

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2017
ELON, NORTH CAROLINA

THE PENDULUM

UNCOVERING IDENTITY

Students of Native American heritage tackle searching for themselves

Alexandra Schonfeld
Lifestyle Editor | @aschonfeld096

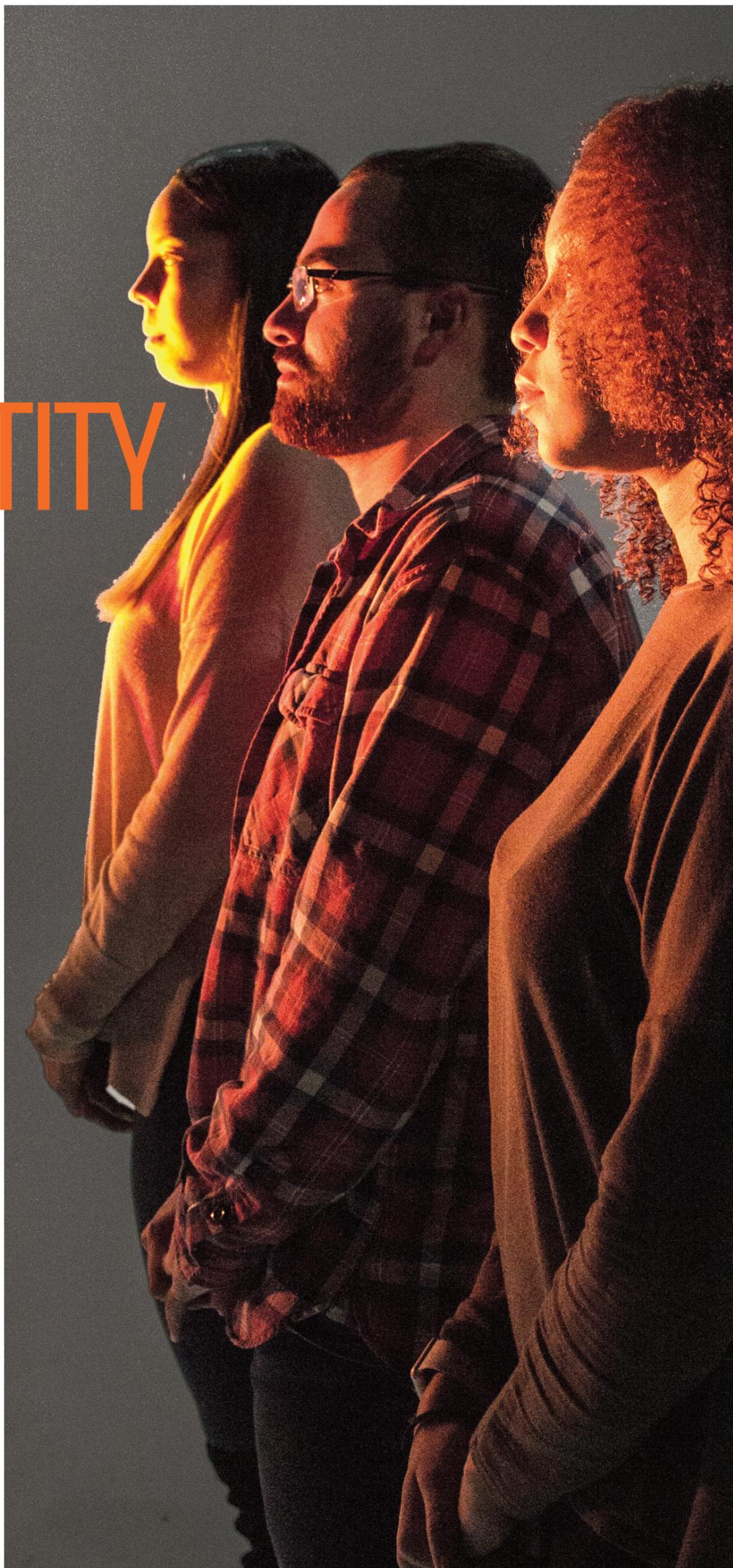
JUST DOWN THE ROAD from Elon University, a community of the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation lives on a reservation. But back at Elon there are just a handful of students who identify as Native American, and many feel during their time at Elon they have been forced to put that part of their identity aside.

Arielle Watkins, Bear Tosé and Xena Burwell, all seniors, identify as multi-racial, coming from mixed heritages and backgrounds. According to the Elon University Factbook, there are eight undergraduate students who are classified as "American Indian."

When all three students were freshmen, there was one meeting of the Native American Task Force sponsored by the Center for Race Ethnicity and Diversity Education (CRE-DE). Members of the community who identified as Native American and a local speaker came together to discuss their experiences. There was only one meeting. The faculty member who organized the initial meeting, Carla Fullwood, left Elon, forcing Watkins, Tosé and Burwell to continue the conversation on their own.

Both of Burwell's parents are Native American — she is twice removed from the reservation, meaning her great grandmother is the most recent family member to have grown up on a reservation. She

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(From left to right) Arielle Watkins, Bear Tosé and Xena Burwell represent three of the eight Native American students at Elon.

LAUREN DUNCAN | ELON NEWS NETWORK



ALEC MANDELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Freshman quarterback Davis Cheek hands the ball off against James Madison University Nov. 18.

The revival of Elon's football program

Emmanuel Morgan
Managing Editor | @EmmanuelMorgan

At a team meeting just before the 2017 Elon University football season, new head coach Curt Cignetti told his players something everyone in the room already knew.

"There is no one — no one — that expects us to be any good," he said. "We get no respect, we don't deserve any respect."

It was a blunt, but true message. Looking back at Elon football's accomplishments, or lack thereof, how can you blame him?

The Phoenix hadn't produced a winning season since 2010. Nor had it made the playoffs since 2009. Since leaving the Southern Conference (SoCon) for the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) — arguably the hardest conference in the Football Championship Subdivision — in 2014, Elon only won seven games.

But as the university expanded, athletic expectations did, too. The Schar Center was built from a \$12 million donation, the largest single gift in Elon history. Both basketball teams completed winning seasons in 2016 — the women's squad even won the CAA, earning a NCAA tournament bid.

The time for soft words was over. Football could no longer lag behind.

But Cignetti offered a choice. Sure, the Phoenix was picked to finish second to last in the conference. But if they stayed focused, the outside noise wouldn't matter, he said.

"I know and I believe that if we make the proper commitments and we are willing to pay the price ... we will accomplish things no one thinks we can," Cignetti said.

Twelve games and a CAA Coach of the Year award later, he was right. The Phoenix won eight contests, one more than the previous three years combined. Elon

See **FOOTBALL** | pg. 12



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New business fraternity officially recognized at Elon



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Elon Alum uses production company to enact change



SPORTS • PAGE 14

Elon's golf teams travel the world

THE PENDULUM

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

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

CALENDAR

NOV. 29

International Ladino Day celebrations
All day
Isabella Cannon Center for the Arts

Where in the World is Religion? presentation
5:30 P.M.
Alamance room 207

NOV. 30

Numen Lumen: A Thursday Inspiration
9:50 A.M.
Numen Lumen Sacred Space

A Celebration of Light
7:30 P.M.
Whitley Auditorium

DEC. 1

How to Network in the Sports Industry
6 P.M.
Moseley Center room 215

DEC. 2

Tree planting volunteer event
11 A.M.
Greensboro Greenway

Jazz ensemble fall concert
7:30 P.M.
McCrary Theatre

CONTACT

WHEN WE PUBLISH:

The Pendulum publishes weekly on Wednesdays.

Elon Local News broadcasts Mondays at 6 p.m.

ELN Morning broadcasts Thursdays at 9:50 a.m.

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

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CORRECTIONS

In the Nov. 15 edition of The Pendulum, in the staff editorial on page 11, LASO was used in place of the Latinx. Elon News Network regrets this error.

GAMES

FOR RELEASE NOVEMBER 29, 2017

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle
Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- Schooner features
- Frosty coating
- Shine
- Advil competitor
- of March
- EVE's companion, in a 2008 Pixar film
- "Is unsuitable
- " ideas?"
- "Back to the Future" vehicle
- Wild place
- Plays or Jays
- RAM part
- First light
- Egyptian snake
- Wide shoe spec
- "Literary character with an evil alter ego
- Anti-cruelty org.
- "Hold up!"
- Radiate
- Twangy-voiced
- Breakfast order
- BFFs
- Gets a glimpse of
- Most innocent
- Canonized Mlle.
- "Threshold
- Bus depot: Abbr.
- Corrida opponent
- Paddock sound
- Hank's job on "Breaking Bad," briefly
- Modern-day Persian
- Tiny annoyance
- Former One Direction singer
- Frequent presidential candidate Ralph
- Fairy tale baddie
- In reserve
- Skim (over)
- "See 42-Down
- Knight's horse

DOWN

- Angry with
- Without assistance
- "Later!"
- Family room sets
- Final email step
- Search quickly through
- Figure of speech
- Way around D.C.
- Perfume compound
- No Doubt lead singer Stefani
- Chocolate dog
- "My Fair Lady" heroine
- Let happen
- Fruit that's still a fruit when two of its letters are switched
- What sirens may do
- Actress Salma
- Chinese liquor brand
- San Diego suburb
- Climbed
- The Eiffel Tower, aptly?
- Western outlaw
- Be indebted to
- Cleaning cloth
- Irish dance
- "Close Encounters" beings
- Hides one's true self
- Idyllic
- Take for a first drive
- With 68-Across, each successive one of a set graphically depicted by this puzzle's circles
- Arranged like the 68-Acrosses in the answers to starred clues are designed to be
- Farm mom
- Tissue layer
- "What a nightmare!"
- Fab Four drummer
- [Don't touch my bone!]
- Info a spy might gather
- Dollar bills
- Conde
- Recipient of much Apr. mail
- More, in Madrid

By Claire Muscat and David Steinberg 11/29/17

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

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

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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY - FOOTBALL COACH FUMBLES

While Elon University's football team just finished its winning season with an 8-4 record, the team has not always been so successful.

This week in 2005, Paul Hamilton, the head football coach, resigned from his position a week after the team's seventh-straight loss and a season record of 3-8.

Hamilton's contract as head coach still had another year remaining — causing his resignation to come as a surprise. Reporting done by The Pendulum in 2005 suggests Hamilton did not resign on his own accord. "The general consensus was that Hamilton was asked to resign," said Anthony Harris, a 2005 senior safety.

But this fact remains circumstantial as Alan White, Elon's athletic director in 2005, refused to comment on the resignation. Hamilton's time as head coach lasted from 2004-2005 and was overshadowed by his decision to start his son, Kye Hamilton, as the team's quarterback.

Following the resignation, White commented, "The search will be mov-



Former Elon University head football coach Paul Hamilton yells instructions during a football game.

ing very quickly and it is important to get this settled as quickly as possible for recruiting purposes."

The athletics department devoted two weeks to searching for and signing Pete Lembo, replacing Hamilton as Elon's new head football coach.

A ROUGH SEASON

In November 2005, Elon University's football team ended their season with a record of 3-8.

NEWS BRIEFS

Lambert signs letter criticizing NC tax overhaul

Elon University President Leo Lambert added his name to a letter to North Carolina lawmakers urging them to forego the proposed tax overhaul.

The letter, which has been signed by more than a dozen university presidents, calls the plan "an attack on private, nonprofit colleges and universities" that "makes it more expensive to go to college."

The proposed overhaul would add a 1.4 percent tax on investment income for select private universities, eliminate the Student Loan Interest Deduction and place taxes on certain employee benefits.

According to the The Times-News, this change would not affect Elon, but other private universities with large endowments could be forced to pay millions.

But another piece of the bill, which eliminates Private Activity Bonds, could mean higher tuition or housing costs for Elon students. Private Activity Bonds are used to fund new construction on campus. Without them, the university may need to raise costs in order to fund future building projects.

Professor meets Dalai Lama at film festival in India

Earlier this month, Doug Kass, an Elon University assistant professor of communications, met the Dalai Lama, the Tibetan spiritual leader, while attending the Free Spirit Film Festival in Dharamsala, India.

Kass attended the festival to receive the Best Editing award for his short-subject film, "Gull." Kass directed the film with the assistance of Ryan Witt, an Elon lecturer of communications, Evan McGillivray '16 and Brian Szymanski '16.

"The Dalai Lama really does have an aura, and everyone in our group felt it," Kass said to E-Net. "You feel an extraordinary presence, and you do feel his energy."

The film was edited with the help of Mitch Herndon '17 who now works as the School of Communications video editor. "Gull" follows a dancer's carefully choreographed movements and the flight of seagulls over Falls Lake in Wake Forest.

Director of Physical Plant announces retirement

Robert Buchholz, associate vice president for facilities management and director of Physical Plant, announced last week that he will be retiring at the end of this year.

Buchholz' position will be filled by Tom Flood, currently the associate director of Physical Plant and director of landscaping and grounds. Flood will take over Physical Plant June 1 — supervising a staff of more than 200 people and overseeing the operation and maintenance of a 636-acre campus.

Flood has a bachelor's degree in landscape architecture from Colorado State University and a Master in Business Administration from Elon.

According to E-Net, Buchholz has been a member of Elon University's staff for the past 10 years.

Business fraternity wins official recognition

Delta Sigma Pi celebrated their completion of the two-year recognition process

**Jack Norcross
and Alex Xouris**

Contributors |
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This month a new business fraternity has officially made its name on Elon University's campus. Delta Sigma Pi is the latest fraternity to become officially recognized after a two-year process.

Franki Filandro, president and founder of the Phi Psi chapter of Delta Sigma Pi, said the process of bringing the chapter officially on campus was not easy. Early on, Elon did not recognize Delta Sigma Pi as an on-campus organization.

"We would literally run around during our meetings, just trying to find a spot to meet — outside or in a classroom that wasn't being used — and then once we got approved by Elon, we could do those events that nationals required us to do," Filandro said.

This spring, the national business fraternity was first denied the application to become a recognized chapter of Delta Sigma Pi, but Filandro kept leading the fraternity as a colony. This fall, after reapplying, Elon's chapter of Delta Sigma Pi was officially established.

"When we first started, many people told us at Elon that we didn't need another business organization, everyone is fine with what is already offered," Filandro said.

"Creating a new organization is simply saying that there is a need for something other than what is already offered. Over 60 members later, I am proud to say that we were looking for something different and we made the difference that was needed."

Lindsay Bennett, the district director of Delta Sigma Pi, has helped these students through the long process.

"The dedication and perseverance the members have shown over the past two years is astounding," Bennett said. "I look forward to seeing their growth as a Delta Sigma Pi chapter and future business leaders."

Raghu Tadepalli, dean of the Martha and Spencer Love School of Business, decided to be initiated into the fraternity this weekend.

"The installation of the Phi Psi chapter of Delta Sigma Pi is a significant achievement for students," Tadepalli said. "As a professional fraternity focused on commerce, ethics and unity, it can be a valuable resource to business students. I look forward to working with chapter leaders to advance its goals."

The Phi Psi Chapter of Delta Sigma Pi holds the record for the largest colony to be installed in the history of the

international organization.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FRANCESCA FILANDRO

Top: The members of the Delta Sigma Pi business fraternity pose together after their chapter is officially recognized.

Right: Students Joseph Grier (left), Max Megoliola, Lia Carter, Jansen Humphrey, Katherine Wolter, Francesca Filandro, Noah Brown and professor Mark Courtright pose before a Delta Sigma Pi banner.

international organization.

"DSP hopes to foster professional networking and career development for students in the Love School of Business," said junior Noah Brown, vice president of finance in the chapter. "We will be a powerhouse organization in the future of Elon."



PHOTO COURTESY OF FRANCESCA FILANDRO

Elon Poll highlights North Carolina residents' shopping habits

Meg Malone

News Editor | @megretjean

The majority of North Carolina Republicans say the economy's future is looking bright, but according to the most recent Elon University poll results, only 17 percent of Democrats and 37 percent of Independents share that outlook.

Seven hundred seventy-one registered North Carolina voters participated in the recent poll — answering questions about the economy, Black Friday, Cyber Monday and holiday spending.

The poll revealed Democrats are the most likely to say the economy will worsen over the next year, but 43 percent of those polled said they expect it will remain the same.

Jason Husser, assistant professor of political science and policy studies and director of the Elon Poll, said he was not surprised by the political divide.

"Many of the gaps we see in regards to economic perceptions are driven, in large part, by people's perceptions of leaders in Washington," Husser said. "Right now, we have a Republican-controlled presi-

dency as well as Congress. So as a result, Republicans tend to feel better in those circumstances."

But the future of the economy is a point of contention across racial and gender lines, too, according to the poll's results.

Though females were fairly evenly divided — almost half, 48 percent, of male respondents said they expect the economy to improve during the upcoming year.

Forty-four percent of white respondents shared the same opinion. Just 18 percent of black respondents said they expect the United States to improve economically — 39 percent said they expect it to get worse.

Overall, North Carolinians are less pessimistic about the economy than they were four years ago in 2013, when last polled on the topic.

The 2013 Elon Poll found that 39 percent of North Carolinians were expecting the economy to get worse and just 32.5 percent said they expected it to improve in comparison to the 38 percent who shared the same optimism during the most recent survey.

Results revealed that

HOLIDAY SPENDING

59%

Percentage of respondents who plan to spend the same amount on holiday gifts this year as they did last year. This number is up from 46 percent in 2013. This year, 25 percent intend to spend less and 13 percent want to spend more during the holiday season.

the variation of economic predictions is unlikely to affect North Carolinian's holiday spending this year.

"It's not exactly clear to me that those economic perceptions always translate into economic behavior," Husser said.

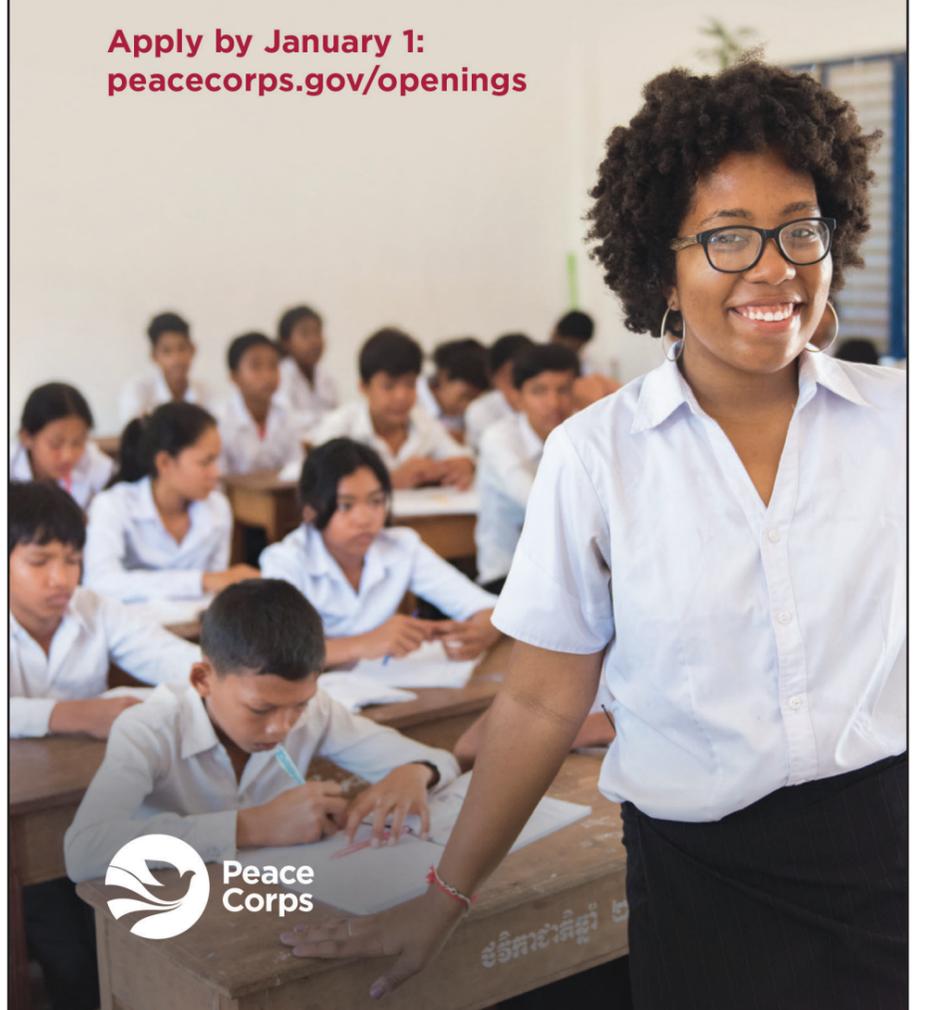
The majority of respondents said their spending on gifts this year is likely to remain the same as the last holiday season. This is also a change from 2013 poll results.

"In 2013, while the economy had marginally recovered from the recession, at this point, we're further away from the recession, so it makes sense that people would feel somewhat more confident," Husser said.

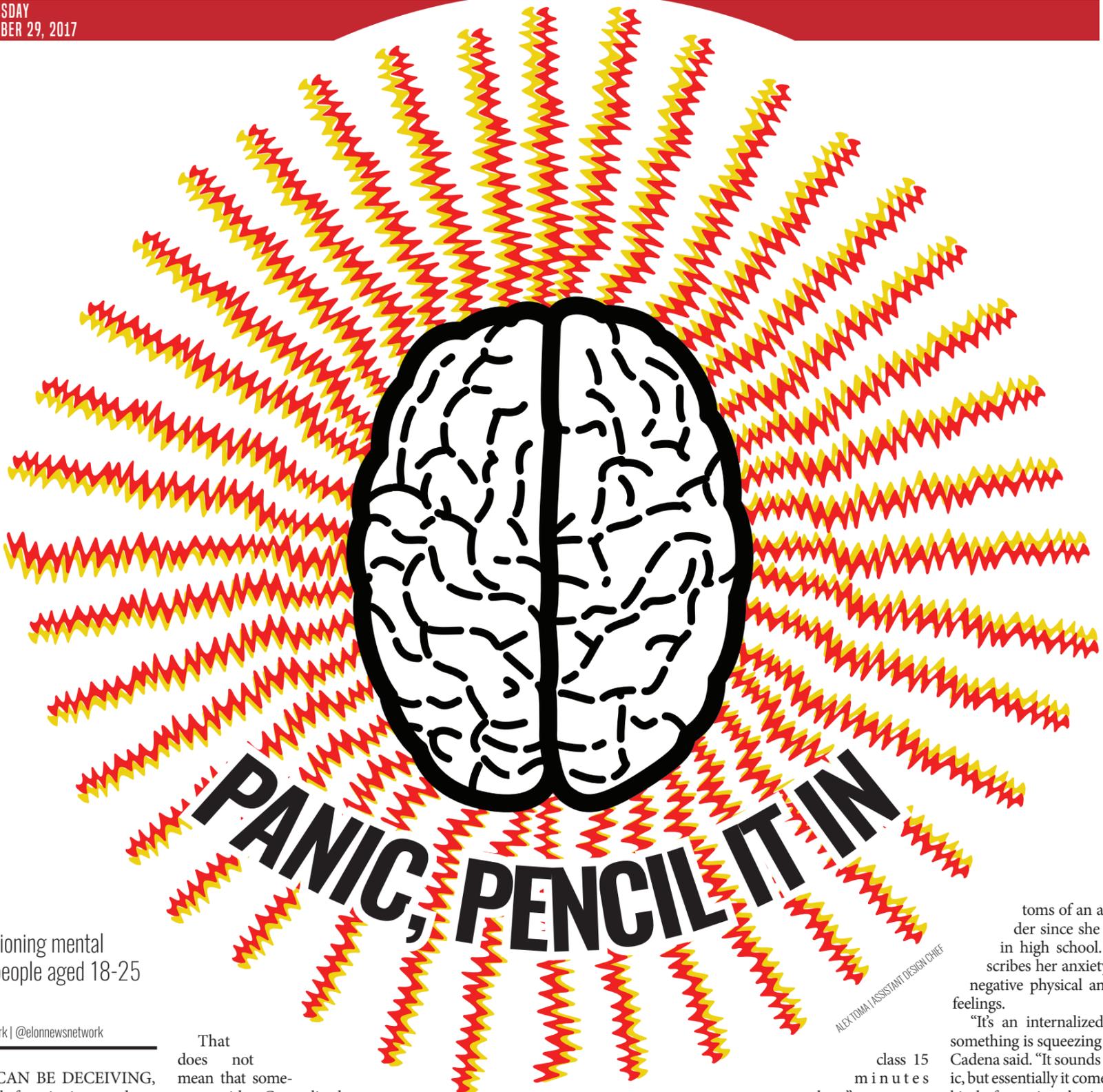
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Exploring
high-functioning mental
illness in people aged 18-25

Kayla Hoey

Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

LOOKS CAN BE DECEIVING, and high-functioning students with mental illnesses are more common than one might think.

The term “anxiety” is thrown around in varying levels of severity — from a group of friends talking about how texting their crush gives them “anxiety” to a student having a real, diagnosed panic disorder. Both situations earn the same response from professionals: a deep breath, a smile and a shaking of the head.

“Anxiety is a useful physiological experience, but does your anxiety serve you? Is it helpful?” said Anita Smith, assistant director of counseling services at Elon University.

“To experience anxiety is not to have an anxiety disorder — we all experience varying levels of anxiety based on the situation. If someone comes in and says, ‘I have anxiety,’ I say, ‘What does that mean, and what does that look like?’ And the goal is not to eliminate it, but how to figure out how to get it to be healthy,” Smith said.

A listen inside

Some anxiety is needed to live a functioning life, Smith said, but it can take a dangerous turn in competitive college environments.

“Maybe the person is doing a billion things and appears to be successful, but I challenge that to say, ‘Is it healthy?’” Smith said. “Is it good for this person or is it a compulsion or obsession, and at a different level of something that is clinical?”

But Smith said high-functioning anxiety is not a clinical diagnosis.

C.J. Fleming, clinical psychologist and assistant professor of psychology agreed. “If it’s not in here,” Fleming said in reference to The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, “I can’t give it as a diagnosis.”

That does not mean that someone with Generalized Anxiety Disorder, panic disorder or dysthymia (a chronic, low-level form of depression that lasts for two or more years) cannot be a high-functioning person, Fleming said. The danger of normalizing symptoms and feelings of anxiety or depression is rationalizing them and avoiding treating the actual problem.

These disorders all cause some clinically significant impairment of day-to-day life. “If you’re totally fine but happen to have some anxious thoughts, that is not what this is describing,” Fleming said.

The Elon experience

Nicole Ackman ’17 said she identifies strongly with the pressures of college and the toll they can take on mental health. For her, she said it was her Elon experience that helped her manage her anxiety.

“One of the biggest changes for me was that I realized what it truly was while I was at Elon,” Ackman said. “I’ve never been formally diagnosed, though my sister, who has very similar symptoms of anxiety to mine, has been. I suspected I had anxiety for about a year before her diagnosis. I think I’ve always had it, but it truly became an issue in my high school years. At the time, I had no idea what they were. I assumed that my ‘problems’ were just personal — signs of a weak personality.”

Double major and Honors Fellow, Ackman has studied in Scotland, Orlando, Anaheim, California, and New York City is an active blogger and now is a graduate school student in London, England, Ackman said she tries to channel her anxiety into productivity.

“I think the biggest pressure from Elon was to hide how I’m struggling,” Ackman said. “While people often



TO EXPERIENCE ANXIETY IS NOT TO HAVE AN ANXIETY DISORDER — WE ALL EXPERIENCE VARYING LEVELS OF ANXIETY.

ANITA SMITH
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF
COUNSELING SERVICES AT ELON
UNIVERSITY

AFFECTED ADULTS

43.4M

According to 2015 data from the National Institute for Mental Health, there are 43.4 million adults in the United States with a mental illness within the past year. Of these adults, 21.7 percent of them were college-aged individuals.

joke about how little sleep they’re getting or how they’re struggling with a class, I felt a pressure to hide that I was having problems or feeling mentally drained. I never skipped a class, even on days when I probably should have taken a ‘mental health day’ and simply tried to make myself feel better. I’ve had bad bouts of anxiety or panic attacks and then gone to

class 15 minutes later.”

Physical symptoms differ for everyone, but Ackman said it feels like all her senses are failing at once in the midst of a panic attack. She said a general anxious period can involve feeling off and on edge from a few hours to even entire weeks.

Though the Elon climate contributed to some of Ackman’s anxiety, she stressed the importance of having a supportive community and finding time to take care of yourself.

“Some of my friends have been really lovely about it, and I also have some friends who similarly suffer from anxiety — and some who have it much worse,” Ackman said. “It’s really helped to find these people who understand what it’s like and that I can trade coping mechanisms with and ask about different treatments.”

While Ackman never used counseling services at Elon, if a student feels their anxiety is problematic, Elon provides a free mental health screening tool to use before one decides if they want to pursue further action.

Beyond the bubble

People aged 18-25 are the most common to have mental illness develop, according to 2015 data from the National Institute for Mental Health. There were an estimated 43.4 million adults in the United States with a mental illness within the past year, and 21.7 percent of them were college-aged individuals.

Even without a professional diagnosis, experiencing symptoms, such as excessive worry surrounding basic tasks for extended periods of time, can be a major warning sign. Though she has never seen a psychologist, Emmanuel College senior Julia Cadena has experienced symp-

toms of an anxiety disorder since she was a junior in high school. Cadena describes her anxiety as constant negative physical and emotional feelings.

“It’s an internalized feeling like something is squeezing at my chest,” Cadena said. “It sounds a bit dramatic, but essentially it comes off as some kind of negative physical experience like I can never feel content existing. At the start of each semester, I feel like I am behind, already failing or haven’t gotten anything done. Imagine those emotions 24/7.”

One way these feelings can manifest is in a false feeling of inadequacy, and having a support system is one of the biggest positive influences on someone with anxiety — clinically diagnosed or not.

“Stress, of course, is normal, but having it feel debilitating or impacting your quality of life is another situation,” Cadena said. “A lot of my friends suffer from various mental illnesses and disorders. We are basically rooted in being there for each other at all times so everyone is always ready to offer advice or just let each other vent. No one is judged for having those things, but we show empathy and understanding. I feel not many friend groups are like mine, so hearing that might come off a little strong, but that just goes to show how common these things are.”

Cadena is studying clinical psychology in hopes of helping other people with mental illnesses after her graduation in May.

In the end, the most important takeaway is to understand there are varying levels of severity in mental illness. Learning about them can open the door for acceptance and candid conversations so in the future, fewer of our friends feel pressured to hide what they are experiencing.

“Maybe it is in some way people embracing their ability to feel successful in having a diagnosis,” Smith said. “That’s a goal, right? To be able to function with mental illness. There’s mental health in mental illness. To be able to function with anxiety — that’s ideal.”

ALEX TOMA | ASSISTANT DESIGN CHIEF

CHEAT SHEET

The future of net neutrality in the United States remains uncertain

David Bockino, assistant professor of communications, unravels the intricacies of net neutrality

Anton L. Delgado
Assistant News Editor | @JADelgadoNEWS



David Bockino

On Nov. 21, Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman, Ajit Pai, revealed his plan to fully dismantle the Obama-era FCC's net neutrality regulations. In 2014, President Barack Obama called on the FCC to protect net neutrality leading to the U.S. Court of Appeals fully upholding the FCC's net neutrality rules in June 2016. But this protection might come to end on Dec. 14, 2017 when the FCC votes on the fate of net neutrality.

Q: What is net neutrality?

A: Net neutrality has to do with who has the right to have access to the internet and whether or not companies can pay to get privileged access to the internet. It really boils down to should the internet be treated as a basic utility or should it be treated as something the government stays hands off.

Q: Why is the FCC trying to repeal net neutrality?

A: The FCC is under the assumption less government is better and the market will figure things out on their own based on supply and demand and companies competing for the rights of consumers.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Q: What has triggered this new change for the FCC that previously backed net neutrality?

A: A Republican administration came in. Republicans, in general, believe in smaller government. They don't think the government should dictate how companies should run their businesses. It is an overarching philosophy that dictates their government.

Q: What are the pros and cons of having net neutrality?

A: It is to be determined. Pros are that, theoretically, people can get their voices equally heard on the internet. The cons are the market doesn't get

to dictate. Big companies often claim that innovation is stifled because they are not able to use the market to their advantage and invest their profit in future innovations.

Q: Who ultimately decides the fate of net neutrality?

A: In a lot of ways it is the FCC and the administration currently in power. People can lobby and fight for what they think, people can write to their elected officials. But ultimately it gets decided by whoever is in power.

Q: If the FCC repeals net neutrality, will this directly affect Elon community members?

A: Nobody knows, anyone who tells

The Federal Communications Commission Chairman, Ajit Varadaraj Pai, testifies before the U.S. Senate Committee on Jul. 19. Previously, Pai proposed dismantling net neutrality before the FCC.

you they know is guessing. We can make guesses based on what we expect certain companies to do and on other countries that have no net neutrality, but we really have no idea what is going to happen. The enduring thought of critical media scholars is that these prices are going to end up in the consumer's pocket. I bet it will end up affecting us very little in the short term.

Q: What do major media providers such as AT&T and Comcast have to gain if net neutrality is revoked?

A: They will get more money in some way, whether it is slicing profits from some of the big tech companies like Google and Facebook. AT&T, Comcast and those companies are very happy about this because they will somehow get more money.

Q: What is your opinion about net neutrality?

A: We should absolutely have net neutrality. The internet should be treated as a utility because it has been ingrained in our lives. Allowing people who have more money to have better access to the internet than everyone else is the last thing we need.

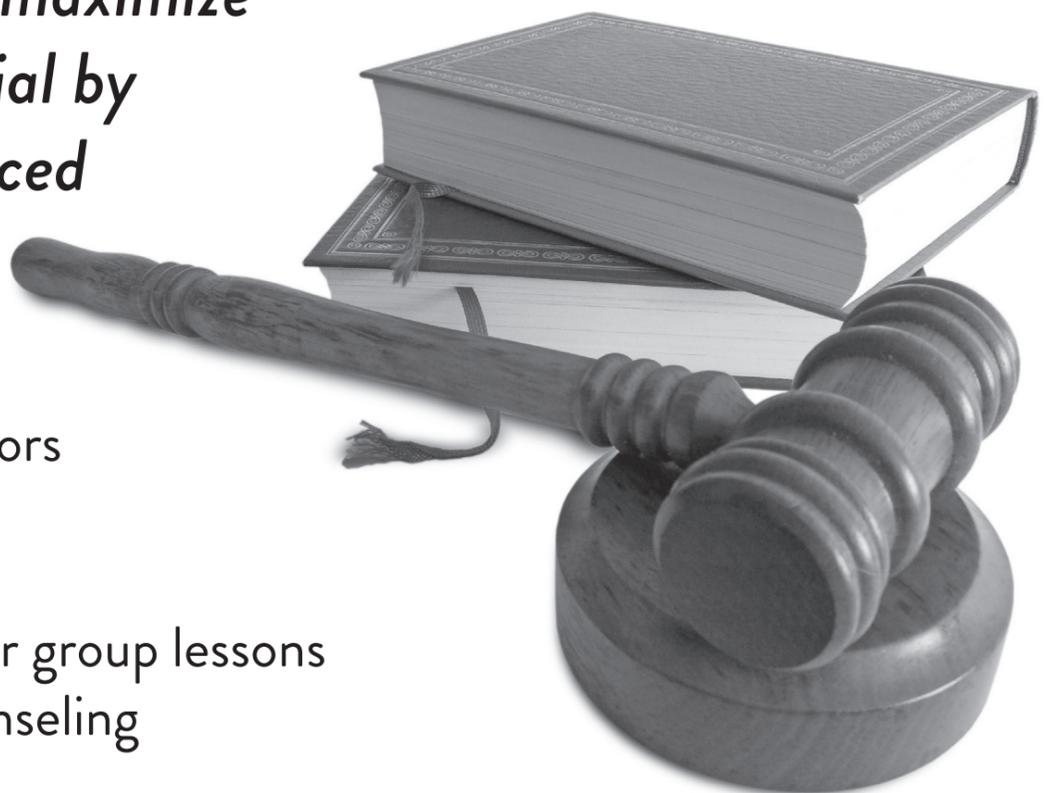
Q: How can Elon students get involved?

A: Get in touch with your elected officials and explain why you think net neutrality is a good thing. To those students who want the internet to be a beacon of democracy and openness, talk about the importance of diversity of voices helped through net neutrality.

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STAFF EDITORIAL

HANNAH SICHERMAN | DESIGNER

Ending sexual assault begins with supporting survivors

HOW WE SEE IT

Elon University students should consider oppressive systems of power following high-profile sexual assault allegations.

Over the last several weeks, it has seemed as though almost every other day a high-profile person has been accused of sexual assault or harassment. What began with a few noteworthy allegations against movie producer Harvey Weinstein a few weeks ago created a ripple effect with dozens more people accusing other figures of similar crimes. With each new headline comes a heartbreaking story, often involving vulnerable victims and powerful perpetrators.

In response to this sudden spike in accusations, some people have begun to question the validity of some of these claims, stating that people are accusing rich and powerful figures of these crimes in search of money or fame. In reality, false accusations of sexual assault are quite rare. Additionally, according to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN),

only 344 of every 1,000 sexual assaults are reported. Twenty percent of those who did not report their assault said they did not do so because of feared retaliation.

Though these stories take place in the context of Hollywood — a community far different than the one here at Elon University — these accusations have shed light on the toxic environment of sexual misconduct afflicting vulnerable people everywhere. This issue greatly affects communities where power may be yielded irresponsibly, such as Hollywood, but it plagues other workplaces and college campuses as well. It's time we start talking about it.

Elon students need to care about these accusations — they are not unique. The men and women coming forward with their stories are no different from the people we share this cam-

pus with and neither are the accused. And, as seen through the allegations against Kevin Spacey, women aren't the only people abused by people in power — men are, too.

For many of the people who came forward with their stories, they are met with judgement and even hate. These negative reactions are a great part of the reason why people do not make sexual assault allegations in general. Even in Hollywood, where victims may have far more money, lawyers and resources to tell their stories than others, the fear of being called a liar or other backlash is far greater than the need to share.

This fear stems from the pedestals we place celebrities, congressmen, presidents and other authority figures on. When someone is in a position of power, it is far too common to hold them above the law or believe they can do no wrong. We reject accusations against them because we want to believe they are good people. We did this with Bill Cosby, Kevin Spacey and Louis C.K., and we will do it again. The fear and vulnerability that comes with being abused by someone

who is loved and respected is often what holds people back from sharing their stories.

It is incredibly difficult to report sexual harassment and sexual assault. It is even more difficult when the accused is in a position of power or greatly respected. To keep more assault from happening or going unreported on our campus, the Elon community needs to create an environment where victims feel safe enough to report their traumas.

To begin dismantling this complicated issue, we must first create a community that believes and supports victims of sexual assault. If a person comes forward with an accusation, we cannot meet their stories with judgement, retaliation or disbelief, but with support and the overall goal of uncovering the truth. If we create an environment where victims are supported, it may allow others to feel more comfortable and confident in reporting these injustices. This can in turn get us closer to identifying those who may be abusing their power and denormalize the toxic, dangerous cycle of sexual assault and harassment.

Learn to embrace physical discomfort when traveling



Hannah Benson
Columnist

I am at a stage in my life-changing voyage where we are now officially coming home. Not coming home in the sense that this ship has turned around and we are retracing our steps. But we are more than halfway around the world from the United States now, slowly coasting back in its direction. This week will mark less than one month left on this trip of a lifetime.

The time has both flown by and crawled slowly at times, and I am starting to think about the things I will tell my family and friends about when I return home. Previous Semester at Sea students have warned me that the bold and expansive emotions I will have upon returning to the United States will be handled poorly. I'm afraid people will want to know only about the craziest thing I saw, the prettiest place I

visited or my favorite experience — to which I already know I won't have one definitive answer. I've seen many beautiful places, done many crazy things and had more favorite experiences than I can count on two hands.

But I do know what I will tell them when they ask how this trip has changed me.

I wouldn't necessarily refer to myself as a high-maintenance person, but in the world beyond my home in the air-conditioned United States, there are a whole lot of situations that can make the average low-maintenance person long for the comforts of the lifestyle I'm used to. Particularly, the physical and emotional discomforts that are often felt by a world traveler.

My first day in Africa, I was in Accra, the capital city of Ghana, and found myself ex-

tremely uncomfortable when I felt a bead of sweat roll down my back and soak into my flowy pants. I felt thirst itch at the back of my throat as I rode a rickshaw through the streets of Agra, India, as we passed donkeys roaming through the road and young children holding even younger babies. I felt dirt caked on the soles of my feet that dried them out and made them itch as I shuffled through a breathtaking temple with the company of many local Buddhists in Bagan, Myanmar. I watched an old man bathe himself nude in the ocean at a fishing village in Ghana, I witnessed men tearing the bodies of freshly caught fish apart in Vietnam and I saw lions eating the bloody flesh of a fresh kill on a safari in South Africa.

There have been so many times over the course of

my semester where I have felt extreme physical and emotional discomfort, and I think the biggest change I have felt in myself over the past months, is that I have stopped letting this get in the way of my experience.

That first day in Ghana I did have to stop many times to wipe the sweat off my back and face, and I remember thinking I could enjoy this so much more if I didn't feel dirty.

It wasn't until a moment on a rickety boat that was coasting down the Mekong River in Cai Be, Vietnam, when I felt a bead of sweat roll down my back, but I was so consumed with the lush forestry and beautiful sunset around me that I didn't even move a hand to brush it away. I felt it and a swarm of others soak into my favorite shirt, and I did noth-

ing to stop it. I didn't even rush to my air-conditioned room to cool myself down after, but rather stayed outside to witness the sun tucking below the horizon.

It was then that I realized how far I'd come. Witnessing the heat of a hazy midday sun in India, the bustling city streets of Ghana or the chaos of an outdoor market in Vietnam sounds like something you only really get to do once.

After my semester at sea, I now know that I'd rather have clothes soaked in sweat than dry ones that stayed inside all day. I'd rather have bug bites all over my legs than untouched ankles that stayed in the safe zone. I'd rather live than sit on the sidelines.

And living a full and saturated life? That should get pretty messy.



Freshman Ariana Nance celebrates another 1,000 meals with Rise Against Hunger community engagement manager Darron Stover Sept. 9, 2017.

MORGAN COLLINS | ELON NEWS NETWORK

ALUM HELPS COMBAT **WORLD HUNGER**

Alum works with Rise Against Hunger in his effort to aid the global epidemic

Morgan Collins
Elon News Network | @MCollins_EU

Darron Stover bounced around McKinnon Hall earlier this semester, gong and microphone in hand, searching for anyone who was excited to be awake early on a Saturday morning.

A RISE AGAINST HUNGER

Three years ago, more than a billion people went without food on a daily basis. Today, it is only 793 million people. 200 million people are no longer suffering because of people like Darron Stover.

The task is easier than it sounds — the energy in the room is palpable. He finds the perfect person to strike the gong: an Elon women's basketball player who is singing and dancing to "The Cupid Shuffle" while pouring a cup of rice into a funnel. The sound resonates through the space and induces cheering among the volunteers; after all, that's another 1,000 meals packaged.

Stover is the community engagement manager for Rise Against Hunger, a nonprofit founded in 1998 with goals of ending hunger and ensuring food security for all. Though he serves many roles with the nonprofit, a large part of Stover's job is planning and executing these meal packaging events. More than 250 volunteers helped package 34,000 meals that morning for students at St. Andre School in Mithon, Haiti.

Rise Against Hunger was founded on a belief shared with the United Nations — the belief that hunger is one of the biggest obstacles to progress.

"I think it's legitimate to say we can effectively end chronic hunger by the year 2030," Stover said. "There's a lot of challenges to it. Conflicts might arise. Climate change is certainly making it harder. But if you don't

set a timeline for it, then you don't push forward with the gusto that you need to actually do it."

Stover has not always had a fervent passion for ending hunger. After graduating with a business degree from Elon in 1993 and earning his Masters of Business Administration in 1995, he became an investment consultant at a boutique firm called Banyan, Rock & Talent.

In 2005, Stover's focus in the business world began to change. After some thought, he arrived at the idea of helping clients make socially responsible investments. By 2007, Stover started his own company, Invest for Change, LLC.

"I wanted to create something that matched my passions and my values," Stover said. "It helped me sleep better at night in an industry that's not always the most upright."

While he was working in the business world, Stover was also volunteering with Rise Against Hunger.

"Darron became what we call in the nonprofit world, a 'super-volunteer,'" said Rise Against Hunger founder Ray Buchanan. "If we needed him, he was there. 'We were doing our very first million-meal packaging event at North Carolina State University. My first memory of Darron is him working that event, loading a truck. He was on that truck all day long, and it was not a cool day, but in the truck it's like an oven. He never gave up, he stayed on the truck and made it happen. From the first time I met him, he's been that kind of guy. He does anything it takes.'"

After volunteering with Rise Against Hunger for nine years, Stover started working for the nonprofit full time in 2014.

"For me, working to end chronic hunger is a bigger thing to dedicate my life to than how many open spaces we have in the city of Raleigh," Stover said.

Today, Stover applies what he has learned from more than 20 years in the investment business to his work at Rise Against Hunger.

"One of the cool things about our organization is that it's a nonprofit that is run more like a business," Stover said. "We manage

it like a business and think about it like a business in how we operate. Our warehouse is actually profitable."

Stover's coworkers feel his background in business has been advantageous to the operation of Rise Against Hunger.

"Darron's background in the business world gives him an advantage in his work because he is consistently looking for opportunities to increase our efficiency as well as making smart business decisions that can impact our bottom line," said coworker Jeff Gonder. "He is also adept at building relationships with strategic partners to help grow our movement. His background in business enables him to understand how to talk to businesses in their language."

As one of 20 locations around the country, Stover's warehouse in Raleigh offers services to locations from Greensboro to Rocky Mount. For all packaging events, each warehouse is responsible for setting up, planning, facilitating, bringing supplies and giving speeches.

The meal packaging events run like clockwork.

First, Stover provides statistics on hunger. Next, he has volunteers demonstrate how to pack each meal with rice, soy, vegetables and 23 essential vitamins and minerals. Then the magic begins — assembly lines of volunteers package thousands of meals to be distributed to those in need, all across the world.

Packaging events may be centered around creating meals to feed the world's hungry, but they also give volunteers the opportunity to become educated about the effects of hunger.

Freshman Lucia Lozano-Robledo, who participated in the meal packaging at Elon on Sept. 9 this year said, "I think the event was really well-organized. You don't have to go in knowing much about the idea. Dar-

ron's slideshows helped me understand the problem of hunger not only, globally but also locally. The event gave me a lot of perspective. We are very privileged at Elon, with the nice dining halls. A mile away, a

lot of people live in poverty and suffer from hunger."

Stover's coworkers agree that the facts shared at meal packaging events are grim, but they recognize that he has mastered how to deliver the sensitive information.

"Darron is very passionate about our mission," Gonder said. "He has a great sense of humor that enables

him to lighten the mood when talking to groups about some of the stark facts surrounding hunger. He knows how to read his audience to focus on relevant information that will best engage each individual group."

Buchanan attributes Stover's success with the organization to his big heart.

"He's got a real heart for helping," Buchanan said. "That defines him for me. He loves his family, of course, but he loves everybody. He knows how to get the best out of everybody."

Since 2005, Rise Against Hunger has packaged more than 342 million meals that have been shipped to 74 different countries. While there is still much to accomplish before achieving zero hunger, Stover is optimistic. In the three years he has been with Rise Against Hunger full time, he has watched food insecurity decrease by 20 percent.

"We say that 793 million people go without food on a daily basis, but the reporting three years ago was that it was over a billion," Stover said. "There are 200 million more people who are not suffering from food insecurity anymore, even with population growth. How amazing is that?"



I THINK IT'S LEGITIMATE TO SAY WE CAN EFFECTIVELY END CHRONIC HUNGER BY THE YEAR 2030.

DARRON STOVER
ENGAGEMENT MANGER FOR RISE AGAINST HUNGER

NATIVE AMERICAN | from cover

says while it was not a huge part of her upbringing, she hopes to bring that part of her identity to the forefront as an adult.

“Because these spaces aren’t necessarily present — both on campus and growing up — we were sort of forced to put our native identity on the back burner, especially because I also identify as black,” Burwell said. “When you grow up with one of your minority identities being a lot more recognized than the other, you’re sort of forced to be like, ‘OK, there is no space for Native Americans so I have to identify as solely black’ or forced to embrace my blackness because I don’t have any support system to embrace my Native American identity.”

Before they graduate in May, all three students are working to establish a new group that will provide a space for Native students — a space they never had.

“There is no club or resource rooms like there are for other identities,” Burwell said. “We wanted to create a space for Native identifying students to have that sort of space where they can have that comradery and resources to talk to other people who are going through the same experience as them.”

As one of their first plans of action, the Native American Student Association (NASA) is working to get Indigenous People’s Day recognized by the university — a holiday celebrated in place of Columbus Day. The Hall of Change in Colonnades started a petition earlier this semester and hope to bring the legislation to SGA in the spring.

Growing up, Watkins was acutely aware of her heritage on holidays such as Thanksgiving, which for people who identify as Native American has different connotations, and her celebrations were focused more on family.

“When we think of Thanksgiving, we don’t think of the pilgrims and the Indians getting together and having a happy round table conversation,” Watkins said. “It’s more of a day just being with family and getting together and talking about why we are thankful to have each other in our lives.”

Both Burwell and Watkins are SGA senators and at a recent SGA meeting, the topic of Thanksgiving came up and Burwell shared her thoughts on the holiday. She referred to the holiday as “a sham” to which her colleagues in the room — mostly white — refuted, she said.

“I got a lot of pushback from mainly the white people in the room who said, ‘That’s disrespectful,’ and things like that,” she said. “The lack of knowledge of history that goes on. It’s not the ‘Peanuts’ movie where the pilgrims come and everyone gets along. That’s not what Thanksgiving was. But you can’t learn history that you didn’t know existed.”

In her family, the holiday is referred to as “takes-giving” and they steer away from celebrating the false portrayal of a happy introduction between the Pilgrims and Native Americans.

“We take that nationally recognized holiday as a time to remember who we are, where we come from,” she said. “Granted we don’t have a lot of knowledge of who we were, but we always bless the food with, ‘This was not necessarily a holiday that was made for us, or beneficial for us, but we will still take the time to give thanks to one another.’”

Both women were shielded from watching movies such as Pocahontas when they were younger because of how they portrayed Native Americans.

Tosé’s parents took a different approach when discussing representations in films.

“My parents were very clear, like, ‘this is how America views this and these are the reasons this is wrong,’” he said. “In that sense I’ve been able to see a lot of different sides. Just understanding where the white side of my heritage understands this, and the native and the black sides and how this all comes together and how my identity kind of gives me a platform to better understand, and share that understanding with others.”

After coming to Elon, all three students hoped to be able to explore their native identities more than they were given the opportunity to do. For Burwell, one of the biggest issues she has faced while on campus for almost four years is tokenism in the classroom.

“Being that one Native kid, that one back

SENIORS HOPE TO SET FOUNDATION
TO SUPPORT FUTURE NATIVE

ARIELLE WATKINS

Heritage | Father is Cherokee
Major | Middle grades
education with a
concentration in math
Hometown | Rockville, Maryland



BEAR TOSÉ

Heritage | Mother is part Cherokee
Major | Policy studies and
minors in economics, geographic
information systems (GIS), and
poverty & social justice
Hometown | Annapolis, Maryland



“

WE TAKE THAT NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED HOLIDAY AS A TIME TO REMEMBER WHO WE ARE, WHERE WE COME FROM. GRANTED WE DON’T HAVE A LOT OF KNOWLEDGE OF WHO WE WERE, BUT WE ALWAYS BLESS THE FOOD WITH, ‘THIS WAS NOT NECESSARILY A HOLIDAY THAT WAS MADE FOR US, OR BENEFICIAL FOR US, BUT WE WILL STILL TAKE THE TIME TO GIVE THANKS TO ONE ANOTHER.’

ARIELLE WATKINS
SENIOR

“

JUST UNDERSTANDING
SIDE OF MY HERITAGE
AND THE NATIVE AND
HOW THIS ALL COMES
MY IDENTITY KIND OF
TO BETTER UNDERSTAND
UNDERSTANDING

BEAR
SENIOR

EDUCATION AMERICAN STUDENTS



XENA BURWELL

Heritage | Mother is Cherokee. Father is from the Haliwa-Saponie tribe, which is native to North Carolina
Major | Cinema & TV arts and minors in German & international studies
Hometown | Bowie, Maryland



PHOTOS BY LAUREN DUNCAN | ELON NEWS NETWORK

“...G WHERE THE WHITE UNDERSTANDS THIS, THE BLACK SIDES AND TOGETHER AND HOW GIVES ME A PLATFORM AND, AND SHARE THAT G WITH OTHERS.

“...WE WANTED TO CREATE A SPACE FOR NATIVE IDENTIFYING STUDENTS TO HAVE THAT SORT OF SPACE WHERE THEY CAN HAVE THAT COMRADERY AND RESOURCES TO TALK TO OTHER PEOPLE WHO ARE GOING THROUGH THE SAME EXPERIENCE AS THEM.

XENA BURWELL
SENIOR

kid, that one Asian kid in a class and anytime anything comes up ... you're supposed to speak on behalf of your entire community,” Burwell said. “I think Elon needs to recognize that this is a thing and that a lot of times it's professors who perpetuate that and address that.”

Both Burwell and Watkins say they have been both targeted as being “the black student” as well as “the native student” because of their mixed identities.

“My experience as a black woman or Native American woman is not representative of the entire population,” Burwell said. “I think a way to combat that is education for professors because though there are a lot of great professors here, there are professors who are frankly ignorant.”

As part of Elon University's onboarding process, professors are taken through a series of workshops and role-play activities to help better address incidents of bias or tension in the classroom.

“Those scenarios are based on things we hear from students about what happens in Elon classrooms,” said Brooke Barnett, associate provost for academic and inclusive excellence. “It's a way for us to take actual things — we anonymize them in certain ways and change them a little bit — and use that work to try to better the classroom experience.”

Students can report incidents of bias in the classroom and around campus through the Bias Incident Reporting Form available on Elon's website.

Burwell, Tosé and Watkins have come to find that these efforts need to be student initiated or else they won't get done. This is one of the reasons they have worked so hard to get NASA off the ground before they graduate so that there is a platform in place for incoming classes. Tosé agrees that student initiative is necessary, but struggles with why.

“I'm not satisfied that it has to be student initiated,” he said. “Yes, it has to be on the students to get it put on the agenda, but as a university, you can't just be reaching out to people of color to bring diversity to your school if you are not going to let them flourish in that diversity at your university. So if you are not providing students with the resources and opportunity for growth within those identities — that's false advertising.”

The CREDE is responsible for organizing many of the student-centered events around race and ethnicity. This month, for National Native American Heritage Month, the CREDE organized numerous events including a basket weaving class led by members of the local Occaneechi Tribe.

“The Native American Basket Weaving event was one of the highlights this year, especially since we were able to bring in members of the local Occaneechi Tribe to led the class,” said Reiney Lin, assistant director of the CREDE. “I think having those who belong to the Native American community or hold Native American identities lead the way is important. The event was met with positive feedback from both the teachers and the students.

“I think the next step to grow and improve on this year would be to engage and partner with more students more and campus partners beyond the CREDE to contribute to this recognition month and beyond.”

The founding members want to make it clear that NASA is not just for people who are “one with their culture” as Native American.

While they will likely graduate without feeling fulfilled in their own exploration of identity, the three seniors are working to make sure upcoming classes will feel more welcoming and have better opportunities to understand their own identities — no matter how many there are.

NATIVE AMERICAN POPULATION

8 students

There are eight Native American students at Elon, who comprise .1 percent of the student population. Last year, there were 15 students, comprising .3 percent of the student population.



Creating home away from home

Even before Thanksgiving, students were already decking the halls

Nica Lasater
Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

Even before Thanksgiving break began, the residence halls at Elon University were decked with Christmas decorations. Previously, cobwebs, spiders and pumpkins were the main source of ornamentation, but as early as Nov. 1, these scary adornments were replaced by cheerful bows, stockings, snowflakes and garland.

"I decorated before Thanksgiving break so I wouldn't need to worry about decorating when I got back because I knew I would be busy with finals," said freshman Madison Iskra. "I also did it so I could enjoy the decorations for a little longer than just two weeks."

Carolina Hall is one ex-

ample of this. On the first floor, stretched from door to door are strings of shiny blue, red and gold tinsel. Tiny red stockings with the name of the occupant hang on the door of each room. One pair of roommates even completely covered their door with Christmas wrapping paper. And on the second floor, a door is made to look like a present, topped off with a large bow.

This level of dedication to the holiday is not uncommon, though most people stick with the more mundane miniature Christmas tree to embellish their dorm room. This small token is a reminder of the big tree that awaits the eager students at home.

Aside from being a tribute to the traditions at home, decorating for Christmas is a way for friends to bond. "All of my friends decorated for Christmas," Iskra said. "My mom and I thought it would be cute to get all of my friends mini Christmas trees and ornaments as

presents. We all got together the week before Thanksgiving break and decorated them together."

While this perhaps premature Christmas cheer is a source of anticipation and excitement for most, to one pair of roommates living in Global, whether to decorate early for Christmas was a source of contention. Elon freshman Catherine Dickey believes it's not appropriate to start celebrating Christmas until after Dec. 1.

"Because Christmas is already so commercialized, I think that Thanksgiving deserves a full season as it's about being thankful for what you have," Dickey said. "People don't celebrate Thanksgiving to the extent that they do Christmas, but I like being thankful better than I like gifts. That's just me."

For her roommate, Caroline Moore, Christmas is a more significant holiday.

"I like Thanksgiving and don't have anything against it. But we have so many

Christmas traditions and memories because that holiday is the one where both my mom and dad's side are all in Greensboro and it's just so much family time, [which] is so special to me," Moore said. "That's why I love decorating and listening to Christmas music as early as possible because it reminds me of how much I love [the holiday]."

So Moore, and even Dickey, the self-proclaimed "Thanksgiving Enthusiast," will be decorating their dorm room this year for Christmas, though of course not a moment sooner than Dec. 1.

"I think we might put some snowflakes and other wintery stuff up, and we might get a small tree and put some cute little ornaments on it," Dickey said.

For students looking to spice up their living space, some common places to shop for Christmas trinkets and trimmings include Target, Michaels, Homegoods and Amazon.

LUCIA JERVIS | DESIGNER

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Weird Enough to make FORBES 30 UNDER 30



FILE PHOTO BY NIC NELSON | THE EDGE

Elon alum breaks out on Forbes list for up and coming entrepreneurs

Sarah Johnson
Contributor | @sarahjohnson05

For Tony Weaver '16, as long as you're pursuing your personal truth, you're never too weird. You're just weird enough.

That motto landed him and his company, Weird Enough Productions, on the 2018 Forbes 30 under 30 list for education. Weird Enough Productions is an EdTech company focused on combating media misrepresentation through original content production and media literacy education.

Weaver started Weird Enough Productions as a junior at Elon. The 23-year-old says he always enjoyed writing and coming up with stories to tell. Weaver graduated from Elon with a double major in the BFA acting program and strategic communications. Though acting took up a lot of his time at Elon, Weaver was involved in Elon Tonight and spent time at the Center for Race, Ethnicity, Diversity Education (CREDE). But Weird Enough is what kept Weaver the busiest during college.

"I wanted to move straight forward into doing what I wanted to do," Weaver said. "I was an acting and a communications major, and neither of those traditional paths seemed appealing to me at all. I felt that my perspective and what I have to offer was something that would get bogged down if I went down that path, so I decided to start my organization as a way to avoid that."

Weird Enough Productions

started at the Triple Impact challenge that the Koury Business Center hosts every semester. With \$500 in winnings and an outpouring of support from faculty in the School of Business and School of Communications, the company was born.

One of Weaver's biggest supporters at Elon was Naeemah Clark, an associate professor of communications, who studies diversity issues in the media industry.

"Tony is innovative, hard-working and has drive," Clark said. "He knew what his passion was early in his time at Elon. He knows that a media literate society can contribute to racial understanding. That vision along with his writing and production talents make him a pivotal figure in the media landscape."

And changing the media landscape is exactly what Weaver wants to do. He sees Weird Enough Productions not only as an educational platform, but also as a catalyst for social change.

"There were some personal experiences I had that made me feel like there was a need for an organization that had a big focus on media diversity," Weaver said. "2014 is when things kind of achieved a critical mass in Ferguson, and that was something that highly influenced us. My team said, 'Ok, now's the time to move. Now's the time for us to get things done.'"

Though some have told Weaver that Weird Enough's specialty, combating media misrepresentation, is a niche, he considers it a broad topic. Weaver says issues pertaining to media misrepresentation

are common traits amongst any social justice issue that society deals with — from racism to workers inequality.



FILE PHOTO BY NIC NELSON | THE EDGE

Tony Weaver started Weird Enough Productions at the Triple Impact Change hosted by Koury Business Center.

"It's all rooted in the fact that the media landscape that we have in the United States is not conducive to producing accurate information," Weaver said.

He says we live in a media-inundated society, where the average American spends about 10 1/2 hours engaging with media content a day, makes media, and its biases almost unavoidable.

"Media is being used to promote ideologies that we know to be discriminatory, that we know to be harmful to minorities and in a lot of cases absolutely false," Weaver said. "That's when I think that it turns from a niche into a very pressing issue."

To effectively combat this issue, Weaver and his team of five create mainly short-length videos they then sell to schools from an EdTech platform for kids to interact with and learn from. During National Media Literacy week, Nov. 6-10, Weird Enough Productions unveiled a new program to students.

"Seeing them look at characters, that we've been working with for the last few months, for the first time and really being excited about them was very rewarding for me," Weaver said.

But running his own company has not come without its challenges. Weaver says that even entrepreneurship in and of itself is

challenging.

"It's a constant ebb and flow where you feel like you're on top of the world, and you feel like the world's on top of you," Weaver said. "You can go from feeling like you have everything under control, to 'I have no idea what I'm doing' in the course of an email."

He said that one of his biggest challenges has been standing firm in himself and realizing that, despite not having all of the answers, he is still equipped and capable of doing the work he does. Weaver says he often practices self-awareness and mindfulness. "It's about being confident enough in yourself to know that your perspective and the thing you want to bring to the world is something that the world needs and wants to see," Weaver said.

In January 2018, a web comic will launch along with a new podcast that is set to come out in a couple of weeks. Weird Enough is also working on the development of a longer, feature-length video. While the company's objective is simply to get media literacy to as many kids as possible, Weird Enough has some more specific goals. By 2020, the company wants to be in all 50 states and to have served at least 32.5 million students.

Weird Enough has already reached 3,200 students, according to the Forbes website and that reach is part of what caught Forbes' eye. Weaver had met someone associated with the Forbes 30 under 30 decision-making process at a conference and after hearing that he had made the list, was contacted by multiple people in his network who let Weaver know that they had nominated him. He didn't even know there was a nomination process.

"I feel like it's one of those things where you have to do the work — focus on doing the work — and someone's gonna notice, and they kind of invite you to the table," Weaver said.

Weaver said that it's not the recognition that Forbes gives that excites him, but the opportunities that being on the list creates for Weird Enough. He said the most important form of recognition is when kids can look at Weird Enough's content and feel represented.

"My mindset is: I feel very blessed to be given this platform and this opportunity to be around people who are pursuing social change. Therefore, what can I do with this now?" he said. "How can I use this to impact more kids? How can I use this to make the world a better place?"

SPORTS



'THIS TEAM HAS SET THE STANDARD'

ALEC MANDELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Redshirt freshman tight end Mike Aiello lifts up freshman quarterback Davis Cheek after a touchdown against the College of William & Mary Oct. 7.

FOOTBALL | from cover

(8-4) was on the brink of a conference championship and ranked the No. 7 team in the nation at one point.

A blocked extra point attempt stopped Elon from potentially advancing to the second playoff round.

After the Phoenix's 28-27 loss against Furman University Nov. 25, Cignetti said the season's ending disappointed him. But there's no question this team's success "set the standard," for the future as Cignetti said.

Now, the only question remaining is how they did it.

Surprising exit, bold entrance

President Leo Lambert didn't expect to interview for a new head coach during Winter Break. But he had no choice in 2016.

Rich Skrosky, the Phoenix's head coach for three years with a 7-27 record, suddenly resigned Dec. 20 to become the quarterbacks coach at Florida International University.

Lambert was "taken aback" when Dave Blank, director of athletics, told him Skrosky's intentions. The three met at Lambert's home for an hour at 7 a.m. Then, Lambert said it was evident a new coach was needed.

"I think Dave and I were of the mind that we needed to find our next football coach who had successful head coaching experience," Lambert said. "I think we just felt like being in that chair — whether Division III, Division II or Division I — was irreplaceable experience."

Before Elon, Skrosky coached 21 years. But only one year — 1992 at Ramapo College — was as a head coach.

Blank and search firm consultants whittled the list to eight finalists. Cignetti, head coach of Indiana University of Pennsylvania was one of

them. Since 2011, Cignetti coached the Division II program to a 53-17 record and the D II playoffs twice.

Cignetti, 56, coached 29 years as an assistant, including as a wide receivers coach at the University of Alabama under the legendary Nick Saban. There he won the 2009 Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) national championship and coached Julio Jones, an All-Pro NFL receiver. Lambert said Cignetti's confidence was contagious. He was unanimously chosen New Year's Eve.

"He sat at the head of the table in a very relaxed way and said, 'There's no reason Elon cannot have a winning football program,'" Lambert said. "I think he brought this air of confidence and made us believe this was going to happen."

Changing the culture

To make it happen, though, he had some work to do. Losing became ingrained here. Miles Williams '15, a former safety and captain of the team, said their lack of success tolled him off the field, too.

"When I was a tour guide at Elon, one of the questions that always popped up was, 'How is the football team?'" Williams said, who led the team interceptions (two) and forced fumbles (three) his senior year. "That was a tough question to answer."

When he graduated, Williams said some of his teammates weren't mature enough yet or didn't entirely buy into the system. He said it was frustrating at times because they were wasting potential. But when Cignetti arrived, senior safety Chris

Blair said things changed.

"Coach came in and said he had the blueprint," Blair said, the sixth leading tackler in Elon history. "We follow our leader. This is a great leader here, and he's done it before. He's turned programs around."

That blueprint included having less physical practices, demanding attention to detail and emphasizing the mental side of football. In one of his first official moves as coach, Cignetti recruited 14 players in February.

Freshmen Davis Cheek and Jalen Greene battled for the starting quarterback position, Cheek ultimately winning. During his career, Williams said Elon's offensive struggles handicapped them, mostly from inconsistency at quarterback.

In the 2016-2017 seasons, Elon's offense only averaged 267 yards and 12.5 points per game. This year, it averaged 370 yards and 21 points per game. Cheek finished 2,431 passing yards and 15 touchdowns this season. Juniors Connor Christiansen and Daniel Thompson — the quarterbacks in rotation Williams' senior season — combined for 15 touchdowns the past three years.

When Elon edged Furman 34-31 the second game after falling to Toledo University 47-13 — an FBS school — Cheek passed for 301 yards and three scores. Adrian Williams '17, a former defensive back, said that was Elon's statement game. It catalyzed an eight-game win streak.

"They were throwing the ball downfield on them and marching," he said. "That's something we never

really did before and it was exciting to see."

But Miles Williams said the noticeable difference was on the ground.

The next game against Charleston Southern University at home, running back Malcolm Summers rushed for 179 yards in a 19-17 win. The next game — a 36-33 win against No. 6 ranked Richmond University — he rushed for 299 yards, the first time an Elon back rushed for more than 200 yards since 2009.

Through six games, his 755 rushing yards led the nation. His season ended then, though, when he tore his hamstring against the College of William and Mary. Still, that dominance was another distinguishing factor.

"We were never able to run the ball like that," Miles said.

With one thrilling win after another — Elon's largest margin of victory was eight points — school pride followed. Lambert said the newfound excitement was evident.

"You want to be where we were this past weekend — playing football after Thanksgiving," Lambert said. "I think it has meant a lot to our student body. Students stayed for the whole game instead of leaving at halftime."

"It has a bigger impact on campus psyche than most people realize."

Nowhere to go but up

The season ended with losses to the University of New Hampshire, James Madison University — the reigning FCS national champions — and Furman. Elon finished third in the CAA behind JMU and Stony Brook University. The three-game losing streak stung, but Blair said the adversity they faced then will be a building tool for next season.

"I think these guys will learn from it — learn from different things that we have faced as a team and continue

BY THE NUMBERS

- 7** Highest ranking achieved.
- 8** Number of wins, most since 2009.
- 10** Number of graduating seniors.

to get better," Blair said.

The team had 10 seniors, but only five of them were listed as starters on the depth chart. Miles Williams said the team was young when he played. But now that they've developed, they're well positioned. He said they have "nowhere to go but up." Cheek agreed.

"National championship — that's the goal," he said. "We have the people here and our coaches are phenomenal ... the guys here are just going to get better."

Cignetti didn't make that bold of a statement, but he said he was proud of how far the program improved. After the season, he told the press the same thing he told his team all those months ago. They accomplished things no one thought they could. And they earned the respect they didn't have.

"I think there were a lot of people that were losing hope, who had lost hope," Cignetti said. "I think this shows that if you believe it, you can make it happen."

The story of the season: 2017 in review



ASHLEY KING | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Dec. 20, 2016 RICH SKROSKY RESIGNS

After coaching the Elon University football team for three years and posting a 7-27 record, Skrosky unexpectedly resigned to become the offensive coordinator coach at Florida International University. A national search for a new head coach started immediately.

2016

DECEMBER

Dec. 31, 2016 ELON HIRES CURT CIGNETTI

Coming from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Curt Cignetti was hired as Elon football's 22nd head coach. During his six seasons at IUP, Cignetti led the team to a 53-17 record, and coached the team to the NCAA Division II playoffs in both 2015 and 2016.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

2017



CAROLINE BREHMAN | PHOTO EDITOR

Feb. 2, 2017 CIGNETTI'S FIRST CLASS OF RECRUITS

Signing 14 players before his first season, newly-named head coach Curt Cignetti brought in some rookies that, like him, made an impression. In his first group of recruits was quarterback Davis Cheek, who had 2431 passing yards and 15 touchdowns in his first season with the Phoenix, and Kortez Weeks, a wide receiver that has been targeted by Cheek 60 times and caught two touchdowns.

FEBRUARY

Sept. 16, 2017 GAME 3 VS. CHARLESTON SOUTHERN

In its home opener, the Phoenix saw its second win of the year (19-17) after Charleston Southern University's 51-yard game-winning field goal came up short as the clock expired. Junior running back Malcolm Summers showed that he was a newfound force on the Elon offense, carrying the ball 30 times for 178 yards.



CAROLINE BREHMAN | PHOTO EDITOR

AUGUST

Oct. 7, 2017 GAME 6 VS. WILLIAM & MARY

Elon maintained its perfect in-conference record and marched to its largest victory of the season in a 25-17 defeat over the Tribe. A late-game safety from junior linebacker Warren Messer, and six other sacks from the Elon defense, secured the victory for the Phoenix.

Oct. 21, 2017 GAME 7 AT RHODE ISLAND

Davis Cheek made his presence known in the pocket, completing 23 of his passes for 331 yards and three touchdowns. Elon secured its sixth-straight win, and the 500th win in program history, after defeating the Rams, 35-34, off a fourth-quarter interception by Messer, which allowed the Phoenix to drain the clock.

Oct. 28, 2017 GAME 8 AT VILLANOVA

Kortez Weeks became just the third Elon receiver in program history to record a game of 200 yards en route to Elon's 19-14 victory against the Wildcats. Kicker Owen Johnson was able to hit from 28 yards out after missing a PAT earlier in the fourth quarter to lift Elon in the battle of top-15 ranked teams.

Nov. 11, 2017 GAME 10 AT NEW HAMPSHIRE

Elon suffered its first loss since August when it traveled to the cold Granite state to face off against No. 16-ranked UNH team at home. In the past decade, the Wildcats have posted a 56-8 record in its own stadium, including this 16-7 defeat of the No. 7 ranked Phoenix. Elon failed to reach 100 rushing yards for the first time all season.

Nov. 18, 2017 GAME 11 VS. JAMES MADISON

The defending Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) national champion Dukes came to Rhodes Stadium and held the Elon offense stagnant, crushing the Phoenix 31-3. James Madison University was able to capture its third-straight Colonial Athletic Association title and a No. 1 ranking entering the playoffs, while the Phoenix fell to 8-3 to finish the regular season.

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

Aug. 31, 2017 GAME 1 AT TOLEDO

The Phoenix traveled to Ohio to face off against Football Bowl Sub-division school Toledo for Elon's season opener. The Rockets put up a strong showing, taking down the maroon and gold by a 47-13 margin. Since then, Toledo has put up a 9-2 record.

Sept. 9, 2017 GAME 2 AT FURMAN

Elon got its first glimpse at its playoffs opponent when the Phoenix traveled to Greenville, South Carolina to face the Paladins. Freshman kicker Owen Johnson booted a 36-yard field with five seconds remaining to lift Elon over Furman, 34-31, picking up the Phoenix's first victory of the season.

Sept. 23, 2017 GAME 4 AT RICHMOND

Summers continued to lead the Elon offense in its fourth game of the year, rushing for 294 yards on 40 carries. Elon picked up its third-straight win, defeating the Spiders 36-33. The win against No. 6 Richmond was the highest-ranked opponent that Elon had defeated since 2007.

Sept. 30, 2017 GAME 5 VS. ALBANY

In a defensive battle that ended in a 6-0 win for the Phoenix, Elon picked up its fourth win of the year. The Phoenix defense took the ball four times, including two interceptions by junior defensive back Tyler Campbell, and was responsible for four sacks. Elon moved to 2-0 in league play and continued to turn heads.

Nov. 4, 2017 GAME 9 VS. TOWSON

It took two overtime periods, but Elon was able to shut down Towson's attempt to ruin Homecoming, defeating the Tigers 33-30 and collecting its eighth-straight win. Towson erased a 17-point fourth-quarter deficit to force overtime in a game that witnessed two Elon running backs have more than 100 rushing yards for the first time since 2009.



AJ MANDELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Nov. 25, 2017 PLAYOFFS, FIRST ROUND VS. FURMAN

The Phoenix's season came to an abrupt end, losing to Furman by the difference of a blocked extra point. In the program's first playoff appearance since 2009, sophomore running back De'Sean McNair found the end zone three times for Elon, his third 100-yard game of the year. The Phoenix finishes the year with an 8-4 record.



OLIVER FISCHER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



HITTING THE LINKS

Phoenix golf teams reflect on study abroad experience

Erik Webb
Sports Director | @ErikWebbElon

The Elon University golf teams became the most recent Phoenix teams to study abroad, following Elon's quest to create better global citizens in its students.

According to Elonphoenix.com, the Elon athletics department "organizes and funds team global study courses, combining learning experiences with competition in countries around the world. Since 2011, Phoenix student-athletes have studied abroad in Europe, Asia and Central America." Earlier this year, the football team traveled to Costa Rica while the tennis teams traveled to Hawaii.

The men and women's golf teams followed suit when they traveled to Scotland over Thanksgiving break. The teams spent 10 days exploring and learning about the native culture and history of Scotland while visiting the cities of Glasgow, Edinburgh, St. Andrews and Stirling.

"The opportunity to study abroad as a student-athlete in Scotland was an experience that I will never forget," said redshirt senior Robbie Seebold. "It was a surreal feeling to be able to walk in the same footsteps as some of golf's greatest players. Hearing stories from some of my caddies made the moment even more special."

The teams had the opportunity to play famous courses such as Dundonald Links in Troon — the host course of the 2017 Scottish Open — before heading north to Carnoustie Links — the site of next year's British Open. The Phoenix teams finished the trip at Old and New Courses at the St. Andrews Links — the storied home of golf and where golf is said to have been invented.

"The first sight of the famed first tee and 18th green area at the Old Course had me in awe," said graduate student and men's golfer Charlie May in a blog post. "There is so much history to the Old Course with all the greatest golfers of all time walking its grounds. I truly felt like I was living out my dream ... I really tried to appreciate each step I took on its famed grounds and focused

on enjoying the moment."

While in Scotland, the golfers took the class "From St Andrews to Augusta: Scottish Golf and Culture Through Time," studying the history of golf and its foundation in Scotland. During the trip, they examined the lifestyle of the Scottish people and how the national identity affects Scottish golf.

"It was a great experience to explore the Sterling and Edinburgh Castles," Seebold said. "I was able to try some of the local foods and learn about the Scottish culture. The history of these old cities was incredible mainly because most of the old structures were perfectly preserved."

The teams became the first Phoenix golf teams to study abroad since 2013. For men's head coach Don Hill, who took the position in 2013 after the trip, this trip is something that will last in his mind, and in his photo albums, for quite some time.

"I didn't even clean my shoes before I came home ... I want-

Top: Junior Philip Loeb hits a tee shot on the 18th hole of the old course at St. Andrews over Thanksgiving break.

Bottom: Freshman Michaela Cox, senior Heather Munro and junior Katherine Reilly stand on the 18th tee at Carnoustie Links.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE ELON GOLF TEAMS

SPORTS BRIEFS

Senior guard Burnett makes Elon history

During the Elon University women's basketball game on Nov. 27, senior guard Shay Burnett made history, becoming the first basketball player to record a triple-double in a game.

Burnett scored 10 points, collected 11 rebounds and assisted 10 times during the game against Coker College. On the season, the Graham native is averaging 14.3 points and 8.9 rebounds per game.

The 106-54 Phoenix win against Coker is the first time Elon has crossed the century mark since November 2011 against Virginia Intermont. The 106 points scored by the Phoenix on Monday is the second most all-time in program history.

The team will open up another three-game road slate this weekend, traveling to Winston-Salem to face Wake Forest University on Saturday. That game is scheduled to tip off at noon.

Men's hoops continues nonconference play

The Elon University men's basketball team will return to action in Alumni Gym Thursday, Nov. 30, after playing four games over Thanksgiving break.

In the most recent game last Wednesday, Nov. 22, the Phoenix secured a 77-74 victory against Radford University. Junior guard Dainan Swoope continued his hot play of the season, capturing his fourth-straight 20-or-more-points game. Swoope currently sits in fourth place in the Colonial Athletic Association, averaging 17.7 points per game. He also has connected on a league-high 24 shots from behind the arc.

The men's basketball team will play the second of a three-game home stretch on Thursday when the Phoenix welcomes the University of South Florida at 7 p.m.

Indoor track starts season this weekend

The Elon University women's track and field team will travel to Winston-Salem on Saturday, Dec. 2, to begin the indoor season at the JDL College Kickoff Classic.

The Phoenix is coming off a ninth-place finish in the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Indoor Championships that concluded the racing last season — its highest finish to date. Elon returns 11 athletes from last year, including Emily Dixon, who earned a top-three finish in the Pentathlon last year.

This is the first of five meet the team will compete in over the course of the indoor season. Meet events are scheduled to start at 9:30 a.m.

Women's lacrosse welcomes eight

In the most recent recruiting class, the Elon University women's lacrosse team announced that it would be welcoming eight new members for the 2018 season.

The class will be comprised of athletes mostly from the Northeast. The Phoenix welcomes goalie Allie Cerrone (Clifton Park, New York), attacker Meri Curtin (Chester, New Jersey), midfielder Quinn Daly (Ridgewood, New Jersey), defender Ashley Duggan (Oyster Bay, New York), defender Lundy Fine (Chapel Hill, North Carolina), midfielder Mae McGlynn (Skaneateles, New York), midfielder Taylor Pani (Franklin Lakes, New Jersey) and defender Claire Smesko (Ridgewood, New Jersey).

Elon played eight preseason games this fall and is coming off a 13-7 record from last season, in which the Phoenix lost in the first round of the NCAA tournament in May to No. 13-ranked Virginia, 9-11.

THE PHOENIX FOCUS

FOOTBALL

RESULTS	8-4
NOV. 18 JAMES MADISON/ELON	3-31
NOV. 25 FURMAN/ELON	27-28

VOLLEYBALL

RESULTS	16-16
NOV. 16 JAMES MADISON/HARRISONBURG, VA	2-3

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

RESULTS	6-1
NOV. 22 UCF/ ORLANDO, FL	71-57
NOV. 24 ALABAMA/FORT LAUDERDALE, FL	60-55
NOV. 25 IOWA/FORT LAUDERDALE, FL	61-74
NOV. 27 COKER/ELON	106-54

SCHEDULE	12 P.M.
DEC. 2 WAKE FOREST/WINSTON-SALEM	

MEN'S BASKETBALL

RESULTS	4-3
NOV. 17 FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL/MILWAUKEE, WI	95-87
NOV. 18 CONCORDIA ST. PAUL/MILWAUKEE, WI	84-62
NOV. 19 MILWAUKEE/MILWAUKEE, WI	71-72
NOV. 19 RADFORD/ELON	77-74

SCHEDULE	7 P.M.
NOV. 30 SOUTH FLORIDA/ELON	7 P.M.
NOV. 11 SAINT PETER'S/ELON	7 P.M.

Senior left tackle Ikenna Nwokeji blocks a Furman defensive lineman during the first round Football Championship Subdivision playoff game between the two schools on Nov. 25.



OLIVER FISCHER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



ERIK WEBB | SPORTS EDITOR

Freshman guard Saadia Munford drives to the net against Hampton University on Nov. 17.



OLIVER FISCHER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Fans cheer on the Phoenix during Elon's playoff game against Furman University on Nov. 25.



ALEC MANDELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Junior defensive back Connor Christiansen is tackled by a James Madison University receiver after catching an interception Nov. 18.



OLIVER FISCHER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

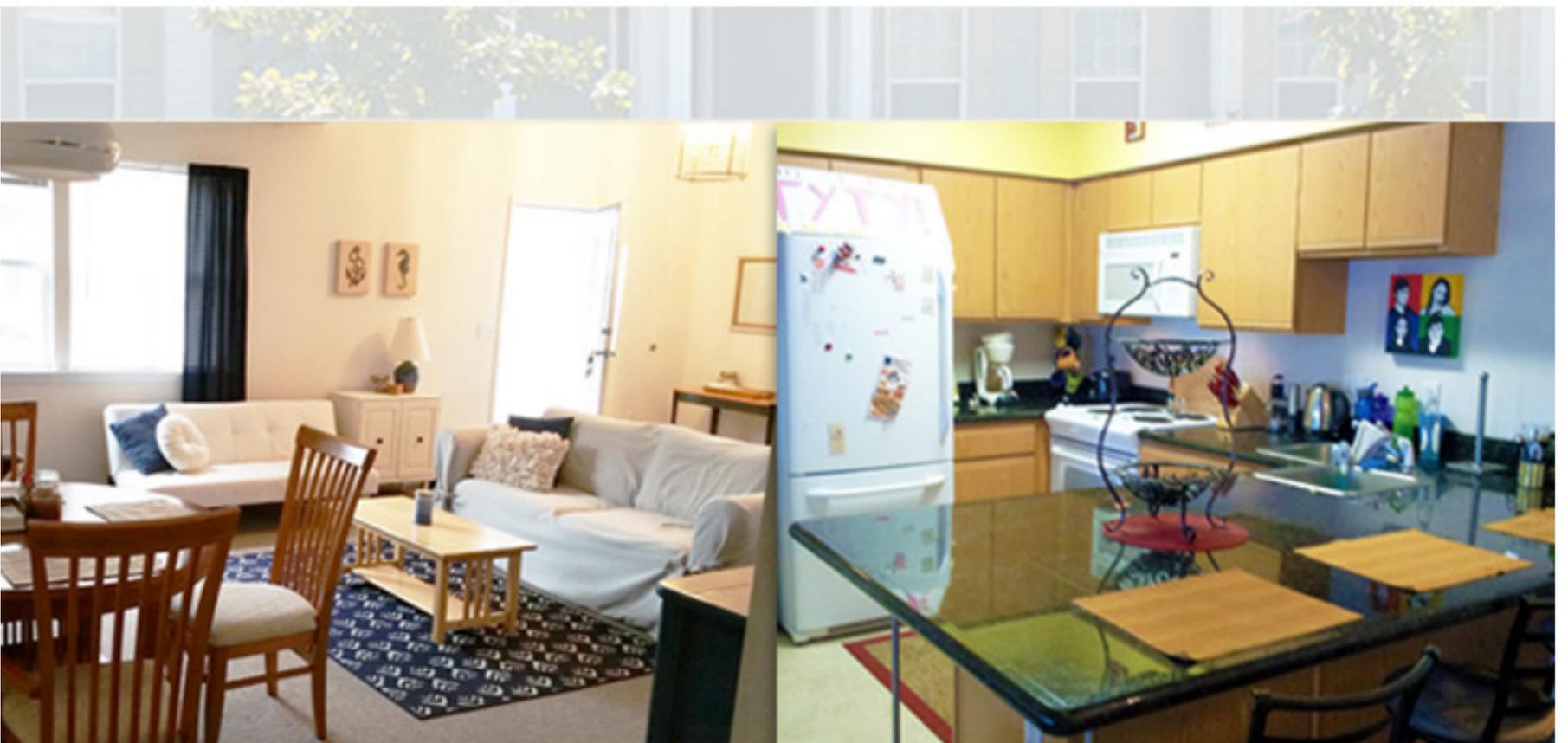
An Elon defender tackles James Madison University's senior running back Taylor Woods during the matchup between the Phoenix and Dukes Nov. 18.



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