

Check out the Valentine's Day special section for Elon-themed cards and unique date spots



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2018  
ELON, NORTH CAROLINA

# THE PENDULUM

## Virtues of Valentine's Day

How LGBTQIA students celebrate their love on a typically heteronormative holiday

ANTON L. DELGADO AND RACHEL ELLIS | Enterprise Story Coordinator and Breaking News Manager | @JADelgadoNews and @rachel\_ellisTV

**T**heir friendship began with a simple text over Thanksgiving break. A few months later, freshman Jubitza Figueroa started asking questions, "Are we just friends or are we more than that?"

By January she found herself happily in love and dating her best friend, her girlfriend.

This new relationship blossomed at the perfect time, right before Figueroa's favorite holiday — Valentine's Day.

"I love Valentine's Day ... I want to make everything memorable. Living your life should be a novel-worthy experience and I don't ever want her to look back on our relationship and think that it wasn't the very best," Figueroa said. "Hopefully this will be a night she will forever remember. Fifty years from now if someone ever asks 'What was your best Valentine's Day,' hopefully she will be able to bring me up. I want to be that level of romantic."



Freshman Jubitza Figueroa holds hands with her girlfriend of two months, who did not want to be identified. Their relationship transformed from best friends to girlfriends in the first week of January.



Girlfriends Jazz Harris and Tiana Lynn pet their cat Luna in Lynn's room in the Gender and Sexuality LLC.

See **LGBTQIA** | pg. 11

### CLASS OF 2021 SEXUALITY

# 8%

of the 1648 freshman students on campus this year, consider themselves non-heterosexual, according to the Gender & LGBTQIA Center.



Freshman Savannah Bulloch (left) smiles with her boyfriend Omar Latif.

Long-distance relationships prove to be a rewarding challenge for couples

Victoria Traxler  
Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

**W**ith Elon University students hailing from 49 states and 58 countries, long-distance relationships are not uncommon.

Freshman Savannah Bulloch came to Elon from Bracknell, United Kingdom, an hour outside of London. This change in location left Bulloch with a decision to make about her relationship with boyfriend, Omar Latif.

"We started out our relationship not wanting to date in college," Bulloch said. "We sat down and had a really serious conversation. I realized that if I cared about someone that much, why would I not want to be with them?"

Bulloch said Latif is taking a gap year abroad during her first year of college in the United States.

"We just decided to see how it works and go with every day," Bulloch said. "So far, it's been working."

Bulloch and her boyfriend have been dating for a year and one month. Six months of their relationship have

See **LONG DISTANCE** | pg. 12

STEPHANIE HAYS | DESIGN CHIEF

## El Centro staff member denied work visa, returning to Spain



Prieto Viñas (left) and senior Alicia Leja celebrate at Leja's Turning 21 dinner.

Selina Guevara  
Elon News Network | @SelinaGuevara

If people walked through downstairs Carlton anytime over the last five years, have probably seen Diana Prieto Viñas, assistant director of El Centro de Español in the Center for Race, Ethnicity and Diversity Education at Elon Uni-

versity, through the windows of El Centro, smiling and sharing her culture with students from around campus.

But now her office is empty as she travels back to her hometown in Spain because of complications with her visa. Legally, Prieto Viñas has a 30-day window to leave the country, but with no income and no health insurance, she said

there's no reason to stay.

Senior Evan Seder said when Prieto Viñas told him she was leaving, his first thought was that she was kidding, but he soon realized she was serious.

"I just didn't really know what to say," Seder said, "I could see in Diana's face that

See **EL CENTRO** | pg. 8

### KINDS OF VISAS

Prieto Viñas had been working at Elon under a J-1 visa, an exchange visitor program meant for temporary work or studies. She applied for another visa, an H-1B for special occupations, to continue working here.

The H-1B visa is intended for talented foreign workers with unique skills.



### NEWS • PAGES 4-6

SGA candidates campaign for elections



### NEWS • PAGE 9

Crest residents told they can't move back in this semester



### SPORTS • PAGE 14

Freshman basketball players take charge, gain confidence

THE PENDULUM

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ELON NEWS  
NETWORK

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**Editorial policy:**

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

**Corrections policy:**

ENN is committed to accurate coverage. When factual errors are made, we correct them promptly and in full, both online and in print. Online corrections state the error and the change at the bottom of each article. Corrections from the previous week's print edition appear on this page. Contact [enn@elon.edu](mailto:enn@elon.edu) to report a correction or a concern.

CALENDAR

**FEB. 14**

**Ash Wednesday Service**  
9 P.M.

Elon Community Church and the Numen Lumen Sacred Space

**FEB. 15**

**Numen Lumen: A Thursday Inspiration**  
9:50 A.M.

Numen Lumen Pavillion Sacred Space

**FEB. 16**

**Senior Dance Majors Performance**  
6 P.M.

Center of the Arts, Black Box Theatre

**FEB. 18**

**CATL Workshop - Better Collaboration: Designing Group projects with Scrum**  
12:15 P.M.

Belk Pavillion 208

**Mephis Teacher Residency**  
5:30 P.M.

Moseley 104

**Knowledge in Ifa: an African Intellectual Tradition**  
6 P.M.

Moseley 215

**FEB. 20**

**Black Innovation Matters**  
6 P.M.

Isabella Cannon Room, Center for the Arts

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CORRECTION

On Page 9 of the Feb. 7 edition of The Pendulum, Jon Dooley's name was misspelled. Elon News Network regrets the error.

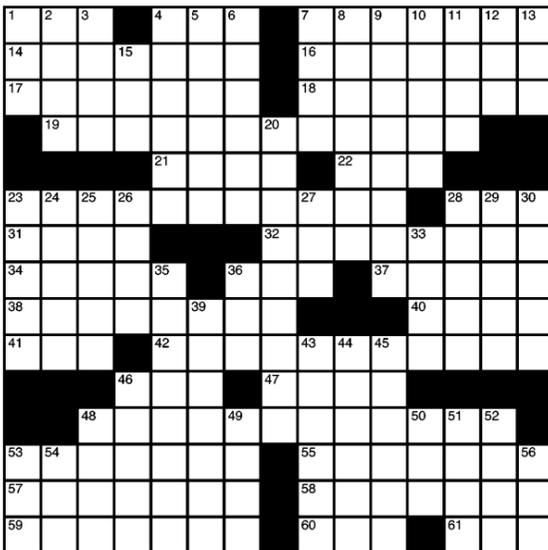
GAMES

FOR RELEASE FEBRUARY 14, 2018

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Drive-thru device
  - 4 Org. people line up for?
  - 7 Sell under false pretenses
  - 14 Tries to scam online
  - 16 South Pacific region
  - 17 Good thing to break gently
  - 18 Bought time
  - 19 Has no chance of working
  - 21 "Lisa"
  - 22 Golf's "Big Easy"
  - 23 "This is a sure bet"
  - 28 "Halt and Catch Fire" network
  - 31 Writers Patchett and Brashares
  - 32 Korea setting
  - 34 Rhodes of Rhodesia fame
  - 36 "-Man": superhero film
  - 37 Longtime SeaWorld star
  - 38 Four-legged collar wearer
  - 40 Indigo plant
  - 41 Rubble-making stuff
  - 42 "Hold on a sec"
  - 46 Storybook crone
  - 47 Close at hand
  - 48 2000s sitcom starring Jason Lee
  - 53 "God willing!"
  - 55 "We've heard enough"
  - 57 Accumulates
  - 58 Cautious bettors
  - 59 Mailer's need
  - 60 Many promos
  - 61 Spot for family game night
- DOWN**
- 1 Manhunt letters
  - 2 Winter warm spell
  - 3 Skirt style
  - 4 Title role for Geena
  - 5 Attached, as a button
  - 6 Give the go-ahead
  - 7 Something struck by a model?
  - 8 One in a cast
  - 9 Circulars
  - 10 Store collections
  - 11 The Beach Boys' "God \_\_\_ Knows"
  - 12 Quaint "For shame!"
  - 13 Fidget spinners, apparently
  - 15 Kate McKinnon is in its ensemble, briefly
  - 20 End of a question begun by part of 19-, 23-, 42- and 48-Across
  - 23 Regatta entry
  - 24 Diamond situation after a leadoff double
  - 25 Full-length, as a film
  - 26 Several CBS dramas
  - 27 Bread grain
  - 28 Yoga pose
  - 29 Make like
  - 30 Sink sealant



By Loren Muse Smith and Bruce Haight 2/14/18

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved



©2018 Tribune Content Agency, LLC 2/8/18

- 33 Captain described as a "grand, ungodly, god-like man"
- 35 Beirut natives
- 36 Bubby prefix
- 39 Winged steed of myth
- 43 Performer with many fans?
- 44 Secured, as a gate
- 45 Tire features
- 46 Bouncing off the walls
- 48 Shape
- 49 Hairdressing challenges
- 50 Uru, neighbor
- 51 Swamp thing
- 52 Angler's fly, e.g.
- 53 Pub letters
- 54 Squirreled away
- 56 Bank acct. info

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY - WOMEN'S LACROSSE BEGINS FIRST INTERCOLLEGIATE COMPETITION



Senior attacker Stephanie Asher (1) races toward the goal against Winthrop University Feb. 16, 2017.

Elon University women's lacrosse team played their first game of the 2018 season last Sunday, Feb. 11. This week four years ago, women's lacrosse began its first season of intercollegiate competition.

In 2014, the team's roster numbered just 25, and 21 of them were freshmen. This season, the team has grown to 43 members.

Dave Blank, director of athletics, said the decision to add women's lacrosse was made due to the sport's increasing popularity.

"Women's lacrosse is growing at an incredible pace, and we are excited to add this opportunity for Elon stu-

dent-athletes," Blank said.

Josh Hexter, Duke University women's lacrosse associate head coach, was hired to lead the team and Virginia Crotty, a former Duke lacrosse player was hired as the program's first assistant coach.

Crotty told The Pendulum she thought Elon had the potential to become a strong lacrosse school like her alma mater.

"We want to set the bar really high," Crotty said. "For the team, I want a conference championship."

In 2017, the women's lacrosse team qualified for the NCAA tournament for the first time, but was eliminated in the first round.

NEWS BRIEFS

Elon students and alumni named Fulbright semifinalists

Eighteen Elon University students and alumni have been recommended as semifinalists for the 2018-2019 Fulbright U.S. Student Program, the largest exchange program in the country which offers opportunities for recent graduates in more than 140 countries.

Alexander Ball '18, Emily Bell '18, Brianna Birchett '17, Jill Capotosto '14, Isabelle Fagen '18, Anya Fredsell '18, Samantha Friedman '18, Robin Gottlieb '16, Megan Graves '18, Sarah Holdren '18, Gregory Honan '14, Benjamin Lutz '17, Morgan Myers '18, Samantha Perry '18, Bryanna Schoenblatt '18, Melody Titus '18, Cassandra Tumasz '18 and Madeline Wetterhall '18 were all named semifinalists.

The program awards approximately 1,900 grants annually in all fields of study. Those interested in nationally competitive fellowships can visit the National and International Fellowships Office in Powell building. They will also hold an Fulbright Info Session on Thursday, March 1 from 4:15 to 5:15 p.m. in Lindner 208 is also happening.

Elon senior holding benefit concert for victims of hurricanes

Senior Kellcee Batchelor, music and recording arts major, is organizing a benefit concert for Caribbean Island Hurricane Relief that will be a fundraiser for all those affected by Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria. "Helping Hands United: A Benefit Concert for Caribbean Island Hurricane Relief," will take place Friday, Feb. 23 at Danielel PARC. Admission is \$5 and proceeds will go to International Relief Teams, Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands, & Unidos por Puerto Rico.

Alumna's research featured on the Today show

Sarah Whiteside '13, who graduated from Elon University with degrees in biochemistry and economics, recently had her research featured in a segment of the Today show.

Whiteside is the first author on a recently published study that examined why some symptoms of Lyme disease were aggressive despite treatment. She and her fellow researchers believe they have found that persistent Lyme arthritis is the result of an overreactive immune system. The research also appeared in The Journal of Immunology.

Elon students inducted into honors society for finance

Twenty Elon University students in the Martha and Spencer Love School of Business were initiated into the Lambda Xi chapter of Beta Alpha Psi, the international honor organization for financial information students and professionals, on Feb. 6.

Sara Adelson, Sarah Bennett, Michael Bernatchez, Amanda Corso, Natalie Falacara, Rebecca Fliegel, Gregory Giannantonio, Regan Glembocki, Cooper Jansson, Grace Kadel, James Lawson, Jacquelyn McGorty, Jacob O'Brien, Marissa Papaccio, Tyler Pastore, Charles Peck, John Rangel, Rebecca Roberts, Adam Smith and Kaitlyn Tomaino were all inducted. The chapter has won SGA'S "Organization of the Year" Award twice in the last 10 years.



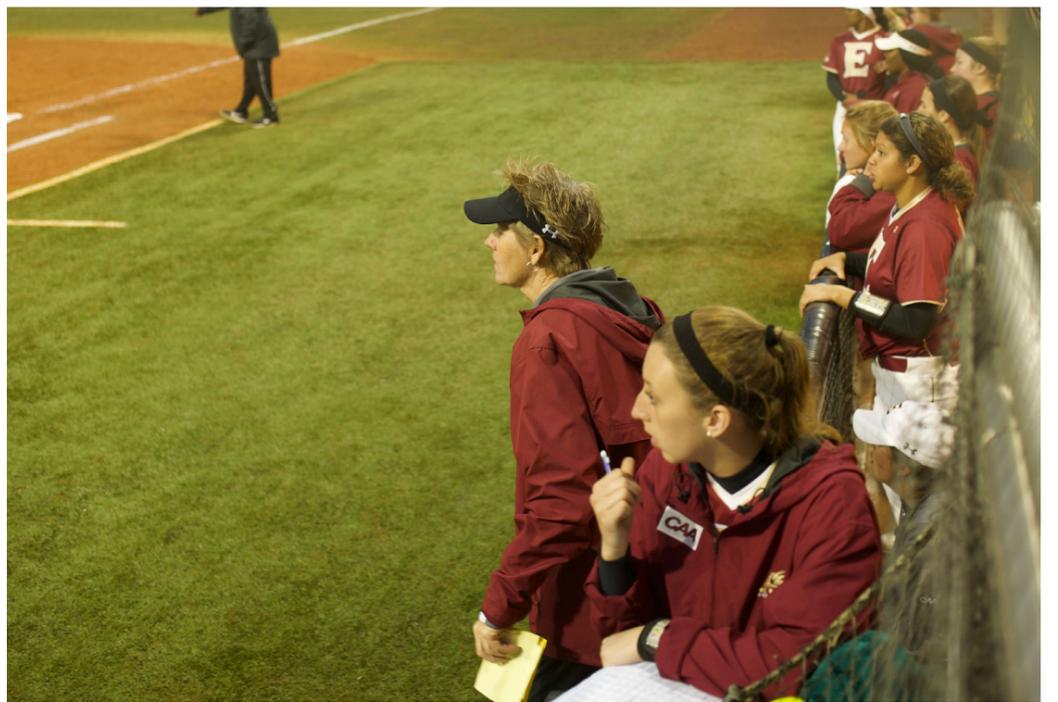
Sophomore guard Lexi Mercer (22) battles a College of Charleston defender during the third quarter of the matchup between the Phoenix and Cougars Feb. 11.

OLIVER FISCHER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



ERIK WEBB | SPORTS DIRECTOR

Former football head coach Red Wilson talks to fan Jeff Michael during the Elon football national signing day event Feb. 7.



CORY WELLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Head coach Kathy Bocock observes a run during a game against North Carolina Central University Feb. 10.



The Performing Arts department runs through a dress rehearsal of their production "Baby" Feb. 8.

CORY WELLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## LEAVING A LEGACY



OLIVER FISCHER | PHOTOGRAPHER

SGA Executive President Morgan Bodenarain said in her campaign platform that she wanted to increase inclusivity, school spirit and civic engagement.

## SGA Executive President Morgan Bodenarain reflects on her accomplishments

**Oliver Fischer**  
Elon News Network | @FischerWithC

Executive President Morgan Bodenarain will leave behind greater inclusivity, civic engagement and school spirit when she steps down in March.

### FOCUSING ON INCLUSIVITY

Some of the ways Bodenarain focused on inclusivity as a goal was by creating the SGA Student Inclusive Campus Committee project and started inclusivity week.

She ran her junior year of college and received a position on the SGA senate as a chief of staff to former Executive President Kyle Porro.

"I realized how much I loved SGA and that was something I really wanted to do," she said.

With help, Bodenarain and a friend founded the SGA Student Inclusive Campus Committee dedicated to creating the most inclusive community possible. This project served as motivation for her to run for executive president.

"There were things I was working on my junior year that I knew from a platform of executive president of SGA, I would be able to do it on a bigger scale and implement it in ways that I see fit that I couldn't necessarily do from the position that I held," she said.

Bodenarain joined the student government in her junior year of high school. Having gone to Ardrey Kell High School in South Charlotte, a predominantly white school, she thought her chances of winning the presidential election were slim.

But still, she won.

"That was pretty surprising," she said. "When I won it I realized, 'Wow, student government is where I want to be,'"

Despite having found her passion, Bodenarain had troubles navigating Elon with its more than 250 clubs and organizations. She said she became involved with the student government too late in her college career.

"When I came to Elon, I knew I wanted to do student government, but no one tapped my shoulder and said this is something you should do."

Senior Spencer Wagner, executive vice president, said that apart from their friendship, their passion for Elon unites them and has created a productive working environment.

"You can think about SGA as separate, but I like to think of it as very much a part of Elon, its identity and where it's going. We are both very eager to work for SGA," Wagner said.

### Inclusivity

Bodenarain focused on three issues as executive president but gave priority to inclusivity as an extension of the SGA Student Inclusive Campus Committee project.

"I could very clearly see that there was a line of students who loved Elon and loved being here and loved everything about it and were flourishing and there were students who may have also loved Elon but who were not," Bodenarain said. "To me that had a lot to do with whether or not they found their place here."

Bodenarain made sure the committee she started would always remain a priority after she leaves.

Wagner said her ideas resonated with students and upcoming candidates are setting similar priorities as Bodenarain.

"Now that we have this election going on, I've seen some of those same themes reflected in candidates," Wagner said. "People are starting to think about SGA as a partner with the institution and the community."

Inclusivity week was another initiative to promote diversity on campus. It contained panels, conversations and a movie screening. Junior

Kenneth Brown Jr., who is expected to take Bodenarain's place as executive president, said inclusivity week was beneficial for the Elon community.

"I think it's really important that students have access to resources and programs, to be able to talk to people who don't look like them, to be able to engage with materials and films and discussions that challenges their world view," he said. "It's not just enough to be diverse, it's not just enough to showcase how many students of color you have. We also have the responsibility to make sure that those students have the ability to contribute to the dialogue at the table."

### Civic Engagement

Bodenarain said she cared about the political conversation on campus, but felt the execution was not ideal.

"In some ways I appreciate them, in other ways I felt like they needed some guidance or amplification," she said.

SGA has been partnering with Elon Publics Forums (EPF) for their student debates and integration panels.

"Since EPF is the nonpartisan political organization on campus, I knew I wanted to establish a relationship with them early on," said Bodenarain.

"EPF provides spaces on campus where students can discuss and become more knowledgeable about civic engagement."

"When I think of civic engagement, that's even as local as Elon's Student Government Association."

To Bodenarain, improving civic engagement includes increasing the number of students who run for student government and increasing the number of people who know what SGA is doing.

Last year, none of the executive positions were contested, partially because of the requirement of collecting 300 signatures to run for executive office.

"It sounds just as hard as it was," Bodenarain said. "This year, we got rid of the signatures required to run for an office."

This year, 36 students ran for of-

fice compared to the 19 last year.

Bodenarain focused on inclusivity and school spirit, so civic engagement is an area that still requires additional work.

"Going into this election year, that's something SGA could easily do more with, but unfortunately, it is hard to think of civic engagement-focused things," Wagner said.

### School Spirit

Students wanted a campus that not only had a lot of school spirit internally, but also off-campus spirit as well. Some students felt like this was limited to their organization.

"That's just something that has kind of lacked at Elon, but everybody wants it," Wagner said.

A special tent at student tailgates was one initiative to improve both school spirit and inclusivity. Bodenarain recalled her own first tailgate experience.

"I had literally no idea where to go because there were so many tailgate tents, so I wanted to create a space where any student could come, eat food and talk," she said.

Bodenarain said she didn't want to associate it with the SGA.

"I was a first year and I thought there would be an SGA tailgate tent I would be like 'I don't want to go there because it's probably just for senators,'" she said.

"I know football games seem so small, but I remember even the most insignificant place where you feel like, 'Oh students aren't really paying attention,' I remember feeling just being reinforced whether or not I really belong at Elon by doing something as simple as going to a football game."

"My first year, I didn't go to any," Bodenarain said. "I think I attended more football games this past year than I have in my three years at Elon."

Both Bodenarain and Wagner said there will always be a feeling that more could have been done.

"It was still, I think, a very successful term and I think she did a lot of work putting that together and a lot of work into making myself feel that way where I feel proud of what we've done," Wagner said.

### SGA ACCOMPLISHMENTS THIS YEAR

1. Updated the honor code
2. Assisted Jon Dooley, vice president of student life, in the creation of the Traditions Council
3. Eliminated signatures for the freshmen and eventually the entire SGA candidates list
4. Introduced a new competitive over team-based model for Homecoming events
5. Introduced the Banner parade for Homecoming
6. Sustained the Homecoming Royalty and charity model
7. Followed Elon's charge of being global citizens by responding to international and national disasters
8. Established a new collaboration fund to encourage groups across campus to work together
9. Added SICC to our by-laws and constitution
10. Started Inclusivity Week
11. Changed the name of OAIC to honor President Leo Lambert
12. Amended the constitution
13. Sustained the town hall model, discussing sexual assault, mental health, greek life and race relations, among others
14. Established Phoenix Phrenzy games
15. Created the All Student Tailgate Tent
16. Relations Council (met with the provost and deans, met with the faculty senate)
17. Helped launch the #SeeMeElon stories campaign
18. Continued the Elon Ball
19. Looked into having Elon recognize Indigenous People's Day

SGA

ELECTIONS

2018

**Maggie Brown**  
Event Coverage Coordinator | @maggieAbrown\_

STUDENTS INTERESTED IN SERVING the Elon University community are running for new positions in SGA this month. Kenneth Brown Jr., who was the class of 2019 president, is now running unopposed for the position of executive president. Three students are running for the position of executive vice president and two for the position of executive secretary. Voting starts at 9 a.m. on Feb. 20 and will end on the 21.

Though Brown is running unopposed, Jana Lynn Anderson, SGA adviser, believes he will do a great job with this new position. She said competition is “always good,” but is not worried

about the outcome of the election.

“No one else decided to run against him. And it happens occasionally,” Anderson said. “Kenneth is going to be a fine president.”

In the past, students who wanted to run for an executive position had to receive signatures from the student body before they could be nominated. Only 19 students ran for positions last year.

“This was our first student body election without a requirement for signatures for any of the positions,” said Spencer Wagner, executive vice president of SGA. “The future will hopefully continue to look like large fields of candidates.”

This year, 35 students ran for positions. Wagner told Elon News Network there could be

changes made to the elections packet that would encourage more students to participate in SGA.

Brown said he is excited to begin serving Elon University’s community as the next student body president. Because of his love and appreciation for Elon, he wants to give back. Breaking the stereotype of what SGA does is important to Brown. In his term as president, he hopes to show students how active SGA is on campus.

“I hope to get more students to care about SGA through the different outreach events that we do and see SGA as more than this concept that we’re elitists and give away money,” Brown said. “A lot more people are running compared to this time last year, so progress is happening.”

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

**KENNETH BROWN JR.****President**

“I believe that through supporting and connecting with each other, engaging with our community, and upholding Elon core values for honor, responsibility, integrity and respect, together we can make Elon a better place for all. I hope to take students out of their comfort zones by engaging with our community through service and breaking this bubble most students live in.”

**ALYSSA MULLER****Vice President**

“After serving on SGA for the 2017-2018 school year as the class of 2019 secretary and co-chair of the PR Committee, I would like to return for the 2018-2019 school year as executive vice president. I plan to strengthen SGA’s relationship with organizations that work to address students’ mental health concerns, empower those who live with mental illness and work to de-stigmatize mental illness.”

**EMILY CLINE****Vice President**

“Through my involvement in various facets of campus life at Elon, I have developed a strong sense of the needs of the student body. I view SGA and the position of executive vice president as one that is here to work on behalf of the whole student body and attack your issues. As vice president, I will do all that I can for a place we all know and love.”

**CHARLIE CHEEMA****Vice President**

“I recognize that there are students on campus who do not feel seen or heard and this needs to change. I hope to promote more diversity programs to build a truly inclusive community. Elon has provided to me countless opportunities to grow personally and professionally. As your next vice president, I hope to give you what Elon has given me — hope, opportunity and love.”

**MIKEY GIBELEY****Secretary**

“I plan to implement changes and talk publicly about important issues. There are conversations that need to be had on campus and people that need to have their voices heard. Collaboration. Inclusivity. These words encompass all that I hope to accomplish as Executive Secretary. I promise to work tirelessly to promote positive changes that will benefit the Elon community. After all, we are #OnePhoenix!”

**JACK JOHNSON****Secretary**

“Elon University is filled with students that love it as their second home. As executive secretary, I hope to organize and mobilize that passion more than ever before. Vote Jack Johnson if you want to enhance our communal Elon Pride.”

**WARREN BARRETT****Treasurer**

“I hope to make Elon the best possible place it can be for its students through SGA and the many resources the school provides. I will use my extensive experience on SGA to improve our school and to support the needs of our student body and its many clubs and organizations.”

**MAX PIVONKA****Treasurer**

“My first and foremost priority is to support the student body president Kenneth Brown Jr. in the accomplishment of his own goals for his term. On a university scale, my two biggest objectives are mental health awareness and improving the student experience. Serving in this position would allow me to work closely with student leaders and organizations who are actively working to improve Elon and provide tremendous opportunities for their members and the student body as a whole.”

## CLASS OF 2019



### COLTON CADARETTE

#### President

"As president, I will collaborate with the senior class and the entire student body for ONE voice. My priority is to expand student-centered initiatives and further promote our sense of community, where all students bELONG, as an advocate for diversity, inclusion and Elon spirit. Your priorities are mine!"



### EDWARD STATEN

#### President

"Hello class of 2019, I am Edward Staten and I am running to be your senior class president. I have served in the past as our class treasurer and in doing so have gained important experience with the ins and outs of the Student Government. Remember ED-FOR-PRES."



### ELYSE COWLES

#### Secretary

"Having passionately served as the class of 2019's secretary for two years, I am excited and prepared to take on new challenges this term that will foster the voices of all Elon's diverse constituents."



### REBECCA FLIEGEL

#### Treasurer

"I have loved representing you all and hope to continue my role as the class of 2019 treasurer for this next term. By being your liaison to student government funds, I can help provide our class with the necessary capital so that our organizations can continue to thrive."



### CAITLIN BRADY

#### Senator

"After two years of experience on SGA, I wish to continue being the voice of my fellow classmates and will be committed to bringing the best events and ideas for the senior class."



### SOPHIE ZINN

#### Senator

"Are we really about to go into our senior year? Class of 2019, I have loved being your representative for the past three years. I want to be there for you and with you as the senior class senator! Vote Zinn for the Win!"

## CLASS OF 2020

## ACADEMIC COUNCIL



### SAMANTHA O'CONNOR

#### Secretary

"Over the past two years, I have had the privilege of serving as Secretary for the Class of 2020. Throughout this time, I have helped organize 2 Homecoming Weeks and Elon Balls. I hope to continue serving in this capacity by creating events and voting on policy that reflect the interests of the Student Body."



### SIENNA STANDFIELD

#### School of Communications Senator

"I promise to uphold the values of the School of Communications, while working to make positive changes that benefit both students and faculty. In my role as Senator, I will work to strengthen the academic relationship between members of all educational programs in the university, unite the majors of the School of Communications, and ensure that my constituents are provided the proper resources in order to be successful."



### KATHRYN WAKIYAMA

#### Senator

"Hi! It has been an honor serving as senator for the past two years and I have really enjoyed getting to know our class. I hope that I have the opportunity to represent your ideas and opinions again in the upcoming year!"



### ELEANOR COOK

#### School of Communications Senator

"I joined SGA as a senator this year so that I could make an impact at Elon as early as possible in my college career. By being involved in a wide arrange of campus activities - from the communications fellows to a sorority - I bring a diverse perspective to our council."



### JULIA FIELD

#### Senator

"Having had the privilege to be a class senator on Student Government Association these past two years, I understand the way SGA helps connect students at Elon. If elected, I will be a voice for the Class of 2020. A vote for me is a vote to represent you! It'd be Coolia if you'd vote for Julia!"



### STEFANIE MILOVIC

#### School of Arts and Sciences Senator

"There are infinite opportunities at Elon. As your civil servant for College of Arts & Sciences, I will create a public document listing all academic scholarships, funding and leadership development opportunities available to EVERYONE. As a social justice advocate, I prioritize a platform of inclusivity, mental health, and civic engagement."



### LOUISA SHOLAR

#### School of Arts and Sciences Senator

"My top priorities include listening to students' concerns and suggestions, continuing to make academic and career information easily accessible to students, and increasing student representation regarding decision-making. Above all, the goal of cultivating relationships between students and faculty, between schools, and with our administrators will remain integral to my actions."

## CLASS OF 2021


**JESSICA  
FLACKSENBURG**  
President

"As the Class of 2021's secretary this past year, I worked diligently to get our class' feet off the ground. In the upcoming year, I hope to be able to do more for both the school and my class by being your president."


**JONATHAN STETTLER**  
President

"I am incredibly passionate about helping people and bettering the community. As the class president, I want to bring our class together to continue to battle the stigma and issues regarding mental health on our campus and ensure everyone's voices are being heard on SGA and with administration."


**ANNA DUBRO**  
President

"I will uphold Elon's principle of honor, celebrate and explore our diversity and work to create meaningful change. I will represent and amplify the many voices of our university and we will grow together as a community. With persistence and determination, I have high aspirations of what Elon can become."


**CAM WADDELL**  
President

"It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the 1,571 members of the class of 2021 and I hope to continue to do everything in my power to make our experience at Elon the best it can be. Thank you!"


**SYDNEY HALLISEY**  
Vice President

"As vice president, I want to be an accessible voice for the class of 2021. I hope to encourage empathy and respect for all individuals, and help everyone find a home here at Elon."


**KAITLYN O'DONNELL**  
Vice President

"Having been on SGA this past year, I hope to continue to have the opportunity to work with other SGA officers of all years and councils. I'm excited for our second year of college and want to help create more events and memorable experiences for the class of 2021."


**NOAH DYSON**  
Vice President

"I am a hard worker and an experienced community organizer with a commitment to serving our class and ensuring that we have the resources needed to thrive mentally, academically and socially. As a senator this year, I have gained the knowledge and experience needed to be an effective class officer."


**NICHOLAS URBANSKI**  
Secretary

"As an involved member of my high school's SGA, I'm extremely excited for the prospect of serving Elon University's class of 2021. I love planning events, working with organizations and serving my school. I would bring loads of enthusiasm and great ideas to the table, so consider voting for me!"


**EMILY CASTORAL**  
Secretary

"I welcome an opportunity to contribute to the work of the SGA in a leadership position. If elected, I would bring to the position the knowledge I have gained in various leadership roles. This includes my experiences as class vice president and National Honor Society Historian."


**GRIFFIN BARRIESS**  
Secretary

"Through my experience programming events at Elon in the Historic Neighborhood Association, Inter-Residency Council and Student Union Board, I have grown passionate about making campus life better for my fellow students. I seek to further bridge the gap between students and SGA as your secretary with diligence, passion and dedication."


**CLAIRE BABEY**  
Treasurer

"Through serving as freshman class treasurer, I have learned the importance of student government and representatives who are passionate about their roles. I promise I will not only be this, but I will be dedicated and attentive to the needs of my fellow classmates. Vote Claire Babey for Sophomore Class Treasurer!"


**MEGAN NOOR**  
Senator

"Everyone who knows me understands that I am very politically active and ambitious, but I'm not running for sophomore senator for my own benefit. I want to create a positive change for everyone on Elon's campus and I believe the best way to accomplish that is by participating in SGA."

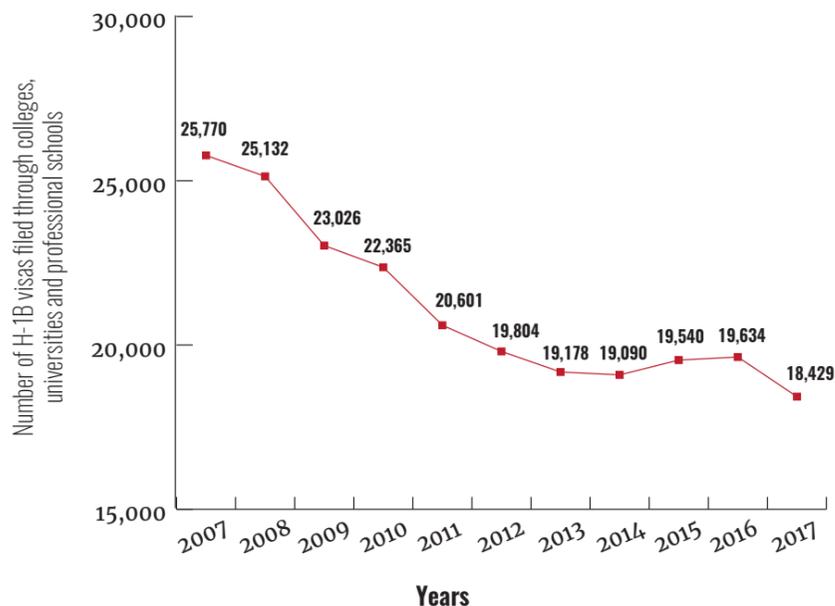

**LAUREN KOTTCAMP**  
Senator

"After previously serving as the first-year class senator, I am excited about what the next year is going to bring. I am even more passionate and motivated to make the best Elon experience possible for the class of 2021, and I hope that you will allow me to continue representing the student body."

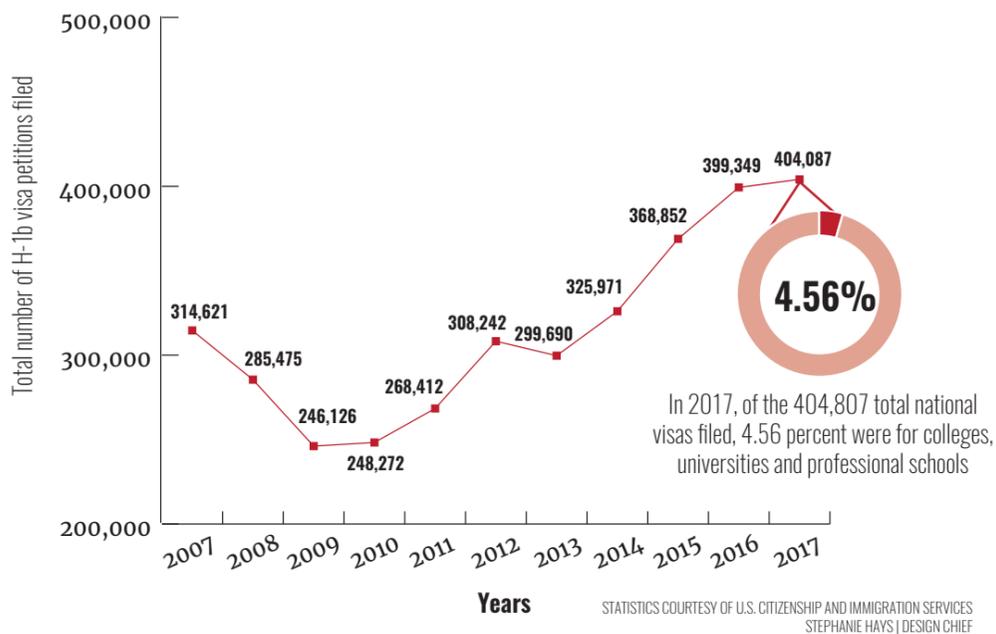

**BRANDON VEAL**  
Senator

"Putting Elon first in every aspect."

NATIONAL H-1B VISA TRENDS IN EDUCATION



NATIONAL H-1B VISA TRENDS



STATISTICS COURTESY OF U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES  
STEPHANIE HAYS | DESIGN CHIEF

EL CENTRO | from cover

she was scared, but still trying to remain optimistic.”

“Honestly, I am probably still in shock. I cannot really believe that it’s gotten to this point,” said Sylvia Muñoz, associate director of the CREDE and director of El Centro.

Prieto Viñas said she will be returning to the university for graduation as a tourist, but she is waiting to hear whether she will be allowed to come back to work for the long-term.

How it happened

Prieto Viñas had been working at Elon under a J-1 visa, an exchange visitor program meant for temporary work or studies. She applied for another visa, an H-1B for special occupations, to continue working here.

The H-1B visa is intended for talented foreign workers with unique skills. The regular pool of H-1B applications had a cap of 85,000 visas for the 2017 fiscal year, most of which are issued via lottery. Because Prieto Viñas filed her petition through an institute of higher education, her application does not go through the lottery system and is exempt from the cap.

Though overall H-1B applications have been increasing over the last 10 years, the number of applications for higher education jobs have been slightly decreasing. In 2017, there were 404,087 overall applications, and petitions for jobs with colleges, universities and professional schools made up 4.56 percent of those.

After the initial application, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) can ask for applicants to provide more information for their visas with a request for evidence. Prieto Viñas received one, but though she provided everything requested, she was still denied.

Frustrations Come Out

Muñoz, who has been Prieto Viñas’ friend and colleague at El Centro since Prieto Viñas started at Elon, has been spearheading the application process and is now working with the university and its lawyers to appeal the decision. “The reasoning to me simply doesn’t make sense,”



Prieto Viñas smiles with students in El Centro on Elon Day March 8, 2016. She was known for always making students feel welcomed in El Centro by encouraging participation and attending student activities outside of work hours.

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY SYLVIA MUÑOZ

Muñoz said. “We are not going to accept reasons that don’t make any sense.”

Charlotte-based immigration lawyer Daniel Christmann said he’s never seen so many denials in a single year. In an email to Elon News Network, he wrote, “This has been by far the craziest H-1B season so far. USCIS has issued many b.s. requests for evidence and denials.”

According to statistics from USCIS said, requests for evidence were up 44 percent from the 2016 to the 2017 fiscal year.

USCIS director L. Francis Cissna issued a statement about these statistics. “This increase reflects our commitment to protecting the integrity of the immigration system.”

Cissna’s statement also emphasized that he wants to be absolutely sure petitions are approved correctly. “Increasing our confidence in who re-



SHE’S DEFINITELY THE MOTHER OF ALL STUDENTS IN A WAY WHERE SHE’S ALWAYS CHECKING IN.

ALICIA LEJA  
SENIOR

REQUESTS FOR EVIDENCE

44%

Requests for evidence were up 44 percent from 2016 to 2017. Requests for evidence come from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services that ask for vis applicants to provide more information.

ceives benefits is a hallmark of this administration and one of my personal priorities,” Cissna wrote.

Muñoz is frustrated because Prieto Viñas and the university have done everything correctly. She had believed they had a good chance of getting the H-1B visa approved in the first place.

“A person that came, and has done everything in a correct way, it shows that there is something missing, that something in the process is not working,” she said.

“I think that there is a good opportunity [at winning the appeal] because again, we are doing everything correct,” Muñoz continued.

Christmann also said in his email that many employers just give up on sponsoring an H-1B candidate after receiving an initial denial, but Elon is continuing to fight for Prieto Viñas to stay.

The application for Prieto Viñas’ position at El Centro was competitive, with several “superb” candidates Muñoz said.

“We want the best for our students, and Diana proved to be the best,” she said.

According to Francois Masuka, the director of International Students & Faculty Development, Elon has successfully sponsored 13 faculty members for an H-1B visa in the last five years.

Prieto Viñas simply feels lucky she isn’t alone. “I am very thankful to the university and the students and to my colleagues and to Sylvia [Muñoz] for supporting me for all these years,” Prieto Viñas. “And for supporting me right now when I most need it.”

Leaving a Legacy at El Centro

Before leaving the country, Prieto Viñas exchanged several tearful goodbyes with her students. They chatted on the couches and shared tres leches cake in traditional El Centro fashion.

“She’s definitely the mother of all students in a way where she’s always checking in,” said senior Alicia Leja, who frequents the conversation classes that Prieto Viñas teaches that aren’t for credit.

“Without Diana supporting me and El Centro being there, I would have transferred sophomore year,” Leja said.

Several of the other students spoke to Prieto Viñas’ welcoming demeanor and how much she cares about connecting individuals.

Seder recalled that one afternoon, Prieto Viñas even invited physical plant workers who wanted to learn Spanish to join their class. “She’s the reason there is such a connection between the Latinx community and the rest of the students and the staff,” Seder said.

Despite Prieto Viñas won’t be here, Leja remains positive. “When I said bye to her today, it didn’t really feel like bye, because we are still gonna talk and Facetime,” Leja said.

Muñoz never shed a tear during the entire get-together. “It’s not that I want to be in denial,” she said. “I just want to be positive that there is a system that works. And if the system really works then, she’s going to be able to be back.”

# An update in the recent memo scandal

Joshua Miller discusses the after shock of the recently released FBI memo

**Ariana Reyes**

Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

Joshua Miller, adjunct assistant professor for political science, discusses the implications of the recently released FBI memo involving President Donald Trump and the Russia Investigation.

**Q: The memo has been released, but there hasn't been any solid confirmation as to whether claims such as Trump's campaign being tied to Russia are true. What are your thoughts on this?**

**A:** The FBI released a statement ahead of the memo's release, cautioning that the agency had not been given adequate time to review it and expressing concerns about "material omissions of fact" that misrepresented the investigation. Rep. Adam Schiff, D-CA, ranking member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, took a similar position. President Trump has since blocked the release of a democratic memo that offers a different perspective. Without releasing sensitive intelligence documents to the public and allowing us to determine the memo's accuracy, we're left to trust agencies and actors who have interests in either protecting their own credibility or undermining others.

**Q: Some Democrats see this as Russia intervening in**



PHOTO COURTESY OF TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Devin Nunes listens to testimony before the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence related to the Russian cyber attack and investigations into wiretapping, on Capitol Hill on March 20, 2017, in Washington, D.C.

**the country's democratic process. If these reports are true, how do you think Trump's administration and Republicans will be affected?**

**A:** Others might know more about that dimension than I do, and might therefore see a more direct connection. I don't think the Russian government put Rep. Devin Nunes, R-CA, up to releasing this memo — if they did, and he responded favorably, then that's a treasonous intelligence failure at the highest level. I don't think that's what's going on here.

**Q: Carter Page is a central figure in the Nunes memo. But law enforcement officials have said he isn't**

**of great significance in the whole investigation. Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not?**

**A:** Law enforcement officials know more about their investigation than anyone else presumably would. Still, it seems fair to assume that if a president's policy advisor is controlled — knowingly or not — by a foreign government, that's worth looking into.

**Q: Texts have been revealed in which FBI officials admit their bias against Trump. What do you think this does to the FBI's relationship with Trump?**

**A:** Those texts seem to have been misrepresented by some Republi-

cans and the Trump administration. When former FBI agent Peter Strzok wrote that President Obama wanted to know 'everything we're doing,' he insists that he was referring to the Russia investigation, not the Clinton investigation. Strzok also co-wrote an early draft of the Comey letter to Congress announcing the FBI's intention to reopen its investigation into Clinton after the discovery of a new batch of emails. That announcement seriously damaged the Clinton campaign and doesn't align with the Trump administration's narrative of a 'deep state' intent on undermining his election effort. Former FBI attorney Lisa Page and Strzok didn't seem to favor Trump, but they also exchanged texts panning everyone from former Attorney General of the United States Eric Holder to Congress.

**Q: What will the repercussions be of the memo?**

**A:** I think most people see the memo as an incomplete and deeply partisan document that doesn't give any more credible information about the investigation that hadn't already been reported in the media. In that respect, I don't expect it to have much staying power, except as a footnote to the power of narrative in shaping how we understand facts in democratic discourse.

**Q: Can we expect more things like this to come up in the future?**

**A:** Probably. This memo has received far more sustained media coverage than its content appears to warrant.

## Crest residents told they can't move back in this semester

**Paul LeBlanc and Jackie Pascale**

News Director and Executive Director |  
@PaulLeBlanc1 and @jackie\_pascale

After being given only 30 minutes to pack for 10 days, Crest residents are looking back at the last few weeks in awe. More than 40 students were told to evacuate their building Jan. 14 after a partial collapse in the ceiling between the first and second floor because of a "cracked and sagging concrete floor."

Just a few days ago, Elon University sophomore Cally Crocco said she felt "disconnected and I feel kind of in the dark."

Crocco has been living three miles away from campus in the Best Western Plus Burlington for almost a month, along with the 46 other relocated Crest residents. At this point she said, "We've completely lost hope."

This off-campus living has become the reality for the majority of these students for the rest of the semester.

The Preiss company, owners of the Crest Apartments, told residents of building 2020 on Friday they won't be moving back in this semester, according to an email obtained by ENN.

Now, instead of moving back in, residents have two options. According to the email, students can either "transfer immediately into

an on-campus bed" or "move to an off-campus apartment complex." The company notes there are "limited" on-campus housing options that will be granted on a "first come, first serve basis."

ENN contacted Residence Life, who rents the apartments in the Crest, for further explanation of the permanent relocation. A Residence Life representative directed ENN to Dan Anderson, vice president for university communications.

Anderson said Elon has 12 apartment spaces available on-campus, and Preiss is working on making an off-campus option available to all 47 students. The company does not specify which off-campus apartment residents would move to, but does note they are "working with two communities right now that are comparable in distance from Elon as Best Western."

The Burlington Best Western is an 8-minute drive from Elon's campus, according to Google Maps.

Crocco and her roommates are attempting to find other off-campus apartment options that are closer to campus.

"My roommates and I don't want to split up," Crocco said. "So we're either going to stay together and live really far away, or we're going to split up and spend the rest of the semester pretty miserable."

In a statement to ENN, Sara Clark, vice president of property management for The Preiss Com-



PAUL LEBLANC | NEWS DIRECTOR

A line of police tape in front of the evacuated Crest apartment building 2020. Residents of the building were evacuated Jan. 14.

pany, said this solution "would be more appropriate" because of the timely repairs. Clark said she did not know the total cost of the damages nor does she know the total hotel costs.

Crocco said she and the other residents have been reimbursed for the cost of rent for January and February, but the residents have not been informed how payment will continue. The relocated students are being reimbursed up to \$25 per day to cover food costs, along with extra Uber charges to go to and from campus.

Crest apartment building 2020 was last inspected summer 2017, according to Clark. She said no is-

issues were found.

"We have checked the other buildings," Clark said. "They do not show similar signs of moisture issues like the 2020 building exhibited. That said, we've engaged various engineers & contractors to complete further inspections."

Crocco has expressed frustrations with The Preiss Company and the lack of communication.

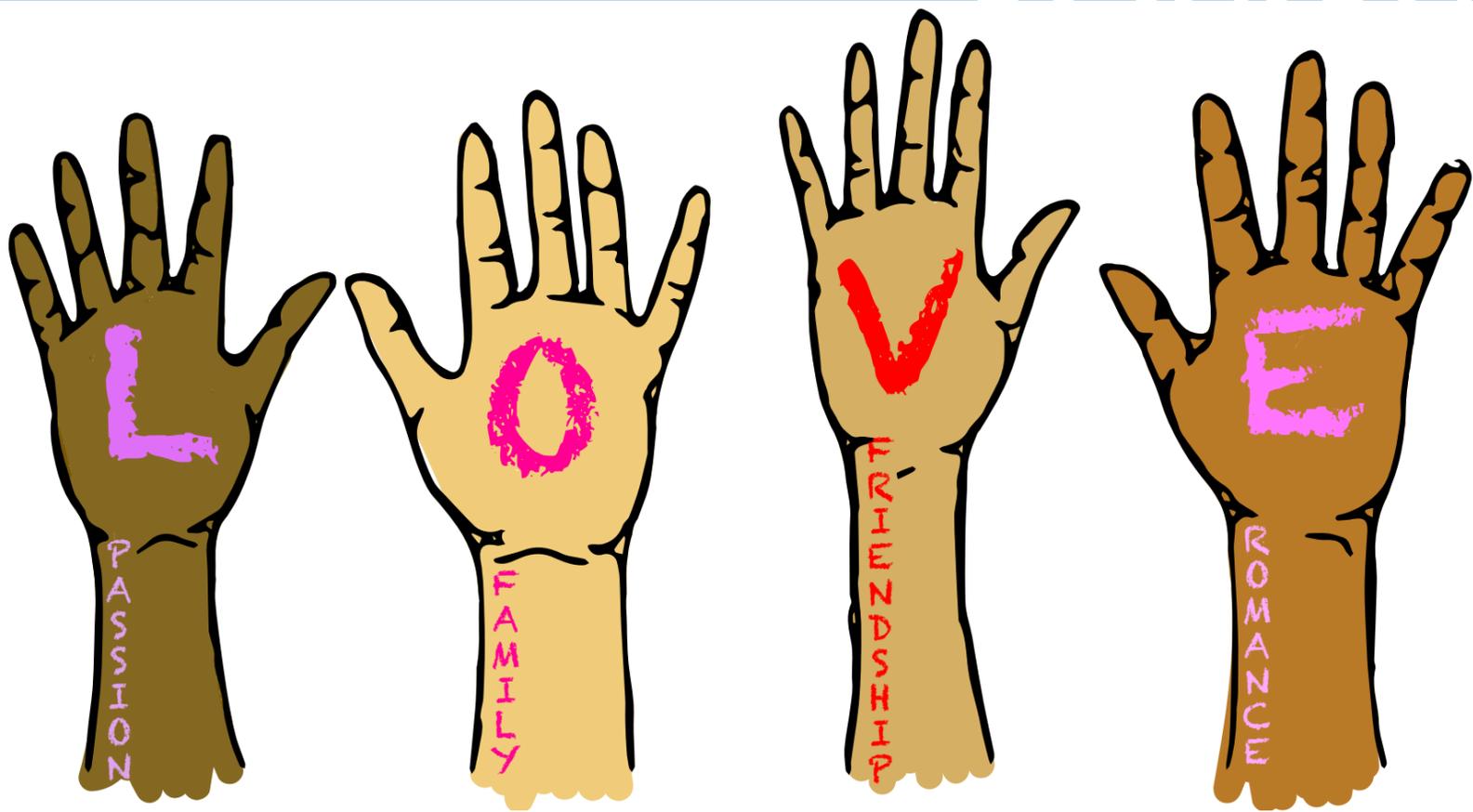
"There doesn't seem to be a sense of urgency," Crocco said. "There doesn't seem to be a sense of deadlines. They'll say 'We'll send an email update on Friday,' and then we don't get an update, and we have to reach out to them. So it's kind of been this cycle of reaching

out to them over and over again, sometimes getting a response, sometimes waiting a few days."

ENN also reached out to The Preiss Company with little to no response, after calling and emailing 12 times during the course of the four weeks since the students were relocated. The company did respond with comments on Feb. 12.

Clark expressed the company had communicated with the students "at least on a weekly basis with any updates available."

"We have dedicated our time to communicating timely with the students, parents, Elon University staff members and contractors."



LANE PRITCHARD | DESIGNER

## STAFF EDITORIAL

## Embrace all types of love this Valentine's Day

### HOW WE SEE IT

Valentine's Day may traditionally focus on romantic love, but we should celebrate love that comes in many different forms.

It's easy to feel alone on Valentine's Day if you don't have a "special someone" to celebrate the holiday with. In a monogamous society that is in many ways obsessed with the concept of romance, being single is often seen as synonymous with being alone.

In reality, Valentine's Day has rather dark origins. In ancient Rome — around the time of what is now Valentine's Day — Romans celebrated the feast of Lupercalia, where men would beat women with the hides of animals they had killed. At the time, they believed this practice would make the women more fertile. There was also a

lottery system where men and women would be coupled up for the entire festival. The name Valentine's Day also comes from the Catholic martyrdom of two men who were executed on Feb. 14 in separate years: both named Valentine.

Somehow, the festival and the executions muddled together, and Valentine's Day turned into a day focused on fertility and love. It wasn't until Shakespeare came around that the holiday became much more romanticized, and then spread across Europe and carried over into the United States.

Now, Valentine's Day is a day when

people indulge in buying cards, candy and jewelry in attempts to express their romantic love. We have definitely come a long way from beating people to show our love, but the focus still shouldn't be just on romantic love. Romantic love is important, and finding someone you can spend your time with is special, but that is not something that everyone needs.

This holiday can be difficult for many people — whether they are single or simply not interested in being with anyone — but it's time we all recognize the many different types of love around us. Valentine's Day should be about all the love we experience in our day-to-day lives.

This year, take time out of your day to celebrate everyone you love. Send a card to a family member you love or miss. Share with them how much you

care about them and all the ways their love makes you happy. Spend time with friends you care about. Go out to a nice dinner or a movie and celebrate the beauty that is your friendship. It may sound corny, but taking time to truly appreciate all of your relationships is important to making sure they can thrive.

And, perhaps most importantly, celebrate the love you have for yourself. Take time to practice self-love in whatever way feels best. This can be through a nice walk through campus or a cozy dinner by yourself. Whatever you need to do to make yourself feel loved, take time to do that this holiday.

Valentine's Day shouldn't just be about romance and intimacy. It should be about love — in any way you feel it.

## Studying abroad brings perspectives of different religions



**Lucia Jervis**  
Columnist

Semester at Sea students crossed the world and arrived to their second destination in Japan. The majority of Semester at Sea participants are U.S. citizens that practice religions and have spiritualities very different from what is practiced in Japan.

Most Japanese people practice Shintoism and Buddhism, whereas most Americans practice Christianity or Judaism. Given the amount of cultural and religious differences Japan and the United States have, Semester at Sea students, faculty and staff had to prepare themselves for the culture shock. In preparation for this, they were also educated on how to be respectful and follow the norms in an environment so different from their own.

In several tours, Semester at Sea participants visited Shinto shrines, Buddhist temples and spiritual places where

people could go to practice their faiths.

Even though some students follow other religions, in Japan they had the opportunity to not only learn about Buddhism or Shintoism, but also practice it.

"I consider myself to be Catholic, so there is one God and one Bible that we in theory follow. I would say that I have a modern interpretation of what that may be and I try to go about it in an open-minded way," said Jaqueline Swan, a senior at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. "I think that the most powerful thing for me in visiting all the shrines that we went to was that there was an aura of gratitude when you went there. It didn't matter what your religion was or if you had a religion, but it was just an opportunity to take a moment of pause and think about the

things in your life that you have to be grateful for."

People visit Shinto shrines and pray to the Kami spirits



FOR SOME STUDENTS, THE SPIRITUALITY AND PEACE THEY FELT WHILE VISITING THESE PLACES WAS LIBERATING AND IT HELPED THEM UNDERSTAND THE JAPANESE FORM OF LIFE.

that can change your fortune and quality of life. For some students, the spirituality and peace that they felt while visiting these places was

liberating and it helped them understand the Japanese way of life.

"I think that Japan was a very interesting experience in terms of Shintoism," said María Alejandra Vega, a student at the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey campo Santa Fé. "I really liked how they believe in doing actions in order to affect their surroundings, affect their lives or affect the way that their life is going to turn out."

After spending just a couple of days learning about the beliefs and values of Shintoism, the perspectives of some students changed.

"I don't practice my spirituality every day and I don't incorporate it into my daily life, so Shintoism was very interesting for me and that is something that

I definitely have to apply to my life," Vega said.

According to David Hackett, professor of "Religions of the East" at Semester at Sea, Shintoism is an incredibly important component of Japanese culture: he believes Shintoism is a part of Japanese identity and nationalism. He said if a person is Japanese, then they are Shinto.

"Spirituality really doesn't have flavors. Spirituality is an experience — as I understand it — of a transformation of consciousness in which you have expansion of time, diminishing of ego boundary and connection with everyone else in the surroundings," Hackett said. "That can be arrived at in many ways. It can happen in a Shinto shrine, it can happen in a Catholic church, it can happen brushing your teeth — it's a matter of a change of consciousness."

# Lifestyle



ANTON L. DELGADO | ENTERPRISE STORY COORDINATOR

Freshman Jubitza Figueroa reads a poem from her collection that she made for her girlfriend titled "Feelings Ft. You."

## ONE OF FIGUEROA'S FAVORITE POEMS FROM HER VALENTINE'S DAY COLLECTION THAT SHE WROTE FOR HER GIRLFRIEND

*w every eye roll  
i fall deeper  
w every curve of your lips  
i fall deeper  
w every sparkle in your eye  
i fall deeper  
i wonder how deep i can go  
if there's this magical endlessness  
if i can continue to fall  
if it's some sort of blessing  
some sort of sign  
that w everything you do  
i fall so much deeper*

## LGBTQIA | from cover

Of the 1648 freshmen students on campus this year, almost 8 percent consider themselves non-heterosexual, according to the Gender & LGBTQIA Center. For those students, Elon is one of the best campuses to be on in the state. According to the Campus Pride Index, a nongovernmental organization fighting for more LGBTQIA-inclusive policies, programs and practices, Elon is the most LGBTQIA-friendly campus in North Carolina.

But though Elon is considered an LGBTQIA-friendly campus, not all Elon students have the same romantic experiences simply because of who they care about.

### Life at Elon

Fours years after coming out as lesbian, Figueroa is currently in the second month of a relationship with another Elon woman, who did not want to be identified.

Despite being completely safe and comfortable on campus, Figueroa has realized she can't be as open about her relationship as she would want. Expressing her feelings is the most important part of her relationship, she said. But Figueroa hesitates to show those emotions in public.

"I've walked around campus with her and I make it a point to not say certain things, do certain things or look at her a certain way which is disheartening because you should never feel that you can't show affection to the person you care about," Figueroa said.

Figueroa and her girlfriend often leave campus to enjoy the town of Burlington, but she feels her relationship being the judged the most during



ANTON L. DELGADO | ENTERPRISE STORY COORDINATOR

Junior Amy Belfer, who identifies as queer, hands out flyers during the third Alamance Pride festival Oct. 17, 2017.

these excursions.

"You never know who you are going to encounter or what someone is going to say, especially in Burlington, which isn't the most liberal area," Figueroa said. "Being on campus in the Elon bubble is one thing, but off campus — that's a whole different story."

Other LGBTQIA couples such as freshmen Jazz Harris and Tiana Lynn have had similar experiences during their off-campus dates.

"When we go out in Burlington it's a lot different than Elon," Lynn said. "I went to a roller skating rink for my birthday and you could tell the vibe is not the same as at Elon and we couldn't be exactly fully into our relationship at that place."

This is a feeling Figueroa believes most heterosexual couples have not felt during their walks around campus or on their dates in surrounding towns.

"For heterosexual couples it's not something you have to think about and you can see it in the way they interact with

their partners," Figueroa said. "Sometimes I wish it was easier, but it's just what's happening today."

But while on campus, Figueroa and other LGBTQIA students, such as freshman Braedyn Robson — who identifies as gay — feels safe to be themselves.

"I wasn't as nervous as I thought I would be coming into Elon openly gay," Robson said. "One of the reasons I chose Elon was because it is known for being one of the more accepting schools in the South."

### Valentine's at Elon

Having mixed feelings about Valentine's Day at Elon is not uncommon for LGBTQIA students.

On any other day of the year, Figueroa may be cautious about showing her affections for her girlfriend in public.

But Valentine's Day is the one day where she won't be thinking about others.

Though her girlfriend is not publicly out about her sex-

uality, Figueroa is looking forward to trying to give her the best Valentine's Day possible.

"Having a day where you can just profess your love for someone and go all out is so important," Figueroa said. "Valentine's Day is the day where you can do whatever you want and it is absolutely acceptable ... I find it an absolutely magical day."

But Valentine's Day might not be a such a magical day for everyone. Junior Amy Belfer, who identifies as queer, said the festivities may have a negative effect on people.

"Valentine's Day is often very heteronormative and often specifically for male and female relationships," Belfer said. "I do like the idea of having a day just to love one another and just show your appreciation for your friends and people you are in relationships with. But I can also understand why it can be very isolating for people who are single."

Robson, who is currently single and has never spent a Valentine's Day in a relationship, said she doesn't put much thought into the holiday.

"It's much more of an adolescent holiday — I don't think it really means much to adults," Robson said. "If I was in a relationship it would be cute. But it wouldn't severely impact anything if the person I was with didn't want to celebrate it. It doesn't really seem like a real holiday to me, it's not really for anything, other than to just show someone on a special day that you care about them."

For those in the LGBTQIA who are trying to make Valentine's Day more special, finding gifts that align with their relationship has been more difficult.

"When I look around and see very stereotype and labeled 'him and her' gifts it is

disheartening because it was prepackaged for heterosexual couples," Figueroa said. "I do think we could do better as a society and make it more of an inclusive holiday."

Lynn, who uses their/them as personal pronouns, is disheartened that her pronouns are not always represented in the Valentine's Day gifts they see.

"I find it very heteronormative and I use they/them pronouns and you're never going to see they/them pronouns or them/theirs things on anything," Lynn said. "That's something that I'm like well this kind of sucks."

This won't stop Figueroa who came up with a creative homemade gift for her girlfriend.

"This is the greatest thing I have ever done in the history of my life. I didn't even Pinterest this idea," Figueroa said. "It's called 'Feelings Ft. You' and it's a book full of poems that I wrote about her, us and my feelings for her."

While Figueroa will be focusing on having her memorable romantic night, Belfer — an actress in the Vagina Monologues — will be spending her evening another way.

"I usually do something nice for my friends because I love them tons and want to show them that and I don't want them to feel alone or isolated in any way," Belfer said. "This year, I have the Vagina Monologues, so I am excited to fight for women's rights and people of all gender identities."

While Belfer has plans for her holiday, the GLC does not.

"A number of [LGBTQIA] people are doing a Galentine's or Palentine's day for their friends or significant others," said Matthew Antonio Bosch, director of the GLC. "But from the center we just felt there are a lot of other things going on."



Freshman Savannah Bulloch (left) and Omar Latif cuddle with a dog in Asheville, North Carolina when he visited in Fall 2017.

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY SAVANNAH BULLOCH

**LONG DISTANCE |**  
from cover

been long distance. Latif spent the first part of his gap year interning in London and is now working as a ski instructor in Verbier, Switzerland.

"At first, long distance wasn't the plan," Latif said in a phone interview. "However, as we got to know each other better and take our relationship more seriously, we considered how serious we wanted to take it and if we genuinely thought we would manage to make it through long distance."

Freshman Liam Lampl and girlfriend Jess Moser, who is a student at Wake Forest University, have been dating long-distance for six months as well.

"It wouldn't make sense to break off something with someone I already like," Lampl said.

Sophomore Sydney DeCaro faced similar issues when deciding to stay with her boyfriend, Kyle Goodier, when leaving for Elon. They had been dating since they were 14 years old.

"We tried to just take a break and see how that went to give ourselves an opportunity to experience college and be our own [people]," DeCaro said. "But we ended up just missing each other too much."

Now, DeCaro and her boyfriend have been dating long distance for one and a half years. Goodier attends Clemson University, but he is currently studying abroad in Australia.

Bulloch expressed the challenges of distance, ranging from time zones to communication.

"The time difference is really hard, especially when you have classes all day," Bulloch



Freshman Liam Lampl (left) and Jess Moser pose next to Lake Mary Nell when she visited Elon's campus during fall break 2017.

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY LIAM LAMPL

said. "You want to have a genuine conversation with them, but you're trying to focus because you're [at school] to get an education."

During his gap year, one of the difficulties Latif has faced with his long-distance relationship has been the shift from developing a life with Bulloch to developing a life outside of their relationship.

"Accepting that inevitability but still not distancing yourself from the other is a really prominent challenge," Latif said.

Bulloch expressed that having separate lives allows them both to share the life and friends they had at home, and also share the new experiences they encounter on their own.

"It's been nice because instead of him being wrapped up in all my business, here I can just tell him what's going on," Bulloch said. "Having him come visit is always a bonus because it's fun to show him my new life."

DeCaro, who has now been with her boyfriend for five and a half years, finds that it is difficult to be removed from her

partner's daily life.

"Not being a part of the other person's life as you once were is a challenge because it's hard to go from not long distance to long distance," DeCaro said. "You're not really involved in everything."

However, DeCaro recognizes that having space has allowed her to focus on school and her friendships at Elon. It has also made visits and summers with her boyfriend more rewarding.

Bulloch believes there are some ways to combat the challenges faced by long-distance relationships.

"We always make sure to send each other a message every day that says what we've been up to," Bulloch said.

Bulloch and Latif now find that the most rewarding aspects of their relationship are centered on the moments they get to see each other and the support system provided by their partner.

"When you or your partner are struggling with something, you can have the other support you and help you through

things," Latif said. "Having someone to share your day with is still really rewarding."

Elon graduate student Ryan Dirks recently ended a six-month long-distance relationship.

"I think that we kind of gravitated toward each other because it made it feel like home," Dirks said.

Dirks said the distance made it difficult to communicate with his girlfriend without it feeling obligatory. Because of this, balancing communication and distance became increasingly arduous in the relationship.

"It ends up feeling like a job or a chore more than something you would enjoy," Dirks said. "I don't think talking every day is a good thing because then it starts to feel forced."

Bulloch agrees that long-distance relationships are difficult for all couples, even those who have been together for long periods of time.

"I don't deny some people if they say, 'long distance doesn't work,' because it's just genuinely hard," Bulloch said.

DeCaro also finds that long distance requires work and is a challenge for any relationship.

"If you're with the right person and you actively work at it, then I think it is definitely rewarding," DeCaro said. "I think it's a challenge to overcome and if you can overcome it then it makes your relationship stronger."

Lampl thinks that, despite his own experience, long-distance relationships are still relationships that can either succeed or fail on their own, regardless of the distance.

"Some relationships work and some relationships don't," Lampl said. "The distance shouldn't be the thing that decides that."

Moser believes that having a good "intellectual rela-

tionship and emotional relationship" provides the best framework for maintaining a long-distance relationship.

DeCaro described one of the "most romantic" things her boyfriend has done was when he surprised her before leaving for his semester abroad in Australia.

"On his way to Australia, he flew out of Georgia. On his drive down to Georgia, he decided to surprise me and just showed up at my door," DeCaro said. "The last time I was supposed to see him was two weeks before [his flight]."

Bulloch said one of the most romantic things Latif did also related to the adjustment they would be facing when she moved to the United States for college.

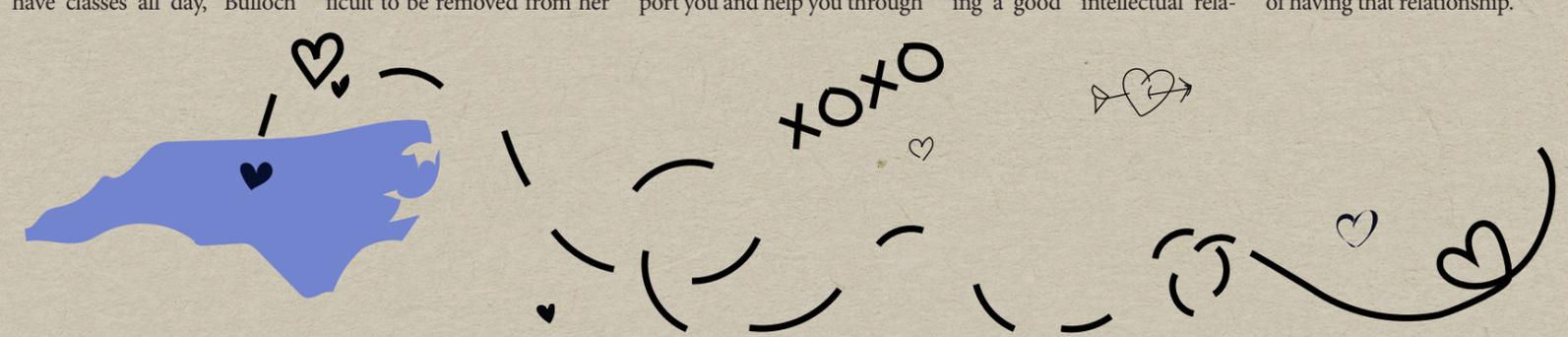
"He decided that it would be nice for us to spend the day with my parents even though it was his birthday," Bulloch said. "He didn't need to do it because his birthday was supposed to be all about him, but he made it more about us and our well-being."

Bulloch and Latif said that they prioritize being their own people before their romantic relationship.

"We've been really working toward [maintaining this] whenever we've been drifting away from that or if we think we're going through a rough patch," Bulloch said. "We always just focus on the fact that we are friends first."

Bulloch said that in addition to communication, it's important to value the substance of a relationship.

"I think that's something that's really important that people should think about in their relationships if they're going to do long distance," Bulloch said. "You want to keep your friendship with them rather than just the idea of having that relationship."



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# SPORTS



## ANSWERING THE CALL

ALEC MANDELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Redshirt freshman guard Seth Fuller attempts a three-point shot during Elon's game against the College of William & Mary Jan. 20. Fuller finished the night with four points in eight minutes of play.

Two freshman players bring energy to a veteran men's basketball team

**Erik Webb**  
Sports Director | @ErikWebbElon

They might not have the most recognizable names on Elon University men's basketball team, but they are making a name for themselves on the court.

Two freshmen have been averaging eight minutes per game and helping the Phoenix squad capture much-needed wins as March approaches. Freshman guard Seth Fuller and freshman forward Simon Wright are both making the most of their first seasons playing on the team.

To them, wearing the maroon and gold is an honor.

"We have three pillars that we kind of live and die by — it's trust, commitment and care," Fuller said. "It's trusting in what we're doing here, committing to everything our coaches tell us. And we're all committed to each other, and we all care about each other."

Wright said their values bring the team closer together.

"I'd say it's living by the values that coach preaches," Wright said. "I feel like we've done a good job together of accepting it and working together to whatever it is we're trying to accomplish."

After being called from the bench, both Wright and Fuller enter the game with a youthful vigor and a purpose in mind.

For Fuller, the opportunity to play is particularly special. Fuller redshirted his first year at Elon after a foot injury sidelined him for the majority of the season.

"Obviously I didn't want to be injured, but it worked out for me," Fuller said. "We had two veteran point guards ahead of me in Luke Eddy and Dainan Swoope. Just watching those guys and watching how they led the team was huge for me, and I think it's helped me a lot this year."

"I think there's a lot of value in learning and watching — I'm grateful for that."

Wright said he approaches each game ready to support his teammates and mentors.

"I think the biggest thing for me is to just supply energy," Wright said. "Our main guys play all the time, and it's easy to get out of energy. I know that when I come off the bench ... my main role is to just provide energy and help everybody else play well when I'm out there. I know I'm not going to be out there for a long time, but when I am, I do have a responsibility to make the team better."

### Stepping up

Because of recent circumstances, Fuller and Wright might be called upon more often. Senior forward Brian Dawkins suffered a left hand injury in practice last week and arrived to the Feb. 8 game in a sling.

In his absence, both Fuller and Wright know their opportunities to play have greatly increased.

"I'd say that everybody has to stay ready because nobody knows when you're going to get an opportunity or where they have to step up and help the team," Wright said. "I think it's a wake-up call — everybody has to be ready at all times. In practices, it's more competitive now ... because everybody realizes that everybody has a shot and so you just want to make the team the best they can be."

"I think we both accept that the bench is going to have to provide more with Brian out," Fuller said. "He's a key contributor to the offensive and defensive end. He's a great leader to our team, so that means we're going to have to step up in every category. Even being both technically freshmen, we have to step up our vocal leadership."

### Making memories

Up to this point in the season, Wright has played at least one minute in all 26 games, averaging 1.6 points, 1.2 rebounds and 0.5 assists in each of those appearances. Fuller, who has played 25 games, averages 2.3 points per game, including a career-high eight points in the first game of the year at then top-ranked Duke University.

For the duo, some of those games have been more memorable than others.

"I think our win at Towson was big. We had never won there, and I had the opportunity to play more minutes than I normally would,"

Fuller said, who scored six points in 20 minutes during the game on Jan. 27.

"That was a cool experience for me. Then, as a team, our trip to Indiana State right before [winter] break



MY MAIN ROLE IS TO JUST PROVIDE ENERGY ... I KNOW I'M NOT GOING TO BE OUT THERE FOR A LONG TIME, BUT WHEN I AM I HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE THE TEAM BETTER.

**SIMON WRIGHT**  
ELON BASKETBALL PLAYER

was huge for us. We got a huge win there against a very good team."

Wright agreed and said those wins were motivational for the entire team.

"Right before [those wins], we were kind of in a slump, and they were really big bounce-back wins

where we performed really well," Wright said.

### The perfect fit

Both players were recruited by Elon's coaching staff but said Elon was what they were ultimately looking for.

"I think they found me at an Amateur Athletic Union tournament in Dallas," Wright said. "Right away, when they contacted me, I started researching the school, and I loved it, and my parents loved it."

Fuller had the chance to impress on campus.

"I came down for a summer camp with my high school, and I had been in contact with the coaches," Fuller said. "I played well, and they extended me an offer. I fell in love with the campus and the coaching staff."

With five games remaining in their first season of play, each contest is a critical test for Fuller, Wright and the rest of the Phoenix team as March and the Colonial Athletic Association tournament approach.

"Right now, I think our focus is getting better every day, and so every single day is an opportunity," Wright said.

Of those five games, only two will be played at home in Alumni Gym, with the next being senior night and the celebration of the final season at 7 p.m. on Feb. 24.

### SIMON WRIGHT: BY THE NUMBERS

**26**

out of 26 games this season, Wright has played at least a single minute in every one.

**8.0**

minutes per game, on average, Wright is on the court.

**1.6**

average points per game. Wright's career high was eight on Nov. 11 against William Peace University.

**1.2**

rebounds per game. Using his six feet, seven inch tall body, Wright grabs some crucial boards for the Phoenix team when he plays.

### SETH FULLER: BY THE NUMBERS

**25**

games that Fuller has appeared in this season. The only one he missed was against Indiana State University Dec. 22.

**16**

assists on the season, as Fuller looks to feed the open shooters on the Phoenix squad.

**7.8**

average minutes of play per game for the Dublin, Ohio, native.

**2.3**

points per game. Fuller posted his career high of eight against former No. 1 Duke in the first game of the season Nov. 11.



ALEC MANDELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Freshman forward Simon Wright drives through the William & Mary defense Jan. 20, connecting on the layup during the first half.

Season features  
eight postseason  
tournament teams

**Christian Galvano**  
Elon News Network | @Chrisgalvano

It may be early in the season, but the Elon University softball team is back in swing, according to head coach Kathy Bocock.

The team, picked to finish fifth in the conference, expects big accomplishments this year following the 2017 season, which the team finished with a 32-21 record — the highest winning percentage in the program's history.

After months of off-season training, Bocock, who is back for her seventh season, said she hopes to secure a spot in the CAA tournament at the end of the season.

The team's record-setting season in 2017 was not enough to make the cut. Bocock, known for her determination and team-motivation, said she isn't finished practicing with the girls yet.

"We probably need to work a little bit more," Bocock said after the opening games of the season — their record is split at 2-2. "We have not worked on certain stuff enough, and that's on me to do that."

Bocock revealed the much anticipated spring schedule in November. This upcoming weekend, Feb. 17-18, the Phoenix will host the Elon Softball Invitational. They will face off against Bowling Green Uni-



CORY WELLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

versity, the University of North Texas and the University of Rhode Island before hitting the road Feb. 21 for a game against North Carolina State University in Raleigh.

After returning to Elon to play a quick turnaround game, Elon will head back east to Chapel Hill in the beginning of March to play in the Carolina Classic Tournament. There, the women will face off against the University of Kansas, Harvard University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in a rematch game.

Over Spring Break, the team will compete in the University of Central Florida tournament. They will play five teams over a three-day span, including a matchup against the host team.

Bocock said she's excited for opportunities to show off the talent of her team.

"Over the years I had some really good young ladies that have played for this team," Bocock said. "This year is looking good."

Elon picked up some new faces in the offseason. One of them, Tia Mitchell, a junior with a .333 batting average in her sophomore season, transferred from the University of Virginia to play for the Phoenix.

"Having the new faces, and having them do really well, helps with the team's confidence," Bocock said. "We know what their capabilities are, but for them to know that's good."

In addition to Mitchell, the Phoenix squad also welcomed four freshmen to the team. A new face on the mound, pitcher Emma McCabe aided her high school team to state championships from 2012-2016. Catcher Katrina Martin turned heads on opening day when she hit a solo home run to left field. She was named all conference during all four years of her high school career.

"It was so exciting for all of us watching Kat hit her first home run," senior captain and middle infielder Hannah Ol-

son said. "We don't treat them as freshmen though ... we all win or lose together."

Bocock said leadership will be a key factor to success this season.

"Our senior class ... their leadership ... is very steady," she said. "When I say steady, they do not show emotion. Their leadership is really going to help us, and I am excited about that."

This year's team includes veterans with impressive records. For the past three years, senior outfielder Kara Schutt has been named to the All-CAA First Team, and senior pitcher Kiandra Mitchum became the first pitcher in school history at the Division I level to be named first team all-conference in 2017.

These veterans and new faces are focused on the season ahead and what Bocock said is their ultimate objective.

"We will make it back to the conference tournament," Bocock said. "That's our goal."

**Elon softball head coach Kathy Bocock watches her team play a double header on opening day Feb. 10. The Phoenix fell to the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in both games.**

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### JMU basketball game rescheduled

James Madison University postponed its game against the Phoenix last Saturday after cases of the mumps were confirmed among its players. Health officials have since cleared the team to play.

The game has been rescheduled for 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 27 in Alumni Gym. This will be the final game the Elon University men's basketball team will play in the facility. Senior night, originally scheduled for Feb. 10, will take place on Feb. 24 prior to the game against Northeastern University.

### Women's basketball captures biggest D-I conference win

The Phoenix cruised to a 97-44 win against the College of Charleston on Sunday, Feb. 11 for its largest Division I conference victory in program history. The 53-point victory is the second largest in a Division I game, coming close to the 61-point win over Winthrop University on Nov. 10.

Elon was able to capture the victory thanks to five players finishing the day in double digits, including 15 points each by freshman forward Jaylin Powell and senior guard Shay Burnett. The Elon University women's basketball team is now 11-0 at home, winning seven of the last eight games to move to 9-4 in the Colonial Athletic Association and 17-7 overall.

The next test for the Phoenix will be on the road, as Elon travels to Hempstead, New York, to face Hofstra University at 7 p.m. on Feb. 16.

### Indoor Track and Field sets records

Junior sprinter Katie Arbogast made her mark on the Elon University women's indoor track and field team at the Liberty Elite Invitational on Feb. 10, setting a new school record in the 500-meter run.

Arbogast finished third in the event, posting a time of 1:14.82 and breaking the previous record set in 2015 of 1:15.63 and qualified for the Eastern College Athletic Conference Indoor Championships. Across the meet, sophomore distance runner Melissa Anastasakis clocked a time of 4:56.80 in the one-mile run, winning the race for the Phoenix. In the pole vault, Ellie Bennett cleared a height of 11 feet, 5.75 inches, matching her personal best and awarding her a tenth-place finish in the event.

The team will conclude the regular season in Winston-Salem next week, competing in the UCS Invite on Friday, Feb. 16.

### Lacrosse falls in season opener

The No. 21 Elon University women's lacrosse team suffered a tough opening game, falling to No. 20 Duke University 17-9.

Senior attacker Stephanie Asher led the Phoenix against Duke, collecting five goals and an assist in the defeat. Asher topped the team last year in goals, points, shots and shots on goal.

Elon will travel to Charlottesville, Virginia, this week to play the University of Virginia, a rematch of last year's NCAA tournament game. The opening draw is scheduled for 1 p.m. on Feb. 17.

## THE PHOENIX FOCUS

### WOMEN'S TENNIS

RESULTS	4-3
FEB. 9	LIBERTY/LYNCHBURG, VA 1-6
FEB. 10	TROY/LYNCHBURG, VA 6-1

#### SCHEDULE

FEB. 17	CATAWBA/ELON	10 A.M.
FEB. 17	WINSTOM-SALEM/ELON	2 P.M.
FEB. 18	VCU/ELON	1 P.M.

### TRACK AND FIELD

#### SCHEDULE

FEB. 16-17	UCS INVITE / WINSTON-SALEM, NC
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### MEN'S BASKETBALL

RESULTS	14-12
FEB. 8	HOFSTRA/ELON 48-67

#### SCHEDULE

FEB. 15	UNCW/ WILMINGTON	7 P.M.
FEB. 17	DELAWARE/ NEWARK, DE	7 P.M.

### SOFTBALL

RESULTS	2-2
FEB. 10	UNC CHARLOTTE/ELON 2-5 & 3-6
FEB. 11	NC CENTRAL/ELON 5-4 & 5-4

#### SCHEDULE

FEB. 16	BOWLING GREEN/ELON	2:30 P.M.
FEB. 16	RHODE ISLAND/ELON	4:45 P.M.
FEB. 17	NORTH TEXAS/ELON	12:15 P.M.
FEB. 17	BOWLING GREEN/ELON	2:30 P.M.
FEB. 18	MOUNT ST. MARY'S/ELON	2:30 P.M.

### BASEBALL

SCHEDULE	0-0	
FEB. 16	PENN STATE/ELON	4 P.M.
FEB. 17	PENN STATE/ELON	2 P.M.
FEB. 18	PENN STATE/ELON	1:30 P.M.
FEB. 20	RADFORD/ELON	4 P.M.

### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

RESULTS	17-7
FEB. 9	DREXEL/ELON 70-58
FEB. 11	COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON/ ELON 97-44

#### SCHEDULE

FEB. 16	HOFSTRA/ HEMPSTEAD, NY	7 P.M.
FEB. 18	NORTHEASTERN/ BOSTON	2 P.M.

### MEN'S TENNIS

RESULTS	3-5	
FEB. 9	NC STATE/RALEIGH	1-6

#### SCHEDULE

FEB. 17	APPALACHIAN STATE/ELON	1 P.M.
FEB. 20	CAMPBELL/ BUIES CREEK, NC	2 P.M.

### LACROSSE

RESULTS	0-1	
FEB. 11	DUKE/DURHAM	9-17

#### SCHEDULE

FEB. 17	VIRGINIA/ CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA	1 P.M.
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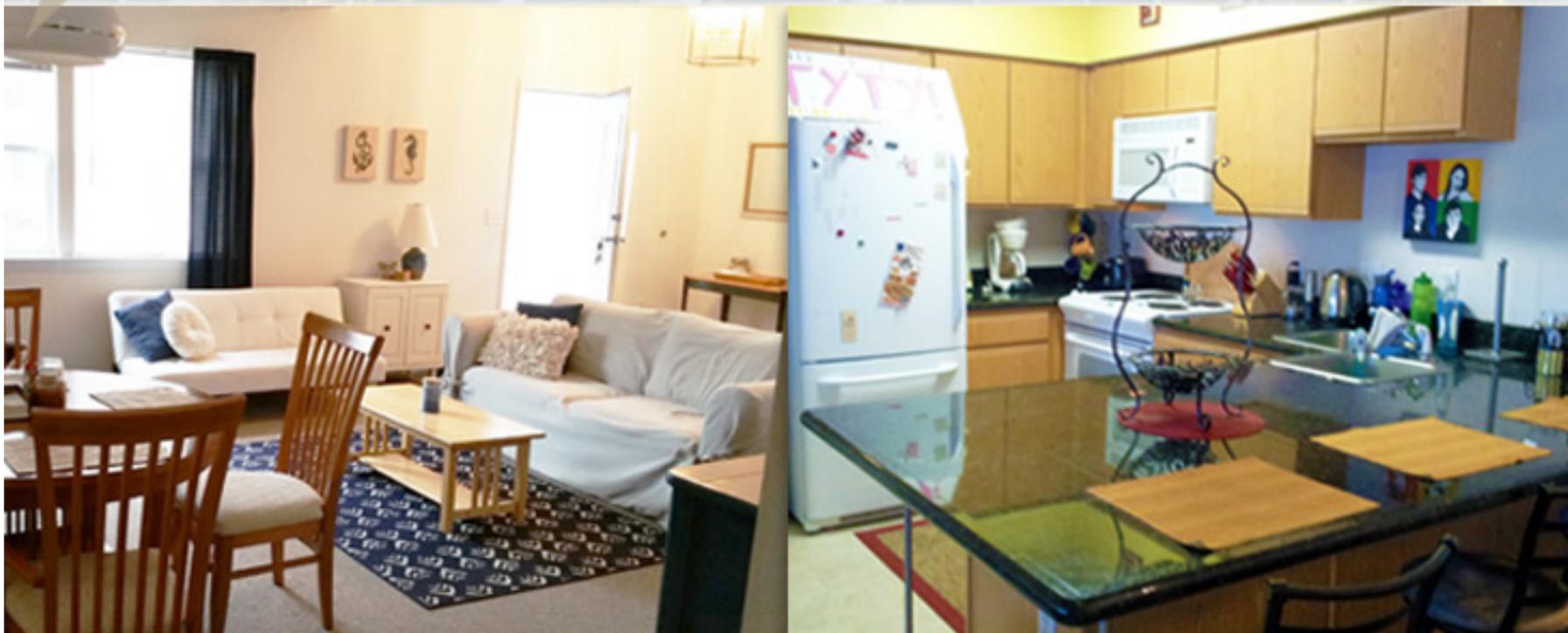


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# best local date spots



**Sierra Leavenworth**  
Elon News Network | @sierraleavenw

PANDORA'S PIES, THE ROOT and Tangent are the usual go-to places for Elon University students looking to venture outside of the campus dining halls, but this Valentine's Day is the time for taking chances. We traveled outside Elon's bubble to get a "taste" of something new.

Seven local date spots within an hour of Elon's Campus:



## BLUE RIBBON DINER

EMMANUEL MORGAN | MANAGING EDITOR

### 1 For the classic couple

MILKSHAKE WITH TWO STRAWS, please. The Blue Ribbon Diner is a perfect option for a classic date. No matter who your partner is, they are sure to find something pleasing on the menu — from the Knife n' Fork Chuck Burger to a plate of Chicken Parmesan. Buy your partner a song on the jukebox or sample a bite of every dessert. This diner has the authentic diner feel down to a tee, and it will make your Valentine's Day date feel as though it's straight out of the movie Grease.

**2465 S CHURCH ST, BURLINGTON**  
Sunday -  
Monday: 11 a.m. - 10 p.m.

### 2 For your southern squeeze

DID SOMEONE SAY SOUTHERN fried chicken and crispy waffles? Dame's Chicken and Waffles is a unique dining experience for those who wish to cater to both their sweet and salty taste buds. Dame's offers meal combos and tons of sides and spreads to personalize your plate. You don't want to miss out on the Cheesy Ceci's Mac 'n Cheese or the Quilted Buttercup: a chicken cutlet between two sweet potato waffles with maple-pecan shmeat. Bring your Valentine here for brunch or dinner for an authentic and delicious southern experience.

**301 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DR, GREENSBORO**  
Sunday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Monday: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Tuesday -  
Thursday: 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
Friday -  
Saturday: 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.



## DAME'S CHICKEN & WAFFLES

PHOTO COURTESY OF DAME'S CHICKEN AND WAFFLES



## BRIXX PIZZA

OLIVER FISCHER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

### 3 For the boyfriend on a budget

BRIXX PIZZA IS THE best option for those college couples looking to grab a bite and spare some cash for a movie or bowling afterward. Brixx, known for their wood-fired oven pizza, offers food and drink specials nearly every night of the week. Sunday-Thursday after 10 p.m. and Friday-Saturday after 11 p.m. appetizers and pies are buy-one-get-one. Dine in or pick up food to take back home and pair with a Redbox movie. Either way, you can't go wrong.

**1022 BOSTON DRIVE, BURLINGTON**  
Sunday: 11 a.m. - 11 p.m.  
Monday -  
Saturday: 11 a.m. - 12 a.m.

4

For the legal-drinking-age lovers

TAKE A SHORT 10-MINUTE ride from campus to Piedmont Ale House, a spirited neighborhood pub with a great atmosphere and even some live music on select nights. Piedmont Ale House is a sports bar and restaurant combo with beer bucket specials and games and music options that make it a perfect first-date spot to share with your special someone. Go all out with a Southwest burger and a side of their homemade potato chips or pair an appetizer with a locally-brewed beer on tap.

**1149 ST MARKS CHURCH ROAD A, BURLINGTON**  
**Sunday - Monday:** 11:30 a.m. - 12 a.m.

PIEDMONT ALE HOUSE



FILE PHOTO BY ELON NEWS NETWORK

PRESS COFFEE & CREPES



HANNAH SILVERS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

5

For the sweet tooth sweethearts

IF YOU AND YOUR partner aren't night owls, Press is the place for you. Press Coffee and Crepes can please any sweet tooth with their Sweet Granny Crepe or full list of teas.

**133 N MAIN ST, GRAHAM**  
**Monday - Friday:** 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
**Saturday - Sunday:** 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

If you aren't craving something sugary, there are also savory options such as the buffalo chicken crepe or the pesto pasta salad. You and your sweetheart may choose to eat inside or outside, depending on the weather. Your partner will be thanking you a bunch for this super cute, yet casual, date.

6

For the big eaters

THEY SAY THE WAY to someone's heart is through their stomach, so why not fill it up? Hwy 55 is a classic burger joint very close to Elon's campus. It offers mouthwatering big bite burgers and cheesesteaks that won't leave anyone hungry afterward. Impress your fellow food-lover and earn bragging rights by completing the Five Five Challenge: if you can eat a 55 oz. burger with four trimmings and fries and finish 24 oz. drink within 30 minutes, the meal will be free. Top off the experience with Hwy's Frozen Custard (if you have room left, of course).

**1183 UNIVERSITY DRIVE #110, BURLINGTON**  
**Sunday - Monday:** 11 a.m. - 10 p.m.

HWY 55



EMMANUEL MORGAN | MANAGING EDITOR



GRILL 584

ALEC MANDELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

7

For the foodie folks

FOR THOSE LOVERS WHO are really looking to dress (and dine) to impress — or maybe celebrate a special occasion — Grill 584 is great option. Grill 584 is elegant and on the quieter side for those couples wishing for a romantic experience this Valentine's Day. Open for lunch or dinner, this restaurant is the setting for an unforgettable date. Finish the meal by sharing a cookie skillet with ice cream and chocolate sauce to make it the sweetest Valentine's date your sweetheart has ever had.

**710 HUFFMAN MILL ROAD, BURLINGTON**  
**Monday - Thursday:** 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.  
**Friday:** 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m. - 10 p.m.

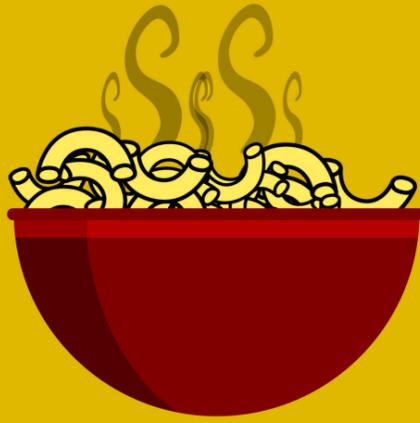
# LOVE: with a SMILE

Just like in elementary school, The Pendulum made Valentine's Day cards. Cut them out and give them to someone special.

KYRA LETSINGER | DESIGNER



I'd take you to  
late night  
anytime



You're sweeter than a  
Carnival Cookie from  
Acorn



I'd steal a  
brick for  
you,  
Valentine



We go  
together like  
Leo and Laurie  
Lambert



I love you  
more than  
squirrels  
love Elon



You're the swan  
to my Lake Mary  
Nell

