies and sport management major, won 82% of the vote, held March 19.

The role of executive vice president went undecided in the initial election because none of the three candidates received more than 50% of the votes. A runoff election was held on Tuesday, March 23 between the top two candidates in which junior Chloe Yoon won the role of executive vice president with 67% of the total 972 votes.

Other elected members of the executive board include junior Caroline Penfield ‘22 as executive treasurer and junior Hailey Jurgens as executive secretary, two races that were uncontested.

Corby’s platform was based on what he refers to as the “five Cs”: continuity, communication, community, culture and care. He said his main priorities are centered around diversity, equity and inclusion as well as further communication regarding the university’s COVID-19 response.

Corby said his top goal as president is implementing policies that stick to his five Cs. He said initiatives like the 2019 pilot program that put free menstrual products in bathrooms around campus are programs he wants SGA to continue. He also hopes that as the two-year menstrual products pilot program expires, SGA is able to start up an expanded, permanent and more inclusive plan.

“There are people on this campus that use different bathrooms but need those products and need access to those products,” Corby said. “I just want to make sure that every student has access to the products for the entire time that they’re here.”

Corby also said he wants to see more student art being displayed around campus. He feels that Elon has impressive visual and performing arts programs that are often overlooked by students.

See **SGA** | pg. 8-9



NEWS • PAGE 7

A look at a day in the life of President Book



LIFESTYLE • PAGE 13

Student raises climate change awareness through business



SPORTS • PAGE 16

Women’s lacrosse begins with undefeated season

THE PENDULUM

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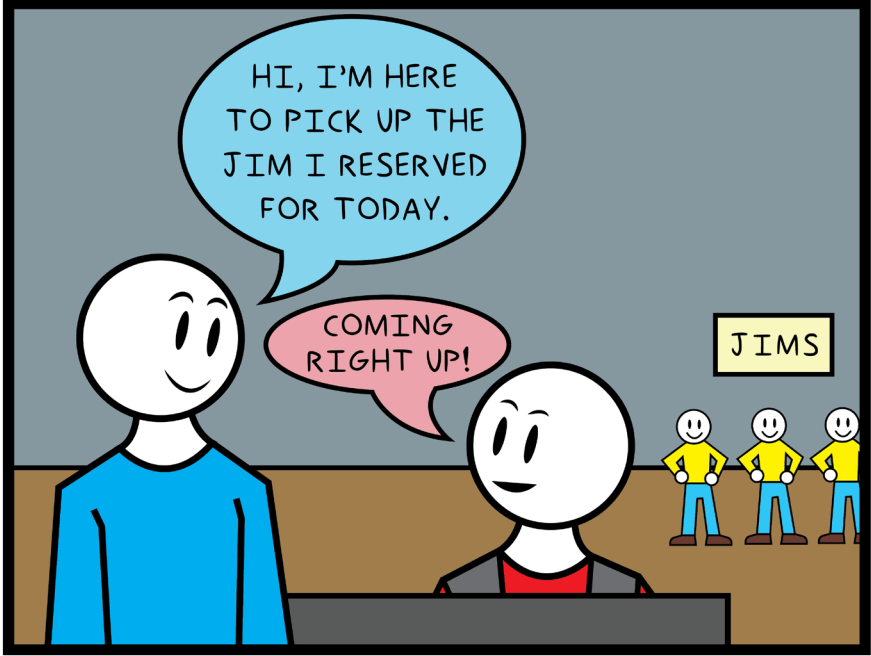
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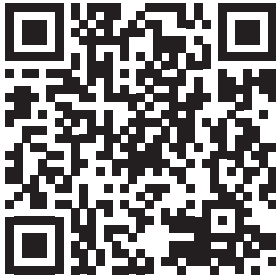
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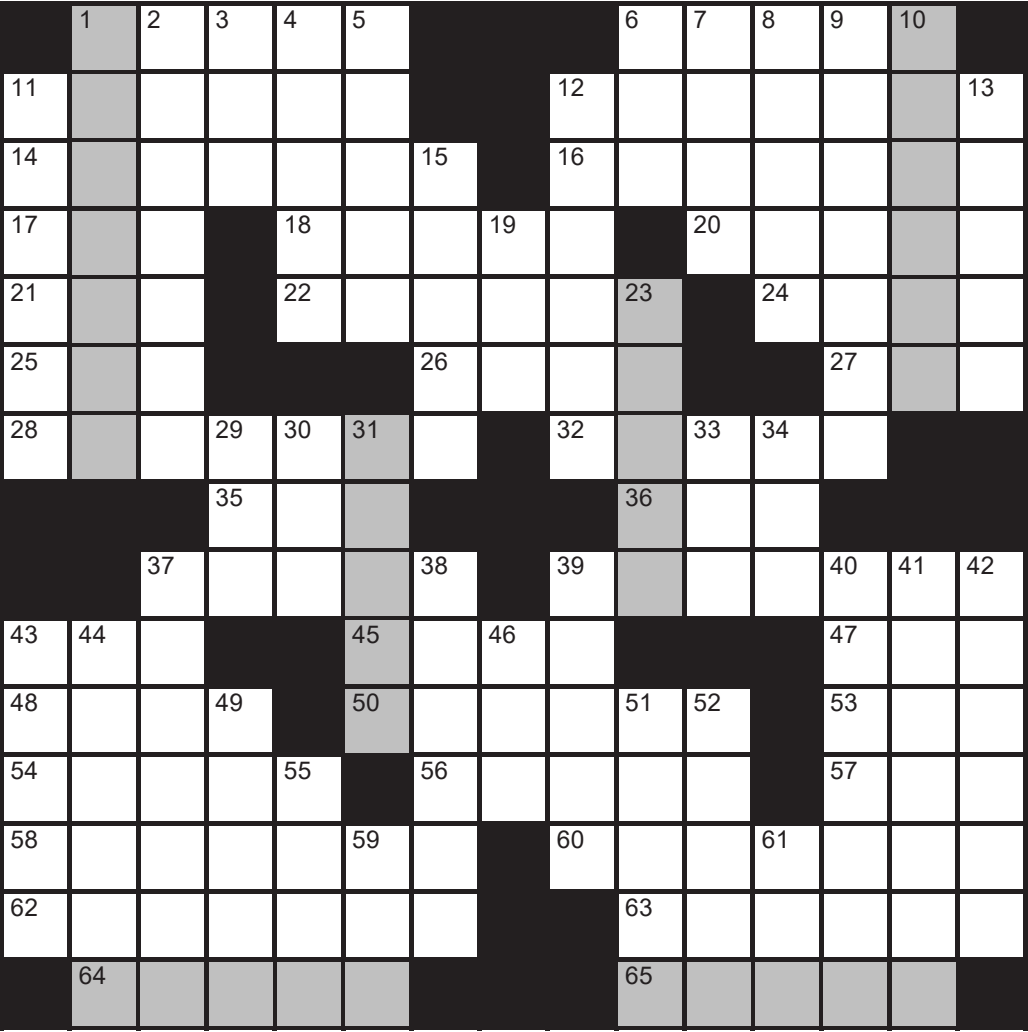


1. Open your phone camera
2. Focus on the QR code
3. Click the pop-up link

CROSSWORD

Pretty Sweet

By Thomas Denome | @tddenome



Across

1. Great white thing
6. Thoroughfare to Rome
11. Prisoner's privilege
12. Drainage zones
14. They talk
16. Tent person
17. Holiday, for one
18. Some islander sailboats
20. Flaunting
21. Rod and Todd's dad
22. An airpod, for example
24. Strict
25. Medicinalamt.
26. Sound from a ram or a charger?
27. Ball in a socket
28. On hold
32. Adorned (with)

35. Jed Clampett discovery

36. Bag

37. Maintain

39. Shade found in most of the world most of the year

43. Its logo is 27-across

45. Place to be picked up?

47. "Wheel of Fortune" purchase

48. Shows out (for)

50. Facts

53. Strawberry or Seaver, for two

54. Hipbone-related

56. Stuff

57. "Phooey!"

58. Cut from a cow

60. Give off

62. Focusing

63. One of what Bender of Futurama bends

64. See 65-across

65. See 64-across

Down

1. Serious
2. Insult for an old guy
3. Decompose
4. Split to unite
5. Land
6. Mythical bird
7. Not theirs
8. Hilohello
9. Filleted
10. Body of water
11. Directs
12. Friday attire
13. Chicago has one
15. "My bad."
19. ___ system
23. Body of water
29. ___'easter

30. Like

31. Serious

33. Roll-callcall

34. Abate

37. One who dreams

38. Saitlie

39. Cut

40. Brazilian dance

41. Fresh, or perhaps rotten

42. Ultimatum word

43. To the point

44. Conviction

46. Trading place

49. Long, gelatinous fish

51. Insect stage

52. Sonar precursor

55. Cash

59. Tat

61. Distaste

Starting pitcher Kenna Quinn starts for Elon during the women's softball game March 20. The Phoenix lost 7-15 to the UNCG Spartans.



LUCAS CASL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



JOSEPH NAVIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sunset outside of Sankey Hall on March 18.



LUCAS CASL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Starting pitcher Spencer Bauer opens the game for the Phoenix against Wake Foreset.



LUCAS CASL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Attack Mae McGlynn runs around Furman defender Avery Whitehead during their lacrosse game on March 20. The Phoenix won 13-9 against the Paladins.

A year into pandemic, professor mental health suffers



NYAH PHENGSIITHY | DESIGN CHIEF

After a year of the coronavirus pandemic, Elon University faculty have found difficulties in teaching and thinking.

Faculty have found pandemic teaching requires perseverance and on-the-fly thinking

Kira Silbergeld
Elon News Network

Assistant professor of psychology CJ Fleming is adapting slowly as she returns to her classroom after a year of virtual learning facilitation.

Elon University began online instruction on March 23, 2020. Since then, professors have experienced teaching either entirely or partially online.

But Fleming said this loss of face-to-face interaction is difficult because it pulls faculty away from the job they love to do. Professors' mental health has suffered too, Fleming said, as the physical separation from their students and the lack of in-person interaction has led to a feeling of loss.

Fleming — who specializes in clinical psychology and mental health — said she has noticed two main things when considering professors' mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic: fatigue and capacity for working memory. She said fatigue is probably what has affected her most, since she has had to reformat many of her consistently taught classes to fit an online or hybrid format.

"It's like being a new professor every semester," Fleming said. "And being a new professor is hard and challenging."

Fleming said some professors have also developed new health concerns due to COVID-19 to complicate having to manage students physically in the classroom and those who attend virtually.

Human service studies lecturer Monica Burney said the hardest change in her life since the start of the pandemic is using Zoom as a mode of teaching.

"There are certain things that I think are unique to the Elon experience," Burney said. "I think the teaching and mentoring relationship is one of them, and I do think some of that is lost because of the restrictions that have to be placed."

Burney said she is willing to do anything to adhere to COVID-19 safety guidelines, but she is also very appreciative of the times when she didn't have to do that and thinks the quality of teaching is better when students and professors can be together.

Fleming also said it is very difficult to manage students both at home and the classroom, but a lot of professors have figured out different ways to teach.

"The faculty experience of teaching online is totally heterogeneous," Fleming said.

According to Fleming, there have been more opportunities to be in the classroom during the 2020-21 academic year due to the campus reopening and offering hybrid and in-person courses. Not all professors have returned to the classroom, however; there are still faculty who have accommodations to teach from home.

These professors are placed in a separate sphere from the rest of the university, Fleming said, and even professors who teach hybrid or in-person courses have completely different experiences dealing with Zoom, Moodle and other online learning resources.

Both Fleming and Burney emphasized the difficulty of having to reorganize their classes around virtual or semi-virtual formats during the last year. Burney said the two other difficult aspects of reorganizing her classes is that she has to make hard decisions about which content she can include in her classes and she has to be less flexible when considering the balance of content and discussion in her courses.

"In terms of mental health and emotional wellness, I've had to sit with myself, because there is a certain hubris around teaching," Burney said.

Additionally, Burney said she has had to check herself and understand that students can sometimes teach themselves without her having to explain the material.

Fleming said the weight of the expectations of both students and professors during the COVID-19 pandemic is different due to responsibilities outside of school and work, whether those responsibilities involve dealing with the loss of a family member, financial pressures or commitments to childcare. Fleming also said these expectations can impact mental health, and more is being asked of people as a society while coping resources are more limited.

"The big thing — and this is true for everyone — is that demands on our time are the same if not more, and ability to meet those demands physically and emotionally is limited," Fleming said.

She also said nationally speaking, American adults are reporting higher rates of depression and anxiety. This claim was confirmed in a study conducted by the Kaiser Family Foundation, which said the number of adults reporting symptoms of anxiety and/or depressive disorder has jumped from 11% in January through June 2019 to 41.1% in January 2021.

Despite the transition and hardships that come with COVID-19, Fleming and Burney are both determined to continue mentally persevering through the pandemic.

Burney said she truly values her relationships with her students, and she sometimes implements 10 minute

individual check-ins with her students instead of class.

"We meet and usually talk about an assignment or something," Burney said. "But it's just one-on-one time with me and that student."

Burney said this effort is intentional, and it also helps her to communicate with students who do not necessarily talk in big group settings.

Fleming and Burney both cited relying on their colleagues for assistance. Burney said the community within the human service studies department has been very helpful for her in times of struggle.

"I think faculty are trying to take care of each other in those smaller ways," Burney said. "Which is just a more organic way of being."

Elon has made some accommodations to aid local professors, like logistical planning and support for child care and academic resources for kids, according to Burney. Yet, most of the emotional reflections of faculty members are kept within departments and majors rather than discussed en masse.

Regarding coping strategies, Fleming highlighted three recommendations. She first said those struggling with mental health should continue to discover good coping mechanisms used before the pandemic, like mindfulness and exercise.

Then, Fleming recommended recreating the "water cooler environment" as much as one can, which promotes open socialization and friendships throughout the workplace. She cited a loss in camaraderie due to the virtual learning environment.

Finally, Fleming said not to be scared of asking for help.

"No one is an expert on how to figure this out," Fleming said. "So if you need help, get help."

Burney said it could be helpful for faculty to have collective moments of reflection but many faculty members are still figuring out the technical difficulties of virtual learning. She also recommended that when people are struggling with mental health, they try to stop fighting with their brains and let their feelings in.

"I try to feel my feelings," Burney said, "and understand that they will pass."

As classes start to shift back towards normal, both Fleming and Burney are looking forward to seeing their students in-person again. Fleming said she is hoping the next time she is back in the classroom things will be more similar to how they were before the pandemic, citing struggles in her classes' energies.

"We're all experiencing grief in a lot of ways," Fleming said. "Students especially are grieving that these last two years of college are not the same."

Elon University set to distribute COVID-19 vaccines

The university has been allocated approximately 500 doses of COVID-19 vaccines to administer

Annemarie Bonner
Sports Director | @annemarie_bon

Elon University will begin administering Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccines to students, faculty and staff on campus this Saturday by appointment, according to an email sent to those eligible to receive the vaccine. Any faculty and staff working in person or students with a qualifying medical condition have been notified if they are eligible to sign up for the vaccine.

Students were contacted based on documented medical conditions they submitted to the university. Priority is given to those in Group 4 which includes those aged 16-64 with one or more high-risk medical conditions, such as cancer, heart conditions and Type 2 diabetes mellitus.

Groups 1-3 are also eligible at this time, which includes health care workers, student workers, faculty, staff, older adults over age 65, frontline essential workers and adults at higher risk for exposure.

Associate Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students Jana Lynn Patterson said in an email to those who are eligible that it is important that vaccines are first distributed to those on campus who are at higher risk for complications if they contract the virus.

"While we will try to serve everyone who wants a vaccine, please understand this initial supply of doses on campus is limited," Patterson wrote. "We continue to work with health officials so that additional supplies will be available on campus in the future."

The clinic for the Pfizer vaccine will be on Saturday, March 27 at South Gym located on 329 S. Antioch Avenue from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Those wanting the single dose Johnson and Johnson vaccine can sign up for Monday, March 29 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Appointments are required for those wanting to receive a vaccine on campus. The appointment portals are different depending on which vaccine people choose to sign up for. Those who receive the Pfizer vaccine will be able to receive their second dose on campus after the 21 day period.

Those who make an appointment are required to arrive 15 minutes prior to the appointment time. If all appointments are taken by the time someone signs up, there will be a waitlist option available. In order to be placed on the waitlist, students have to contact Campus Recreation and Wellness by 5 p.m. on Friday, March 26.

Any students not qualified to receive a vaccine on Saturday or Monday will be eligible to receive a vaccine beginning April 7 under Group 4b. It is not yet known if vaccines will be available on campus at that time, but any student living in dormitories or apartment complexes can get a vaccine starting on that date.

IF YOU GO

The Pfizer vaccine is available on Saturday, March 27 at South Gym located on 329 S. Antioch Avenue from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Johnson and Johnson vaccine is available on Monday, March 29 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Students struggle to get Campus Rec reservations during pandemic

Limited fitness center reservation slots have frustrated some students

William Wood
Elon News Network

Elon University freshman Lamar Williams drives to Planet Fitness in Burlington five days a week to work out, frustrated he can never get a reservation at any of the Campus Recreation and Wellness facilities.

“There’s just never open time slots at the [campus] fitness centers,” Williams said.

Williams is not alone. Some students and club sports teams have sought off-campus fitness options.

The policies implemented by Campus Rec to ensure a safe environment during the pandemic have created other problems for students. While the new measures are compliant with Ready & Resilient and North Carolina safety guidelines, many students are frustrated with the limited availability as a result of the new policies.

Per North Carolina guidelines, indoor fitness center patrons must wear face coverings at all times and remain at least six feet apart. Gyms must also operate at only 50% of fire capacity.

The process to sign up for facility access has been completely overhauled. In the past, the platform IMLeagues had been used by students primarily to sign up for group exercise classes, but Campus Rec has expanded the use of the reservation system.

IMLeagues now includes sign-ups for Koury Athletic Fitness Center, Studio 5, PARC Fitness Center, the squash court and the racquetball court. Students must create an account using their Elon email and reserve spaces through the IMLeagues app or website.

For some students, the app has not worked well and inhibited them from getting reservations to Campus Rec facilities.

“The IML app is very glitchy,” sophomore



FRANCES O'CONNOR | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Besides gym reservations, exercise classes with Campus Recreation and Wellness are also physically distanced and need to reservations.

Katie Leupold said. “I’ve faced many difficulties using the system to reserve a time to work out, and I don’t like that the reservations for a week open all at once.”

Campus Rec has the reservation system set up so all reservations for the next seven days open every Thursday at 12:10 p.m.

Director of Campus Recreation and Wellness Larry Mellinger declined Elon News Network’s request for an interview, but referred ENN to Campus Rec’s page for Spring 2021 COVID-19 info.

Some athletic facilities have been closed entirely by the university. While North Carolina guidelines allow exercise pools to remain open, Campus Rec has chosen to close both Beck Pool and the Station at Mill Point Pool indefinitely. With the closing of Beck Pool, Elon Club Swimming has to go off campus to train.

“I’m just thankful we can practice,” sophomore and Club Swimming President Adam Cheifetz said.

Due to the closures, Club Swimming

now practices at the YMCA of Burlington, which Cheifetz said he is grateful for.

“At least we can practice somewhere, even off campus, instead of not being able to practice at all,” Cheifetz said.

Despite the obstacles created by these new policies, students like freshman Maggie Bevier still utilize the facilities.

“I really enjoy going to work out on campus,” Bevier said, “but it’s just so hard to both work the reservation system and find a time to work out.”

Pandemic cuts student activity fee allocations

Less money from student activity fees have been distributed to student organizations this academic year

Jinger Callwood
Elon News Network | @jingercallwood

Elon University students paid \$146 each semester in student activity fees in 2020-21 tuition, a price determined by the board of trustees. However, the allocation of these fees by the Student Government Association has been handled differently due to the coronavirus pandemic and an increase in virtual settings.

Student activity fees are incorporated in tuition for full-time undergraduate students and are responsible for funding events held by student organizations. The university received approximately \$1.7 million in student activity fees to cover expenses of campus events such as Student Union Board programs and greek life activities.

SGA Executive Treasurer Andrew Ciampa said significantly less money has been allocated to organizations due to the pandemic.

“We have allocated just around about \$100,000 towards student organizations. It’s usually much higher,” Ciampa said. “A portion of funds dedicated to student activity fees are given to SGA from Dr. [Jon] Dooley at the beginning of each academic year. In a normal year, SGA looks to allocate anywhere between \$300,000 and \$400,000 towards student organization activities and student initiatives.”

He attributes the drop in spending to the decrease of in-person events being held on campus. He said due to travel restrictions,



FILE PHOTO BY ELON NEWS NETWORK

Shirley Tempos, an a cappella organization at Elon, performs at a concert in 2017. A capella is among student organizations eligible to receive funding from student activity fees.

less money was spent on traveling costs and instead was directed to upgrading virtual meeting platforms for organizations.

“If you are remote and are the head of an organization, you probably aren’t requesting funding in the same way that you had before,” Ciampa said. “We helped some organizations get upgraded Zoom accounts or different subscriptions to services like Vimeo, so they can post things for their club members. That’s a lot cheaper.”

Not all campus organizations are eligible to receive funding. Campus programs, departments, club sports, honorary organizations and media organizations receive their funding separate from the finance board. The finance board is a student committee responsible for determining which organizations are eligible for funding and the amount allocated to student organizations.

However, this academic year, student activity fees have been distributed to comply with travel restrictions and the

BY THE NUMBERS

\$146

is the amount for student activity fees each semester for the 2020-21 academic year.

enforcement of virtual events to adhere to COVID-19 guidelines.

The student involvement department said they have been dedicated to providing a safe environment for student engagement throughout the pandemic, according to Lauren Feeley, the program assistant for student involvement.

“Student Involvement created a COVID-19 resources webpage specifically for student organizations and shared information at both the Fall and Spring Organization Leader Trainings,” Feeley wrote in a statement to Elon News Network. “Additionally, we introduced a weekly organization update email that is sent to all organization presidents, primary contacts, and advisors every Tuesday afternoon to support organization leaders during this period of time.”

Even though the pandemic has forced organizations to adapt their events, Ciampa said students are making the most out of student engagement opportunities, with over 150 student organizations requesting funding so far.

“I’ve been so impressed with the student organizations that we have on campus. It was a huge adjustment for me to get into this position and then be thrown into a pandemic, where I had to learn a lot of things on the fly and a lot of new things, and so did student organizations, but they have been so great working with me,” he said.

ELON UNIVERSITY ADDRESSES ASIAN **HATE** **CRIMES**



HATE CRIME | from cover

Chaplain Joel Harter, the director of the Truitt Center for Religious and Spiritual Life, called for the killings to be labeled as hate crimes and said the Truitt Center is offering support to students.

“Fetishizing Asian women is also racist and part of white supremacy,” Harter wrote in a statement to Elon News Network. “It is important for all of us to denounce hate and violence directed against Asians and Asian Americans and to commit to learning about and dismantling this racism and white supremacy.”

Junior Alyssa Meritt, who identifies as a multicultural Asian American woman and serves as the president of Elon Maintaining Pan-Asian Respect, Equity and Social Service said the acts of racial violence have left many people in the Asian community feeling frustrated.

“My reaction to everything that’s been happening has been a little bit mixed for the sheer fact that this has been going on for over a year,” Meritt said. “The whole issue of anti-Asian sentiment has been going on my entire life.”

Asian hate crimes have increased since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, and Asians have been victims of racist rhetoric and xenophobia. Research released by the Stop Asian American and Pacific Islander Hate organization shows there have been reports of 3,795 racially motivated hate incidents against Asian Americans from March 19, 2020 to Feb. 28, which include verbal harassment, physical assault, shunning and discrimination in public settings and online bullying.

As Asians continue to experience discrimination across the country, Elon has also seen anti-Asian racism, Gabriel said.

“I remember that one social media event that happened as soon as we got sent home, and someone made a social media post about ‘China-virus’ or ‘Kung flu,’ that’s what it was. The fact that I remember them both is really terrible,” Gabriel said. “But it was actually very reassuring to see student support who understood why this was wrong. But then, unfortunately, there are people who came into defense of that student.”

Gabriel was referring to an Instagram post made last year by a recent Elon graduate which included racist comments to describe the coronavirus pandemic.

“Kung Flu cut it short,” the Instagram post said in reference to Elon students being sent home for remote learning last spring due to the pandemic.

The student also posted: “I don’t condone that at all. If it originated from China, calling it the Chinese virus is 100% accurate. Some guy ate a bat sandwich and here we are.”

The university was made aware through student conduct reports. The former student did not respond to Elon News Network’s request for a comment.

Creating awareness to stop Asian American and Pacific Islander hate

Meritt advocates to raise awareness on campus and create solidarity. Through her position with EMPRESS, she said she has worked closely with other students and staff who are committed to diversity and inclusion but said there is a lot more work to be done at Elon.

“Our history as a predominantly white university has led to a very stark gap between students of color on this campus and Caucasian students,” Meritt said.



Protests across the nation recognizing Asian hate crimes have occurred after the shootings at three spas in Atlanta.

“

MY REACTION TO EVERYTHING THAT’S BEEN HAPPENING HAS BEEN A LITTLE BIT MIXED FOR THE SHEER FACT THAT THIS HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR OVER A YEAR. THE WHOLE ISSUE OF ANTI-ASIAN SENTIMENT HAS BEEN GOING ON MY ENTIRE LIFE.

ALYSSA MERITT
JUNIOR



Eight victims were killed in the three spa shootings in Atlanta.

“I think that the way we bridge that is probably going to be events that aren’t just made for Asian students and are made for the whole campus.”

According to the Elon University 2020-21 fact book, only 2.4% of undergraduate students identify as Asian American.

Randy Williams, vice president and associate provost for inclusive excellence, released a statement in support of Asian communities and condemning racism. Elon will host a virtual event on March 24 to discuss acts of violence. All members of the Elon community are invited and welcomed to attend.

“When we learned about the Atlanta murders, we immediately reached out to our Asian, Asian American and Pacific Islander students and colleagues to provide support,” said Williams. “They agreed with us that the Elon community should come together in solidarity to commit to ending anti-Asian bigotry, racism, xenophobia and other forms of oppression.”

Elon University’s dean of the School of Communications, Rochelle Ford, also spoke out against Asian violence in a video posted by the School of Communications Twitter and Instagram account.

Meritt hopes to see people unite to combat racism and create change in the future.

“We are humans,” she said. “We need to come together to fix problems of humanity, and this is 100% a problem of humanity.”

BY THE NUMBERS

2.4%

of undergraduate students identify as Asian American, according to the Elon University 2020–21 fact book.

3,795

racially motivated hate incidents against Asian Americans from March 19, 2020 to Feb. 28, which include verbal harassment, physical assault, shunning and discrimination in public settings and online bullying, according to research released by the Stop Asian American and Pacific Islander Hate organization.



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF ELON’S EIGHTH PRESIDENT

President Connie Book at her computer on which some of her Zoom meetings during the day take place.

DELANEY DANIELS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

University President Connie Book said even without a pandemic, there is no typical day

Kyra O’Connor | Delaney Daniels | Ben Muse
Elon News Network

Elon University President Connie Book begins her day early, usually around 4 or 5 a.m., with reading.

As a former journalist, Book said she picked up the habit of skimming the New York Times, the Washington Post and the Wall Street Journal. Since entering higher education, she added The Chronicle of Higher Education and Inside Higher Ed to her morning reading, as well. Book is a practicing Catholic, and she has three prayers she does each morning to center her for the day ahead.

“I say prayers to remember I’m not alone in all of this. I say a simple prayer, where it’s just ‘Good morning, God,’ my three word prayer that helps me remember I’m not alone today,” Book said. “There’s a joke in the office that when I say I missed my prayers, that I’m going to be a little more ... ‘Let’s get things done!’”

For Elon University’s eighth president, there is no typical day. Each day includes different tasks, from speaking with other university administrators about college athletics to working with neighboring communities. Book said her role as a leader has changed since the onset of the pandemic, with her day-to-day responsibilities shifting from thinking long-term to short-term. She feels many people may not realize how much energy leadership requires.

“As you progress in your career, you’re actually building this ability to manage a long, hard day and to stay clear headed,” Book said. “I think that’s why it’s important to sleep and eat well. I talk about that a lot because it is physical work, and I don’t think people always connect that dot, but it is very physical.”

Throughout the pandemic, Book said one of her greatest challenges was supporting the mental health of students, staff and faculty when classes began in the fall.

“When students came back last fall, I was struck by the wear and tear that visibly was on the students. I could see the impact of COVID,” Book said. “You just see the stress that they were under.”

The counseling center on campus

switched to telehealth appointments, and the university adopted the “Act, Belong, Commit” framework Book said she hoped helped students as they navigated college life in a pandemic.

Book said she tries to meet with student groups often to discuss the intersection of classes and extracurricular activities. Recently, she met with student interns at Catholic Campus Ministry to reflect on starting their engagement internship program in a pandemic.

“Outside of class experience, which we know is as formative in many ways to your experience at Elon and your professional goals,” Book said. “I try to spend time with students talking through that, so I have a strong understanding of it and can support it.”

“

WHEN STUDENTS CAME BACK LAST FALL, I WAS STRUCK BY THE WEAR AND TEAR THAT VISIBLY WAS ON THE STUDENTS. I COULD SEE THE IMPACT OF COVID. YOU JUST SEE THE STRESS THAT THEY WERE UNDER.

CONNIE BOOK
UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

One of the most critical parts of her role as president is hiring leadership staff, Book said. The university is in the process of searching for a new chaplain, dean of admissions and director of the counseling center.

While Book often spends her time talking with members of the Elon community, she also works to connect with neighboring communities. One of the university’s goals is to better engage with local colleges and universities, as well as the county as a whole. In Guilford and Alamance County, the university is involved with Family Justice Centers, as the law school is one of a few agencies that participates in helping victims find resources and even in some cases, representing them in court.



President Connie Book checks her phone for school notifications.

DELANEY DANIELS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

During her time at Elon, Book led during the unionization process for non-tenure track faculty at the university. Book said the union is a “new area” for the university and the process to bargain could take two years, similar to the process Duke faculty members embarked on in 2017. The university agreed to bargain with the union in February and has not announced bargaining plans yet.

“This will be Elon’s first time doing this, what’s called the initial contract. It involves writing, basically establishing a new faculty handbook for part time employees ... it’s going to take a while,” Book said.

Book stepped into her role as not just the next president of Elon University in 2018, but as the university’s first female president. It is important not just for Book to be the first female president of the university, but for the campus community to see a woman holding the position, she said.

“I do think it’s really great for women to see me in this role because I think it’s the same reason it’s important to have people who look like us in the classroom or in the job in the workplace,” Book said. “It shows you if I want, I can do it, that’s a possibility ... that’s a range of possibility.”

SGA ANNOUNCES 2021-22 REPRESENTATIVES

SGA | from cover

“I think that arts are something that a lot of alumni look at us and are very proud of,” Corby said. “But not a lot of students on campus do that, [and] I want to bring that to the forefront of this campus.”

The amendments to SGA’s constitution, which would restructure the organization, were approved by the student body with 92% voting in favor.

For the class of 2022 election, Liam O’Connor was elected president. The vice president will be Andrea Sheetz, treasurer Mason Yeo and the senators Brooks Lacoste and Anita Harkov.

For the class of 2023 election, Chase Solomon was elected president, Victoria Burfield secretary, Jamison Skelley treasurer and Blake Dixon and Callahan Johnston senators.

“I THINK THAT ARTS ARE SOMETHING THAT A LOT OF ALUMNI LOOK AT US AND ARE VERY PROUD OF, BUT NOT A LOT OF STUDENTS ON CAMPUS DO THAT, [AND] I WANT TO BRING THAT TO THE FOREFRONT OF THIS CAMPUS.”

JACK CORBY
EXECUTIVE PRESIDENT ELECT

The class of 2024 election results are Britt Mobley as president, Chloe Higgins as vice president, Matthew Barker as secretary, Zeth Dixon as treasurer and Demetria Hall and Genesis Tolbert as senators.

The representatives of the Academic Council for the College of Arts & Sciences are Whitney McDonnell ‘24, Sydney Coker ‘22, Charlotte Mattamiro ‘24 and Georgia Daniel ‘24. For the School of Communications the representatives are Nadine Jose ‘23 and William Wood ‘24. The representatives of the finance board are Kiara Hunter ‘22, Josephine Williams ‘22, Aleezah Adams ‘24 and Brandon Goodman ‘22.

The vacant seats for the class of 2022 secretary, class of 2023 vice president, representatives on the Academic Council for the Love School of Business and School of Education will be appointed by the executive president and confirmed by the senate.


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SECTION/POLITICS](https://elonnewsnetwork.com/section/politics)



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

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE BOARD

PRESIDENT



JACK CORBY

Corby’s platform is based on what he refers to as the five Cs: continuity, communication, community, culture and care. Through this platform, one of his main priorities is to focus on diversity, equity and inclusion.

VICE PRESIDENT



CHLOE YOON

“I’ve been able to, instead of spending these last three years in SGA, been able to spend more time with people outside of SGA and learning what like potential people who are also a part of the student body, whose voices should be heard, want and need and really want to see.”

TREASURER



CAROLINE PENFIELD

“Anytime you’re dealing with all the budgeting forms, and the larger university things, there’s just a lot that goes into that. I don’t want that to hinder organizations or students from feeling like they can’t get student activity funds for their projects or events.”

SECRETARY



HAILEY JURGENS

“I can use my title almost in a way to connect more with the administration and connect senators who are also feeling this passion to keeping efforts like this more sustainable in the long run.”

CLASS OF 2022 REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT



LIAM O’CONNOR

“After a year of separation, I just want to bring us back together.”

VICE PRESIDENT



ANDREA SHEETZ

“To continue advocating for the student perspective and working to make all facets of our Elon experience more equitable.”

TREASURER



MASON YEO

“My goal for the 2021-2022 academic year is to help finance and plan fun senior year activities as well as aid in the equitable distribution of Student Activity Fees across campus.”

SECRETARY



VACANT

SENATOR



ANITA HARKOV

“My goal is to make sure the class of 2022 has an impactful and memorable senior year.”

SENATOR



BROOKS LACOSTE

“If elected, I will strive to make sure all Class of 2022 voices are heard and will help Elon transition back into normalcy for our senior year.”

CLASS OF 2023 REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT



CHASE SOLOMON

VICE PRESIDENT



VACANT

TREASURER



JAMISON SKELLEY

SECRETARY



VICTORIA BURFIELD

SENATOR



BLAKE DIXON

SENATOR



CALLAHAN JOHNSTON

“Whether or not the student body passes the new constitutional changes, I want to be a driving force in the transition of bettering this campus for both the Senate and the student body by targeting three main areas: transparency, sustainability, and student engagement.”

“To ensure all organizations on our campus are fairly represented and given the resources to be successful.”

“With my accomplishments and my passion for SGA, if re-elected, I will continue to be an advocate for the members of my fellow class by fighting for their interests, listening to their fears and supporting their beliefs.”

“I want to implement more ideas and initiatives for mental health and wellness for students.”

“I want to improve communication with students and faculty about academic, social and COVID-related news as well as strengthen the mental health of students on campus as a whole.”

CLASS OF 2024 REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT



BRITT MOBLEY

VICE PRESIDENT



CHLOE HIGGINS

TREASURER



ZETH DIXON

SECRETARY



MATTHEW BARKER

SENATOR



DEMETRIA HALL

SENATOR



GENESIS TOLBERT

“My goal is to increase diversity, build communication with the student body, and to build community for the class of 2024.”

“My goal is to be an advocate for others and ensure that everyone’s ideas are valued, while promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives.”

“Help foster a better Elon Community through reciprocity, engagement, and inclusion.”


“I hope to make my class proud by serving to their benefit.”

“As your senator, I will advocate for students inputs and ideas to the senate, along with advocating for students’ mental health, safety, and sense of community on campus.”

“Once elected, I plan to increase sustainability efforts and inclusivity on Elon’s campus.”


ACADEMIC COUNCIL OF COLLEGE & SCHOOLS, FINANCE BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCE



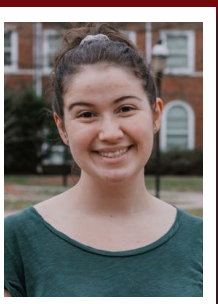
WHITNEY MCDONNELL

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCE




SYDNEY COKER

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCE




CHARLOTTE MATTIMIRO

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCE




GEORGIA DANIEL

COMMUNICATIONS



NADINE JOSE

COMMUNICATIONS



WILLIAM WOOD

“I want to further DEI initiatives within SGA and improve our communication with the student body.”

“If elected, I hope to continue to work to expand the Academic Opportunities Fair to a larger student audience.”

“My goal is to continue to make positive change within our Elon community.”

“I will increase awareness of programs and offerings of the College of Arts and Sciences, and help make it a more inclusive place.”

“I want to amplify as many voices as I can to make sure Elon’s student body is truly heard and represented.”

“As a School of Communications Senator, I’d like to get Amazon Hub Lockers on campus for students and staff to utilize for package pickups and returns.”

FINANCE BOARD



KIARA HUNTER

FINANCE BOARD



JOSEPHINE WILLIAMS

FINANCE BOARD



ALEEZAH ADAMS

FINANCE BOARD



BRANDON GOODMAN

BUSINESS SCHOOL



VACANT

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION



VACANT

“To bridge the current communication gap between SGA and the Student Body through increased transparency.”

“My goal is to continue improving the process of Finance Board reimbursements the fair and equitable allocation of Student Activity Fees.”

“My goal is to ensure that student funds are distributed equitably and in such a way that reflects the interests of the student body.”

“If I am afforded the opportunity to serve on the Finance Board again this year, I will continue to fight for all organizations and individuals on campus and ensure that they receive the proper funding to execute their initiatives to their fullest potential.”

FEMA-SUPPORTED COVID-19 VACCINE CLINICS OPEN IN ALAMANCE COUNTY

Clinics are meant to support the equitable distribution of the vaccine to Latino and other marginalized populations

Mackenzie Wilkes
Executive Director | @macwilkes

Two COVID-19 vaccine clinics have opened in Alamance County in an effort to vaccinate marginalized communities in the area. CityGate Dream Center and Eric Lane — the parking lot where JR Cigars is — are now COVID-19 vaccination sites as of March 19.

The clinics are meant to address disparities in COVID-19 vaccination rates, specifically in the Latino community, but also in other populations of color, as marginalized communities have lower vaccination rates than white ones, according to the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. The Dream Center is a community space in Burlington that mostly serves the Latino residents in the county.

Vaccination appointments are intentionally scheduled from Friday through Mondays so that people won't have to miss work if they experience any side effects after their shot. People are able to sign up for vaccinations by phone for both the Dream Center and Eric Lane vaccination locations or in-person at the Dream Center. Spanish-speaking volunteers will also be present at the clinics.

“Just to provide access, even because a lot of what the opportunities have been online, some people don't even really have access to that or know how to go about doing that,” said Lisa Edwards, executive director of CityGate Dream Center. “So we were able to say, ‘We'll have people standing by too if you need to come in and make an appointment here.’”

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is supplying 1,200 doses a week to each clinic for the next seven weeks, according to a press release from Cone Health. These vaccine clinics are support locations for FEMA's mass vaccination site in Greensboro at the Four Seasons Town Centre. The clinics are being done in partnership with Cone Health, NCDHHS and FEMA.

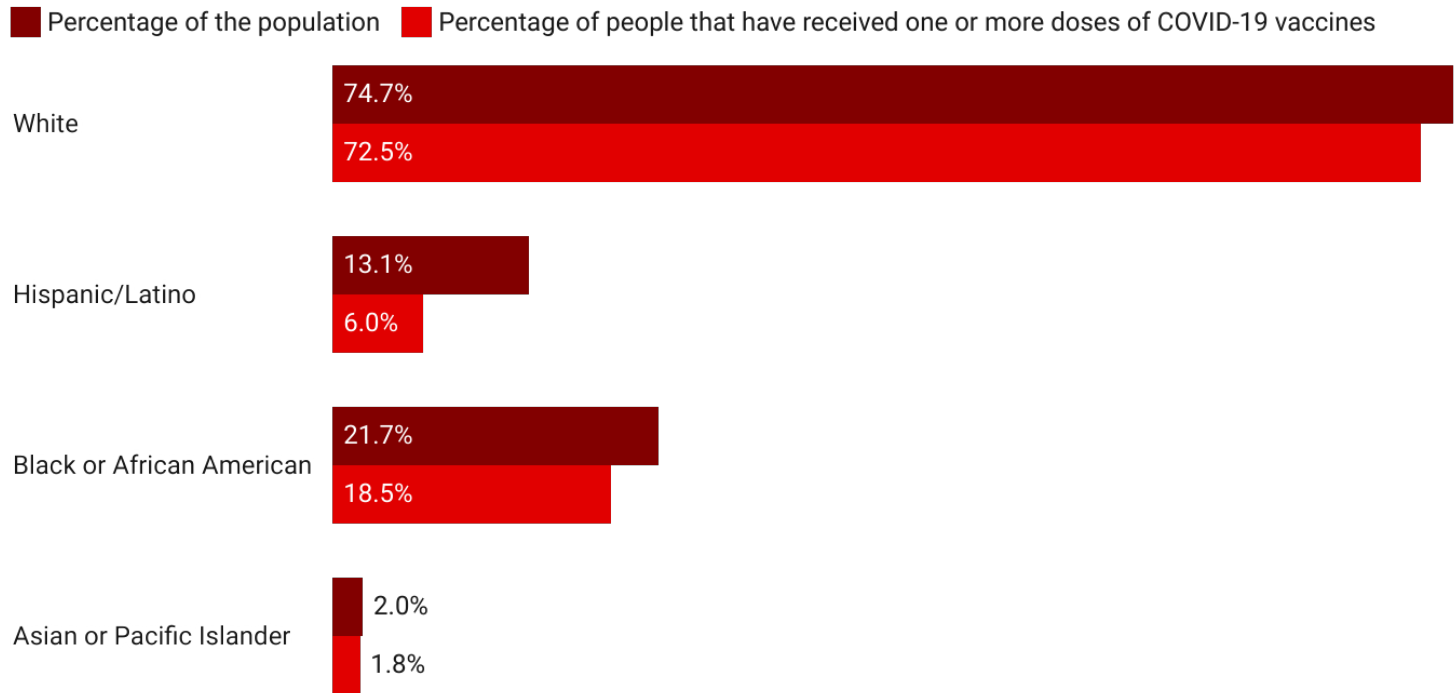
The mass vaccination site and support clinics are meant to ensure the equitable distribution of the COVID-19 vaccines, as Latino residents are getting vaccinated at lower rates than white residents in the county and state. Latino residents in Alamance County have also been infected with COVID-19 at disproportionate rates, according to data from NCDHHS.

Existing health disparities contribute to the rate of COVID-19 cases and accessibility to the vaccine, according to Cornell Wright, executive director of NCDHHS's Office of Minority Health.

“We're seeing these inequities [in health care] due to various factors, and a lot of historical context is connected to those factors as well,” Wright said. “We could talk about systems. We could talk about racism. We could talk about lack of access, and then how those play a part in how people are perceived and treated in systems of health and health care.”

Edwards has seen how the pandemic has impacted the Latino community in Alamance County and said accessibility to the vaccine is why she thinks vaccination rates are low for Latino residents. She said the move to Group 3 and 4, which includes frontline workers and those in congregate living, has helped increase accessibility in addition to the clinic.

Percentage of race and population receiving COVID-19 vaccine



WE COULD TALK ABOUT SYSTEMS. WE COULD TALK ABOUT RACISM. WE COULD TALK ABOUT LACK OF ACCESS, AND THEN HOW THOSE PLAY A PART IN HOW PEOPLE ARE PERCEIVED AND TREATED IN SYSTEMS OF HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE.

CORNELL WRIGHT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
NCDHHS'S OFFICE OF MINORITY
HEALTH

“I think it's more just lack of access up until now; it just became more open as far as who's eligible also. When it was 65 and over, we were having some opportunities to reach out to people for clinics, but there just weren't as many people in that age bracket that we were able to reach,” Edwards said. “So I think just even opening it up more where there's more people that are eligible has really helped too ... Just knowing where to go and for it to be a place that you're familiar with and places that's close to you.

According to Debbie Grant, chief nursing officer and vice president with Cone Health, the expansion of who is eligible to get the vaccine will also help vaccinate the county's Hispanic and Latino residents.

“Many Hispanic residents work as essential workers and many live in households with parents who are at very high-risk for COVID-19,” Grant said in a press release. “These safe vaccines are a highly effective way to protect our families and the ones we love.”

During the pandemic, the Dream Center has provided resources to the county's Latino community. The center saw an increased need for basic supplies like food, diapers and menstrual products during the pandemic as economic hardship spread.

Last summer, the Dream Center distributed free meals to the community, oftentimes in partnership with local businesses, but had to cease distribution due to funding. The center resumed meal distribution on March 20.

Meals are being distributed at 1003 W Main Street, located down the street from the center, Saturdays from 1 to 4 p.m. The meal distribution site, called the DC Community Kitchen, will eventually be open full-time.

The Dream Center is able to open this location after receiving a grant from Impact Alamance. Non-profit organizations could receive between \$5,000 to \$20,000 after Impact Alamance allocated \$120,000 in grant money to be used for COVID-19 relief in February.

There are opportunities to volunteer at the meal distribution site and the vaccination clinics. Elon University offered an alternative spring break trip to volunteer at this meal distribution location from March 19-20. Those interested in volunteering at the Dream Center or Eric Lane vaccine clinics can sign up online.

LOCATIONS & TIMES

DREAM CENTER

1423 N. Church Street,
Burlington, NC 27217

ERIC LANE

JR Cigar Parking Lot,
2589 Eric Lane,
Burlington, NC 27215

DATES & TIMES

Fridays 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Saturdays 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sundays 9 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.
Mondays 9 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.

CONTACT

English:
(336) 890-1188

Spanish:
(336) 890-3792

BLENDED NUTRITON & ENERGY

HOPES TO PROMOTE HEALTHY WELL-BEING



Tea from the newly opened Blended Nutrition & Energy in Elon. This is owner Dawn Marvin's second nutrition bar.

GRACE TERRY | MANAGING EDITOR

Smoothie and juice bar Blended Nutrition & Energy opens its second store in the Elon area

Katherine Aristizabal
Elon News Network

Dawn Marvin decided to quit her job as a lab representative over ten years ago. Having struggled to maintain a healthy lifestyle and mindset, she decided she wanted to make a change.

“All the meals I was carrying in were high-carbohydrate meals,” Marvin said. “I was gaining weight left and right, tired and grumpy.”

When a friend inspired her to join a nutrition club, she discovered how much she enjoyed staying healthy and she dropped sixty pounds by altering her eating habits.

Blended Nutrition & Energy Smoothie and Juice Bar has opened its second store in the Elon area located on Timberline Station Road. Marvin decided to start her business in order to inspire others.

According to Marvin, the business aims to emphasize mental wellness and the health of its customers. Marvin’s love for healthy living pushed her to create the stores to change other peoples lifestyles.

Originally, Marvin started Burlington Nutrition Club over ten years ago. This was Marvin’s first smoothie business where she was able to build her menu and bring in new customers.

The club enabled people to transform their personal development and leaves “a happy and active mindset,” Marvin said.

“It’s been a lot of high-fiving and helping people get healthier,” Marvin said.

When Marvin originally quit her lab representative job, the nutrition club got her on the right track and gave her the idea to turn it into a business.

“The good feeling I got from the

nutrition club fired me up to do the business,” Marvin said.

Marvin took her knowledge and started a smoothie business that would have healthy ingredients for her customers.

The Elon location March 6 and said everyday has been full of excitement.

“We’ve been having the time of our lives helping people get happier and healthier,” Marvin said.

“

I LOVE WORKING
HERE BECAUSE
IT’S A WELCOMING
ENVIRONMENT WHERE
PEOPLE CAN TRY SHAKES
AND JOIN OUR FAMILY”

MICHAELA REINHART
EMPLOYEE

On the Menu

The shop has a variety of items on their menu, including protein smoothies, energy drinks, protein-based coffees, protein bars and snacks. Customers are also able to add enhancers — such as collagen and probiotics — to boost digestive systems and bone health. They use ingredients that allow a smoothie or juice to replace a meal.

Michaela Reinhart, an employee at the Elon location, enjoys the variety of

IF YOU GO

Blended
Where: 2035 Timberline Station Rd.
Elon, NC, NC 27244

When: Sunday- Monday
7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

options and ingredients the shop offers.

“I love the mudslide coffee shake and red starburst energy drink,” Reinhart said.

The shop prides itself on having a positive work environment. Marvin said she believes in making sure her employees and customers get the best experience they possibly can, which she said rubs off on their clientele.

Reinhart said every shift is great and she loves working with the customers.

“I love working here because it’s a welcoming environment where people can try shakes and join our family,” Reinhart.

With masks and capacity limits, the owner still encourages people to come in and “be part of the community.” With the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been a struggle to be closely bonded as a nutritional community, but Marvin believes they can still find other ways to connect.

Marvin said she hopes to expand further someday. Her views on nutrition and health inspire a community of people, and growing her business is something she has been thinking about. However, she would love customers to give insight on where that should be.

Marvin said no matter what challenges the store faces, it will proceed. The store emphasizes keeping life upbeat and never getting too stressed over the small things.

“We go off a no problem attitude,” Marvin said. “Everything is no problem, it is all ‘figureoutable.’”

FROM THE MENU ENERGY DRINKS

- **LEMONBERRY**
lemon & pom-berry
- **LIME-A-RITA**
lemon & lime
- **HELLO SUNSHINE**
peach & orange
- **MANGO TANGO**
peach & tropical
- **SWEET TART**
raspberry & lime
- **POM-BOMB**
raspberry & pom-berry
- **HOT TAMALE**
hot cinnamon & pom-berry
- **RUSSIAN TWIST**
hot chai & orange

STUDENTS BRING THRIFTING TO ELON



Junior Grace Granger (left) and sophomore Jakob Reuter (right) hold up laser cut signs bearing the name of their thrifting buisness. Behind them lie piles of clothes ready to be sold to students.

MADDIE SHOSTEN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ElonUThrift buys and resells used items within the campus community

Olivia Roederer
Elon News Network | @oliviaroederer

When their entrepreneurship class charged them to think of a problem worth solving, Elon University junior Grace Granger and sophomore Jakob Reuter wanted to tackle an environmental issue: clothing sustainability. The duo created @ElonUThrift to provide convenient clothing solutions for students while lowering the amount of waste on campus.

“We saw a big problem with waste in our community, so we wanted to solve that issue,” Granger said. “We looked into different solutions, and the one that stood out to us was a thrift shop for students so that they could reuse and find old clothing, furniture, things that were getting left behind.”

Granger and Reuter, who is a staff photographer for Elon News Network, both believed a thrift business would fill a gap in the Elon community.

“I think thrifting brings a lot of convenience to the students, and it’s ultimately a way to lower waste,” Granger said. “We are trying to help out the students and give them an outlet for their items that they no longer need or want rather than just tossing it on the side of the road.”

Granger, a theatre design and technology major, never saw herself starting a business. However, her class, knack for thrifting and passion for the environment propelled her and Reuter to launch ElonUThrift.

Granger and Reuter use their Instagram platform, @ElonUThrift, to list clothing received from students looking to sell.

They hope to provide convenience and quality service to their clients. Students directly message the account to list items to be sold, then Granger will collect, clean, take pictures and post the items to the business’s Instagram account. Sellers receive 30 to 60% of the profit sale depending on the price and condition of the item.

In addition to conducting business

“

ALTHOUGH IT’S NOT THAT MUCH MONEY, IT FEELS GOOD TO GET SOMETHING OUT OF YOUR CLOSET AND GET SOME MONEY FOR IT, ESPECIALLY IN COLLEGE.

CARLY KLEINWAKS
JUNIOR



Reuter (left) and Granger (right) inspect the quality of a shirt they hope to list on their Instagram page.

MADDIE SHOSTEN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

online, Granger and Reuter have strived for ElonUThrift to have an in-person component, similar to a retail shop. Like other student entrepreneurs, the two paired with Marketplace Under the Oaks and hosted their own pop-up event. Pop-ups allow students to see the clothes in person rather than online.

Elon students are the main client and customer base for ElonUThrift. Both Granger and Reuter have seen positive reactions from students who choose to buy and sell from the small business.

Junior Carly Kleinwaks said she is very satisfied, having already sold three items through ElonUThrift.

“Although it’s not that much money, it feels good to get something out of your closet and get some money for it, especially in college,” Kleinwaks said.

Granger is excited for the future of

ElonUThrift and believes this project will extend far beyond the classroom. Granger hopes to venture into upcycling — reworking clothing into a new piece — along with launching a website.

“I think ElonUThrift has a lot of potential, and we plan on continuing to grow it and make it better,” Granger said. “Right now, we’re mostly doing thrifting and trading, but hopefully, down the line, we can do more upcycling. Possibly collaborate with other Elon student entrepreneurs too.”

In fulfilling her newfound interest in entrepreneurship, Granger hopes her business can inspire other Elon students to follow their passions.

“Anyone can be an entrepreneur,” Granger said. “It’s more of a mindset than anything. If you have an idea, I think you should reach for the stars and go for it.”

CONCERN FOR CLIMATE CHANGE LEADS TO STUDENT BUSINESS



Senior Matthew Mitten partnered with Elon’s Doherty Center to promote small buisness.

Amelia Arcaro-Burbridge
Elon News Network

Elon University senior Matthew Mitten fell unintentionally into business when, in 2019, he ordered his first customized shirt printed with a phrase that would come to define his company: “Climate Change is Real.”

The finance and applied math double major and founder of Climate Change Apparel said he was inspired to use the phrase to promote environmentalism, and after creating his design on Adobe Illustrator in his dorm room, he placed a small collection of orders for him and friends.

Climate Change Apparel has since grown, boasting \$5,000 in sales and a partnership with Marketplace Under the Oaks, Elon’s virtual network that promotes student-led businesses. While Mitten focuses on crunching numbers in the classroom during his time at Elon, he is able to use his small clothing company as a creative outlet and an opportunity to make a positive impact on social issues.

Mitten sells merchandise on his website, through Instagram and in-person on Elon’s campus.

“

IT’S A BIG MESSAGE OF MY BRAND THAT A PORTION OF PROFITS GO TO THESE CHARITIES, SO YOU’RE OBVIOUSLY RAISING AWARENESS FOR THESE ISSUES BY WEARING MY CLOTHES. YOU CAN FEEL GOOD ABOUT IT TOO BECAUSE SOME OF THE SALES GO TO FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE.

MATTHEW MITTEN
SENIOR, OWNER

The apparel displays environmentally-conscious phrases like “Every Day is Earth Day” and “Climate Change is Real” printed on shirts, hats, hoodies and stickers.

According to the Climate Change Apparel website, Mitten hopes to raise both money and awareness for environmental causes with every shirt. A 10% cut of each order is donated to conservation organizations, and Mitten has given over \$200 to charities like the Sierra Club and the Environmental Defense Fund.

“It’s a big message of my brand that a portion of profits go to these charities, so you’re obviously raising awareness for these issues by wearing my clothes,” Mitten said. “You can feel good about it too because some of the sales go to fighting climate change.”

Senior Kevin Scott said he purchases products from Climate Change Apparel because of the company’s main focus of actively helping the environment by both creating conversations about climate change and contributing monetary donations to larger environmental activism organizations.



Senior Matthew Mitten sells his Climate Change Apparel merchandise outside of the Koury Business Center

COURTESY OF MATTHEW MITTEN

“The way that the images are depicted is quite dramatic. On the back [of the shirts], it often reads ‘climate change is real,’ and that’s such a strong statement in such a visible place,” Scott said.

In the early stages of his business, Mitten used a website shirt printing service to order his products to meet demand. But a commitment to sustainability motivated him to search for a local supplier, and he eventually found Atlantic Coast Screen Printing Company.

“It was really important for me to use a small business in the community to print my shirts to cut down on shipping emissions and shipping costs,” Mitten said. “I try to be conscious of the environment when I can.”

Now that he is partnered with Marketplace Under the Oaks, he has begun to pre-order merchandise that he is confident will sell at the pop-up events hosted outside of Clohan Dining Hall. Mitten said participating in these events has already boosted his sales.

“I think this new initiative is amazing because it provides crucial support to Elon student small businesses,” Mitten said. “The Doherty Center and Elon Dining are going above and beyond to support our businesses.”

According to Alyssa Martina, director of the Doherty Center for Creativity, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Marketplace Under the Oaks is driven by a desire to recognize and promote student entrepreneurs. Any Elon student, regardless of major or business idea, is welcome to pitch their product or service to Marketplace Under the Oaks.

“We’re not the judge or the jury,” Martina said. “We’re just here to help you explore your creative side, your innovative side, your entrepreneurial side.”

Martina said this partnership provides guidance and support as well as exposure of their business to the greater campus community.

“This is exactly what I was looking for when I started my business and couldn’t find it,” Mitten said, “The fact that we have it now is amazing.”

During his past two years of business, Mitten has personally funded Climate Change Apparel, but he is now exploring applying for the “Elon Acorn Fund,” an SGA initiative to financially support Elon’s student entrepreneurs. The fund is awarded to two students per year, each of whom receiving \$4,500 to use for their business or service.

If Mitten succeeds in securing these funds, he intends to expand his business’ online and in-person presence, explore retail capabilities and take steps to make the company more



FRANCES O’CONNOR | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Climate Change Apparel clothing line is available on climatechangeapparel.net.

sustainable. Post-graduation, Mitten hopes to carry on with Climate Change Apparel, though he said he is unsure what that will look like.

“I will likely continue running the company and maybe bring on some Elon students to keep things running here,” Mitten said. “The possibilities are endless and exciting.”

SCAN TO
BUY MERCH
OR VISIT
CLIMATECHANGE
APPAREL.NET



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



Alternative spring breaks provide service opportunity for students

Changes to spring semester allowed for students to volunteer around North Carolina this past weekend

Ellis Chandler
Social Media Coordinator | @ellis_chandler

Alternative spring break programs typically take place as far as eight hours away from campus, but this year, participating students ended their weekend with a campfire at Alumni Gym.

Programs are held each fall and spring as a way for students to volunteer and travel off campus. The five programs moved from a week-long experience to one weekend and took place in Burlington, Greensboro and Chapel Hill. All programs were less than one hour away from campus and were free for all participants. The school also required all participants to confirm a negative COVID-19 PCR test within a week of the program taking place.

Student coordinator and sophomore Savannah Josey planned to go to Costa Rica last spring but the trip was cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic. Josey said she's excited to serve as a program leader this year.



Volunteers get their temperatures checked by sophomore Savannah Josey.

ELLIS CHANDLER | SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR

“Alternative breaks are unique in the sense that it connects different majors, whereas some of the other service programs may attract more of one type of major than others,” Josey said. “So I really wanted to facilitate a kind of cross-campus service experience.”

Each program focused on a different social issue chosen by student coordinators. Associate director for the Kernodle Center of Civic Life and program advisor Kyle Anderson sent out a survey to those students to gauge what issues they are passionate about and crafted the programs around those.

“Students’ interests change year to year, and then also because of COVID, I think interests have changed,” Anderson said. “There’s more interesting issues like public health, and then, and there’s always interest in racial justice issues, but especially now with, with all the conversations happening on campus and across the country around racial justice.”

Issues this year focused on education gaps, racial justice and immigration and religious traditions. Josey said the idea of alternative breaks is to have equal parts education, direct service and reflection.

The coordinators took a one-credit class

with Anderson in the fall and could pursue their service and leadership experiential learning requirements during the program.

Throughout the program, students met for more education and reflection and will meet a few weeks after the program is over for a final reflection. Although the programs are no more than a week long even in a normal year, Anderson said being immersed in the community is the best way to get a sense of the social issues discussed.

“I think we often think about a lot of our social issues not having challenges, but there’s a lot of great work happening in communities all over the place,” Anderson said.

Students who volunteered with the education gap program collaborated with CityGate Dream Center in Burlington to create career and college readiness plans that would be made available to Alamance County. They ended up sharing their resources with those getting vaccinated at the newly-opened clinic.

“The programs are based around not so much where you’re going but the actual issue that you’re tackling, and we try to have our groups focus on that as a priority when they go



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SAVANNAH JOSEY
SOPHOMORE

off and do their experiences,” Anderson said.

Josey said volunteering locally helped her see differences between campus and the community because she returned to campus each night rather than staying on location.

“I’m a lot more passionate about, ‘How am I investing locally?’” Josey said. “And how am I kind of empowering people who live in this county and will live here after I graduate?”

Anderson said the organizations the Kernodle Center partners with for alternative breaks each year are a mix of recurring and new, but it depends on the social issues chosen. Although this year’s trip was only for a weekend, he wants students to continue their work after they return.

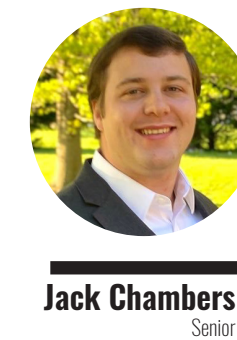
“My hope is that students carry those stories with them, bring them back to campus and then think about how they can help dive deeper and create meaningful space for conversation and action based on that issue or other related issues that they’re passionate about,” Anderson said.

Fall and spring alternative break student coordinator applications are open now through April 2 on PhoenixCONNECT.

THE ELON BITE

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

Tropical Smoothie Cafe falls flat for experience, food



Jack Chambers
Senior

IF YOU GO

Tropical Smoothie Cafe
Where: 1595 Glidewell Dr B7, Burlington, NC 27215
When: Monday – Sunday, 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

This week on the Elon Bite, I wanted to satisfy my sweet tooth and try a fruit smoothie as warm weather approaches. My cravings led me to pick up a meal from the Tropical Smoothie Cafe in Burlington. I ordered a Beach Bum smoothie and a chipotle chicken flatbread that I must say, had some good and some bad.

The menu at the restaurant is awfully complicated. Usually, I resort to a classic selection of strawberry banana with peanut butter, but all the smoothies on their menu were quite complex. Among some of the ingredients offered are superfoods like chia seeds and avocado, along with supplements like whey protein.

They also lack a create-your-own smoothie menu, which I found to be annoying as someone who likes a very basic smoothie that is not offered. While the menu has numerous types of smoothies ranging from blended greens to fruit and chocolate, they are quite expensive, ranging from \$4 to \$7 each. I definitely recommend checking the menu before you stop in for a treat.

The smoothie I purchased, the Beach Bum, was interesting — a combination of strawberry, banana

and dark chocolate, it felt like a sweetness overload in my mouth. The strawberry and banana alone would have been fine, but adding dark chocolate gave it a complexity that pushed it over the edge and made it too sweet for my own liking. The consistency was silky and smooth, and there were no chunks of unblended fruit in it, which allowed me to easily drink it through a straw. Additionally, it felt like there was a real fruitiness in there that I could enjoy if I asked the server to modify the order to lose the chocolate and add peanut butter instead. Overall, the smoothie was fine and would have been better on a very hot summer day than a cool morning in March.

The chipotle chicken flatbread had fewer redeeming qualities than the smoothie. First, when I opened the sandwich that was supposed to be grilled, it was ice cold. The chill of the sandwich alone ruined it for me. Ice-cold grilled chicken, bacon and bread are not my favorite way to eat a warm toasted flatbread, to say the least. The sandwich lacked the chipotle mayo that was supposed to come with it and left the already cold sandwich dry and irritating to eat. Overall, the sandwich gets two thumbs down: very bad.



Chipotle chicken flatbread from Tropical Smoothie Cafe.

JACK CHAMBERS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

After eating this, I can definitely say I will not be getting another chipotle chicken wrap from Tropical Smoothie Cafe, and I recommend everyone else staying away from it as well. As for the smoothie, I could see it scratching an itch in the dog days of summer where it is too hot to go outside and you need a cool drink to refresh you. Tropical Smoothie Cafe overall gets a 4 out of 10 for me — 5 out of 10 for the smoothie and 1 out of 10 for the food.

JACK'S SCORE

4 of 10

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

SPORTS

ELON FRESHMAN TEES OFF TOWARD TOP OF CAA RANKINGS

Apple Ngamwong, a freshman from Thailand, has had a successful start to golf season

Caleigh Lawlor
Elon News Network | @caleighlawlor

Apple Ngamwong has come a long way to play golf at Elon University — literally. The freshman, ranked third in the Colonial Athletic Association conference in women's golf, is doing it all 9,000 miles away from home.

Ngamwong, a Bangkok, Thailand native, said despite her success, it's still hard to be far away from her native country.

"It's quite challenging," Ngamwong said. "It's my first time being away from home alone, like far and overseas,"

What keeps Ngamwong going, is her family, she said.

"I talk to my family every week," Ngamwong said. "It's not really ... lonely here. I keep in touch with them, so it's not really tough."

Ngamwong got into golf because of her grandparents, who would invite her to play with them as a child. She developed a deeper interest in the sport, eventually leading her to look into playing past the high school level.

She found out about Elon through her friend and current teammate Svarin "Lieu" Yuenyong, and she grew to like the environment the school would provide for her. Head coach Chris Dockrill said Yuenyong was instrumental to bringing Ngamwong over, and he's very happy with both the golfers.

"Lieu came here as a freshman and said she had a friend who's a very good golfer, a little younger than her and that, would I be interested in looking at her," Dockrill said. "I said, 'certainly' ... Lieu has played good golf. We had to get that transition coming to the States her first year, but I think she's a 4.0 student, and she's done extremely well here."

Most recently, Ngamwong placed third at the Low Country

Intercollegiate tournament. On day one, she finished one under par with 143, shooting an even 72. She led Elon with three birdies and 13 putts for par for the tournament.

She was named the CAA Women's Golfer of the Week for March 3 after being the top finisher for the conference in the 2021 Kiawah Classic. Dockrill said Ngamwong's performance thus far has impressed him.

“

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APPLE NGAMWONG
FRESHMAN

"She's very focused on the golf course. She's performed extremely well," Dockrill said. "She actually has played better, believe or not, than the score she's posted, so that's very exciting for me as a coach."

But Ngamwong believes she still can bring more out of herself. She said she's hoping to take her performance to another level as she continues her golf career at Elon.

"So far I think it's not that bad, but I think that I can be more improve and keep getting better and better," Ngamwong said.

Ngamwong said she hopes to play professionally for the LPGA Tour after college. Dockrill agreed she was capable of reaching that level and said he expects more to come of her play.

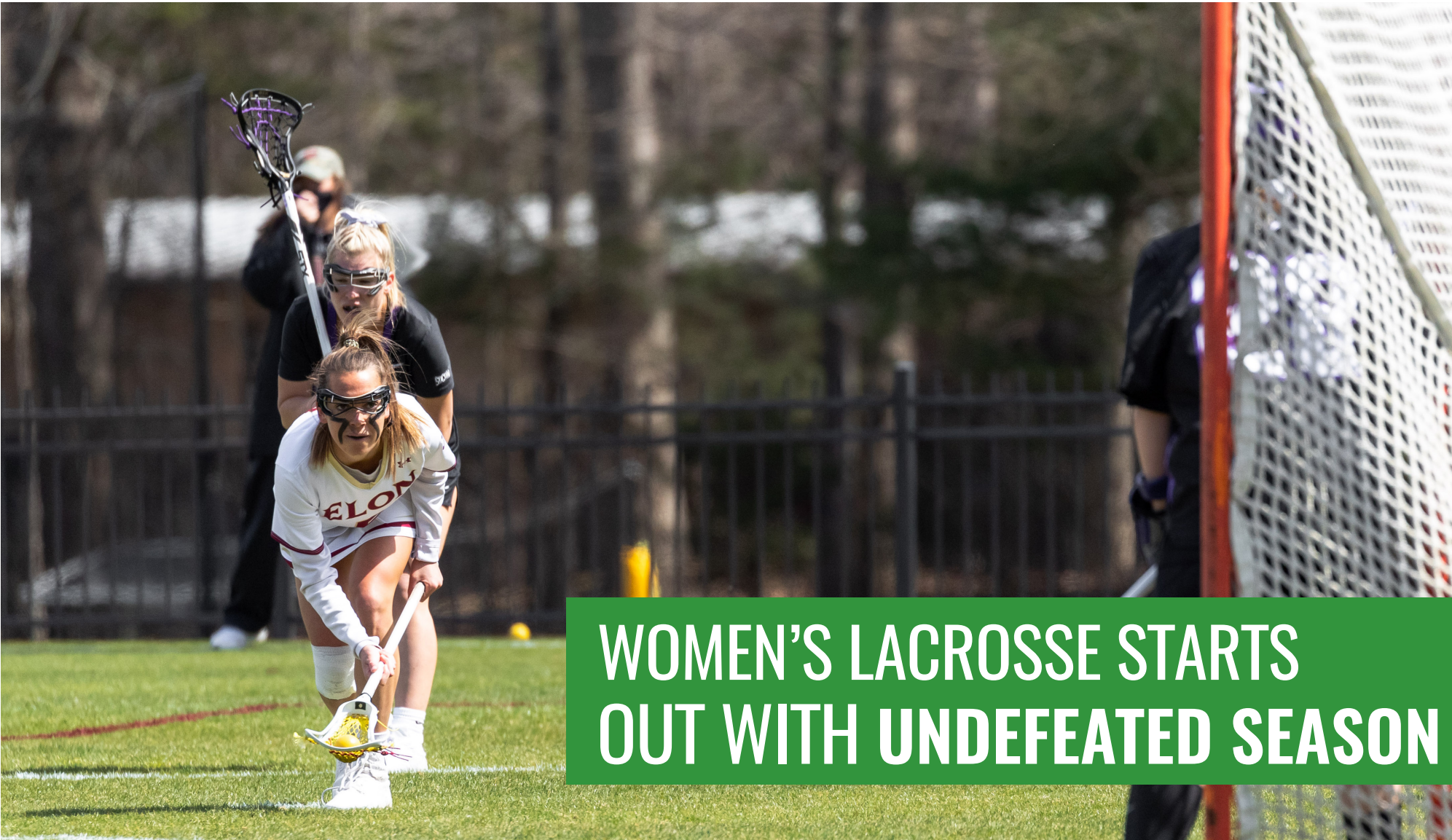
"She's the type of person that wants to learn, get better and expects a lot out of her game," Dockrill said.

The Phoenix will be seen next at the Mimosa Hills Intercollegiate Tournament April 5 to 6.



Freshman Apple Ngamwong practices her swing at the driving range near the South Campus Fields.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON ATHLETICS



WOMEN’S LACROSSE STARTS OUT WITH UNDEFEATED SEASON

Elon lacrosse offense shoots a goal against Furman University. The Phoenix beat the Paladins 13-9.

LUKE CASL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Women’s lacrosse hopes to continue their winning streak in their next game at High Point University this Saturday

Annemarie Bonner
Sports Director | @annemarie_bon

Elon women’s lacrosse has won five games straight, defeating teams both in and out of their conference including James Madison University, Furman University and Radford University. Despite their 5-0 record, head coach Josh Hexter said the

record does not matter when it comes to preparing to compete. The seniors are the ones responsible for maintaining a positive environment during practices and game days, according to Hexter. Even though the pandemic has affected team dynamics, he said he is still proud of the way the team continues to work hard every day. “It’s not easy to just lock it down, so to speak, and our girls are doing a really good job of that,” Hexter said. “I hope we can stay focused and continue that.” Hexter said the team’s most recent 13-9 win against Furman University was not

their best performance. The team ended the first half tied 6-6 but were able to come back to score 7 goals in the second half. A key component of the team’s success has been connections, Hexter said. Defensively, only 33 of 91 shots on goal have been let in this season. Offense has scored 65 times out of 149 shots attempted. Hexter owes the team’s success to the trust built between the coaches and the team as a whole. He said offensive coach Beth Roberts has worked with the offense to build upon trust and skills. “When you have that kind of relationship with your coaching staff, you’re more apt

to just play a little more free, but with less stress. And then you’re going to play better that way,” Hexter said. The coaching staff is also focusing on continuous improvement to prevent the team getting comfortable with their undefeated start to the season. They are continuing to improve upon their skills, take care of their academics and expand how they can play instead of being one dimensional. Saturday, the team will travel to High Point University to play at 1:00 p.m. After that, their next home game is not until April 11 against Virginia Commonwealth University.

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