

Director of the CREDE
Sylvia Munoz reflects on
24 years at Elon
PAGE 4

International students adapt,
nurture cultural backgrounds
throughout Elon community
PAGE 5

Hispanic Heritage Month

Special Edition

ALSO IN THIS EDITION:

Alamance County students,
parents and teachers discuss
ABSS banned book
PAGE 9

Restaurants prepare for
family weekend; events to
be held around campus
PAGE 10

CAROLINE MITCHELL | DESIGN CHIEF

THE PENDULUM

A PUBLICATION OF
ELON NEWS
NETWORK

Established 1974
Volume 51, Edition 7

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

KYRA O'CONNOR
Executive Director of Elon News Network

SOPHIE ROSENTHAL
Managing Editor of The Pendulum

MIRANDA FERRANTE
Managing Editor of elonnewsnetwork.com

ELLIS CHANDLER
Executive Producer of Elon Local News

CHLOE FRANKLIN
Associate Producer of Elon Local News

ERIN MARTIN
Executive Producer of ENN On Air

MADALYN HOWARD
Chief Copy Editor

CAROLINE MITCHELL
Design Chief

AVERY SLOAN
Politics Director

MASON WILLET
Sports Director

ABBY SHAMBLIN
Analytics Director

ANNA TOPFL
Social Media Coordinator

Annie Thyfault, Max Wallace and Hannah Sharpe contributed to the design of this edition. Gram Brownlee, Abigail Hobbs, Ryan Kupperman, Sarah T. Moore and Erin Sockolof contributed to the copy editing of this edition.

EDITORIAL POLICY:

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

CORRECTIONS POLICY:

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

Contact

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

WHEN WE PUBLISH:

The Pendulum
publishes weekly on Wednesdays

Elon Local News
broadcasts Mondays at 6 p.m.

ENN On Air
uploads Tuesdays at 6 p.m.

elonnewsnetwork.com
publishes daily

CORRECTIONS

In the story "Elon debuts university's first show choir club" from the Sept. 21 edition of The Pendulum, the year students began creating the show choir was misstated. They began pursuing the club in spring 2022. Elon News Network regrets this error.

Burlington's CityGate Dream Center offers children's bilingual literacy program

Partnering with Alamance Achieves, the Book Nook program began in 2021 to improve youth reading skills in Alamance County

Madison Powers
Elon News Network

Maria Hernandez, education and resource coordinator for CityGate Dream Center — a community center based in Burlington that serves a majority Spanish-speaking population — said the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in Alamance County changed the way students learn, especially those from Spanish-speaking households. So last year, the Dream Center began implementing the "Book Nook" program, aiming to improve bilingual reading skills in the county's pre-kindergarten to sixth-grade students.

"During the pandemic, I think a lot of students fell behind and were really struggling," Hernandez said. "Online learning was difficult enough, but then you throw in some students don't have internet access and some students don't have computers."

Some students also fell behind with their schoolwork, Hernandez said, because they had parents who only spoke Spanish at home and thus were unable to understand learning material. According to the 2020 Census, 13.7% of the population in Alamance County is Hispanic, which is higher than the state average of 10% in North Carolina.

Prior to the start of the Book Nook program in 2021, Hernandez said that Burlington's R. Homer Andrews Elementary School and Eastlawn Elementary School had reading

proficiency levels of 31% and 21%, respectively.

In response, the Dream Center partnered with Alamance Achieves, a nonprofit organization that works to prepare Alamance County children for their education and careers. Together, they found ways to support education outside of the classroom, through parental and community involvement.

Jazmin Campbell '22 is an Elon Service Fellow who has been working at Alamance Achieves for a year where she leads a parent engagement group and supports the Book Nook program.

"We can get more involved inside the school system through parents because we know that they're really catalysts for change within the school system," Campbell said.

Alamance Achieves invested in the national Book Nook program in 2021 and chose the Dream Center as a site along with The Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club of Alamance County and Positive Attitude Youth Center, although the Dream Center is the only bilingual program.

In the past, The Dream Center has offered 12 reading sessions per week, but because of new grants, more spots will soon be available in the program. The Book Nook program is set to relaunch in less than a month.

Lexy Roberts, executive director of Alamance Achieves, said the program is a way to support learning outside of the classroom.

"We think about what parts of education equity really matter to our community and what a vision for the future of Alamance is," Roberts said.

Since its implementation in 2021, Roberts said that 161 students have completed over 1,113 sessions and gained over 19 reading levels — the metric used to determine proficiency.

Hernandez said students have improved on their reading skills and recalled one student in particular who improved by six letter grades within a month.

"She was really struggling at school. Her grades were slipping in her reading classes and so coming here, I think it really helped her," Hernandez said. "She was a good reader. I think it was just finding the support is all she needed."

In each Book Nook session, students are paired with others of a similar reading level and asked to indicate how they are feeling at the time, which Roberts said allows facilitators to assess how students are feeling aside from their educational needs.

"We've actually been able to utilize this to share how students perceive their overall well being," Roberts said.

The Book Nook program is offered in eight languages, but as a bilingual site, CityGate Dream Center offers English and Spanish as its two primary languages. Students are able to choose one or both languages during each session.

"We know that that type of learning opportunity is more beneficial than just increasing their literacy," Roberts said. "That overall increases their self esteem and self concept of themselves, and they can merge their two language worlds together."

Hernandez said that because the Dream Center serves a largely Spanish-speaking community, all of its resources are bilingual.

"Whether that's programs that we have or classes that we're going to provide, or health resources or whatever it is," Hernandez said. "Everything we offer, we prioritize language inclusivity, so there is always going to be a Spanish version if there is an English version."





Students from Young Musicians of Alamance, a local nonprofit that offers music lessons to children, perform at Alamance Arts Esperanza on Sept. 25. Read more on PAGE 6.

SARAH T. MOORE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Students celebrate Bisexuality Awareness Week with a “Bi-ce Cream Social” event on Sept. 23 outside Lakeside Dining Hall.

KIRAN MATTHEWS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Redshirt freshman linebacker Zy'Mere Reddick walks onto the field for the second half of Elon's game against No. 14 William & Mary at Zable Stadium in Williamsburg, Virginia, on Sept. 24. Elon overcame a 28-10 halftime deficit to earn a 35-31 win.

Aidan Blake | Staff Photographer



Elon senior Haylie Clark serves the ball during the game against William & Mary on Sept. 25. Elon lost 3-2.

JOSEPH NAVIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

From Costa Rica to Elon: Sylvia Muñoz’s journey

CREDE director places value on campus connections after more than two decades of service to university

Miranda Ferrante
Managing Editor | @ferrantemiranda

Nearly 4,000 miles away from Elon University is the place Sylvia Muñoz calls home — Costa Rica. But after more than two decades of service to the university, she said she has found another meaning of the word within the campus community.

Muñoz’s Latino identity is not just a part of who she is, but is also ingrained into the work that she does.

“I continue to work with Latino students, obviously because of my identity, I identify with them a lot,” Muñoz said. “There is something about being part of minoritized identity at Elon that really holds us together.”

Muñoz was named assistant dean and director of the Center for Race, Ethnicity and Diversity Education in October 2021, and in August 2022 was appointed to the Alamance County Community College Board of Trustees. These titles are representative of years of dedication.

Throughout her time at Elon, Muñoz has received the Latinx-Hispanic Service Award, Phoenix Community Engagement Award and the Periclean Award for Civic Engagement and Social Responsibility.

Climbing the ladder

Three years before she first arrived at the university, Muñoz was part of an exchange program where she taught Spanish in the North Carolina public school system. During the last year of the program, she was placed at a middle school in Alamance County and was introduced to Elon and its former president Fred Young.

Young invited Muñoz to come to the university in 1998 to establish a Spanish-language center. In the time that followed, El Centro de Español expanded from a program for language instruction into a resource center geared towards supporting Hispanic and Latino students, faculty and staff.

The foundations of the CREDE were first laid in 1992, with the creation of an African American Resource Room. To align with its diversity and inclusion efforts, the university expanded resources for the initial space into what would become the Multicultural Center. Then, in 2014, that center merged with El Centro to form what is now the CREDE.

For Muñoz, this growth has been rewarding.

“Merging El Centro with the CREDE has been a lot of work because it’s like merging a center within a center,” she said. “It has given me the opportunity to work with students from different identities that otherwise I wouldn’t have been able to work with so directly.”

Though the progress of the center is something that fills Muñoz with pride, she said the director position originally made her wary that interactions with students would be less frequent.

“I knew being in a more administrative role was going to create more of a distance. If didn’t want to lose that, I needed to be more intentional about not getting rid of it,” Muñoz said. “What I love the most about the roles that I have had at Elon is the connection I get to make with students.”

Assistant Director of the CREDE Simone Royal ’17 said she has seen both the CREDE and Muñoz in many stages — first as an Elon student herself and now as a colleague.

Royal said Muñoz spearheaded the initiative that turned the CREDE into what it is now—a hub for student diversity education across campus. Though it is not just a physical space, it also serves as a center for support of Black, Latino, Asian and Pacific Islander, Native American, Alaskan Native and multiracial communities at Elon.

“There have been stigmas that the



MIRANDA FERRANTE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sylvia Muñoz, now director of Elon University’s Center for Race, Ethnicity and Diversity Education, has overseen the center’s expansion in her 24 years on campus.

CREDE is just a space for ... Black students or students who hold a marginalized identity,” Royal said. “So what our staff in CREDE and I would say Sylvia has definitely did great work on making the environment feel open to all students no matter what identity that you hold.”

Royal said the CREDE has transitioned into a space that promotes inclusivity in all forms. She has worked at the university for a little over a year and said between her time as an Elon student and working at the university, she has seen more students feel comfortable coming into the space.

“I think that is a shift that has not always been,” Royal said. “When I was a student, everyone was welcomed but definitely people would be more hesitant to come into the space or not have a certain identity.”

Finding family

Muñoz remembers her return to Costa Rica after the end of her exchange program. Her family had hosted a welcome back party, and she had a friend from Spain visiting. The pair spent some time traveling around Costa Rica.

The day her friend left was the day she got a call from Young, who offered her a job at Elon. Though she had just returned home to her family, she had to wrestle with the thought of leaving again.

“I’m going to be really honest, I didn’t want to come back. I was already at home. I was feeling good about being back home. But I had given him my word,” Muñoz said. “Something my parents always said, ‘Your word is more valuable than anything else. Once you give your word you need to stick to it.’ That’s something that I’ve grown up with. My word is very important because it’s reflective of who I am.”

Muñoz returned to Elon to open the Spanish center, and in turn, took faculty and staff back with her to Costa Rica. While there, those visiting attended gatherings and parties at Muñoz’s family home.

“That was the highlight of my trip,” Muñoz said. “Being able to interact with a Costa Rican family. My family, most of them didn’t speak English, but they didn’t care. They will talk to people regardless of whether they were understood or not.”

Just as Muñoz opened up her home to others from Elon, they integrated themselves into her family, and she became a part of theirs. Muñoz said she has built a life here in North Carolina — through work and her daughter.

While she misses her home country and family, she said she has a new sense of community here on campus.

“I can tell you both my parents passed

away in the last three years, and the support I got from Elon, in the sense of, ‘Go home,’ there was no questions asked,” Muñoz said. “For me, that’s really valuable.”

The unwavering support is something Muñoz said keeps her going.

“There’s some members of the Elon community that have become family to me,” Muñoz said.

Highlighting Hispanic heritage

Though Hispanic Heritage month is formally celebrated from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, Muñoz said honoring Latino and Hispanic identities and cultures cannot be confined to just one month.

“I actually fight against that narrative of only celebrating and only opening spaces for folks during certain periods of time,” Muñoz said. “On the other hand, though, I think it’s an important time to pause, to gather in community, to celebrate in a more intentional way who we are, what we represent.”

This time can be used to highlight what identity means on campus, in local communities, and in bigger ones as well, something Muñoz said some students need.

Muñoz said the diversity of the Latino community can present in different forms. Some may be bilingual, and some, bicultural.

“For some of us, that identity is very salient. For others, they are developing that identity,” Muñoz said. “I think taking the time to gather in community and celebrate that is important.”

Muñoz said the events hosted on campus radiate positive and uplifting energy.

“One of the best things for me is to see Latino students smiling, and it’s like, ‘Oh this is my university, and we are part of this university, and we belong here,’” Muñoz said.

Fostering lasting connections

For Royal, Muñoz has been a sound example of how to invite all people into one space. Royal said she has seen a gap bridged that may have existed previously.

“We want to hear voices from all students, and I think Sylvia does a great job of making everyone feel heard,” Royal said.

When Muñoz is in her office, the door is open — always. She said it is one thing to say she cares, but another to show it.

“I refuse to close the door. For me, closing the door is putting them out in a barrier,” Muñoz said. “I have the idea that the work that I do is the students. If a student needs to talk to me or if a student wants to come and say hi, I can drop what I’m going and give five minutes of my

“

IT HAS GIVEN ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH STUDENTS FROM DIFFERENT IDENTITIES THAT OTHERWISE I WOULDN’T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO WORK WITH SO DIRECTLY.

SYLVIA MUÑOZ
DIRECTOR OF THE CREDE

attention to the student and I can get back to my work later on.”

These connections, Muñoz said, are more than just attending events. It’s talking to students about where they come from, their families and their backgrounds.

Royal said the formation and developments of the CREDE are the first steps in the work that the university is doing to become more diverse and more inclusive.

“There’s always more work to be done,” Royal said. “But that is a space that has garnered more eyes over the last few years, still will continue to garner eyes because of the name of the center and what that means, what that holds.”

Royal believes the growth under the leadership of Muñoz is a model for students to follow.

Muñoz said she hopes her voice can be one for the students. While she recognizes that she cannot speak for everyone who identifies as Latino, she can represent them with respect.

“I acknowledge that I have a lot of privilege to be able to sit in spaces where I wasn’t able to sit awhile ago and to be able to provide my perspective that I know is different,” Muñoz said. “Everybody’s perspective is different and my lens is that Latino lens, and I’m very aware of that.”

Muñoz said she takes her job and her privilege with honor and care.

“One of the things that being at Elon and doing the work that I do have done for me is to really make me proud of my identity,” Muñoz said. “But also has opened the door for me to learn more about what that even means.”

Hispanic international students seek home away from home

Pursuing passions thousands of miles from home, students bring Hispanic, Latino cultures to campus

Hope Valenti
Elon News Network

Manuela Cornick Fernández knew what she wanted to do for a living when she was 9 years old. Growing up in Costa Rica, she said musical theater wasn't mainstream. But as her parents tucked her into bed the night after taking her to see her first musical, "Cats," she announced her dream to be a performer.

Now a junior musical theatre major at Elon, Cornick Fernández doesn't remember this encounter at all, though her parents have relayed the story to her, and she can still see the colorful characters dancing across the stage.

"I was like, 'Whoa, this is so cool,'" Cornick Fernández said. "All the singing and dancing and the lights. They looked like they were having so much fun. And I was having so much fun — just sitting there."

Cornick Fernández's parents enrolled her in camps and classes, supporting her unconventional goals. Traditional dance was a huge part of Costa Rican culture, but Cornick Fernández was more interested in perfecting her skills as a modern dancer. So while her cousins were taking merengue classes at their grandmother's pool house, she was learning hip hop and jazz. Looking back, she wishes she had taken more time to appreciate her heritage.

"I ignored folklore dance forever," Cornick Fernández said. "It was just always there. Now I just know what it looks like. I wish I learned more about its origins or how it came to be. I wish I could salsa properly."

Being in the U.S., Cornick Fernández said she misses dancing in a social setting. In Costa Rica, the activity brings people together. Whether it be in the kitchen preparing dinner or out with friends, each song and movement has purpose and history, she said, compared to the aimless "bouncing and bumping" in the U.S.

Freshman Carlos Rafael Levy Lañado said he has recognized this discrepancy, despite moving from Mexico City, Mexico, to Miami, Florida, at 12 years old. Living in a predominantly Hispanic community, Levy said he never experienced any culture shock prior to coming to Elon to pursue soccer.

"I was always in the classes for foreign students," Levy said. "But I never even really had to speak English until coming to Elon because everyone spoke Spanish."

Levy shortened his name upon coming to America to better fit in and prevent pressure on peers and professors. But he said announcers at Elon soccer games still mispronounce the names of foreign players.

"Sometimes they just give up," Levy said. "It can be pretty frustrating, especially when the pronunciation is spelled out."

Being away from home, Levy keeps in touch with his culture through not only



International student and El Centro student coordinator Manuela Cornick Fernández laughs in El Centro.

soccer, but also music, exposing his friends and teammates to the songs and dances that were the background of his childhood. He said he aims to bring his identity to campus and share it with his peers.

"I play Mexican music a lot in the locker room," said Levy. "I love to show my friends, 'Hey, this is how you salsa.'"

Levy's passion was ingrained in him since he was 2 years old through his culture. He grew up watching and playing soccer with his father and brothers, going to his first game at 6.

"When I entered the stadium for the first time, I cried," Levy said. "As a young child, it was overwhelming. These were my heroes. I grew up watching them, and I wanted to be just like these players."

Levy and Cornick Fernández both knew they would have to leave home to pursue their passions, and upon being introduced to Elon, they knew they could not let the opportunity escape them. Cornick Fernández said her determination and perfectionism is a product of her background and struggle to get to the university. Oftentimes in classes, she said she observes a sense of unimportance and entitlement around education, which can be frustrating to witness.

"It's a privilege to be here," Cornick Fernández said. "It makes me wonder — could I have coasted my way to get here? Probably not. Because I'm not from America."

Being an international student brings many hurdles, according to Cornick

Fernández and Levy. Cornick Fernández is faced with extra financial hurdles, unable to apply for financial aid or scholarships reserved for domestic students. The cultural divide exists among her and students from the U.S. as well.

"I had to quarantine for a week because I was coming from another country," Cornick Fernández said. "I just felt very alone for a long time. I missed that first week of meeting people and getting to know my professors. It was hard."

Coming in as an athlete, Levy was fortunate to have "built-in" friendships through his teammates. He said he especially formed bonds with fellow players coming from abroad, who helped him navigate the transition to Elon.

Senior Julie Ball experienced a similar advantage as a tennis player. Ball moved to Barcelona, Spain, at 12 years old to advance in the sport after moving around most of her childhood. Despite being raised by an Asian mother and English father, she identifies with Spanish culture.

Ball transferred from the University of Tennessee to Elon her junior year, searching for a place that felt more like home.

"Elon celebrates our cultures and encourages us to embrace who we are and where we come from," said Ball. "That was something that was lacking at my other school. Here there's El Centro, the Asian Pan Pacific club — they find ways to honor everyone's identity."

Ball said she has struggled with finding a place that felt like "home," having moved

around a lot as a child, living 12 countries around the world. Moving to Spain, she found a connection to the country through her sport — and tapas.

"The food is what I miss the most," Ball said. "It's the experience of all coming together to prepare it, enjoy it. It's a connection you can't find anywhere else."

Ball and Cornick Fernández both identified food as a major aspect of their cultures. Cornick Fernández's favorite memories of her childhood consist of baking chocolate eggs with her family at Easter. The older cousins would then hide them for the younger ones to find climbing trees on their grandmother's property.

"My life has always been very family-oriented," Cornick Fernández said. "It's difficult to be away from that, especially when there's a disconnect between us and other students."

To bridge the gap between the Latino community and Elon, Cornick Fernández is an active member and employee of El Centro, frequenting the organization's events and encouraging other students to do the same. She invites her friends to social gatherings thrown by El Centro, but she feels as if there is an unintentional lack of effort across campus.

"I just wish people would take advantage of everything we do to incorporate them into our culture," Cornick Fernández said. "You don't have to be Hispanic to be a part of it. We just want to share who we are with everyone and create that positive connection here."



Left to right: Junior Alanis Camacho, senior Brian Segovia and junior Alex Mejia sample Nicaraguan dishes for Cocina Conmigo, a video segment created by El Centro that features food from a different country each month.



Freshman Carlos Levy stands outside Rudd Field, where he plays soccer as a member of Elon's men's team.

Spanish professor receives fellowship, brings new ideas to Elon

Federico Pous introduced a new course in partnership with Witness for Peace

Samantha Hinton
Elon News Network

Professor of Spanish Federico “Fede” Pous is bringing new perspectives of learning to Elon University students as one of 10 nationwide faculty members in the third cohort of the Andrew W. Mellon Periclean Faculty Leadership program.

This fellowship provides financial and academic support to faculty members who are creating courses focusing on one of six social issues: climate change, education access, immigration, mass incarceration, race and inequality and voter engagement. As the coordinator for the peace and conflict studies minor, and long-time social justice scholar, Pous said he knew the program would be a good fit. Following his acceptance, he created a class focusing on the struggles of immigration in the U.S.

“My main motive in terms of teaching is to teach how to think about social justice issues. Throughout the years, I developed different ways of teaching that try to get students to understand things from a different perspective,” Pous said.

Periclean Faculty Leaders are encouraged to collaborate with a community organization as a part of their class, and Pous chose Witness for Peace, a grassroots organization that advocates for human rights and nonviolence in Latin American nations. Pous has

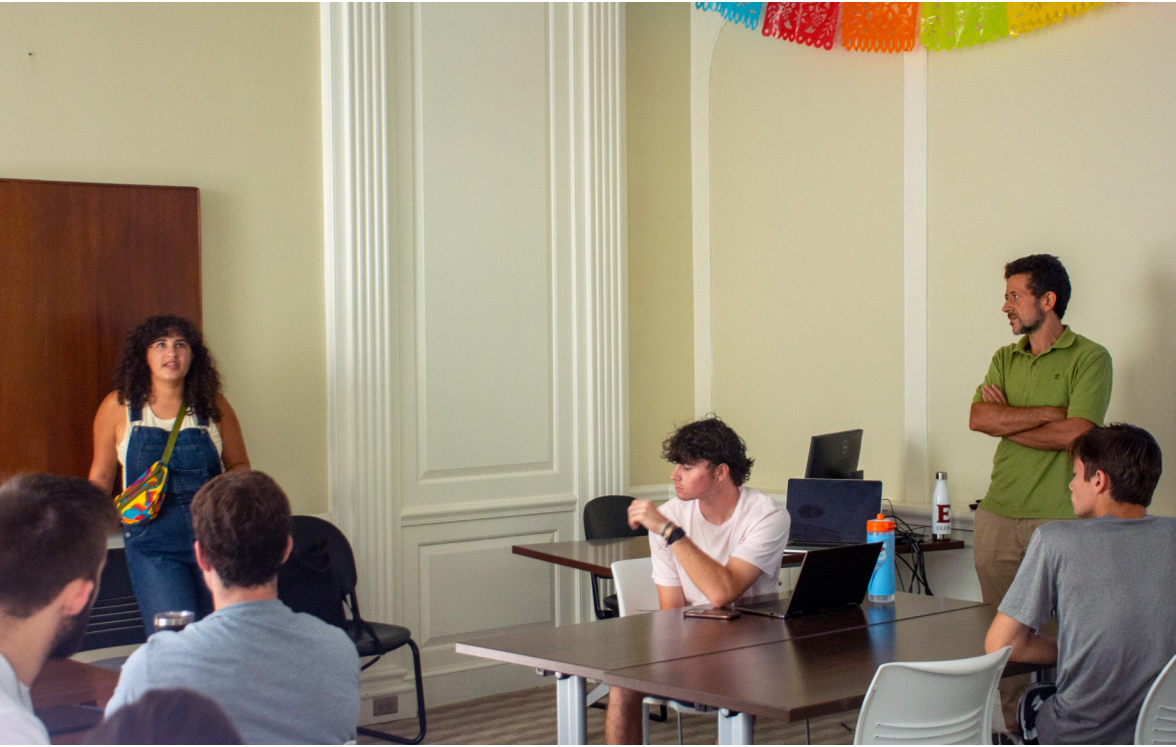
worked with its southeast branch for various community-building workshops since he moved to North Carolina, so he said the partnership was an easy decision.

“I want students to get a good sense of what it means to be undocumented in this country, not only from the readings, but also from direct contact with people,” Pous said. “I feel like this [partnership] with Witness for Peace is key for that.”

Throughout the semester, students in Pous’s Exploring Identity class will meet with representatives from Witness for Peace, using what they learn by the end of the semester to create educational workshops for the organization to use. Pous said it was important to him that the collaboration with Witness for Peace was mutually beneficial, with students gaining knowledge about the importance of social outreach and Witness for Peace gaining educational tools for their own practices.

Pous said he hopes that by introducing hands-on learning to his class through the collaboration with Witness for Peace, he will expose students to perspectives they may have not considered before and encourage them to engage in a different form of learning than a typical classroom setting provides.

“I think it’s important in the university setting for students who are interested in social justice to get to know what’s going on in the real world,” Pous said. “If you get to experience that ... it allows you to be exposed to a different way of thinking and intervening in social life. That’s my goal as a teacher,



SAMANTHA HINTON | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Elon alumna Deena Elrefai '22 shares her work with immigration policy in professor Federico Pous's Exploring Identity class Sept. 22.

“

I THINK IT'S
IMPORTANT IN THE
UNIVERSITY SETTING
FOR STUDENTS WHO
ARE INTERESTED IN
SOCIAL JUSTICE TO
GET TO KNOW WHAT'S
GOING ON IN THE REAL
WORLD.

FEDERICO POUS
SPANISH PROFESSOR

that you come out of class with a sense that you learned something about your connection with the world.”

Sophomore Jillian Dolman, a student in Pous’s Exploring Identity class, said that the hands-on nature of Pous’ class was very important to her when deciding which Spanish course she would take this semester.

“The hands-on component of the class was one of the major reasons why I chose this particular class,” Dolman said. “As an exercise science and bio major, my days are filled with STEM classes and can begin to feel monotonous. A hands-on Spanish class filled with new and interesting content helps

to break up my week. I genuinely look forward to attending this class.”

From Dolman’s perspective, Pous’s goal that his class would provide different perspectives and new ideas to students seems to have come to fruition. Dolman said that both Pous’s teaching style and the activities he plans for class make his class unique.

“Fede’s class is very different from other classes at Elon,” said Dolman. “We lead the conversation and Fede guides us through it. I think this just goes to show that there are different ways to teach that are still very effective.”

Alamance Arts hosts second annual Hispanic Heritage festival

Community gathered in downtown Graham Sept. 25 to celebrate culture with vendors, performances

Sarah T. Moore
Elon News Network

Alamance Arts hosted its second annual Hispanic Heritage Month festival Sept. 25 in downtown Graham, by the Children’s Museum of Alamance County. The event featured over 25 vendors, ranging from artists, community organizations, businesses and food trucks.

Samanta Hernandez, who usually vends at farmers markets, spent the day running a booth filled with jewelry and bags made by her family in Mexico. She found out about the event when she was vending at the Alamance County Veterans’ Balloon Festival and a volunteer for Alamance Arts approached her.

“I love this event,” Hernandez said. “It’s the first time I’m with other artists like me.”

The event featured several different music and dance performances highlighting different cultures and styles.

Sarah Rusthoven and Kate Rivera, both students at Elon University, volunteer for Alamance Arts. They helped set up the event and ran the information table throughout the day, including handing out raffle tickets. Rusthoven has been planning the event since June and

also helped organize last year’s festival after an internship with Alamance Arts.

“We meet every week to put everything together and make this all happen,” Rusthoven said. “It was a really cool thing to experience start to finish.”

Rusthoven and Rivera both emphasized the importance of celebrating Hispanic culture and heritage in Alamance County.

“Spanish speakers in the county is a huge population. Just having something specifically for them to celebrate Hispanic heritage, as you would for anything else,” Rusthoven said. “Hispanic heritage should be celebrated, and since it is a big population in the area, we should have something to do that.”

According to 2020 census data, 13.7% of Alamance County’s population is Hispanic or Latino.

Rivera said she hopes that Alamance Arts Esperanza and other Hispanic Heritage events help build and cultivate Alamance County’s Hispanic community.

“I’m Hispanic, I’m Puerto Rican. I thought it was really cool they were holding this festival,” Rivera said. “I’d never seen anything like this back in Maryland. I hadn’t heard about them holding festivals for Hispanic Heritage month. ... I knew I wanted to be a part of it.”

Jim Albright works for Alamance Citizens for a Drug Free Community, a local organization who planned the event alongside Alamance Arts. He said that Alamance Arts’ celebration of Hispanic Heritage month was important to him.

“It gives Latinos in our



SARAH T. MOORE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Alamance Arts hosted its second annual Hispanic Heritage Month festival Sept. 25. Throughout the festival, several local groups performed dances and music that highlighted a variety of Hispanic cultures.

community a stage to showcase and express their diverse culture,” Albright said. “It is a way for Latinos to connect more with the community.”

One of the goals of Alamance Arts Esperanza is to help connect members of the community and provide access to resources and support systems.

Penny Scott ran the booth for Alamance County Public Library. She said the event was an opportunity for the library to help raise awareness and sign kids up for its literacy programs, Dolly Parton’s

Imagination Library and Reach Out and Read.

Scott said that vending at community events “exposes families to us that might not have heard of us.”

Albright also said the county’s Hispanic Heritage events are for more than just Alamance’s Hispanic community.

“It gives the non-Hispanic segment of our community the opportunity to be a part of a cultural enhancing experience and learn more about their Latino neighbors,” Albright said.

BY THE NUMBERS

13.7%

of Alamance County’s population is Hispanic or Latino, according to 2020 census data.

NEWS

Town of Elon approves downtown social district

Community members, including students of age, can now legally enjoy alcoholic beverages outdoors

Kyra O'Connor
Executive Director | @ko_reports

After weeks of deliberation, the Elon Town Council voted unanimously to approve a downtown social district. The district spans parts of West Lebanon Avenue and West College Avenue, including Pandora's Pies, MaGerks Pub and Grill and TANGENT Eat+Bar, among other downtown restaurants.

The social district allows community members to drink alcoholic beverages outdoors, outside of a businesses' property, similar to what restaurants and bars were allowed to do until Aug. 15 because of a temporary state ordinance that was created during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We've been doing it, like we've said, for two and a half years without issue," Mayor of the town of Elon Emily Sharpe said. "It's bringing together the various communities, Twin Lakes people, it's Elon students, it's families within the area, all coming together. So, I certainly support it."

While the social district allows drinks to be consumed outside, it is very specific to how and when people of age can utilize the perks: a person of age needs to buy a drink from a participating downtown business, the drink must be in the original container from the restaurant that indicates it is a social district approved cup, patrons cannot drink more than two drinks in an hour and the hours of operation for the social district are from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Drinking outdoors is not permitted outside of the social district, per North Carolina open-container laws. An open container is an alcoholic beverage with a broken seal or that is physically open.

All of the regulations for the social district are not part of the



COURTESY OF THE TOWN OF ELON

A rendering of the updated social downtown district for the town of Elon as of Sept. 26.

town of Elon's ordinance, but rather from ABC and North Carolina state liquor laws. But for Karen Webb, member of Alamance Citizens for a Drug Free Community, these requirements are not protective enough.

Webb said she and ACDFC support the idea of a social district but would like to see more policies and procedures that would protect the community. The ACDFC is advocating for the town council to reduce the number of drinks sold and the size of drinks available.

"We certainly understand and acknowledge the social district laws and guidelines and feel like they are well written to the best they can be," Webb said. "We're just trying to create a community that has more protective factors for those that are underage or maybe those that tend to overconsume at times."

Webb intended to make a public comment at the town of Elon council work session Sept. 26, but was unable to, as the social district was considered old business and did not allow for public comment.

Webb is not alone in her

concerns — previous discussions around the social district included the impacts it would have on a town located so close to a university. While Council Member Monti Allison voted yes for the social district, he expressed concern about it at a previous meeting.

"That's going to be interpreted in different ways, as we saw this past weekend," Allison said. "There's confusion about young adults not understanding that you can't walk around with alcohol. Now, how do you avoid saying well, 'I didn't know that part or that sidewalk or that property was out of bounds?'"

Elon police officer and resident Edward Peters also expressed concerns over the college students drinking, especially after the Elon Police Department gave out 38 citations related to drinking earlier this month. Peters has been working at the department for over 10 years.

"I'm for the expansion and doing things, but I'm also for safety too," Peters said. "I've seen a lot, and I just can't underestimate how the alcohol affects it."

Chief of the town of Elon

Police Kelly Blackwelder answered many questions from the previous meeting during the work session on Sept. 26, prior to voting on the social district. One question was who would be liable for selling drinks to people underage in the social district and what would happen if one left the social district with a drink in their hands.

Blackwelder said underage drinking would be handled the same way in the social district as it is handled outside of the district: the restaurant is liable, and if it is possible for the police to determine, the bartender will be held responsible for selling alcohol to someone underage.

If a person leaves the social district with an empty cup, they are within the law. However if there is any alcohol left in the social district cup as the patron leaves, they are in violation of the law and can be cited, according to Blackwelder.

Randy Orwig, town council member and pastor at Elon Community Church, said he would like to utilize the record that is "already present" from the

temporary ordinance during the pandemic.

"Obviously we have concerns, and the police I think are doing an excellent job, trying their best to deter the kinds of other drinking behaviors that can be dangerous, but I think most of that is outside of this district anyway," Orwig said. "My sense is that this is a positive move."

Jill Weston, town of Elon downtown development director, presented the updated social district map to the council before they voted to approve it. The new map took out the parking lots that were previously included, as well as College Street Taphouse — a venue owned by the university on West College Avenue.

Weston said she wants Elon University students and families alike to utilize the new district.

"You guys are all members of the community, to participate in everything that we do, including the social district," Weston said. "It's good for everybody, but we definitely want and encourage students to feel like it's a cool thing."

ADVERTISEMENT

Do you play Violin, Viola, Cello, or Double Bass?

If so, think of joining the Elon Orchestra!
Rehearsals are on Monday nights.

Contact Dr. Thomas Erdmann (erdmann@elon.edu)
in the Music Department for more information.



ABSS Superintendent announces “zero-tolerance” policy against violence, weapons, illegal substances

ABSS Superintendent Dain Butler said these offenses will result in “long-term” suspension in video

Abigail Hobbs
Elon News Network | @Abigailhobbs

Dain Butler, Alamance-Burlington School System superintendent, issued a one-minute video announcing a zero-tolerance policy for possession of weapons, assault on staff and adults, gang related fights and possession and distribution of illegal substances.

The video, sent out on ABSS social media, including Twitter, Youtube, Facebook and Instagram, on Sept. 16, states that these offenses will result in “long-term

“

OUR COMMUNITY
DESERVES MY
ATTENTION TO THIS
MATTER, AND I
APPRECIATE YOUR
SUPPORT ON THIS AS
WE MOVE FORWARD
THIS SCHOOL YEAR.

DAIN BUTLER
ALAMANCE-BURLINGTON
SUPERINTENDENT

suspension and possibly expulsion.”

Butler’s announcement followed three threats earlier that week. On Sept. 15, a bomb threat at Smith Elementary School resulted in an evacuation. According to the ABSS Twitter, the situation was cleared by police and students resumed classes soon after. Also on Sept. 15, according to the ABSS Twitter, a student threatened violence with a weapon at Turrentine Middle School, though no weapon was found. On Sept. 16, before the video was posted, there was a “soft lockdown” at Eastern Alamance High School after a report of a gun on campus, but again, no gun was found.

“We can do better than this, and we will do better,” Butler said in the video. “I hope that next week, and all the weeks following, will be better. Our community deserves my attention to this matter, and I appreciate your support on this as we move forward this school year.”

On Sept. 22, the administration became aware of a threatening text message sent by a student and a BB gun confiscated at Eastern Alamance before school started, according to a post on the ABSS Facebook page.

Tammy Wilson attended the ABSS Board of Education meeting on Sept. 26. She and her husband, Doug, favor the zero-tolerance stance because they have a child in high school.

“They’re quite scary,” Tammy said. “You know, things have changed and times have changed, but they’ve got to have a zero-tolerance policy. And these kids need to know that it’s gonna be zero-tolerance.”

Butler started his position in July and wants to be clear on where he stands on these issues, according to ABSS Public Information Officer Les Atkins.

“We’re not going to tolerate violence or even things that might be considered as joking,” Atkins said. “Oftentimes, students

will post things on social media or text one another or things like that, but these can all lead to disruptions in the learning environment in the school setting.”

Atkins said it is up to the principal and school resource officers to decide what happens after a threat is made, but that the law is clear about the consequences of weapons on campus.

According to the North Carolina General Assembly, under 14-269.2, it is a felony to bring or fire a firearm on school property, and a misdemeanor to bring a BB gun or knives on campus.

“Our team is remaining visible and vigilant at all of our schools in regards to student safety,” Atkins said. “We want students to wake up every day and ... feel safe when they walk into our buildings.”

Atkins said the best way to deter this behavior is to have parents talk to their children about the seriousness of these offenses.

“We want families to help us by talking with their children,” Atkins

said, “encouraging them about the seriousness of these matters if a student is involved in making a threat, whether verbal, written or electronic.”



CAROLINE MITCHELL | DESIGN CHIEF

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

Federal Reserve increases interest rates to combat inflation

Economics professor Mark Kurt explains the relationship between interest rates and inflation

Jacob Gekht
Elon News Network



Mark Kurt

Supply chain issues, persistent inflation and recent interest rate increases from the Federal Reserve have many Americans facing uncertain economic conditions. Mark Kurt, Elon University professor of economics, breaks down present economic conditions, rising prices and high turnover, or churn, among employees. Kurt holds a bachelor’s degree in economics from Clemson University, as well as an economics master’s and Ph.D. from the University of Iowa.

This interview has been edited for clarity

What does it mean for the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates?

“So when the Fed is going to raise interest rates, what they’re doing is raising the price of having money today. So if you want to get a loan today, it’s going to be more expensive. The Federal Reserve can actually influence the loans market and make it more expensive to get money today. So firms are going to take more pauses in taking out loans. People are going to take less pauses and avoid buying a home that requires a mortgage. So it’s going to act to maybe slow down some aspects of

the economy.”

With the Federal Reserve rapidly increasing interest rates recently, what implications does this have on service and good prices and the job market?

“So the idea behind it is that the Fed is making it more expensive to borrow for firms. So firms might be doing a little bit less investment. Maybe a company has bigger loans for their operations, so they might be hiring fewer people. That would be one way to look at it.

Our ability to increase our supply shift and supply hasn’t kept up with the rapid increase in demand. And so when that happens, that puts upward pressure on prices — gas, food, other things — and now what we’re seeing is increases in prices of what the Federal Reserve calls ‘core goods and services.’ So the Fed is increasing interest rates to try and tame the demand a little bit for goods and services.”

Will the cost of transportation — such as gas and flights — and technology continue to change?

“The gas prices recently have declined. It seems like China’s economy is slowing down, and they’re a huge energy importer, so that affects gas prices here in the U.S. So I think some of the decrease in the price of gas has been a result of that.”

While nothing is certain when it comes to the stock market, is there talk among economists that there will be a continued decline in the markets next year?

“Economists are terrible at predicting what we call ‘inflection points’ in the market — that’s when it starts when the economy starts

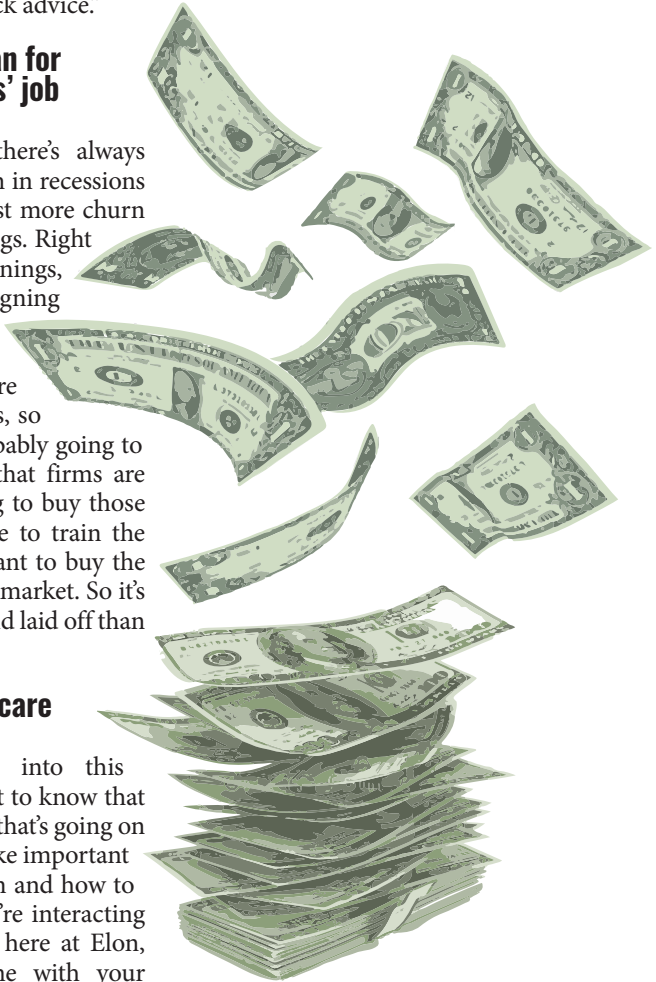
slowing down or starts picking up. However, every time the Federal Reserve Bank increases interest rates, I think it makes it more likely the economy will slow down more than they hope at some point, because it’s increasing the price of money to a point where it could have a bigger negative impact on the market than expected — but I don’t give stock advice.”

What would all of this mean for Elon’s upcoming graduates’ job searches?

“So when you graduate there’s always churn in the labor market, even in recessions and depressions, and there’s just more churn right now. There’s more openings. Right now, there would still be openings, but there wouldn’t be the signing bonuses. There may not be any offers after your junior year internship. I think you’re graduating with the latest skills, so for a finance major, you’re probably going to know are in Python. Things that firms are looking to hire, they’re looking to buy those skills. They don’t want to have to train the people that they have. They want to buy the skills to get you working in the market. So it’s different if you’re mid-career and laid off than if you’re a new graduate.”

Why should Elon students care about this?

“When you’re graduating into this market, firms are going to want to know that you’re able to take information that’s going on in the world about you and make important decisions about what’s going on and how to adapt and synthesize that. You’re interacting in this. It’s going to affect us, here at Elon, North Carolina, and at home with your families.



CAROLINE MITCHELL | DESIGN CHIEF

ABSS community responds to book ban controversy

“Gender Queer: A Memoir” was removed from Western High School, parents and staff weigh in

Margaret Faust
Elon News Network | @MargaretFaust5

Pornographic, pedophilia, discriminatory, helpful and a resource. These were all words used by attendees of the Alamance-Burlington School System Board of Education meeting on Sept. 26 to debate “Gender Queer: A Memoir” by Maia Kobabe and the book’s place in ABSS school libraries.

New Superintendent Dain Butler pulled the graphic novel, which tells the story of the author’s journey as a nonbinary and asexual identifying individual, from the Western Alamance High School library earlier this month. Since then, Butler and some ABSS parents have expressed concern over the book’s themes and illustrations that depict sexual activity.

“This book is a potential disruption to our learning environment,” Butler said in a statement. “Sexual content is a large part of this book and it runs counter to what is appropriate in a school setting. It specifically contains illustrations that are pornographic in nature.”

On Monday night, both current and former ABSS parents, the Western Alamance High School librarian, alumni, one ABSS teacher and one Board of Education candidate told the board what they thought of the book’s removal.

ABSS’s book selection process

Western Alamance High School librarian Tim Johnson was the first person to speak during the public comment section to explain how the book got chosen to be in the library. He said a book has to check nine criteria before it is selected. He highlighted three specific criteria to the board.

“Is it age appropriate for our students? Does it have serious literary and artistic quality? Are there enough students at this school who might read it to justify its cost?” Johnson said.

Johnson told the board he learned about “Gender Queer: A Memoir” after looking at the American Library Association book awards. The Alex Awards caught his attention, given to books that are written for adults but that may appeal to children ages 12 to 18. This book won an Alex Award in 2020. After reading more reviews and awards, he said he decided it did fit the first two criteria.

Next, he said he consulted Western’s school social worker. According to Johnson, the social worker said at least 30 students were trying to understand their nontraditional gender identities. This, plus the number of students in AP English classes for which the book was being considered, justified the book’s purchase.

Determining age appropriateness

Mayme Brooks attended the meeting as a former ABSS parent and a member of the FACTS Task Force 2.0, which approached the

board over the summer with a list of books that her group felt were inappropriate. “Gender Queer: A Memoir” was on that list.

“These books sexualize every child in this room tonight,” Brooks said. “And every child who reads them.”

Board of Education candidate Lenard Harrison agreed. He said he plans on coming to the board as he finds more books that he thinks are inappropriate for certain age groups.

“I will stand up here and scream as loud as I can,” Harrison said.

The task force raised concerns about this book before Butler started on July 1. Atkins said Butler made the decision separate of the group’s concerns.

Book inspections and removals

Butler did not follow board policy 3210 before removing the book. ABSS Public Information Officer Les Atkins confirmed this.

Atkins said the superintendent can use his authority as a leader to remove books that he thinks have the potential to disrupt the learning environment. Atkins said Butler used this authority to remove the book as opposed to board policy 3210.

The policy says parents, students and school employees have a right to inspect school instructional material, and anyone who objects to the material must submit a

written

objection to the principal. The principal is then required to explain to the concerned party why the material is in the school, and if it is not resolved informally, the object is sent to the media specialist, media director, assistant superintendent for curriculum and superintendent to deliberate. Once this group decides what to do, a written recommendation is submitted to the principal.

Help versus harm

Western High School class of 2021 graduate Andrew Jordan, who identifies as transgender and bisexual, also spoke at the meeting. He read the book his senior year and said it helped him feel included.

“Oh, there is people like me,” Jordan said. “And this is a normal thing. I’m not weird or a freak.”

He said he read books in high school classes that sexualized heterosexual relationships. Even though there weren’t pictures in those books, he said the imagery the words depicted were just as sexualized as the pictures in “Gender Queer: A Memoir.”

“Why is that allowed but not a memoir?” Jordan said. “Taking that away was totally discriminatory and not right at all.”

Legal and ethical implications

Legally, pornography is not protected by the First Amendment and it can be regulated. Despite Butler defining the images as “pornographic in nature” in his statement, no one on the board provided a definition of pornography.

Legal Information Institute at Cornell University defines pornography as, “material that depicts nudity or sexual acts for the purpose of sexual stimulation.”

Elon professor and lawyer Israel Balderas didn’t clearly define pornography either. He quoted former associate justice of the Supreme Court Potter Stewart who said he can’t

have to weigh the obscenity of the book against the educational value it provides.

Balderas said what Butler did was constitutional. But Balderas does not think it was done ethically.

“It lacks transparency,” he said. “And in a democracy we want to have that conversation in the open.”

He thinks the superintendent should have come before the school board and heard from the public before he made a decision.

“Schools are nurseries of democracies and if that’s the case, then schools have a responsibility to make sure that schools complement what’s happening in society,” Balderas said.

Book bans as a trend and concept

“Gender Queer: A Memoir” is in the American Library Association top 10 most challenged books of 2021. Elon is offering a core capstone class on banned books this semester and education majors talk about banned books in their classes.

Multiple Elon education majors were also at the board of education meeting on Monday night. Elon senior and student teacher Maddie Volp

Elon senior and student teacher Ruby Espitia agreed. She said it’s not up to her to decide what books are allowed in her classroom. She has to follow federal, state and local regulations.

“I want to teach them all of this but I have to be careful about the way I say things and the way I do things because I don’t want to get in trouble,” Espitia said.

Elon education professor and President Emeritus Leo Lambert said banning books is dangerous.

“It’s a very bad idea. And you know this is kind of fundamental to how we think as Americans,” Lambert said. “And if we value a free society then the idea of book banning ought to be something that gives us a great amount of pause.”

Espitia and Volp haven’t read “Gender Queer: A Memoir” in its entirety but have looked at certain illustrations. Both of these student teachers said this particular graphic book is not appropriate for school, but broader conversations with students about gender and identity are important.

“I will put flags all over my classroom. I will do anything to make sure my students know that maybe they have no one in their life to support them, I support them,” Espitia said.

Jordan said he hopes the board will allow the book to return to the school library.

Atkins said the



CAROLINE MITCHELL | DESIGN CHIEF

define obscenity but, “I know it when I see it.”

Balderas said in public schools teachers, staff, administrators and the Board of Education

said respecting different opinions in a classroom can be tricky.

“It’s definitely difficult to balance that with making sure that your students are allowed to be who they are and the ones that believe a more heteronormative approach,” Volp said.

superintendent wants to create groups of parents and school staff to work with the school librarians to evaluate which books are allowed in ABSS schools. This plan is in the brainstorming stage, and no plans have been finalized yet.

Town of Elon restaurants prepare for Family Weekend

Almost 2,000 families registered for this weekend’s festivities

Sydney Spencer
Elon News Network

Elon University’s annual family weekend begins Sept. 30, drawing people from all over the country to campus. According to a spokesman from the Family Weekend Committee, 1,989 families are registered to attend this weekend’s festivities, and local businesses are preparing for the busy time ahead.

Kimberly Holt, owner of Pandora’s Pies, said she is looking forward to the incoming crowds, not only for the added business, but to liven up the town too.

“There’s a lot happening,” Holt said. “There’s people everywhere, it’s nice to see movement on the street.”

Business owners like Phil Smith of The Oak House are anticipating an influx of people and are stocking

up on products. Smith said he will be ordering all the excess necessities during the week leading up to Family Weekend.

“It is kind of a calm before the storm,” Smith said.

Similarly, Holt described the preparation process as extensive and tedious, with loads of planning that needs to be done. Holt is even having some former employees, now college students, come home for the weekend, strengthening her staff even further.

“We are doing two or three times more prep work in the kitchen as far as food, making sure that we have enough to feed everybody,” Holt said. During past busier campus events, businesses in town have struggled. Holt said during the 2020 commencement weekend she ran out of cheese. She is looking to stock up to avoid similar issues this year.

Smith will be looking at numbers and stock from the 2019 season, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, to estimate the number of ingredients and materials he needs to supply. He will also be scheduling



SYDNEY SPENCER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Elon community members gather inside Pandora’s Pies in downtown Elon to enjoy fresh pizza on Sept. 25.

extra staff but said he expects it to be a hectic weekend nonetheless.

“No matter how hard you prepare or how well you think it through, it’s still going to be a little bit of controlled chaos,” Smith said.

Both Smith and Holt said Family

Weekend is the second busiest time on campus, with Commencement Week ranking first. The two advise incoming families to understand the stress businesses will be going through, and to be forgiving with them throughout the weekend.

“Be patient,” Holt said. “There are only so many restaurants in Elon, and then when all of a sudden you get an extra couple thousand people in town, just be patient with all of the restaurants that we’re doing the best we can.”

FRIDAY, SEPT. 30

3:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Fall Convocation with Ashley Judd, Schar Center

Ashley Judd is a renowned actress, humanitarian and political activist. One of the most vocal and influential figures of the #MeToo movement, Judd was named to TIME’s “Person of the Year” as one of the silence-breakers and change-makers who help shift the culture and conversation around sexual abuse and harassment. Pre-registration is required for this event.

5 – 8 p.m.
Downtown Burlington Bike Tour

Join the Elon Outdoors staff for a bike ride down the Greenway to downtown Burlington. The total mileage for the ride is approximately 9 miles. Space is extremely limited so advance registration is required. Meet at the ELOA Office (Room 106) in the Koury Athletic Center.

5 – 7 p.m.
Loy Farm Open House

Students, faculty and staff will be available to talk about the sustainability initiatives taking place at Loy Farm. Located at 2635 W. Front St. in Burlington, the farm is a short walk, bike ride or drive from main campus along the greenway path.

5:30 – 6:30 p.m.
Dancing in the Landscape, Lambert Academic Village

Sponsored by the Department of Performing Arts, Dancing in the Landscape is a site-specific dance performance featuring original and experimental choreography by faculty, guest artists and students. Please join us for this production that explores and highlights beautiful places on Elon’s campus.

5 – 5:45 p.m.
“Phoenix Winds” Wind Ensemble Concert, Medallion Plaza

The Elon Wind Ensemble presents a concert near Lake Mary Nell in which they will perform a wide variety of band classics that you are sure to enjoy. Feel free to join us by singing or dancing and a lucky audience member will have the opportunity to conduct the ensemble.

7:30 p.m.
The Music Department Faculty Concert, Whitley Auditorium

Faculty artists invite Elon families and friends to a mixed program for voice, piano, percussion, wind, brass, and strings. This program has become a much-anticipated Family Weekend event since it began in 1999.

SATURDAY, OCT. 1

8 – 9 a.m.
Coffee with the President, Young Commons

Join Dr. Connie Ledoux Book, members of Elon’s Senior Staff and other Elon families for coffee and a continental breakfast to kick start your Saturday. Rain location: Koury Athletic Center Concourse

2 p.m.
Football Game, Rhodes Stadium

Cheer on the Phoenix as they take on fellow Colonial Athletic Association member, the Richmond Spiders. Tickets are available through the Family Weekend registration site and will be sent to you digitally. Students may use their Phoenix Card for a complimentary ticket in the student section.

10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Marketplace Under the Oaks, Beside Lake Mary Nell

Marketplace Under the Oaks is an initiative that focuses on creative ventures with a community of students who have products and services to sell. It offers the opportunity for students to bring their ideas to market through pop-up stores.

6:30 p.m. | 8:30 p.m.
ROCKapella, Alumni Gym

You and your family will be in for a treat as Elon’s a cappella groups “rock the house!” Pre-registration is required for this event.

11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Phoenix Fan Fest, Schar Center

Get excited for the football game against Richmond at our Fan Fest! Enjoy a variety of food, lawn games, musical entertainment, caricature artists, giveaways, and much more! Pre-registration is required for this event.

10 p.m. – 2 a.m.
Night on the Commons

Join us on Young Commons for an evening of fun for the entire family to enjoy.

SUNDAY, OCT. 2

10 a.m.
Sunday Christian Worship, Holt Chapel, South Campus

Multi-denominational Christian Worship for students, families and guests. Connect with campus ministers and student leaders in Christian Life at Elon.

10 a.m.
Catholic Mass, Numen Lumen Pavilion

Elon Catholic Campus Ministry invites students and families to Mass.

11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Hillel Bagel Brunch, McKinnon Hall

Join Jewish students, families, faculty and staff for bagels and conversation.

WOMEN'S GOLF MVP FINDS FIT AT ELON



Junior Lotte Fox hits a tee shot on the 10th hole at the Reserve Club at St. James in Southport, North Carolina, during the second round of the 2022 CAA Women's Golf Championship on April 16. Fox shot a team-best 74 to move into a tie for 12th through two rounds.

Lotte Fox, women's golf's MVP from last season, shares how golf has guided her throughout her life

Caleigh Lawlor
Elon News Network | @CaleighLawlor

Junior Lotte Fox is a business fellow, member of Alpha Kappa Psi business fraternity, Student Athlete Advisory Committee and most notably, on the women's golf team. For the 2021-2022 school year, Fox was named the team's "Most Valuable Player" at the

Athletics Banquet in May. Fox had triumphed through a tough fall season, multiple tournaments and mental barriers, all which were recognized by head golf coach Chris Dockrill.

"I had a really good spring season," Fox said. "My fall was a little bit shaky, I had a lot of personal issues. But my spring, I broke so many personal records. I shot my first round under par. And then I did it again, the next one after that, I came in the top 20 every single time. It's just really good accomplishment of mine."

Another achievement Fox had was beating those ranked above

her on the team and finishing as the top player for the team in tournaments. Fox's successes are shown in her numbers — shooting a 4.05 over par and an average of 75.76 for the team. Despite the success, she said she was still slightly surprised when she won MVP.

"My coach talked to me afterwards because I was walking up the stage to get my trophy during the banquet, and he's like, 'You surprised?' And I was like, 'A little bit,'" she said. "He's like, 'You deserve it, you had the really good spring, of course you deserve it. I'm really proud of you and you

“
I SHOT MY FIRST
ROUND UNDER PAR.
AND THEN I DID IT
AGAIN, THE NEXT ONE
AFTER THAT, I CAME
IN THE TOP 20 EVERY
SINGLE TIME.

LOTTE FOX
JUNIOR

really showed what you're capable of, and I'm excited for the next few years with you."

Fox moved to the U.S. from Germany when she was 8 years old and decided to play golf in college because of the opportunities it could present her with — something most European athletes don't experience due to a lack of collegiate athletics.

"If I'm able to do it, I think it'd be a really cool accomplishment to have it, it would give me all sorts of experiences that a lot of people who don't ever do athletics in college would have," Fox said. "It helps me with my time management skills, I'll get to meet new people who also play the sport, I would get to travel, just all of those things combined."

She said he first heard about Elon from a friend and toured the school her sophomore year, reached out to Dockrill and got an email back from him her junior year. After touring the school, she had recognized that Elon had both the academics and athletics programs she was looking for, as opposed to some bigger schools she was looking at.

"[I] went on the visit, it was great, immediately got an offer, and I said yeah because campus was amazing, academics were exactly what I was looking for," Fox said.

Another reason why Fox loved Elon was because it provided her with both smaller class sizes and a better opportunity to connect with her professors.

"It's just the whole package academically and sports wise," she said.

Fox said that although golf is an individual sport with Elon players from all over the world, they celebrate victories together and relate to each other on bad days.

"All sorts of people from different areas of the world have had different experiences with the sport, but are all at about a similar level, so they have all had the same experiences in terms of having a new breakthrough," Fox said.

ADVERTISEMENT

Constantly anxious?
Need space to chat?

visit
jwarrentherapy.com

insight
Professional Counseling Services, PLLC

INTERESTED
IN LIVING
OFF CAMPUS?
ACT QUICK!

PROVENCE AT 807 EAST HAGGARD | EVELLIEN AT 223 LAWRENCE STREET
More economical than living on campus!

PROVENCE & EVELLIEN TOWNHOMES & APARTMENTS

(336) 266-6666 | www.evellien.com

WE'RE SOLAR POWERED!

Provence is now completely solar powered with solar panels installed throughout the entire complex.



WASHER/DRYER IN EACH UNIT | WALKING DISTANCE TO CAMPUS | 4 BEDROOMS AND SPACIOUS