

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2018
VOLUME 44, EDITION 20
ELON, NORTH CAROLINA

THE PENDULUM



**BREAK-INS
OVER BREAK**

Thousands of dollars in student belongings were stolen over Thanksgiving Break.

Five student homes and counting were burglarized over break

ALEX HAGER | Elon News Network | @awhager

ON MONDAY NIGHT, ELON University senior Kent Chance's living room looked like any other college bachelor pad. Things were strewn about the room — stray beer glasses dotted the furniture; mismatched remotes shared space on a cooler serving as a makeshift coffee table. But it was all a bit more disheveled than usual after a break-in only a few days before.

Chance's was one of five houses in Elon broken into during Thanksgiving Break, according to the Town of Elon Police Department.

ment. Victims say there were likely more. With students home for the holiday, many of the houses and apartments in the area around campus were left totally unoccupied for over a week. According to reports filed Nov. 24 and 25, thousands of dollars in valuables were lifted from student residences with TVs, video game consoles and prescription medication among the casualties.

ALEXANDRA SCHONFELD |
MANAGING EDITOR

Televisions, perscription medication and gaming systems were among the items reported missing from students' homes.

See **ROBBERY** | pg. 5

FOOTBALL SEASON ENDS IN S.C.

Looking back at the peaks and valleys of the 2018 football season

Jack Haley
Sports Director | @jackhaley17

Walking out onto the field at Gibbs Stadium in Spartanburg, South Carolina, to play Wofford College, no one knew for sure whether or not this would be Elon University football's last game of the season. The ramifications of the game were very simple: win and advance to play Kenesaw State University the

following weekend. Lose — and it was the end of the road for this campaign. While fighting until the last whistle, the Phoenix fell to the Terriers 19-7 and marked the end of a season full of ups and downs for the program. But before Elon got to that point, they had a whirlwind of a season that deserves a rewind.

Starting in the Sunshine State

Elon came into the season ranked No. 12 in the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS). The Phoenix had proven itself to be a team to

SEASON RECORD

6-5

is the record Elon University football ended the 2018 season.

watch nationally last year, making the playoffs for only the third time in program history and returning some key players.

To begin the 2018 season, Elon made their way south to Raymond James Stadium in Tampa, Florida, to take on the University of South Florida Bulls. The team got a chance

to play a bigger, stronger, faster opponent and to get exposure on the national stage to start their season. This would be Elon's only FBS test of the year, and though they were outplayed, they kept the game respectable and took a 34-14 loss on the chin.

Some positives came out of that game as well. Freshman running back Jaylan Thomas was able to scoop up 87 yards on the ground and show that he is able to play, which would prove to be critical later on.

See **FOOTBALL** | pg. 10



NEWS • PAGE 5

Student fights to change Blue Light system.



LIFESTYLE • PAGE 9

Three community members share thier stories of recovery.



SPORTS • PAGE 10

Take a look back at the 2018 Elon football season.

THE PENDULUM

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**ELON NEWS
NETWORK**

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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.

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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 top of the article. Corrections from the previous week's print edition appear on this page. Contact enn@elon.edu to report a correction or a concern.

WHEN WE PUBLISH:

The Pendulum
publishes weekly on Wednesdays

Elon Local News
broadcasts Mondays at 6 p.m.

ELN Morning
broadcasts Thursdays at 10 a.m.

ELN Online Exclusive
broadcasts Tuesdays at 4:30 p.m.

ENN Radio Podcast
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CORRECTIONS

NEWS

On the front page of the Nov. 14 edition of The Pendulum, Elon News Network mistakenly wrote that the Occaneechi Band of Saponi Nation's tribal grounds were in Burlington. The grounds are in Mebane.

Additionally, a photo of President Connie Book taken by Zachary Ohmann was mistakenly credited to Abby Gibbs.

Elon News Network regrets the errors.

LIFESTYLE

Elon News Network credited a photo submitted by Jen Platania and Jim Ayersman to Grace Morris in the Nov. 14 edition of The Pendulum. Elon News Network regrets the error.

SPORTS

On Page 3 of the Nov. 14 edition of The Pendulum, Elon News Network mistakenly credited Zachary Ohmann with a photo of basketball player Chuck Hannah. Abby Gibbs took the photo. Elon News Network regrets the error.

OPINIONS

No corrections were issued to Elon News Network for this section.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY – EVENT



PHOTO COURTESY OF PAUL HAMILTON TWITTER

Paul Hamilton, former head coach for Elon University's football team, cheers on a field.

DEC. 1, 2005. In late November 2005, Elon University head football coach Paul Hamilton resigned after the team's seventh straight loss. Hamilton claimed personal reasons for his decision, and when contacted by The Pendulum for the December 1, 2005, issue, he was not available for comment.

After the announcement, questions arose about whether or not Hamilton's departure was his choice. Then-senior safety Anthony Harris said the consensus among the team was that Hamilton was asked to resign. "After two losing seasons, you have to win the Southern

Conference, or they are going to get rid of you," Harris said. "If you were winning, it wouldn't be a problem."

Hamilton's tenure at the university was not without scandal. His decision to start his son, a sophomore, as a quarterback raised some eyebrows. But he did have a quarterback throw more than 1,000 yards per season over two consecutive years – something that had not been accomplished since the early 1990s.

At the time, Elon University Athletic Director Alan White said they wanted a new head coach named by Christmas.

GAMES

How to Play: Guess the missing word in the five clues then find them in the word search below. Words can be found backwards, diagonal, etc.

- _____ is a condition in which the spinal cord fails to develop properly after birth, affecting 1,645 babies each year according to the CDC. *See page 4 for answer*
- _____ Phones stand in various spots on Elon University's campus. Students who feel unsafe on campus can use one to call Campus Police. *See page 5 for answer*
- Elon Football fell to _____ College on Nov. 24 in a 7-19 game. *See page 10 for answer*
- Students' off-campus residences fell victim to _____ over Thanksgiving Break. *See page 1 for answer*
- NOAA released the National Climate Assessment, which supports claims of _____ change on our environment. *See page 6 for answer*

R O B B E R Y P F H F Z W S
W H L V N V G H B H U H T Y
C X A O F S K L J L R R D S
Y A K O P N U M L J X Q I E
D A K R T E D V Q P T R Q T
D F V D L T Y W Q B L H T A
B A W I B H D Y O M W J H M
I P G A H N O Q R F R F N I
T H Q Q G A M O U Q F X P L
T D Q Z M N R O F W L O Q C
U L C N O I I S L A U Y R R
D D E J C Z R R D U B I B D
E G Z A D I F I B A N I P S
G D E A H N O X E K D P E V
C C I X Q V R B K W O D M F

CALENDAR: NOV. 28 – DEC. 4

SHAREPOINT, ONE DRIVE, & FILE SHARING 12 P.M. Belk Library 205 28	INTERACTIVE MEDIA VIRTUAL INFO SESSION 6 P.M. Via WebEx 28	NUMEN LUMEN: THURSDAY INSPIRATION 9:50 A.M. Sacred Space 29	“A CELEBRATION OF LIGHT” HOLIDAY CONCERT 7:30 P.M. Whitley Auditorium 29	PING PONG WITH PRESIDENT BOOK 1:30 P.M. Moseley Center 30
SPEAKER VINNIE CIESIELSKI 4 P.M. McCrary Theatre 30	LA MANO INVISBLE FILM SCREENING 5:30 P.M. LaRose Digital Theatre 30	JAZZ ENSEMBLE FALL CONCERT 7:30 P.M. McCrary Theatre 1	ELON MUSIC AMBASSADORS FALL CONCERT 7:30 P.M. Yeager Recital Hall 2	FESTIVAL OF HOLIDAY LIGHTS 6:30 P.M. Scott Plaza 4



LIAM O'CONNOR | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

As the leaves gradually fall more and more, the maintenance staff is hard at work coming back from Thanksgiving Break on Nov. 27.



LIAM O'CONNOR | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sophomore Rachel Fultonberg and freshman Josie Malone use College Coffee to interview seniors Ana Taveira and Aurelia Hamm and junior Shariq Ali for a project on perceived privilege on Tuesday, Nov. 27.



ERIK WEBB | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sophomore quarter-back Jalen Greene passes the ball during his warmup routine before facing Wofford College on Saturday, Nov. 24.

SEE MORE
FOOTBALL
| PG. 10-11



ERIK WEBB | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Freshman kicker Skyler Davis and senior running back Copeland Spell shake hands before the playoff game against Wofford College on Saturday, Nov. 24.

SEE MORE FOOTBALL | PAGE 10-11



CORY WELLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior guard Sheldon Eberhardt goes for three points as the Phoenix take on the Milligan College Buffaloes on Thursday, Nov. 15.

NAVIGATING DISABILITY

Sophomore shares her unique experience of living on campus with a physical disability

Hannah Massen
Elon News Network | @massenhannah

Misbah Chhotani, a sophomore psychology major, has found a strong community at Elon University. She chose to attend the university because of her connections with Elon students during her high school years in Burlington, and continues to stay involved through Young Life, InterVarsity and Elon-Thon. Despite her clear sense of inclusion, one factor sets her apart from other Elon students.

Chhotani says that she is one of few Elon students with a physical disability.

In a written statement, Susan Wise, director of Disabilities Resources and an assistant professor, said there is one documented wheelchair user, one documented electric scooter user and approximately 25 other students with mobility impairments on campus. But Wise noted that not all of these impairments are “visible.”

Chhotani has spina bifida, a condition in which the spinal cord fails to develop properly after birth. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that the condition affects 1,645 babies each year, making the condition as rare as it is individualized.

Although some who struggle with spina bifida aren’t able to walk at all, Chhotani is able to walk with crutches and uses a motorized wheelchair the rest of the time. But even with her fortunate mobility, some campus facilities are harder to access than others.

Some doors prove challenging for Chhotani to open, such as the pull doors in the back of Moseley and El Centro or those without functional automatic-open buttons. Bathroom doors are no exception.

“So, going in[to the bathroom] is not a problem because I’m in a motorized wheelchair, so I don’t have to use my hands to control the wheelchair so I can just push with my hands basically, but if I was in a manual wheelchair, it would be definitely harder because I’d be trying to use my hands for the chair but also try to push the door, and I don’t have enough hands for that,” Chhotani said. “But also, once you’re in the bathroom, trying to go through the door with my chair is just as difficult a task.”

Buildings without access ramps or elevators are a concern as well. Chhotani said that she may not be able to enter buildings like Powell, which have steps leading up to the front door. The layout of some residential buildings have also prevented her from seeing her friends.

“I feel like, especially as you get older, like junior and senior year, a lot of people move to apartments and off-campus housing like Mill Point and stuff. There are some Mill Point buildings that I can’t visit, or some of my friends live in Danieleley, and they live on higher levels of Danieleley, and I’m not able to

just go visit them and sit in their apartment at night,” Chhotani said. “So those kinds of things, those hangouts, we have to come up with a new way of a hangout, but it’s definitely a struggle trying to just relax on a campus or relax on a Friday or Saturday night with friends in their apartment building, because I just can’t get into their apartment building if it doesn’t have an elevator.”

Although Elon’s campus is far easier to navigate than others she looked at during her college search, Chhotani said the lack of accommodations on campus may be due to a lack of demand.

Wise said accommodations are considered as-needed.

“Accommodations provided to students with physical disabilities are determined on a case-by-case basis and are based on the needs of the student,” Wise said. “This includes physical access to classroom build-

ings, residence halls and other university buildings. Keep in mind that students with physical issues may also need other types of accommodations. Again, it depends on the needs of the student. This might include things like the provision of texts in alternative formats, extended time on exams, technology/software use for exams. ... We might also move the location of classes if needed.”

Wise also said that Disabilities Resources is “very responsive to student concerns.”

But Chhotani has reached out to Disabilities Resources several times in hopes of making some changes. She said that the staff are “definitely not as

accessible and definitely not as responsive” as she expected.

“I think it’s more of a conversation, like a communication type thing. I feel like when I do express concerns of needing accommodations that they don’t have the



ZACHARY OHMANN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Elon University sophomore Misbah Chhotani rolls down the ramp of the McEwen building, home to the School of Communications, in her motorized wheelchair.

SPINA BIFIDA

1,645

babies each year are affected by spina bifida, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

resources for or they can’t because of liability issues, I feel like there’s not much of a conversation going on,” Chhotani said. “I would like more resources if they can’t help me because of liability issues, like giving me resources that I can reach out to for people who can help me instead of just saying a flat out no.”

Those resources may include a safer way for Chhotani to navigate campus in bad weather, or more inclusive campus activities which don’t include a physical component.

ELON MOBILITY IMPAIRMENTS

25

other students on campus have mobility impairments although not all of these impairments are “visible.”

Chhotani also hopes to be able to live on campus at some point.

“Because I knew that I was coming to Elon with financial issues and everything, I knew that I wanted to stay at home, but I definitely did want to do — I’ve had conversations with my parents that I definitely do want to do at least one year [living] on campus just to have that full college experience, so we’ll see if that is able to work with accommodations and everything and housing,” she said.

Wise said Disabilities Resources is working to keep campus facilities accessible to everyone, regardless of disability.

“Generally speaking, this campus is fairly accessible. When we are made aware of physical accessibility issues with a space, we do our best to remove the barriers to access the space. It is important to understand that no campus is ever fully accessible; this is an ongoing process that we are continually working to improve,” Wise said.

Chhotani and some of her friends, who are equally passionate about physical disability advocacy, signed up to be a part of implementing the university’s new Strategic Plan, with the goal of starting a conversation. Although she appreciates efforts to raise awareness about mental disabilities on campus, she believes there’s more work to be done with the physical disabilities aspect.

She believes the university “could do more to bring in more of a disability population.”

“We definitely do have new movements for mental disabilities, which I love, because I’ve met people and I’ve been affected by people with mental disabilities, so like, I’m all for mental disabilities and the mental health movement,” Chhotani said. “I think that’s great, but I just haven’t seen a physical disability kind of movement [like] a mental health one.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF MISBAH CHHOTANI

During the reception after Connie Book’s presidential inauguration on Oct. 18, Misbah Chhotani poses with Book.

Burglaries over Thanksgiving Break leave students shaken up

ROBBERY | from cover

Jim Giannotti, a patrol lieutenant with the Town of Elon Police Department, said he'd "like to think" there was more than one person involved in the thefts but doesn't know for certain.

Even with the high cost of the stolen goods, some victims

BURGLAR IN BURLINGTON

According to patrol lieutenant Jim Giannotti, the burglar, or burglars have not been found.

said it wasn't the price of the loss that stuck with them the most. Junior Janak Advani, Chance's housemate, said the break-in left

him feeling unsettled.

"It was really a question not of what we lost monetarily or financially," Advani said. "I think it was the peace of mind. I was hanging out in my room last night at 3 a.m., and I heard this shuffling, and my heart just leapt out on my chest like, 'Oh god, are they back?'"

The crimes looked like fairly standard smash-and-grab jobs. In the case of Chance and Advani's house, the door was bashed open with brute force, popping the door chain off its screws and letting the burglar walk straight into the living room. Inside, there were signs that someone had rummaged through belongings in a hurry.



JACK NORCROSS | BREAKING NEWS MANAGER

Just a few doors down on Woodale Drive, junior Maxx Tannenbaum said he returned to a similar scene.

In his case, the thief crawled in through an unlocked window in the backyard. The aftermath painted a picture of a rushed search for valuables. A burglar smashed a shelf off the wall in the bathroom, dismantled a large air filter in the

living room and left items tossed around the bedroom. The losses included a TV and some prescription med-

ication. Tannenbaum also said it looked like someone had rooted through his sock

drawer and had nabbed a bottle of whiskey he left on the kitchen counter.

Tannenbaum said he was left thinking, "Why me?" in the days after the break-in. Chance echoed the sentiment.

"It's just something you never think is going to happen to you," Chance said.

Both victims added that they would take some extra precautions next time they go home for break — things like leaving a light on and double-checking the locks on doors and

Junior Janak Advani and senior Kent Chance stand in the doorway of their living room, where several of their belongings were stolen over Thanksgiving Break.

LOCAL ROBBERIES

5

off-campus student houses were burglarized over Thanksgiving Break.

windows.

"What it boils down to is making sure everything is locked and covered," Giannotti said.

He acknowledged that some students have a habit of leaving their doors unlocked so they don't have to carry their keys and highlighted locking doors and windows as one of the best ways to keep intruders out. He also suggested that security-minded students should use blinds to keep their windows covered, use lights on electronic timers to give the illusion that someone is home and buy cheap security cameras to stand sentry at the door.

"You're safe up until the point where it's out of your control," Chance said. "That's the biggest takeaway behind right now. I just hope they get the guy."

Even in the face of their losses, Chance and Advani said the timing of the crime made for a bit of a silver lining. With Black Friday sales keeping TV prices low, they were able to replace their purloined flat screen for a reasonable price.

'Blue Light' system brings campus safety into question

Freshman starts petition to get more Blue Light Phones on campus for increased safety

Brian Rea
Event Coverage Coordinator | @brianmrea

When the sun goes down, the Blue Lights come on.

Blue Light Phones stand in various spots on Elon University's campus. Students who feel unsafe on campus can use one to call Campus Police.

But for some Elon students, there's something missing when walking on campus in the dark.

Freshman Johanna Bogue Marlowe said other schools she toured felt safer than Elon.

"Blue Lights were very prominent across campus," Bogue Marlowe said. "A lot of them, they would talk about how you could see one no matter where you're standing on campus, and then being at Elon, I noticed that wasn't really the case."

Bogue Marlowe recalls her mom feeling good about sending her daughter to a school with Blue Lights. But once she got here, Bogue Marlowe had a hard time locating them.

"They're just not where I need them to be or a lot of other people need them to be," Bogue Marlowe said. "Especially as a freshman, if you don't have a lot of friends I guess and you're coming home late from things, it's hard, and you don't really know what to do in those circumstances."

Bogue Marlowe has started a petition on Change.org to get more



ABBY GIBBS | PHOTO EDITOR

One of 33 Blue Light Phones shines on Elon University's campus on Tuesday, Nov. 27.

Blue Lights on campus. She said she was inspired to start the petition after a night out with a friend.

"My phone didn't have any service, and hers was very close to dying, so it kind of creeped us out," Bogue Marlowe said. "We also saw a creepy van drive by. So we looked around for a Blue Light, and it took us 10 minutes to find one, and I was like, 'That's not OK.' We're on campus — we should be able to feel safe if we don't have access to the phone."

Scott Jean, technical services coordinator for Campus Police,

“

WE'RE ON CAMPUS — WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO FEEL SAFE IF WE DON'T HAVE ACCESS TO THE PHONE.”

JOHANNA BOGUE MARLOWE
FRESHMAN

said he recalls two emergency calls from a Blue Light in his eight years at Elon.

With the LiveSafe app, students can call the police with a Blue Light-type function on their phones. With this, Jean said he believes there's not a need for Blue Lights.

"People with smartphones, if they're way on one side of the parking lot and the Blue Light is on the other, they're not going to run over to a Blue Light," Jean said.

Jean recommends that students download the LiveSafe app and utilize Campus Security escorts if they

CAMPUS PRESENCE

33

Blue Light Phones are currently on campus, primarily located in parking lots.

feel unsafe.

Bogue Marlowe conducted a survey of 140 students on Facebook. One hundred claim they would feel safer if there were more Blue Lights around campus.

Jean said Blue Lights are installed based on construction projects: what the budget is, how big the project is and what the plan looks like.

Elon currently has 33 Blue Lights, which are primarily located in parking lots.

Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem sits on 340 acres and has over 50 Blue Lights.

But Elon sits on 656 acres of land — almost double the size of Wake Forest.

As of now, Jean said he doesn't know of any plans to install more. He says Blue Lights are more of an admissions selling point.

"They're a good thing to have, and obviously students, prospective students and parents like them," Jean said. "It's just they don't really get used a whole lot."

Bogue Marlowe has 81 out of 100 signatures on her petition so far. Once she reaches 100, she plans to send a letter to Campus Police and Jon Dooley, vice president of Student Life, advocating to install more Blue Lights.

Climate Assessment affirms concerns regarding global warming

NOAA released the report last Friday

Victoria Traxler and Alexandra Schonfield

Elon News Network and Managing Editor | @elonnewsnetork

Last Friday, the U.S. government published the National Climate Assessment supporting the claim that global warming may cost the U.S. economy hundreds of billions of dollars per year, kill thousands of U.S. citizens and potentially lead to the extinction of some species of animals and plants.



Janet MacFall

President Donald Trump continues to deny rising temperatures and claims that fighting the threat will only harm the economy. Janet MacFall, professor and chair of the department of Environmental Studies, explains the report's implications.

Q: Can you explain what the environmental report that was released last Friday is and what some of the main points of the report were?

A: It's a report by NOAA, which is a federal agency under the Department of Commerce, describing the scientific background for understanding global climate change and particularly



CALCOURTESY OF TRIBUNE OF NEWS SERVICE.

focused on the United States. Greenhouse gases from human activities are extremely likely to be causing changes in climate. The amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere today is higher than it has been for the last 2.5 million years. We're seeing climate today that is being recorded as being different from climate on earth for the last 2,400 years. And the scientific community is very much in consensus that it is very, very likely caused by human activity.

Q: Why was this report released, and how does it compare to the one in 2014?

A: It's very consistent with the results that were reported four

years ago in 2014. The main difference is that the certainty of the conclusions from the scientists is much higher than it was four years ago. So that there's very, very little uncertainty about the effects of climate change and that it is caused by human activities putting greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. The conclusions are pretty sobering that our average temperature has increased about 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit over the past 15 years and they're predicting as much as an 8-degree Fahrenheit rise by the end of the century if there is no change in the way we do greenhouse gases.

Q: What steps can be taken by the government,

corporations and individuals to reduce their environmental footprint?

A: Many corporations actually have taken pretty significant steps in reducing greenhouse gases. This is going to sound really unbelievable but Walmart has actually been a leader in trying to reduce environmental footprints with greenhouse gases. Most of the greenhouse gases are coming from energy generation, from cars, and generating electricity through coal plants and burning natural gas. ... We need to move towards renewables that are not greenhouse gas producing, and how we do that will be influenced a great deal by government incentives and by

California wildfires burnt down homes throughout the state for over two weeks. California's weather patterns are consistent with climate change models.

government regulations. ... I'm trying to find ways to generate electricity, and moving towards an electric-based energy economy is really, really important. There may need to be more incentives for moving us in that direction rather than incentivizing oil production and incentivizing coal production.

Q: Are the current wildfires in California a result of climate change?

A: The scientists can't say definitively that the fires in California are a result of climate change, but what they can say is the pattern of drought and the pattern of increased temperatures that California has experienced is consistent with climate change models. ... As we hear our federal government talking about we can't afford to move to renewable sources and to reduce greenhouse gas production, it's a false economic argument because we've already lost over a trillion dollars in economic costs and that's just in the last 15 years. And these costs will only continue to escalate.

Q: Is the United States capable of making these drastic changes?

A: Our nation is completely capable of making these changes and being a global leader, but it takes the will of the people and the will of our governments at every level, local, state and federal, to make the changes that are needed and to incentivize companies to make the changes that are needed.

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GRACE MORRIS
JUNIOR

“JOINING ENN WAS THE GREATEST DECISION I HAVE MADE AT ELON. NOT ONLY DID I MAKE AMAZING FRIENDS, BUT I LEARNED ABOUT MYSELF AND MY FUTURE IN JOURNALISM.”

ALEX ROAT
JUNIOR

COME TO ASSIGNMENT MEETINGS:
TUESDAYS AT 5:00 P.M. MCEWEN 108

OPINIONS



GRACE TERRY | ASSISTANT DESIGN CHIEF

CAMPUS VOICES



Shereen Elgamal
Lecturer in Department of
World Languages and Cultures

Every semester I start my classes by asking students, most of whom are freshmen, about their goals while attending the course. Students typically talk about learning course content, and I reciprocate by sharing all four of my goals. I deliver the curriculum while learning how to become a better teacher. Then we talk about mentorship and the value of the one-on-one interactions that it allows. Finally, I share my passion for the Arabic Language Organization as one of many campus groups that aim to build a community through fun activities and events. Then the semester flies by. I get to teach, learn, mentor and have lots of fun. I also get to watch students excel, achieve, grow and mature. Learning experiences, exciting moments and missed opportunities all come and go, leaving their marks on each

of us.

Throughout the semester, we use the same physical space and similar lesson plans, but students occasionally seem different. Wide attentive eyes seem tired and get teary sometimes. Excited voices that contribute generously to class discussions may sound shaky or even become totally silent. Lively emails seeking recommendations or enclosing invitations to engaging events turn into anxious messages requesting an extended deadline or a postponed exam. Discussions in my office are more about pushing through than savoring the moment. While most students continue to make it to class, some seem to lose focus, and others begin to have attendance issues. As an instructor, I should be able to do something, but I can't. My heart goes out, but my hands are tied, and my reach is limited.

It is all up to you, my dear student. All up to you.

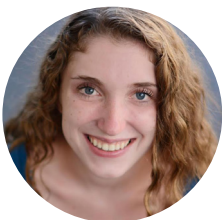
College life celebrates the individuality and independence of each student, which shifts the role of parents and teachers from supervision to support and highlights the importance of healthy partnerships with caring adults. So, let me tell you that, along with many others on campus, I am here for you.

Ready to discuss your change of major or adding a minor? We can assist you in planning your summer involvements and searching for jobs. We can talk about campus involvements that are most relevant to your interests and goals. We are always glad to support your pursuits, advocate for you and point out campus resources that best suit your needs. But it is all in your hands, my dear student. All in your hands.

You're an adult now, and we respect your privacy, so feel empowered to take the first step by raising issues, asking questions or sharing concerns. When something is on your mind, it is up to you to speak up. When feeling overwhelmed or stressed, we expect you to reach out. Communication is key, so make sure you start the conversation, and keep in mind that we are all on the same side. The side where you're healthy, happy and thriving. Let's work together so that your college experience is marked with balance — work and fun, academics and activities, individuality and community, independence and support, privilege and responsibility.

Having spent more than 10 years at this great institution, I can assure you that this call is not only from me. This is me, this is us, this is Elon!

CAMPUS VOICES



Melissa Beck
Columnist

The daily grind will eventually pay off

Two hours, 26 minutes, 53 seconds. That is the official time for 2017 New York City Marathon women's champion Shalane Flanagan. She is the first American woman to win this marathon since 1977, finishing about a minute ahead of Kenyan runner Mary Keitany. In that moment, you could see the look of utter joy as Flanagan burst into tears, accomplishing a goal she had been aiming to achieve, a goal she had claimed earlier may be the peak of her career. Now a year later, when everyone is overwhelmed with schoolwork, stressed following registration and overall tired of school, Flanagan is a perfect rep-

resentation of how all hard work pays off. As much as we all want to sleep instead of finish our English essay, we have to persevere. Those two hours, 26 minutes and 53 seconds don't come in a day. They come over years. It's so hard for us as humans to continuously work and wait for results to come because they may take weeks, months or even years, but something we seem to forget is those are the things that are the most rewarding. Flanagan didn't achieve this in a day. She didn't put in an hour of effort and suddenly be able to run a whole marathon. She had to work tirelessly for years to work up to this accomplishment. Whether it's relationships,

jobs or schoolwork, everything you want to achieve requires work. We all know work isn't fun, hence the name, but it's what comes out of all that work that makes people work harder. Many have big dreams, big ambitions and desires in our life. But all the big names who've accomplished great things, like Steve Jobs creating Apple, took lots of time and lots of failure. They were let down or didn't make their goal and had to make a course correction to fix it. They never gave up though, and that's the key. They believed in themselves and knew they couldn't achieve greatness without conquering all the steps that

led up to that. When really thinking about it, most people give up before they've even begun because of how much work it is. However, that then begs the problem of missing out on all the amazing things that come from our potential. I am currently training for a half marathon, and I have been on the verge of quitting one too many times. The stitches I get in my diaphragm every time I run another mile are enough to make me want to say, "I've done the best I could," and stop altogether. Thankfully, I have my family and friends encouraging me and reassuring me that the aches and pains will be worth it once I've crossed

the finish line. This holds true for anything. Finals season is right around the corner, and everyone will be hiding out in the library to work toward that A. The hard work will definitely pay off. Don't be discouraged if one day in the library doesn't make you an expert on statistics. Like anything, the A comes with time and effort. It's not worth beating yourself up; you will succeed it may just take a little more time. Remember, it's the failures that lead us to the ultimate goal. We must learn to struggle and fall and then get back up and try again. Eventually, we'll all win our own New York City Marathon.

CAMPUS VOICES

Uniting for the best interests of students and community



Organizing
Committee of
Elon Faculty
Forward

Elon University has achieved excellence throughout its history: a world-class study abroad program, commitment to environmental sustainability, focus on inclusivity and pioneering experiential learning programs. As non-tenure track professors, ranging from adjunct instructors to lecturers and continuing track faculty, we are proud to be part of Elon — teaching bright, inquisitive minds who attend this forward-thinking institution.

Despite successes, Elon faces similar challenges as our peer institutions regarding employment of non-tenure track faculty. In the past, non-tenure track positions were the minority among college instructors.

Today, we, the non-tenure track, are almost half of Elon's faculty. Though we have different relationships and responsibilities to Elon, we are highly qualified and dedicated and bring unique skill sets to this university.

Yet some of us do not know whether we will be teaching here from one semester to the next. Some of us struggle to see any long-term career pathway at Elon, despite our commitment to our students and the university. Many of us do not know how our performance is evaluated or what policies

determine whether or not we will be promoted. A few must make hard choices between paying rent and paying medical bills because we don't earn enough to make ends meet.

The discrepancy between what non-tenure track faculty contribute to this campus versus the tangible and intangible inequalities experienced by the same group indicates there are still places where Elon can improve as a community. In order to make these needed changes, non-tenure track faculty at Elon have decided to come together to form a union. We can do better together as a union to negotiate as equals with the university administration for improvements that benefit our students. After all, our working conditions are also student learning conditions.

We want to fully belong as Elon faculty, be valued for what we contribute and have equal access to resources so that we can be the teachers, mentors and scholars that our students deserve. We strongly believe that by supporting the well-qualified, committed, non-tenure track faculty on this campus, Elon will be a better place for all the members of this community.

1) Elon's students deserve faculty fully engaged in teaching without

entering the job market each year or worrying about making ends meet. We are committed to this institution and seek a commensurate commitment from the university.

2) Elon's tenured and tenure-track faculty want to work with the administration to ensure that their programs' undergraduate instruction have continuity and effectiveness. The welfare of their non-tenure track colleagues contributes to that goal.

3) Elon's administration benefits when non-tenure track faculty are treated fairly, consistently and with respect as engaged and productive professionals fully invested in and accountable for their work.

As non-tenure track faculty, we come together with colleagues across the country in Service Employees International Union's Faculty Forward, the fastest growing higher education union in the country. More than 54,000 of our colleagues at more than 60 campuses — including Duke University, Tufts University, Boston University and Georgetown University — formed unions and have made improvements through collective bargaining for themselves and their students.

We all want what is best for Elon. The non-tenure track faculty believe

that we are the most qualified to voice our own concerns and needs. By forming a union, every non-tenure track faculty member at Elon will be represented in a forum dedicated to our own unique roles.

We ask the university administration to remain neutral and comply with federal labor laws as we come together to democratically organize our union. All Elon faculty deserve to be respected in words and actions. We contribute immensely to this university in spite of the low pay, demanding workload, inconsistent benefits and poor job security. We come to this university daily and make it a better place because we are professionals who love our fields and are committed to our students.

Our efforts align with the commitments in Elon's mission statement: to "nurture a rich intellectual community characterized by active student engagement with a faculty dedicated to excellent teaching and scholarly accomplishment" and to "foster respect for human differences, passion for a life of learning, personal integrity, and an ethic of work and service."

Elon has a great opportunity now to embody these commitments. We look forward to making that progress together.

CAMPUS VOICES

Stay motivated in the year of women



Hannah Benson
Columnist

The holiday season brings lots of joy into our lives — twinkly lights, decadent food, and a valid excuse to wear fuzzy socks to class — but a handful of pitfalls too. Crowded Target parking lots and an obligation to buy someone a \$10 gift for a Secret Santa you didn't volunteer for come to mind, but there's nothing I detest more about the holidays than run-ins with relatives that leave your skin crawling with irritation.

Allow me to paint you a picture. It's Thanksgiving Day in snowy New Hampshire, and my grandfather taps me on the shoulder to ask if I've found myself a boyfriend. Mind you, we hadn't even exchanged pleasantries yet — I'd only just greeted him with a side hug, gone to hang up his coat and then intersected with him on my way back to the kitchen.

"So, Miss Hannah, what's on the docket for you after graduation? Have you finally found yourself a boyfriend and will you be settling down?" he said.

Let me be clear that I'm not the first girl to have been asked this. Let me be clear that it will happen again in a million other ways by a million other people.

"Here we go again," you think. And it's not necessarily the question that bothers you, but the answer you get, regardless of what you tell him. Let's say in this instance you decide to tell the truth: that you're single and happy, perhaps you've been really busy with school and a job, or that — and here's something crazy — you aren't looking for a boyfriend. The reply is what gets me.

"Aw, that's OK!" he said. "Hell yeah, it's OK," you think, but finish the conversation anyway, discussing the weather before you make an escape for the bathroom

to get the solitude you deserve. And you think about how very OK it is for you to not have a boyfriend, and how the words of consolation after you told him this pissed you off. Because yes, it's OK, but it's also awesome, liberating, freeing, and fun to not have a boyfriend. Because yes, you don't need one to be complete.

Having a boyfriend doesn't make you better, more complete, or more successful than someone who doesn't.

It's 2018: Ben and Jerry's released their "Resist" flavor that rallies for feminism and equality across identities, Amy Schumer is performing to sold-out theaters across the United States while pregnant and Kansas just elected its first Native American, lesbian congresswoman. It's about time America realizes that women can strive to be more than just someone's wife, mother, or girlfriend. It's about time we stop valuing the worth of our women by the presence of a man's approval.

We women have brains, talents, and opinions worth sharing with the world that don't require the support of a big, strong man. And, in this day and age, we know we can be the big, strong ones too.

So, try not to get bogged down by the micro-invalidations of the people you find yourself with at a holiday party. Try to tell yourself that maybe they grew up in a different time where female independence wasn't celebrated, or if it was, that they didn't have the courage to grab it by the horns. Hold your head high and make your presence known as a badass woman who can find happiness on her own. And know that the rest of us are cheering for you, rallying for you and being inspired by you. Because inspiring those around you? That's what strong women do.

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MACKENZIE WILKES
COLUMNIST

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LIFESTYLE

People with felony convictions support each other in finding a job and a brighter future

Lucia Jervis
Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

New beginnings

Rodney Williams, 49, Everly Evans, 39, and Kristen Brown, 27, grew up surrounded by violence, crime and drugs, but all three of them are trying to turn over a new leaf at Sustainable Alamance — a nonprofit Christian rehabilitation program founded 10 years ago whose goal is “To build a stronger and more sustainable community, not only by promoting wise use of local natural and economic resources, but by identifying, developing and including underutilized human resources that are effectively prevented from participating in the local economy.”

Those who go there are looking for jobs and education, want to get closer to God and want to be as far away as possible from crime. Sustainable Alamance offers participants a second chance. Sustainable Alamance has meetings every Monday and Wednesday that are run by Robert Rossi and Phil Bowers, the CEO and program director.

For Williams, Sustainable Alamance has had a significant impact on his life. “The more positive things I do, the more positive things I can get into,” Williams said. “I’m ecstatic I’m out. I can breathe the fresh air and look at the sun. I’m also working



Rodney Williams

on my relationships with my sons. I’ve been gone for 20 years, so I have to get to know them.” Phil Bowers, the founder of the rehabilitation program, said the positivity affects the workers, too. “The willingness to trust us is a big deal,” Bowers said. “We’ve had relationships now where they open, where they feel safe. We trust each other, and they are willing to share. Rodney was probably the most quiet that we’ve had in quite a while, he was referred to us by one of our older guys. I think he came here and didn’t know what to expect, but I love this guy. He’s got this smile and he’s extremely bright. So I think we’re on the verge for something really big for [Williams].” Williams grew up in what he called “the hood” of New York and

said he has always been surrounded by drugs, robberies, pistols and violence.

At age 12, Williams was going to school and then directly to a drug pack house where he got paid to cut crack cocaine. Eventually, Williams started taking some of the crack he cut and selling it in the streets — and he realized he was good at selling drugs.

“Selling drugs was all I knew,” Williams said. “I had never done anything else. I could buy the drugs cheap and sell it for high — I was getting free money. Money is free, but time is not.”

Williams said he has never done drugs, and at the time, he didn’t know what he was selling. He only knew it was worth a great deal of money.

He was caught selling cocaine for the first time when he was 16, and he was sent to prison for two years in upstate New York. Since then, he has been in and out of jail: he has done time in Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, Washington, D.C. and Virginia.

Most recently, Williams was sentenced to 300 months in prison for drug dealing and arms possession. Williams got out of jail in Petersburg, Virginia, on June 14, 2018. When he was released, he said he decided it was time for a change.

“I was going all over to get the money. So it’s what I did, it’s who I was, you feel me? One more conviction, I’m dead, I’m going to die in prison. I got 20 this time. If they give me the same time they gave me last time, they’ll give me the same 20 years, and I’ll never make it out,” Williams said. “If I do, I’d be old and decrepit. You never want that. So that’s what I’m trying to change — my narrative, like who I am.”

Williams was able to find a job in Graham, though he requested the location not be disclosed. He said he’s intensely proud of himself for finding a job. As of now, Williams is living with his sister, but he’s saving up to buy a house for his family.

“Finding a job was hard,” Williams said. “Not many people wanted to hire me because of my record. I was honest with all of them: I haven’t had a job — all I’ve done is drug dealing. I didn’t have no resume to give. I didn’t even get the job as a janitor — I wasn’t good enough to clean toilets? I don’t get mad at them though. I get it, I got dreads and a

criminal record.”

Evans is no stranger to the justice system either.

“I am a four-time felon with 49 misdemeanors,” Evans said. She also grew up surrounded by drugs.

She attends Sustainable Alamance now alongside her husband. He sought rehabilitation to save their relationship.

Evans is the proud owner of her own successful business, Everly’s Catering, but it was a long journey that brought her to the life she lives now.

“My childhood wasn’t awful. My mom raised me, her and my stepdad,” Evans said. “My mom and step-



I WASN’T GOOD ENOUGH TO CLEAN TOILETS? I DON’T GET MAD AT THEM THOUGH. I GET IT, I GOT DREADS AND A CRIMINAL RECORD.

RODNEY WILLIAMS
SUSTAINABLE ALAMANCE
PARTICIPANT

dad were on drugs really bad, so I had to take responsibility and make sure everyone was OK.”

Evans turned to drugs at a young age. She said drugs helped her deal with emotional pain from her childhood she wasn’t ready to face.

Evans’ father died of cirrhosis before one of her biggest relapses, and her mother died of drug overdose while she was in prison. To pay for her drugs, Evans would pretend she had money left from the inheritance her dad had left for her even though she had already used it all. She wrote worthless checks that led to her getting arrested one to two times a week.

Evans’ incarceration program consisted of doing half the time in prison and half the time focusing on drug rehabilitation. She was in jail for 11 months before returning to her

old ways.

“It wasn’t long when I relapsed again and I just went back to the same life,” Evans said. “Using drugs and just coning people — lying to get what I needed.”

Bowers said Evans is now a completely different person than she was when she first arrived.

“Everly has made more progress because she has been around here longer,” Bowers said. “Everly has a remarkable story and especially when it’s shared with other people.”

After Evans and her husband got back together, they began caring for a little girl named Jordan whose mother was suffering from drug addiction. Eventually, Evans adopted her. Today, Jordan is 7 years old, and Evans said that she is her own angel.

But Brown’s story is still in progress and far from a happy ending.

When Brown was a child, there were always drugs in her house. Her mother and stepfather used and sold drugs. Brown’s mother introduced her to marijuana when she was 8 so she would sit still in class and had her try cocaine when she was 11.

Brown is currently facing up to three years in prison starting Dec. 17. She plead guilty to drug trafficking charges after being caught in her home with cocaine, methamphetamines, marijuana and a gun last year.

According to Brown, she was dealing drugs to buy her three young daughters everything they want and need — so that they could be happy. Brown’s husband was verbally, physically and sexually abusive, and it hurts her to know her daughters have had to watch their father abuse their mother.

Social Services came and took their daughters away. Brown said she thinks they were called by their neighbors, who overheard her and her husband fighting. When Brown’s daughters were drug tested, her youngest daughter, 5, who was staying with her father, tested positive for cocaine. The father is no longer allowed near them because he is considered to be a danger to their safety.

Brown said she is fighting and will keep fighting to get her children back. She has accepted her charges

BY THE NUMBERS

10

years since the program began.

MORE ONLINE

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and hopes being in prison will make her more responsible. Social Services required her to take educational domestic abuse classes and to learn how to have healthy relationships.

Brown is also determined to stop selling drugs and hopes Sustainable Alamance will help her overcome her past, plan for her future, find a job and share her story.

“I had a little heart-to-heart with Phil, and I was complaining about how it was hard to do all this stuff, and he was like, ‘But you know, you’re still selling, so what happens next time you get popped? If you get arrested again before you go to the court for your current charges, they’re definitely going to give you max because they’re going to feel like you’re not even trying to do better,’” Brown said.

“Nobody knows what to think of this one,” Bowers said of Brown. “I think that at first, she didn’t know if she could trust us or not, but she came to figure it out. I hope that we’ve made that clear: that we’re for real and that we’ll offer whatever we can. I think she’s worked through some stuff, maybe by having a place to talk freely — about her and her kids, who she stays with, what are some of the struggles she’s facing — but I think that is all part of the journey. She’s easy to work with because what you see is what you get. There’s no mask in that one. I think there’s so much potential, we just maybe in a little bit of a hold for a while.”

Brown said she is sure she will continue to come to Sustainable Alamance when she’s released.

PHOTO COURTESY OF EVERLY EVANS

MORE ONLINE:
Full season coverage
can be found at
elonnewsnetwork.com

SPORTS



ERIK WEBB | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

FOOTBALL | from cover

A game short

Elon was just two games into the season when Hurricane Florence came bearing down on the Carolinas. Since getting home from Florida, Elon had gotten into the win column with a victory over Furman University during its home opener under the lights at Rhodes Stadium in impressive fashion. No. 15 Elon throttled their No. 21-ranked opponent 45-7 on the backs of a staunch defense and a split attack at running back.

After the Paladins visited, Elon began to turn its attention to the Tribe of the College of William and Mary. This was to be Elon's first Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) opponent of the year. Head coach Curt Cignetti had the team preparing all week as they should have. But with dangerous weather and poor traveling conditions predicted, all parties involved decided the game could not be played and they would attempt to reschedule the game. But no make-up game was ever established, and William and Mary and Elon were left with one less game played than the rest of the schools in the CAA. This was a blessing of some sorts for Elon, but it also added some anxiety down the road.

The weekend off acted as a second bye-week for the Phoenix as they began to prepare for their game against Charleston Southern University. The game being played would have meant Elon having four games in a five-week stretch on the road, which can physically wear a team down. The only downside to this was

Elon being at the disadvantage of playing one less game in their conference. It certainly made Selection Sunday heading into the playoffs even more tense because Elon lost the ability to get one more conference win with the cancellation.

Downing the Dukes

The defining moment of the year for Elon came on Oct. 6 when the team traveled up to Harrisonburg, Virginia, to play the James Madison University Dukes. JMU came into the contest ranked No. 2 in the country and nearly untouchable at home and against CAA opponents. Elon came in No. 9 nationally and feeling good about the performance they had put on so far in the season, but this was the first true test. Elon was able to hang tight with JMU,

trading blows and keeping it close at halftime, down only 9-7.

Elon was able to gain the lead on a career-long 59-yard rush by the senior running back Malcolm Summers to give Elon a 20-12 lead. It would come out later that this run, as important as it was to the team, would end up costing Summers the rest of his Elon career as he re-injured his hamstring that sidelined him last year. The handoff Summers took from sophomore quarterback Davis Cheek to turn heads and help put Elon into the national spotlight was the last handoff Summers would ever take in the Maroon and Gold.

The Dukes responded quickly with two touchdowns of their own to take a 24-20 lead with seven and a half minutes to play. After Elon was unable to do anything with its possession, JMU

looked as though it was going to clamp down and secure another win over the Phoenix. But with just over four minutes to play in the contest, a divine intervention arrived in the form of a JMU fumble. Scooping up the loose ball was defensive back Greg Liggs Jr. and suddenly the Phoenix had life.

Cheek then went on to engineer a 10-play, 74-yard, game-winning drive capped by freshman wide receiver Avery Jones coming down with the game winner in the end zone. The Phoenix finally topped the Dukes, and Elon moved to 4-1 on the season while looking unstoppable.

"I'm sure it shocked a lot of people, but it didn't shock us," said head coach Curt Cignetti of the "upset" win.

The injury bug bites

As quickly as the Elon success seemed to come to fruition, it seemed to crumble. Summers' aforementioned injury was unknown until the game the following weekend against the University of Delaware. Summers appeared on the sidelines dressed in his pads and seemed ready to go, but did not see the field in the first half at all. He would then return in the second half in street clothes, confirming that he was done for the game and eventually the rest of the season.

"The injury bug hit us. It's not an excuse; it's a fact," Cignetti said after the final game of the season.

Things went from bad, with Summers out, to worse for the Phoenix offense in the first half against Delaware. With seven minutes left on the clock in the



LIAM O'CONNOR | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Defensive coordinator Tony Trisciani talks strategy on the sidelines of the Homecoming game against the University of Rhode Island on Saturday, Nov. 3.

Captains senior line-backer Warren Messer, offensive lineman CJ Too-good, offensive lineman Oli Udoh and offensive lineman Alex Higgins make their way to midfield for the cointoss against Wofford College on Saturday, Nov. 24.

first quarter against the Blue Hens, Cheek was flushed out of the pocket with a heavy blitz. After attempting to cut back and avoid the rush, Cheek collapsed to the turf, holding his left knee. After being held out for the remainder of the game and medical inspection, the Phoenix signal-caller was ruled out for the rest of the year with a torn ACL. Without its starting quarterback or starting running back, Elon had to look for production elsewhere to get it done for them.

Award-winning work

With the injuries sustained by the Phoenix, it was up to young players to fill the hole left in the roster. Thomas filled in at running back for Summers, and sophomore quarterback Jalen Greene took over under center for the injured Cheek. Both players had seen the field prior to moving up to No. 1 on the depth chart, but neither of them had started a game.

That didn't stop them from producing. Despite the challenges the team had to overcome, nine players were recognized by the conference for their outstanding play.

Thomas quickly impressed as a starter, earning the CAA Offensive Rookie of the Year award for his effort. Thomas was able to accumulate 761 yards in 115 tries over the course of eight games played. Couple that with some receiving yards and five total touchdowns, and Thomas made his case for the best young offensive player in the conference.

Senior linebacker Warren Messer, senior offensive lineman CJ Toogood and senior offensive lineman Oli Udoh picked up All-CAA first team honors, while senior linebacker Matt Baker, senior defensive back Tyler Campbell,

junior defensive lineman Marcus Willoughby and running back Malcolm Summers all also came away with All-CAA third team recognition.

Woes against Wofford

Elon hit a rough patch at the end of the year, suffering some major injuries, which resulted in the team losing three of their last five games to end the year. Despite this, Elon found itself back in the FCS Playoffs for a second year in a row. They drew a match up with the Wofford College Terriers in Spartanburg, South Carolina. With Greene struggling passing and going up against a good run defense, Elon decided to go with senior Daniel Thompson under center, hoping to make it to the second round of the playoffs for the first time ever.

This was Thompson's first start since 2016. The senior lost his starting job last year to then-freshman Cheek and then was moved down to No. 3 on the depth chart when Jalen Greene took over the back-up role. But it was Thompson nonetheless whose shoulders the season rested upon in the playoffs.

Elon seemed as though they were going to keep the game competitive, even leading going into the break at halftime 7-6. But with the Terriers stepping up their defense and scoring 13 unanswered points in the second half, Elon was left once again disappointed after the first round.

Elon has a lot to be proud of this season. They showed early in the year that they were a force to be reckoned with, and without some critical injuries, they very well could have competed for

a CAA regular season title. But with the tough competition in the conference, as shown by six teams making it into the playoff bracket, the weaknesses created by their injuries were exposed, and Elon was left with a less-than-desirable result to finish the season.

But there is always more to look forward to. For freshman defensive back Cole Coleman, he knows just how far this program has come since this senior class stepped Under the Oaks.

"Hats off to our seniors. They've done a great job not only turning the program around but rebuilding it for the future," Coleman said. His head coach echoed that same sentiment. "I don't think you can minimize the accomplishments over the past two years in turning this program around," Cignetti said.

Although the loss of talent from players like Messer, Summers and many offensive linemen due to graduation, the young players for the Phoenix have proven that they will be the ones to carry the torch going forward.



ZACH OHMANN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Junior wide receiver Cole Taylor cuts up field against the University of New Hampshire on Sept. 29.



LIAM O'CONNOR | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Freshman running back Jaylan Thomas slips a tackle and breaks free against the University of Rhode Island on Nov. 3.



Junior defensive back Greg Liggs Jr. comes down with an interception against the University of Towson on Nov. 10.



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