

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2017  
VOLUME 42 EDITION 33  
ELON, NORTH CAROLINA

# THE PENDULUM



## STANDING IN SOLIDARITY

Elon community moves to stand together, support one another in current political climate

### Emmanuel Morgan

News Editor  
@\_EMorgan704

When Mariatu Okonofua walked into the room, Kristina Meyer looked up and giggled.

Both are sophomores at Elon University, and their yearlong friendship has morphed from simply being hallmates to having constant outbursts of laughter, inside jokes. As

friends often do, they complimented their outfits — but like their uncommon camaraderie — they were dressed completely different. Okonofua, an African-American Muslim, rushed back to campus from her Raleigh-based internship, leaving no time to change from her pantsuit. But Meyer, a white Christian, was cloaked in a raincoat and boots to absorb the precipitation of a dreary Friday afternoon.

Their differing choices of wardrobe somewhat exemplifies their contrasting ideologies. The bulk of history says these two groups — white and Christian; colored and Muslim — are not to get along. In light of the United States' current political climate, that statement seems more relevant than ever. But

See **MUSLIM LIFE**  
pgs. 6-7

ANTON L. DELGADO | Contributor  
The Global Solidarity March leads Seniors Emily Collins, Surya Shahi and Suad Ibrahim into the Global Neighborhood Feb. 6.

## A FUR-EVER CLASSIC: Elon theater updates 'Cats' aesthetic

### Deirdre Kronschnabel

Contributor  
@kronschnabel

The curtain is closed and the theater dark, but right around the corner the dressing room is bursting with color and energy. Inside, the cast is getting fitted in wigs of shimmering silver, burnt orange and pale pink. Fur lines the walls on costume racks, and makeup artists and actors alike prowl in and out of dressing rooms, wielding everything from Styrofoam mannequin heads to eyebrow pencils.

In four hours, faces are painted, wigs are teased and the troupe is transformed into a band of feline creatures.

The Elon Department of Performing Arts

opens its production of "Cats" at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 9 in McCrary Theatre under the direction of Associate Professor of Dance Lynne Kurdziel Formato. Formato is supported in costume, makeup and design by guest designer Caitlin Graham '11.

Based on T. S. Eliot's "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats," "Cats" follows a tribe of cats who come together on one fantastical night for an annual ball. Winner of seven Tony Awards, the show is the fourth longest-running show in Broadway history and is now successfully sharing its story to a new generation in the "Cats" Broadway revival tour.

Formato described "Cats!" as a foil to re-

See **"CATS"**  
pgs. 18-19



The cast of "Cats" performs at their dress rehearsal at McCrary Theatre Feb. 6.

DIEGO PINEDA | Photo Editor

**NEWS**

Immigration ban puts Elon in a bind

**8**

**STYLE**

Elon alumna trains for first 50k

**16**

**SPORTS**

Both Elon basketball teams hit their stride

**21**

THE PENDULUM

A PUBLICATION OF

ELON NEWS NETWORK

Established 1974

Elon News Network is a daily operation that includes a newspaper, website, broadcasts and multimedia. Letters to the editor are welcome and should be typed, signed and emailed to [enn@elon.edu](mailto: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. ENN is located in the McEwen building, room 108.

Executive Director

Tommy Hamzik

Managing Editor

Hannah Silvers

News Director

Ashley Bohle

Digital Manager

Jane Seidel

Adviser

Kelly Furnas

Executive Staff

Emmanuel Morgan, News

Olivia Ryan, Opinions

Courtney Campbell, Lifestyle

Alex Simon, Sports

Diego Pineda, Photo

Janat Bashir, Copy Chief

Maria Barreto, Copy Chief

Stephanie Hays, Design Chief

Christina Elias, Assistant Design Chief

Meg Malone, Assistant News Editor

Alexandra Schonfeld, Assistant Lifestyle Editor

Leena Dahal, Assistant Opinions

Editorial policy:

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

Corrections policy:

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

CRIME REPORT

Feb. 2  
HAGGARD AVENUE  
ELON  
Impaired driving

A Campus Safety and Police officer observed a vehicle traveling at 44 miles per hour in a 25 mile per hour zone at 11:45 p.m. Feb. 1. The officer arrested the driver, Horacio Dante Chavis Jr., 39, for speeding and driving while impaired.

Feb. 3  
WEST HAGGARD AVENUE  
ELON  
Vandalism

At 5:45 p.m. Feb. 2, an officer was dispatched to the Pit Stop Mini Mart of West Haggard Avenue in reference to reported damage to the property. The owner, Harry Patel, said an individual forgot to remove the gas pump from their car after pumping gas and drove off, tearing the hose from the gas pump station.

An unnamed individual recorded the suspect's vehicle tag as they drove off. An investigation is underway.

CORRECTIONS

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

The infographic on page 19 of the Feb. 1 edition of The Pendulum stated that the football game for Family Weekend will be played Sept. 30. Family Weekend will be Oct. 7. ENN regrets the error.

The article on page 8 of the Feb. 1 edition of The Pendulum stated that the renovation for Long Building was scheduled for 2018 instead of 2017. The article also said some communications faculty worked in Long Building when they actually work in Powell Building. ENN regrets the error.

ELON NEWS NETWORK

WATCH OUR NEXT ELON LOCAL NEWS BROADCAST

FEBRUARY 13, 2017

ON ELONNEWSNETWORK.COM



JACKIE PASCALE, PERRY ELYADERANI AND MAYA EAGLIN ARE BRINGING YOU THE NEWS YOU NEED TO KNOW.

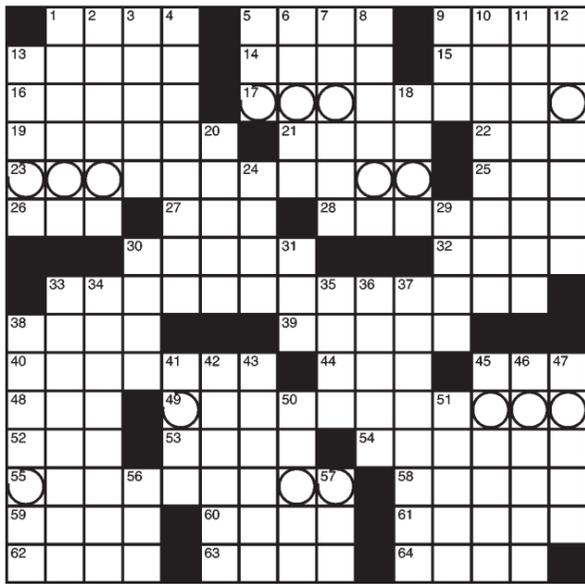
GAMES

FOR RELEASE FEBRUARY 8, 2017

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Blowout victory
  - 5 Airline mentioned in the first line of the Beatles' "Back in the U.S.S.R."
  - 9 Taj Mahal city
  - 13 Old Renault
  - 14 Cold, in Cádiz
  - 15 Mark as important
  - 16 Like most triangle angles
  - 17 World-class
  - 19 Glass manufacturing dioxide
  - 21 Bk. read at Purim
  - 22 Sports doc's scan
  - 23 Mantilla material
  - 25 Univ. dorm overseers
  - 26 "\_\_\_ the fields we go ..."
  - 27 Codebreaking org.
  - 28 Dream up
  - 30 One inch = one foot, e.g.
  - 32 Seals, as a deal
  - 33 Program interruptions literally demonstrated by this puzzle's four sets of circles
  - 38 Not quite place
  - 39 California's San \_\_\_ Zoo
  - 40 Rubs elbows (with)
  - 44 Kids' recess game
  - 45 Time of yr. for new growth
  - 48 She raised Cain
  - 49 It may be shaped on a wheel
  - 52 Legal thing
  - 53 Thickening agent
  - 54 African desert
  - 55 Sacred lily of ancient Egypt
  - 58 Allow to pass
  - 59 Architect Saarinen
  - 60 Composer who was a CBS reporter



By Peg Slay 2/8/17

- DOWN**
- 1 Means to an end
  - 2 Pertaining to the eye
  - 3 Marseille morning
  - 4 Police unit
  - 5 Fave texting bud
  - 6 Projecting window
  - 7 Respiratory cavity
  - 8 Bulk-purchase club
  - 9 Kilimanjaro's cont.
  - 10 Genre that influenced Prince
  - 11 Hectic lifestyles
  - 12 Biased targets of the Gray Panthers
  - 13 Rodeo need
  - 18 In that case
  - 20 Extremely, musically
  - 24 Angelic ring

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

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

- 29 "Later!"
- 30 Like logs
- 31 Bitter \_\_\_
- 33 Snow remover
- 34 Without a doubt
- 35 Tasting menu portion
- 36 Brings up
- 37 Sandwich filling for a lacto-ovo vegetarian
- 38 Frozen dessert
- 41 Play-of-color gem
- 42 South American capital
- 43 Australian sextet
- 45 Lists of nominees
- 46 Persona non grata
- 47 "\_\_\_ Hope": '70s-'80s soap
- 50 Have faith
- 51 French darling
- 56 Dawn goddess
- 57 HBO competitor

UPCOMING EVENTS: FEBRUARY 8 - 14

7:30 P.M. |  
Jamie  
Tworkowski  
TWLOHA  
8

7:00 P.M. |  
Federico Motka  
talk  
9

7:30 P.M. |  
Women's  
Basketball vs  
Northeastern  
10

7:30 P.M. |  
Elon Performing  
Arts presents  
"Cats"  
11

4:00 P.M. |  
Learn to  
Bachata with  
PapaFuegz  
12

6:00 P.M. |  
GCDF Access  
Networking  
13

6:30 P.M. |  
The Vagina  
Monologues  
14

# TOP PHOTOS



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer  
**Elon University men's basketball sophomore guard Dainan Swoope blocks an opponent during the game against James Madison University Feb. 2. Elon won 67-61.**



DIEGO PINEDA | Photo Editor  
**Elon students, faculty and staff gathered for the Global Solidarity March Feb. 6 in response to President Donald Trump's recent executive order.**



DIEGO PINEDA | Photo Editor  
**The cast of "Cats" runs through a dress rehearsal in McCrory Theatre Feb. 6.**



AJ MANDELL | Staff Photographer  
**Assistant Professor of Political Science Damion Blake talks to the students of "The Black Man in America" course Feb. 2.**

DIEGO PINEDA | Photo Editor  
Freshman Zack Heine's room is furnished with an aquarium.



# CHECK IT OUT

Health and safety inspections ensure compliance, prevent hazards

## Oliver Fischer

Contributor  
@FischerWithC

It might not be their parents telling them to clean their rooms anymore, but students still have to abide by some rules set by Residence Life.

Though formally known as “health and safety inspections,” students who live on campus at Elon University are familiar with the routine examinations most commonly known as “room checks.” These usually occur before breaks and are supervised by Ian Reynolds, the assistant director of Residence Life for Facilities and Housing Operations. The first health and safety inspection takes place during Fall Break. This check-up differs from those that follow in that students are not fined for any infractions that may be found.

Reynolds said the idea behind this is to provide new students who may have misconceptions about college dorms an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the rules of permitted items.

“New students won’t necessarily be thinking about the dangers of Christmas lights,” Reynolds said.

Matters become more serious when Thanksgiving Break approaches. A standard fine rate of \$25 or higher, depending on the severity of the infractions,

now applies. Jiajie Li, a freshman student from China, said \$25 is still too small of an amount.

“Nobody would risk it if it were something like \$50,” he said.

Students are contacted via mass email by MarQuita Barker, senior associate director of Residence Life, as each break draws nearer, informing students about actions they are required to take before leaving campus.

These instructions vary depending on whether students reside in dorms or apartments. Certain cooking appliances may be permitted in apartments with kitchens, but forbidden in dorms. Elon lists several goals for its health and safety inspections, from encouraging students to become engaged in maintaining their living environment to increased safety. The overarching objective of these inspections is rather simple, though, according to Reynolds.

As students leave for break, dorms remain unattended, and the danger of fire hazards become an ever-increasing reality. Reynolds said inspections are an essential step to prevent any fires from occurring.

After the student has left, a member of Residence Life staff and the Resident Assistant will enter the room to ensure that all necessary precautions, such as unplugging all electrical cords, have been met. At the same time, they will be looking out for any illegal items in their field of view and administer fines accordingly.

Ginger Looney, a freshman living in Sloan Hall, finds some of these procedures a bit excessive.

“I can understand the concern for safety when it comes to lit candles, but I don’t think Christmas lights pose that big of a threat,” she said.

Drawers, closets and refrigerators will not be opened to preserve students’ privacy, Reynolds said, with the exception of refrig-

erators being opened once during the initial Fall Break inspection to verify that they are in working order.

With residents receiving advanced notice of inspections and with certain areas of rooms off-limits from Residence Life staff, there’s always the potential for students simply to keep contraband items out of sight.

But Kannon Hall, an RA in Sloan, said inspections are merely designed to be “an extra step to ensure safety.”

“There are other signs when a student may present a danger to the living environment,” she said.

The physical examination of the room expands beyond the search for safety concerns. Anything that is in plain sight that is prohibited or illegal, such as pets, drugs or alcohol, can be seen by inspectors.

“If they happen to spot an illegal item, they can’t simply ignore it,” Reynolds said, arguing that would represent irresponsible behavior on behalf of the university.

Should contraband items be found in a student’s room, inspectors will leave a note, remove the item and charge the student a fine of \$25. Reynolds also said if more than one such item is found, then fines may increase. The same holds true for recurring infractions.

Reynolds said he was unable to provide specific numbers or dollar amounts of overall fines, saying his department does not track the total number of violation forms.

But he did reveal that fines from health and safety violations are put into an account that Physical Plant may use for the maintenance and repair of facilities and buildings. Fines collected



KAITLYN FU | Designer

from the possession of illegal items go toward funding education about that very item. For example, some of the money has gone to e-CHUG, an online alcohol assessment tool.

Reynolds did mention that the most common contraband item is Christmas lights, but perhaps

surprisingly, the second-most common contraband item kept in dorms are pets — specifically cats.

“Apparently students seem to believe that cats are relatively easy to hide,” he said.

## ROOM CHECK REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Thermostats must be set to 68 degrees Fahrenheit in dorms.
- 2) Students living in dorms must remove all electrical cords from outlets, except refrigerators.
- 3) Students living in dorms must lock their windows, lock their room doors and close all blinds.
- 4) Students living in apartments must regularly clean surfaces and remove trash to maintain living conditions.
- 5) Candles and Christmas lights are fire hazards and forbidden in both dorms and apartments.
- 6) Dorm pets are limited to fish kept in aquariums.

A standard fine rate is \$25 or higher.

# Executive Internship applications now available

Program pairs students with staff members to complete projects

**Junie Burke  
and Morgan Collins**

Contributors  
@elonnewsnetwork

The Executive Internship at Elon University, created in 2011, is intended to showcase some of Elon's most driven students. Applications for the 2017-2018 cohort are due Feb. 20.

The 2016-2017 academic year program's participants includes juniors and seniors of a variety of majors and career interests. The program allows these students to gain experience and practice alongside some of Elon's senior staff members. Last year, 60 students applied to be a part of the 11-student program.

Senior Emma Warman, who was accepted into the program last spring, said she first heard about the program from a fellow tour guide who highly recommended the program to her.

She said she used the internship as a way to leave her mark on Elon.

"Spring of my junior year, I had just come back from abroad, and I was looking for a way to make lasting change on this campus," Warman said. "I saw this opportunity as a really good way to do so. It was my desire to make a tangible change on campus and give back to Elon before graduating."

After the application and selection process, the chosen interns are honored at the Annual Internship Breakfast in May. Each intern is assigned a "placement," which can be in one of a wide arrangement of categories, including: Office of the President, Office of the Provost, Associate Provost for Inclusive Community,

Associate Provost for Faculty Staff Affairs, University Advancement, Business, Technology, and Finance, Student Life, Admissions and Financial Planning, University Communications, Athletics, the Center for Access and Success, the College of Arts and Sciences and the Center for Race, Ethnicity, and Diversity Education.

The interns then begin a year of involvement, beginning the fall semester of their selected year, when they attend orientation and meet their supervisors. During this semester, interns can spend between two to four hours every week brainstorming possible ideas and goals for what they plan to accomplish during Winter Term, when most of their work is conducted.

When January rolls around, interns work with their supervisors every week on their assigned projects. During this time, interns can conduct research and work with members of Elon's staff to gain communication skills.

During their spring semester, interns begin presenting projects to several committees or specialized teams and finish any educational requirements. The Board of Trustees meeting in the spring is also a valuable opportunity for Executive Interns to make an appearance alongside several influential Elon figures. When the application process begins again, current interns play a part in the intern selection process.

The confidentiality agreement proved to be a way for Warman to grow closer with the senior staff.

"The level of trust between [the Executive Interns] and the senior staff is just so flattering," Warman said.

Gregory Nantz '14, who was an Executive Intern, agreed.

"The Executive Internship is great preparation for those interested in education policy or man-



The 2016-2017 executive interns pose for a selfie after working. The 2017-2018 Executive Internship application is due Feb. 20.

DIEGO PINEDA | Photo Editor

## HOW TO APPLY

### Requirements:

- 1) Applicants must be rising juniors or seniors in good academic and judicial standing.
- 2) Applicants must be available to work full-time on campus during Winter Term.
- 3) Applicants must demonstrate ability to maintain confidentiality.
- 4) Applicants must complete the general background section, list three professional references (including one faculty member) and answer two short-answer questions.
- 5) Applicants must separately submit a one-page resume and a one-page cover letter explaining their interest in the program to executiveinterns@elon.edu.

**Due Date:** Monday, Feb. 20 at 5:00 p.m.

To apply, visit the Elon homepage and search "Executive Internship." Select the first page, and click the "Apply" tab.

agement, planning and leadership more generally," Nantz said. "The mentor-mentee relationship between leaders of the university and interns is one of the greatest strengths of the program."

The internship also taught Warman about the way decisions are made at Elon, and she said it was an intense operation.

"There are so many flow charts of leadership and decision-mak-

ing and planning for the tiniest things on this campus," Warman said. "Elon is such a student-centered university, and that carries through every level of the process of planning at the school."

# Delays keep textbooks out of classes' 1st week

Textbook arrivals delayed during 1st week of spring semester classes

**Liam Collins**

Contributor  
@Liam\_Collins7

It's been more than a week since spring semester began at Elon University, but many students are still having issues getting their books in time to complete assignments for classes.

It's a result of a new book-ordering system, implemented last fall. The new system moved textbooks to a warehouse on South Church Street to make room on the second floor of the bookstore for more Elon gear, according to Barnes & Noble Store Manager Carly Mayer.

Before this change, textbooks were located on the second floor of the bookstore, available for students to either order ahead of time and pick up or pick up with no previous order.

Now, all of the textbooks have moved to a warehouse on South Church Street. The change in the system came when the store

noticed that 85 percent of students ordered their textbooks ahead of time.

But the new system is proving to be a bit of an issue to some students, such as sophomore Claudia Mortati, whose textbook was backordered for the entire week.

"It's been kind of stressful to have to do all my readings on the internet and to have people sending me photos of textbook pages," Mortati said. "It's just unnecessarily complicated when I could just be ... getting finished."

The delay in textbooks hasn't only proved to be an issue for students. In some classes, more than half of students still don't have their textbooks in the first week. This delay causes professors, such as Anthony Hatcher, associate professor of communications, to improvise on lesson plans.

"I think a week's delay is about as much as I can do," Hatcher said. "Otherwise, we're pushing necessary knowledge, definitions, terminology ... background, history, context — all of those things are being delayed because not everyone has a textbook."

The bookstore processes more than 2,500 textbooks in two weeks for pick-up, with a typical one-day wait time for students, according to Mayer.

"I just want to make clear that back-



Elon's Barnes & Noble store has moved textbook orders to a warehouse on South Church Street.

LIAM COLLINS | Contributor

orders are orders where we didn't have the book at the time we fulfilled the order, so it went on backorder," Mayer said. "But there's a difference between that and then orders that just aren't ready for pick-up yet."

Overall, Mayer said that productivity

and manpower from employees has not been the cause of the delay, stating that the bookstore "is in better shape with backorders than they've been in [her] tenure" at Barnes & Noble and that she is "proud of the work that [her] team has done to accomplish that."

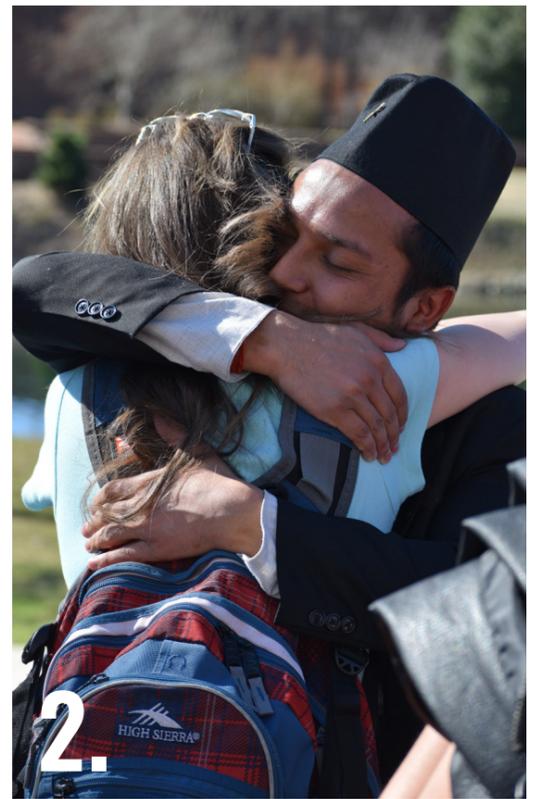
WE TOO ARE AMERICANS AND OUR FIGHT SHOULD NOT BE A FUTILE FIGHT. THERE ARE PEOPLE OUT THERE WHO GENUINELY CARE WHAT WE HAVE TO SAY AND WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A VULNERABLE MINORITY.

**MARIATU OKONOFUA**  
HIJAB DAY ORGANIZER

**1** DIEGO PINEDA | Photo Editor  
**Mariatu Okonofua and Kristina Mayer pose in hijabs together as an act of solidarity.**

**2** DIEGO PINEDA | Photo Editor  
**Surya Shahi hugs Suad Ibrahim during the Global Solidarity March on campus.**

**3** ANTON L. DELGADO | Contributor  
**Lauren Fisher and Suad Ibrahim hold signs during the Global Solidarity March Feb. 6.**



**MUSLIM LIFE**  
from cover

after 18 months of a divisive election season, the two have bonded to proclaim Elon's campus — and the rest of the world — that unity outlasts hate.

Their project, Hijab Day, will unfold Feb. 16. While Okonofua is Muslim, Meyer has actually taken charge of planning the event, which is designed to give women only a taste of the realities of being judged for practicing their faith — particularly the misunderstood religion of Islam.

Other people may find it odd. Some may say things under their breath. But Meyer said this is simply the right thing to do.

"I think that God wants us to love our neighbors — all of our neighbors — and this hate stemming from this political rhetoric is not love," Meyer said. "I want to show the love that I find from my faith and my religion and I want to share that with everyone. This is the most effective way that I can do that and it's just a bonus that I can do that with someone I find so amusing and that I love so much.

"I don't think of Mariatu as a Muslim — I think of Mariatu as Mariatu."

**United through fear**

President Donald Trump's 13th executive order, which bans travel from seven majority countries, was one of Okonofua's last straws.

She feels he has personally attacked her for an entire year.

His refrain of "radical Islamic extremists" troubled her as a Muslim. His remarks on inner city communities astounded her as a black person. His Hollywood Access Video infuriated her as a woman. When Meyer approached her with co-organizing Hijab Day, she couldn't refuse.

It's her chance to make a statement.

"To hear him making so many derogatory comments about all of these aspects of my life, it kind of overwhelmed me and I knew I had to do something in some way, some way," Okonofua said. "By me advocating for this and putting my name behind it, I am standing up to the man who wants to be my oppressor.

"At the end of the day, I am an American citizen, I was born here and it is my right to tell you that you are wrong about me and people who look like me or worship the same God that I do."

Meyer reacted similarly to Okonofua, though she technically was not affected the same degree. She's in the majority demographic, but she sobbed after the election without knowing why. She's participated in Hijab Day for five years, while many of her peers neglected its significance. Now, based on current events, she believes it's blatantly obvious why others should participate.

"One of the things that is so important in my faith is loving other people and I have a very big

**HIJAB DAY**

**When:** Feb. 16

**Where:** Elon's campus

**What:** A day designed to give women a taste of the realities of being judged for practicing their faith — particularly the misunderstood religion of Islam

heart for people on the periphery," Meyer said. "Seeing them so hurt and being so scared, it tore me apart ...

"I think there are a lot of things that happened that make people more willing and understanding of why it's important to rally together and show support. Last year was kind of like, 'I don't know if I should be doing this.' But this year, the community understands, and I think it's a lot more obvious."

University Chaplain for Religious and Spiritual Life Jan Fuller shares Meyer's concern for Muslims as a Christian. Growing up in Lebanon, a country rich with Islamic traditions, she's been bred to show compassion for all creeds. Last year's political sphere has disheartened her, but she's perused every avenue to advocate for the afflicted.

Posted on her office door is a sign saying, "This is a safe haven," a gateway for many who have confided in her on her couch. She's also called politicians such as Sen. Thom Tillis (R-NC) to voice her concerns.

With a slew of events planned in solidarity for the Elon Muslim population, she hopes the Elon community will notice.

"What I hope is going to happen is that our community — and I can hope this only for our community, I don't know if it's happening anywhere else — but I can hope that our community realizes, or begins to realize, that we don't know enough about our Muslim students or their lives," Fuller said.

Imam Shane Atkinson, Muslim Life coordinator at Elon, agreed. He estimated there are only 30 faculty members and students at Elon who are practicing Muslims. He also said some may be scared to profess their faith, and he couldn't blame them. But while their numbers are small, their cause is universal. Atkinson said their voice can be loudly heard for if others to stake claim in the fight — that's the only way progress can be made.

"Regardless of what group we're all from, I've seen a lot of people stand in solidarity saying, 'I got your back,'" Atkinson said. "Humanizing each other and getting to know each other breaks down a lot of these barriers. We all have to be vigilant because that same hate and that same dehumanizing against Muslims, that's the same methodology used against African-Americans that labels them as thugs and rapists. This threatens all of us, and it's not in harmony with our values as Americans."

**Taking action as the voice of the students**

Elon's SGA attempted to do just that — make sense of the crazy situation affecting its constituents. The organization switched its Feb. 2 town hall meeting theme from sexual assault to the immigration ban instead to spark conversation. While the logistics of the ban were a focal point of the discussion, many of the officers



4.

IT IS OUR DUTY AS HUMAN BEINGS TO STAND UP AGAINST THESE ACTS OF INJUSTICES AND BIGOTED RHETORIC. ALTHOUGH THE PAST TWO WEEKS HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT, I FEEL THEY HAVE MADE ME MORE PROUD TO BE AN ARABIC, MUSLIM WOMEN.

**SUAD IBRAHIM**  
GLOBAL SOLIDARITY MARCH ORGANIZER



5.



6.

4

DIEGO PINEDA | Photo Editor  
**Surya Shahi and Suad Ibrahim** give a speech before the Global Solidarity March Feb. 6.

5

DIEGO PINEDA | Photo Editor  
**Joel Harter and Imam Shane Atkinson** speak at the Global Solidarity March Feb. 6.

6

DIEGO PINEDA | Photo Editor  
**Freshmen Emily Ford and Lucia Craige** hold a sign during the Global Solidarity March.

humanized those touched by this circumstance. Sophie Zinn, Class of 2019 vice president, studied abroad in India during Winter Term, a country whose second largest religion is Muslim. Spending three weeks immersed in the culture broadened Zinn's perspective, and she said Muslims desire a sense of inclusion.

"The religion is very beautiful and they feel really silenced," Zinn said. "They want to feel like they can have someone to talk to."

Kenneth Brown Jr., Class of 2019 president, expressed a similar viewpoint. In a speech that garnered applause, Brown said it is imperative for others who aren't as afflicted to rally behind those who are. Only then, he said, would Muslims feel like they have a place in society.

"America is a concept, it's an idea that is always changing and sometimes people just need to learn how to adapt to the changing times," Brown said. "We have to not be scared of stepping outside first of ourselves and stepping outside of our bubbles. But we also have to realize that the thing that you're supporting reflects more things than you."

That same mentality — feelings of linking together for others — radiated Feb. 6 when the Elon community congregated for Global Solidarity March. When senior Suad Ibrahim planned the event, it was to cultivate momentum for her Muslim peers. Originally from Kuwait, Ibrahim pondered how Trump expresses "such little

regard for other human beings."

When Trump issued his ban, she said her mother advised her to shun her faith in public. Her grandmother, who is Sudanese wanted to surprise Ibrahim for graduation. Trump's ban drastically altered those plans. In her Elon career, she said she and other Muslims weren't assertive.

Now, she took a different approach.

"I should not fear to be who I am ... but that is the reality that I am facing every day right now," Ibrahim said in her speech before the march. "What happened to love, equality, fairness and the values of humanity? It is our duty as human beings to stand up against these acts of injustice and bigoted rhetoric. Although the past two weeks have been difficult, I feel they have made me more proud to be an Arabic, Muslim woman."

Around 100 people attended the march, which was preceded by student and faculty speakers. In her speech, Shereen Elgamal, lecturer in Arabic in the Department of World Languages and Cultures, emphatically denounced Trump. Wearing her hijab, the Egyptian native proudly said she is unafraid. She said that America is not defined by the actions of one man and the country can overcome anything Trump might do.

"Politicians come and go, but we will stay," Elgamal said. "Take your term, leave, and we will continue to do what we are going to do. Thank you, Mr. President, for bringing us all together. We have

I THINK THAT GOD WANTS US TO LOVE OUR NEIGHBORS — ALL OF OUR NEIGHBORS — AND THIS HATE STEMMING FROM THIS POLITICAL RHETORIC IS NOT LOVE.

**KRISTINA MAYER**  
HIJAB DAY ORGANIZER

nothing to apologize for. We are good people. Thank you for highlighting to us how important it is to recognize our differences."

A wide range of students and faculty attended the march. Present senior level staff included Associate Provost for Inclusive Community Brooke Barnett, Provost and Executive Vice President Steven House and Associate Vice President for Campus Engagement Randy Williams. Similar to the Black Lives Matter march in September, Williams said when a certain sect of the community feels demonized, the university will deliberately and willingly show support.

"Relationships are important here and if members of the Elon community are being afflicted in some way, the senior staff of the university will show out and support," Williams said. "While we want to offer a great education and give great life experiences, we want to console the community as well. All together, we want to facilitate our students, faculty and staff to flourish together."

### Comfortable being uncomfortable

Fuller said Hijab Day hinges on togetherness, like numerous things in life. She guessed many would flirt with participating in it, but may still remain hesitant. As of Feb. 1, 68 people said they would participate, and 102 people said they were interested. Even Meyer, whose participated in Hi-

jab Day multiple times, said the night before she will probably have jitters. But Fuller said it is great that women of privilege feel uncomfortable.

That's the entire point.

"First, I'd say, 'Good for you' for identifying that you feel scared, because it's a moment of privilege to realize that I can get dressed and not feel scared," Fuller said. "I would say, 'Well done' for identifying that you're scared, and then I would say, 'You're going to be among friends,' that it will be a good learning experience. We're not going to let you be alone, and we're going to get together at the end of the day."

Though the last year has been hard for her, Okonofua said she feels "amazing" that so many people want to uplift her. While there is still much work to be done, she hopes the example she and Meyer are setting will open the floodgates to helping the Muslim community feel more connected and accepted.

"This really shows that there are people who recognize that we are just as important, just as valuable, just as deserving to be in this country as anyone else," Okonofua said. "In a society where there is an overwhelming majority of religious values that are different from ours, it's nice to see someone who's at least wearing something that reminds you of your difference from the main group. It feels amazing that people are showing you that they care and that you matter, and I think that's most important."

# Elon navigates the IMMIGRATION BAN



DIEGO PINEDA | Photo Editor  
Students and faculty gathered together for a solidarity march at Elon University Feb. 6. They walked from Speakers' Corner to the Global Neighborhood in support of Elon's international population.

## Administration grapples with legal demands, safety concerns, uncertain future

**Bryan Anderson**  
Enterprise Manager  
@BryanRAnderson

Elon University presents itself as an inclusive campus protective of all of its students.

After President Trump signed an executive order suspending all refugee admission for 120 days and banning travel from seven Muslim-majority countries for 90 days, Elon President Leo Lambert was quick to issue a statement. He criticized the order, saying it "has spurred deep concerns for many members of the Elon community."

Though talk about the executive order has focused on the implications it would have for those on student visas, it also poses significant challenges for university administrations.

Elon must remain in compliance with federal laws requiring it to disclose immigration statuses while simultaneously working to provide students with a sense of safety and security. It must also prepare for the uncertainties that lie ahead. This clashing of demands has put Elon in a vulnerable position.

### Elon will comply with federal law

As Elon seeks to reassure its students that it will keep them safe, it also recognizes the legal responsibilities it must follow. These demands do not conflict with one another, according to Woody Pelton, dean of global education.

"We need to report that the students that we invite to be a student are in fact a student, and they all are. ... Not only are we required to do it by law, but we want to do it," Pelton said.

Under the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP), universities must have a Designated School Official (DSO) disclose enrollment and immigration statuses of non-immigrant international F and M students. F students enroll in more traditional academic programs, while M students enroll in vocational programs.

DSOs report this information, along with other student demographic and performance variables, into the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS).

The Department of Homeland Security, specifically the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), uses this information to track foreign students in the United States.

Elon's DSO, Francois Masuka, declined to be interviewed. Lambert, who was unavailable

to be interviewed, wrote in his initial statement that the university does not release "any confidential data about its students, faculty, and staff, including immigration status, unless required by law."

Pelton confirmed the university will continue to adhere to federal laws and update SEVIS. But Elon's peer institutions have been more openly antagonistic toward Trump's immigration ban.

### Nondisclosure not an option

In a statement, Duke University President Richard Brodhead wrote that Duke would not share confidential student records with law enforcement agencies unless the university were subpoenaed.

The university later clarified that it would still comply with SEVIS.

If universities violate federal law by not reporting immigration statuses, which Duke had initially suggested as a possibility, they run the risk of losing their SEVP certification. A loss of certification could lead to ineligibility to enroll foreign students.

"Schools that fail to comply with these requirements may be deemed ineligible to enroll foreign students or their existing certification to enroll non-immigrant F or M visa students may be withdrawn, as appropriate," said an ICE spokesperson.

Pelton said students should not worry about their immigration information being in the government's hands.

"There is nothing students need to fear about that ongoing reporting," Pelton said. "That's been happening all along. Nothing new."

Suad Ibrahim, a senior from Kuwait, and Kahlil Osman, a freshman with dual U.S.-Sudanese citizenship, said they trust that Elon is making the right decision in disclosing records.

Ibrahim and Osman still fear Elon cannot protect them from some of the consequences of Trump's executive order.

### Mounting fear, frustration

Though Elon has just one student from one of the seven banned countries, the ban's impact extends much further.

"There are five people that I know that it's going to have a direct impact on — either the

student or faculty person themselves or the family," Pelton said. "Plans are changing probably because of this."

The executive order has affected several more people indirectly.

Ibrahim is expected to graduate this spring but will not be able to have her grandmother in attendance because she is from Sudan — one of the seven countries banned from entering the United States.

"I haven't seen my grandma in two or three years," Ibrahim said.

Osman hoped to have his father visit Elon in the spring, but those plans have come to a sudden halt since he only has Sudanese citizenship.

"It just hurts," Osman said. "He's missing huge experiences of his son growing up."

### Plagued with uncertainty

The immigration ban is temporary, and its constitutionality has been questioned by the court system. On Friday, a Seattle federal judge granted a temporary restraining order blocking Trump's ban on seven countries.

The White House responded later that night with a statement calling the judge's ruling "outrageous" and stating that the order is intended to keep the United States safe.

Trump took to social media the next morning, tweeting "the opinion of this so-called judge, which essentially takes law-enforcement away from our country, is ridiculous and will be overturned!"

The Department of Homeland Security released a statement Saturday announcing it had suspended implementation of the travel ban.

Ever-changing news is creating confusion among Elon's international population, leaving universities with the task of supporting them in an uncertain time.

Kristen Aquilino, assistant director for Global Student Engagement, sent an email to members of Elon's international community on Jan. 30 expressing the university's commitment to protecting their safety and well-being.

In the email, she said she recognizes "there are many questions and a great deal of anxiety," but reassured them that they are "legally authorized to work or study in the U.S." She also announced there would be a meeting for people to ask questions and voice their concerns regarding the executive order.

Aquilino declined to comment on the pending meeting.

"I don't think there's cause for anyone to be excessively concerned about continuing their day-to-day life as a student," Pelton said. "I don't think there's a reason for any of our

students to feel threatened about their ability to continue as a student at Elon."

Pelton said he is unclear what Trump's actions will look like three months from now. The university is essentially in the same position as many of its students: confused, waiting to see what happens and searching for guidance.

As Elon looks to the future, it takes comfort in knowing the past hurdles it overcame.

9/11 rattled the U.S. population, shaking many people's sense of safety and security.

Out of the Sept. 11 attacks, government agencies developed an interest in better understanding foreign students on college campuses. Pelton recalls an instance where they physically came to Elon's campus.

"When 9/11 occurred, there was a lot more curiosity about students and faculty that were international," Pelton said. "There were cases where government agencies were coming to campus to meet with students and faculty."

Pelton doesn't foresee a similar situation occurring at Elon in the near future.

### Moving forward

Despite rumors, Elon is not going to become a sanctuary campus. By definition, part of being a sanctuary campus is not disclosing immigration statuses of students. Though Elon has sought to support and reassure its international community, it has also said it will remain in compliance with existing laws.

The university administration itself, along with specific departments, has consistently expressed its commitment to keeping students safe. For the time being, legal and social responsibilities do not appear to be clashing with each other.

The larger implications of Trump's executive actions are what appear to be causing the greatest concern. Lambert has signed a letter with 597 other college presidents advocating Homeland Security to craft policies that keep the nation safe from harm while also welcoming potential international students to the United States.

Pelton worries the order could lower Elon's ability to recruit international students and faculty members. He also fears the foreign talent pool will have a more negative perception of the country.

But at a time when the country is deeply divided politically and ideologically, Pelton believes there is a window of opportunity where values can meet in the middle.

"I think you can be fiercely patriotic — as I believe I am — but do that through a global lens," Pelton said. "That's what we need to continue to promote."

# Progress being made on Task Force's recommendations

Implementation team addresses social climate and out-of-class engagement

**Meg Malone**

Assistant News Editor  
@megretjeane

Last year, 29 members of Elon University's student body, faculty and staff published a list of 42 recommendations to increase student involvement in academic, social and intellectual activities. More than a semester later, there might not be many tangible results yet, but change is in progress.

The Presidential Task Force on Social Climate and Out-of-Class Engagement — as the group of 29 was collectively known — released this list almost a year ago in May 2016, which included everything from the expansion of late-night food options to exploring lateral entry for fellows programs.

Their recommendations fell into five categories: managing expectations, messaging and the transition of freshmen, increasing access to high-quality mentoring experiences, enhancing traditions and campus social experiences, enhancing the physical campus environment and reviewing and revising institutional policies and practices.

The responsibility for overseeing these recommendations' progression has since fallen to Randy Williams, associate vice president for campus engagement and assistant professor and Tony Crider, associate professor of physics — co-chairs of the task force implementation team.

Crider said he and Williams are not in the business of addressing each recommendation themselves, but instead they find or create other groups better-suited for the task at hand.

"[We've been] trying to figure out who are all the different people that are organizing these things, and also making sure that we don't have two groups trying to accomplish the same thing and not know about each other," Crider said. "It's one of the things that we've been very

deliberate about this very first semester is saying, 'Alright, instead of creating 42 committees, who's already doing this?'"

Williams said their role then involves coordinating these groups.

"We're just then mapping all these efforts together for this whole construct of social-climbing," he said.

This fall, Crider said they have been preparing for the long road ahead. "The implementation team has spent this past semester as sort of an umbrella organization," he said. "As we approach the spring, we've identified those groups, and we'll be asking them to list what their five-year plans are."

Crider and Williams said they are trying to make sure these tasks are implemented well rather than quickly.

They said they see the implementation of every item on the list as a project that will span the next five years.

"Our job for the implementation team is not the sprint of last year's large group, but it's sort of managing a marathon for other people," Williams said. "We're overall marathon coordinators."

A lot of their work, Williams said, involves or will involve discussions and trial-and-error.

This would explain why results have not been immediate in the case of many of the task force's recommendations, though some have already been completed or are in the process of becoming nearly so.

Some changes began before the list was officially released, especially in the Moseley Center where the PhoenixCONNECT Office is located.

This office embodies the goals of numerous recommendations from the task force's list, but their message especially echoes the ideas of the third category — enhancing traditions and campus social experiences.

Senior Cam Ciesielski is a member of the connections team. He said the goal of the office is to be the center of student involvement on campus.

"Obviously, you have the office of Student Involvement, but this is front-and-center down in Moseley on the first floor, very accessible for students to walk in and



The Connections Office calendar shows upcoming events in February 2017.

find organizations or causes or events they're passionate about and that they can attend and get involved in," Ciesielski said.

Senior Alaina Schukraft is another member of the PhoenixCONNECT team that staffs the office. "It's students helping students get connected ... if a student comes in here, looking for a way to get connected on campus, we help them use PhoenixCONNECT to get involved."

PhoenixCONNECT is the online half of this equation. At [elon.collegiatelink.net](http://elon.collegiatelink.net), students can investigate ongoing and upcoming events around campus and get in touch with student organizations from the comfort of their dorm rooms if they would rather not journey to Moseley.

A journey to Moseley, however, does have its benefits. "Obviously, we have our big calendar which is kind of the hallmark of the office right now — just showing all sorts of different things that we have kind of highlighted as going on around campus," Ciesielski said.

Like the implementation team of Crider and Williams, Ciesielski, Schukraft and the

rest of the connections team have a challenge ahead of them, but they are looking onwards and upwards.

Ciesielski said right now they are working on "really just getting the word out and establishing a reputation — obviously as a new office, it takes some time to get a foothold." He said they hope to incorporate their office more into the new student orientation process.

The entire new student orientation and first year transition is the focus of a large portion of the task force's recommendations.

For example, with regard to Elon 101, which is mentioned in a number of action items, a consultant was called in to recommend areas for improvement in the entirety of the freshman transition and first year experience, as mentioned in the first category of the task force's recommendations.

As for those changes, "We're in this pilot stage right now, so we'll assess what has happened in the pilot stage and then consider Elon 101 in the grand scheme of the first-year experience," Williams said.

## Sorority recruitment brings enthusiasm, increased numbers

**Anton L. Delgado**

Contributor  
@JADelgadoNews

Two weeks after sorority rush, hundreds of women around Elon's campus are now getting used to their new organizations and their new Greek lives.

According to Abigail Ojemann, the President of Elon's chapter of Zeta Tau Alpha, her sorority alone took 58 new members, bringing Zeta Tau Alpha's overall chapter size to 215 members.

**Abigail Ojemann, president of Elon's chapter of Zeta Tau Alpha, said 1,315 members were initiated in Elon's nine sororities.**

These women are now a part of Zeta Tau Alpha's national organization, which has an estimated 235,000 initiated members around the United States.

The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life was unable to comment, but Ojemann said 1,315 members were initiated to Elon's nine sororities and the average chapter size at Elon has grown to



Senior Ceci Mulry parties with a large stuffed animal during Alpha Omicron Pi's Bid Day celebrations.

209 members. In 2015, only 638 received bids.

Freshman Veronica Phillips — a new member of Delta Delta Delta — was one of the hundreds of freshmen women that partici-

pated in recruitment this year.

"The rush process was super tiring but incredibly rewarding," said Phillips "I am glad that I made the decision to rush this year. I really think that being a

part of a sorority will change my life at Elon."

Freshman Laura Rossi was not as sure as Phillips about joining an organization.

"Rushing was so overwhelm-

ing," Rossi said. "You just met so many people in such a short amount of time, and you always had to have the biggest smile and be in the chatty mood."

Despite coming to Elon without the intention to rush, Rossi's uncertainty about Fraternity and Sorority Life is what drove her to ultimately drop out of recruitment.

"I didn't want to regret not trying it out," Rossi said. "But I was so unsure during the first three days of rush week that on the morning of bid day, I decided to drop out."

Two weeks later, Rossi still stands by her decision.

"I needed to try it out to be really sure that Greek life wasn't for me, but now I am sure and I have absolutely no regrets," Rossi said.

Rossi may have made the decision about not joining Fraternity and Sorority Life on her own, but there were many girls that did not have that luxury.

"All of the girls that didn't get into the sororities they were hoping for were devastated," Rossi said. "But there are more opportunities to rush, and not getting into one sorority just means you are meant to do greater things in another one."

EXAMINING ELON'S SOCIAL CLIMATE: A THREE-PART SERIES

# Elon thinks strategically toward marketing

**Mackenzie Dunn**  
Contributor  
@MDunn\_official

Smiling faces of groups of people in coffee shops greet new and prospective students on Elon University's website, printed brochures and admissions materials. These are the images the school projects to its incoming class, and the seemingly perfect pictures attract many students to Elon — where the campus itself takes over the marketing campaign.

"I visited the campus in high school, and it was just so pretty I fell in love and wanted to apply," said freshman Heather Pastore.

Elon markets itself as a student-centered, globally engaged, ambitious and academically rigorous private institution. With endless photos of immaculate brick buildings and pristine green lawns, the school of nearly 7,000 combined undergraduate and graduate students currently represents 49 states and 50 nations. Its 78 percent four-year graduation rate and esteemed study abroad programs are ranked among the best in the nation.

But once visitors get past the marketing phase and onto campus as enrolled students, they have to see if their expectations live up to reality.

Elon said it is aware of the way it works to portray itself to incoming students.

"In regard to recruiting students, we strive to provide fair and accurate information about Elon's academic and student life programs so that they can make the college choice that best suits their educational goals," said Dan Anderson, vice president of university communications.

Though the university wants to assist students during their transition, there are some limitations as to what it will say.

Jon Dooley, assistant vice president for student life and former co-chair of the Presidential Task Force on Social Climate and Out-of-Class Engagement, said it would be unrealistic to expect the university to state all of its problems and portray itself in a negative light.

"Here's all the ways that you may find yourself disconnected," Dooley said. "Institutions just don't do that, right? I think that the admissions materials and the students who are giving tours and talking at orientation are talking about their experience and are talking about the things that make this place great."

Hints to those potential feelings of disconnection make their way into tours and admissions materials, as Pastore found out after she went on a tour.

"On the tour, they said Greek life was a big

part of the school," Pastore said. "Now that I'm here, I think that it really is because everyone is always wearing their Greek letters or has their letters on their laptops. It can kind of be intimidating because you feel like you have to join one. I mean, I want to anyways, but I think a lot of girls feel a lot of pressure to join one because of that."

Jenny Fukunaga is a senior tour guide at Elon. Guides have sometimes been criticized for downplaying the prevalence of Greek organizations on campus, but as an affiliated member herself, Fukunaga wants to be honest in sharing her experiences. She feels a realistic portrayal of campus best serves the university and its students.

It's not just involvement in Greek organizations that worry incoming students. Sophomore Ryan Wells identifies as a gay male and said he was anxious about coming to a Southern school that initially seemed homogeneous.

"Coming in over the summer, I was super nervous with House Bill 2 being passed," Wells said, referring to a law passed by the North Carolina legislature requiring people to use the bathroom of the gender on their birth certificate.

"I have a boyfriend, so I wasn't sure how North Carolinians would respond in general to seeing two gay people together," he said.

Wells was then comforted by an email from Elon President Leo Lambert reaffirming the university's commitment to protecting LGBTQIA rights.

"To me, coming in here, they really showed their support for the LGBT community and all communities in general," he said.

Wells is hoping to get more involved with Spectrum, Elon's queer-straight alliance, and SPARKS, Elon's student health organization. Though organizations will play an important role in his future, it is the friends he has met in his hall that have been most influential in Wells' transition to college.

Dooley said the biggest priority for the university is to encourage people to be open about their experiences and offer advice to help those who could be struggling.

"There are ways that students struggle," Dooley said. "There are ways that the students who are orientation leaders and tour guides probably struggled in their joining the community as well."

"Those stories are sometimes not told, and so, one of our responsibilities then becomes during that orientation process after you've made the decision to come, to be able to be as clear as we can about what you may expect when you come here and what your experience may be."



elonuniversity That's a wrap on day one of Opening Weekend! This is going to be a great year. #ElonMoveIn

PHOTO COURTESY OF INSTAGRAM

In fall 2015, Elon assembled a 29-member task force to examine the campus social climate and out-of-class engagement. Dooley served as the group's co-chair and helped compile a comprehensive report.

According to the university's website, the task force's goal was to "examine the student experience and recommend ways for all students to be fully connected to the university's academic, intellectual, and social opportunities in a manner that is healthy, engaging and meaningful."

The task force administered a survey to poll students, faculty and staff on their satisfaction with different aspects of Elon's social climate. The survey also encouraged people to make

recommendations about how to enhance the campus environment.

"There was certainly a pretty strong theme of some of the kinds of messages the institution sends about what your experience is going to be and what that will look like and some students feeling like they had a different impression when they arrived of what might happen than what happened in their actual experience," Dooley said.

Dooley said the survey also revealed a strong desire among current students to have access to the types of meaningful, engaging and inclusive experiences the university promoted to them.

Sophomore Kenneth Brown is someone who has chosen to take full advantage of these experiences. As a highly involved student in the Odyssey Scholar program, he was aware of the difference between himself and the majority of Elon students. He came from a lower socioeconomic background than the majority of the student body. Knowing what to expect when he arrived, the transition still proved to be a challenge.

"Starting out, it can be difficult," Brown said. "You know, first year, sophomore year, you're trying to find out what you like, trying to find out who you are, and sometimes you can be trapped inside of these boxes that not only just Elon, but also other students, place around you mentally and unknowingly."

By being a leader on campus as class president, Brown has tried to break out of the box people might have tried to place him into as a black student at a predominantly white, upper-middle class institution.

Wells took on the transition challenge, too, though he was apprehensive of coming to Elon as a gay student. He is proud to have begun developing a strong support system here.

"It's not all just rich white kids that go to this school. There are other types of people that attend this school as well," he said.

**ELON UNIVERSITY**

Students Faculty & Staff Parents Search elon.edu Q Giving Tools

Admissions Academics Campus Life Athletics Alumni About

**More student-centered.**

**Student-centered**  
We are a tight community: student-to-student, student-to-professor, student-to-alum.

**Globally engaged**  
You'll find Elon students learning in every corner of the world.

**Experiential**  
We learn through experience, so we make sure an Elon education is filled with opportunities.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON.EDU

# 'The Black Man in America' brings black students together

Elon continues class to raise awareness, spur discussion of racial injustice in US

**Perla Salazar-Rangel**

Contributor  
@PSalazarRangel

After being approached two years ago by the administration, Damion Blake, assistant professor of political science and policy studies, introduced the course "The Black Man in America" to Elon University's curriculum last year.

Police brutality toward African-Americans has been a point of contention in the United States for a long time. The recent shootings of Alton Sterling, Philando Castile and Keith Lamont Scott, among others, have made headlines and were a major focal point in the 2016 presidential election.

**Assistant Professor of Political Science and Policy studies Damion Blake was approached to teach a course about the struggle of the black man.**

Blake's course description states the course will expose students to "some empirical and analytical studies of contemporary racial injustice and discrimination of the Black male in the U.S." using numerous theories and academic research.

For Blake, this class is a necessity — especially for Elon, which he said is a "majority white campus." He said the class also helps bring students of color together inside the classroom.

"They have been longing for a class like this on Elon's campus that addresses racial injustice," Blake said. "Particularly at Elon — a predominately white institution — it does bring some amount of diversity to the curriculum. [It] sheds light [on the] intellectual 'elephant in the room': racism.

"The black man is often portrayed in pathological ways: as a criminal, as a rapist, as a thug. This course seeks to understand from where that perception derives, what are the factors and also to debunk them and provide some solutions to the crisis that seems to be present with the American black man."

The course originally started with 13 students in the first year it was taught and has now increased to 31. Blake said as more students became aware and interested in the class, the number of participants has sky-rocketed.

In terms of gender, the class was originally pretty evenly divided with seven female and six male students. With the increase in participants, gender remains similarly divided with an increase to 13 females and 18 males.

The majority of students that take the course are black, with Blake

estimating that "about six are non-black students." Blake said he hoped all races would take the course, but is not surprised that the bulk of students are black.

"They knew that a number of African-American students would take the course ... to feel a sense of belonging," Blake said. "Some students said they wanted to be more informed. The students who don't fall under black or color wanted to get a broader

## FIRST-YEAR STUDENT ETHNICITY & MINORITY COMPOSITION

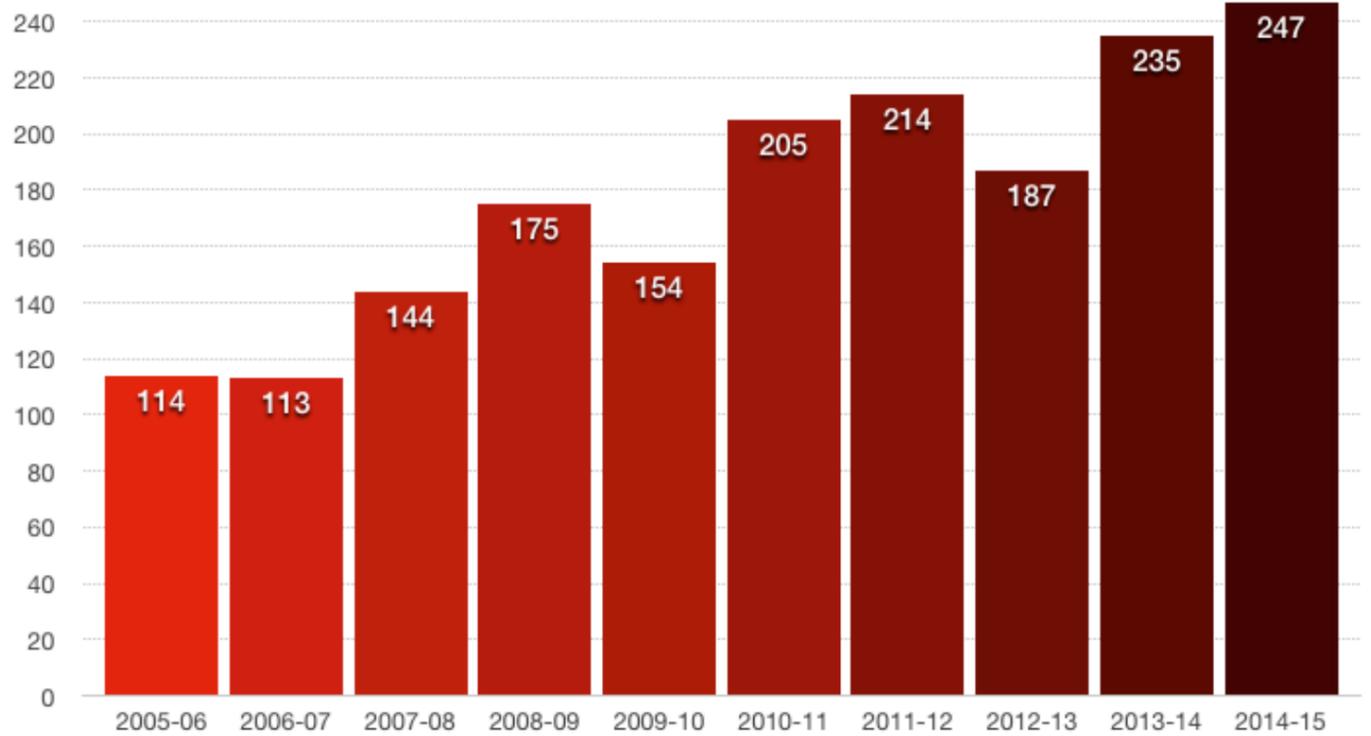


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY AMY ZHENG

According to Elon University factbook, the 2014-2015 minority first-year student percent increased from 15.9 to 16.5 percent. In 2010-2011, new federal reporting requirements for ethnicity were enacted.



Freshman Mory Diakite engages in discussion during "The Black Man in America" class with Assistant Professor Damion Blake.

AJ MANDELL | Staff Photographer

WHAT ELON CAN DO IS INCLUDE DIFFERENT DEMOGRAPHICS ON THE CAMPUS IN ATTRACTING A MORE DIVERSE STUDENT BODY. IF YOU ADDRESS THAT, YOU WILL FIND MORE STUDENTS OF COLOR IN THESE CLASSES.

**DAMION BLAKE**

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND POLICY STUDIES

perspective on what things are on the other side.

"I would've hoped that the course would attract all students ... but it is an overwhelming presence of students of color in my class."

One of those students, senior Cameron Jackson, said she took the course because it interested her. The added sense of camaraderie from her peers was a bonus. Aside from being in a class that is filled with a majority black population, Jackson said this was the first time she had a black professor at Elon.

In 2013 — Jackson's freshman year — Elon enrolled 1474 students. Only 235 of them were non-white. With an average class size that year of 21.4 students, there was a low probability that classrooms would have more than one student of color in the classroom.

For Jackson, this class is different from the norm over her college career.

"It's funny because that is the case — that

I am the only black student or person of color in general or one of the few [in my classes]," Jackson said. "First semester on first day of class, it still surprises me even though I know what to expect. I wish it weren't the case because when it comes to talking about certain classes, diversity is only a week, not the entire class.

"You feel like you have to speak on behalf of other people, but I don't have to do this for this class."

Since Jackson's freshman year, the percentage of students of color has increased to 20 percent and the Class of 2020 has 314 non-white students. Freshman Xavier Bryant, another student in Blake's class, still believes Elon can improve its outreach for a diverse application pool. Bryant attended Person High School in Roxboro, North Carolina, a school with 49 percent minority population.

Based on what he is used to, Bryant said Elon is extremely different.

"The school needs to be more attractive to black people," Bryant said. "It's really hard, but I know that they didn't really reach out to people from my public high school. They only reached out to me and this other kid. We were like, 'Hey, did you get emails from Elon?' and I was like, 'We getting a whole bunch of them.' If they reach other students besides just two from every high school, I think it would be a lot better."

Blake said he appreciates Elon's initiative

## BLACK MEN IN AMERICA

**What:** IDS 271

**Why:** "Allows students to investigate the living and working conditions of Black men in the United States to better understand discrimination, inequality, and oppression."

**Who:** Damion Blake

to fix the problem, with this class being one example. He said while the situation is being addressed, he will use this class as a mean to help Elon students learn about the many perils facing African-Americans — both inside and outside of a university setting.

"Elon certainly is making some attempts at having a more inclusive environment," Blake said. "More diverse courses will be introduced. We have the Center for Race, Diversity and Ethnicity Education and other diverse safe spaces. Outside of the classroom and these diverse institutions, students are still not having this interaction or exchange. White students stick with themselves, black students stick with themselves, Hispanic students stick with themselves..."

"What Elon can do is include different demographics on the campus in attracting a more diverse student body. If you address that, you will find more students of color in these classes."



# CHEAT SHEET: SENATE CONFIRMATIONS

Want a complicated news story explained? Email [enn@elon.edu](mailto:enn@elon.edu) and find it in next week's Cheat Sheet.



## NEWS BRIEFS

### Retired music professor dies

Malvin Newton Artley, a retired music professor credited with shaping Elon's string instruction program, died Feb. 4 at the age of 95. He joined the Elon University faculty in 1965, and during his time here, he founded the Elon College Orchestra and was its first conductor. He also organized a student chapter of the National Association for Music Education before retiring in 1986. He continued to teach after his retirement and was awarded the Elon Medalion in 2001.

### Lumen scholar seeks to improve public health

Justin Morin '17, an economics and finance major and recipient of the Lumen Prize, began sorting through the medical data of more than 60,000 individuals to examine the relationship between a person's income and health. The \$15,000 scholarship Morin received as a part of the Lumen Prize will help him with this research as he tries to discover how an individual's economic status could correlate to the likelihood they will be hospitalized.

Betsy DeVos, Donald Trump's nominee for Secretary of Education, was confirmed by the Senate Tuesday after a drawn-out war with Senate Democrats. DeVos, a notable donor to the Republican party for years, ignited a firestorm during her initial Senate confirmation hearing. She was grilled by Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) and Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) — and performed poorly, according to many experts in the field.

One critique of DeVos was that she and her family were unfamiliar with the struggles of the average American, such as Federal Student Aid programs. A final vote for her will be held Tuesday afternoon. Senate Republicans voted against a filibuster of DeVos, while Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said Monday that for the good of the country, DeVos should not be nominated.

"The American people are speaking in one loud voice against this nominee. I've had people come up to me and say 'I voted for Donald Trump, but I want you to vote against this nominee,'" kicking off the lengthy, final debate over DeVos," Schumer said.

DeVos's nomination is one of many that will be tightly debated on Capitol Hill in the coming week. Attorney general nominee Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-A) and Health and Human Services pick Tom Price are both awaiting battles in the full Senate. While he noted the division of party lines is common,



President Donald Trump and Betsy DeVos pose after he nominated her for Secretary of Education.

Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky) said it is only halting the Senate from progress.

"It seems this gridlock and opposition has far less to do with the nominees actually before us than the man who nominated them," McConnell said Monday. "The Democratic leader and his colleagues are under a great deal of pressure from those on

the left who simply cannot accept the results of a democratic election. They're calling for Democrats to delay and punt and blockade the serious work of the Senate at any cost."

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE SPEAKING IN ONE LOUD VOICE AGAINST THIS NOMINEE. I'VE HAD PEOPLE COME UP TO ME AND SAY "I VOTED FOR DONALD TRUMP, BUT I WANT YOU TO VOTE AGAINST THIS NOMINEE."

**CHUCK SCHUMER**  
SENATE DEMOCRATIC LEADER



Betsy DeVos speaks during her confirmation hearing.

## SGA town hall meetings continue after 1st semester

**Diego Pineda**  
Photo Editor  
[@diego\\_pineda19](https://twitter.com/diego_pineda19)

When SGA town hall meetings began in fall 2016, Elon University Class of 2018 Vice President Morgan Bodenaarain was hesitant of the number of students attending and the overall effectiveness of these meetings. She knew reaching out to different parts of campus would be hard and did not know what to expect.

But the town halls began to grow, and Bodenaarain has noted that they are now overflowing with students — more coming from the student body than from the Senate.

To her, this shows that the student body cares about the work SGA does.

"I think that's awesome because not only do students get a chance to hear or see who is on the Senate, but we get a chance to hear what students are actually thinking," Bodenaarain said.

These meetings have opened dialogue within the student body and have dealt with topics that affect the community such as freedom of speech, Fraternity and Sorority Life and President Donald Trump's executive order on immigration.

"Having this space where you can come and not just hear your thoughts being reflected back at



Members of the student body participate in SGA's town hall Feb. 2

you, but you can hear what other students are thinking, is really important," Bodenaarain said. "You can hear what other students are thinking that are not in your circle."

Dean of Student Health and Wellness and SGA Faculty Advisor Jana Lynn Patterson believes the town hall meetings allow the student body to engage in dialogue on different issues in an environment that might not otherwise exist.

"It gives people a chance," Patterson said. "We don't have opportunities for students to come together to just talk ... in a place that

is somewhat safe — even though we don't agree with one another — [and where] people know that they're going to be respected and that they're gonna be heard."

Besides the open communication, these meetings have also allowed the SGA Senate to hear from students and get their perspective.

"I want people to come and see what SGA can do and see how they can use SGA," Bodenaarain said. "I think that's so important because we are representatives and we wanna do what you guys want."

From this, students not only learn about SGA's role on campus,

but also are able to play an active role. These town hall meetings sometimes result in the drafting of legislation, which the SGA sponsors, and students in attendance can provide their input.

As numbers continue to increase at these meetings, there is still room for improvement for the upcoming semester and the new Senate.

Patterson said she would like to see "more diversity of thought."

"I was more taken back that there were not a lot of people who had differing opinions than the one we did on freedom of speech," Patterson said.

### 'On the Edge of Apocalypse' Feb. 9-11

Eleven scholars from the U.S. and Canada will participate in a symposium Feb. 9-11 to discuss end-of-world theories from different cultures. The event is the first of the Center for the Study of Religion, Culture and Society's "On the Edge" program, which will host a bi-annual symposium.

### Construction begins for new parking lot

Elon University has begun construction on a new parking lot next to the McMichael Building. The 165 new parking spaces will be used to accommodate Love School of Business expansion plans, according to Dan Anderson, Vice President of University Communications.

Construction on Sankey Hall will eliminate several spaces in the McMichael lot. The new parking lot, which will be accessible to faculty, staff and visitors, should be complete by the end of the spring semester.

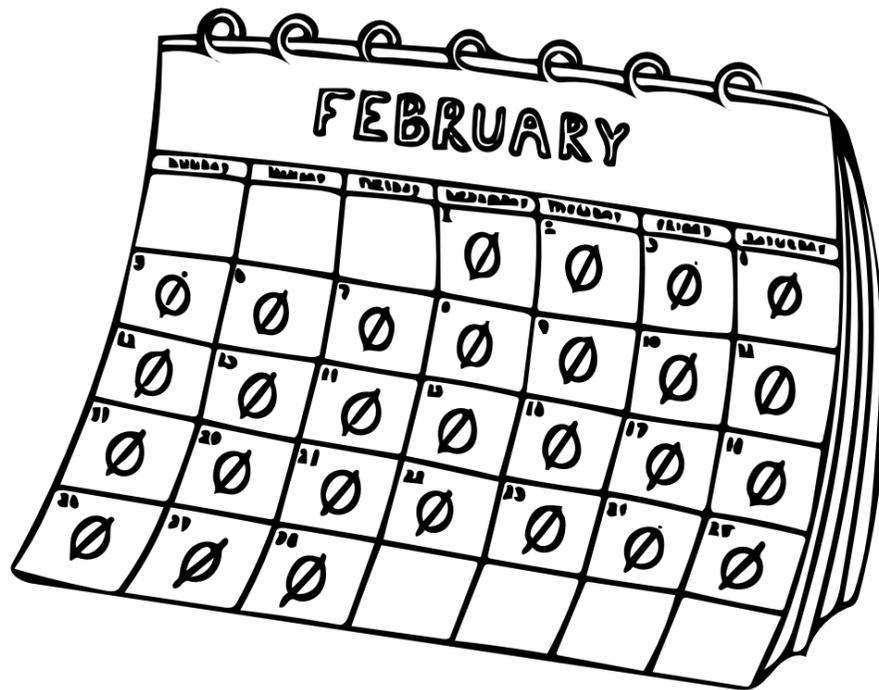
**EDITORIALS:**

Staff editorials are written by the editorial board and intended to represent the stance of the ENN staff, who have an opportunity to offer feedback on each topic. Staff editorials and other opinions content are separate from news coverage.

**COLUMNS:**

Columns are written by ENN staff members and represent their informed opinions. Columns and other opinions content are separate from news coverage.

# OPINIONS



## STAFF EDITORIAL

KAITLYN FU | Designer

# Student organizations must continue political engagement

## HOW WE SEE IT

Elon University's student-run political organizations must continue to host student debates and events even after the presidential election.

In the weeks leading up to last fall's presidential election, Elon University's campus was filled with political activism by and for students. Elon Political Forum held a bi-partisan debate featuring students from different political organizations across campus. Students gathered to watch and discuss the presidential debates in Moseley Center. Posters hung on bulletin boards, and almost every week there was a new debate or event being held to discuss the election.

Elon's student-run political organizations such as College Democrats, College Republicans, Elon Political Forum and other political groups on campus must continue hosting student debates, speakers and events to encourage students to remain politically active.

Last semester it seemed as though there was a different political debate, rally or event on campus every week. This excitement and

willingness to engage in difficult political discussions should be present year-round.

Since the election, it seems these political organizations have lost their momentum. Students are still sharing posts on Facebook and attending marches, but politically charged conversations and involvement from organizations on campus have been less frequent.

The Pendulum reached out to several of these organizations, and it was difficult to find out about events being planned for the spring. So far in 2017, they have not advertised any events like the ones they advertised in the fall.

Faculty and staff have responded to the situation through "Refusing to Wait: Intellectual and Practical Resources in Troubling Times," a one-credit, pass/fail class designed specifically around practical action following the election. Students

across campus have also responded individually, gathering in groups to attend local marches or call their senators, but student-run political organizations have been relatively quiet.

These organizations must continue to facilitate conversations and political activism to maintain a culture of political awareness after the election. Now more than ever, they need to foster room and space for student-led conversations to discuss disagreement across partisan lines.

It is early in the semester, so it is understandable why these groups have not held anything yet — but there is no time to waste. We encourage all students across campus to maintain the momentum they had in the fall.

President Donald Trump's first 10 days in office were filled with actions, orders and events that deserved and required further conversation between and among students. These conversations should be held in an intellectual setting with political organizations, but these groups have remained silent during these events.

It's important to tackle what these actions mean not only for the humans affected by them, but also for the parties that may have supported them.

For students who are contemplating their political identities under the Trump administration, events hosted by student partisan groups can be beneficial in shaping more nuanced conversations around these issues.

Though there is no longer a need to debate about presidential candidates, students can still tackle issues facing the Trump administration.

College Republicans can hold discussions on Trump's executive orders or bring speakers to campus to talk about the influence of Trump's first 100 days in office.

College Democrats can organize rallies and events protesting these executive orders or hold events to discuss what Elon students can do to protest.

Now is the time to promote political awareness and activism. We witnessed so much of this in the fall, but it cannot stop there.

# What may prevent an attack also prevents reunion



**Myra Johnson**  
Columnist

They say it's not a Muslim ban. They say it's a safety concern. They say this is all a preventive measure.

But while this executive order may help prevent an attack, it is also preventing my family from coming to the United States.

When I was young, I always wondered why my family in Hong Kong never came to visit us. I figured it was a long flight to take and that logistically, it just didn't make sense.

When I got a bit older, I asked my mom why her side of the family never came to visit. She told me, "They do not want to come.

They hate Americans."

I didn't understand what that meant. I was an American. I am an American. And that is always something I have taken a lot of pride in. That is, at least, until recently.

In 2015, my cousin made the poorly timed decision to go to Europe. Around the time of the Paris attacks, he got caught in the wrong place, with a last name tied to the Islamic faith.

He was stopped in London and badgered with hours of questioning. He was unemployed at the time, and that apparently made him a person of suspicion. After hours of exhaustive questioning, they eventually let him go. Suffice to say, this did not make him want to

travel again.

When talking to my uncle, he spoke — reluctantly — about his issues with U.S. travel. With

**IF IT WAS SO HARD FOR MY FAMILY TO GET TO THE U.S. UNDER OBAMA'S LEADERSHIP, I AM TERRIFIED TO THINK WHAT THEY WOULD HAVE TO GO THROUGH IN ORDER TO VISIT NOW, UNDER OUR NEW PRESIDENT.**

his name, Mohammed Khan, he is a man that cannot avoid a "random" search. Though he was angry when his son got stopped in London, he was not surprised and said that is the norm when

traveling to the United States.

It is important to remember that these conversations all took place before this new travel ban.

Hours of questioning to individuals with Islamic-sounding names has been the model since 9/11. This isn't new.

Since the attacks in 2001, my family has not even attempted to travel to the United States. From stories they have heard to the knowledge of what will likely transpire if they try to get here, it is too much for them to even think about coming.

If it was so hard for them to get to the United States under Obama's leadership, I am terrified to think of what they would have to go through in

order to visit now, under our new president.

With extreme measures being put in place to keep certain individuals out of the country, I fear my family will simply give up on traveling here.

As someone who was at the Boston Marathon when the bombs went off, and experienced that firsthand, I understand the need for national security measures to be taken.

But the fact that these extremes have made it so hard to travel that my family refuses to come see us?

That breaks my heart.

I hope, more than anything, that one day the fear of what could happen will dissipate, and that the extremes will become less so, but that is becoming less and less realistic.

# We must not ignore modern acts of anti-Semitism



**Cassidy Levy**  
Columnist  
@cas1117

The anti-immigrant and anti-refugee actions taken by the current administration have provoked protests across the country.

Many protesters have been invoking the memory of Jewish Holocaust victims, especially those turned away from the United States because of immigrant quotas only to be murdered in Europe.

When it's coming from the families of victims and survivors, from Jews and Romani who were targeted by the Nazi regime, I don't have a problem with it. We mean it when we say, "Never again."

But when that imagery comes from others, I start to have questions. Are you the same people who justify anti-Semitic attacks with shouts of "but Israel—" as if every Jewish

person in the United States is responsible for the actions of a foreign country?

Are you the same people who left the Jewish people out of your lists of minorities who would be negatively affected by the current administration?

If you are going to invoke the memory of our genocide, you need to stand with us now. You need to be speaking out against the anti-Semitism that is alive and well in our country.

On International Holocaust Remembrance Day, the White House purposefully left out language recognizing Jewish people as one of the main targets of the genocide.

Yes, other groups were targeted by the Nazis. Yes, International Holocaust Remembrance Day should recognize and remember all of them. But not mentioning the group that made up more than half of the victims of the Holocaust is erasure.

Last month, there were three waves of bomb threats against

Jewish community centers around the country, including in North Carolina. Fortunately, there haven't been any bombs yet, but these kinds of threats

I'm grateful that I haven't heard of any other instances of anti-semitic bias on campus since then, but I highly doubt that means it's not happening.

IF YOU ARE GOING TO INVOKE THE MEMORY OF OUR GENOCIDE, YOU NEED TO STAND WITH US NOW. YOU NEED TO BE SPEAKING OUT AGAINST THE ANTI-SEMITISM THAT IS ALIVE AND WELL IN OUR COUNTRY.

must be taken seriously.

Unfortunately, I haven't heard many non-Jewish voices condoning these threats. A like on a Facebook post made by a Jewish person doesn't count.

My freshman year, there was an instance of racist, sexist and anti-Semitic drawings on a residence hall whiteboard.

Then, I saw Nazi salutes outside of Smith residence hall at night.

So, please. March against immigrant bans and mosque attacks. Take action to help refugees. Fight fascism in all of its forms.

But if you aren't Jewish and you're going to invoke the horrors of our history today, you'd better be standing with American Jews tomorrow.

Learn about the rich history of the Jewish people around

the world. Read a book about contemporary Jewish experiences by a modern Jewish writer.

Learn about some of the other times we have been refugees (don't worry, you don't have to memorize them all). Jewish people exist outside of the context of the Holocaust. We exist today, we are targeted today and we need you to be our allies today, too.

So when anti-Semitic hate crimes continue to not magically disappear, we'll expect you to be condemning them.

As neo-Nazis project their platform into increasingly mainstream media, we'll expect you to be speaking out against them.

Come out and stand with us on April 23 for Yom HaShoah, the day for remembering Jewish victims of the Holocaust. Show that you respect the memories of the people whose experiences and deaths are being used in your protests.

Don't be a hypocrite and say, "Never again," while ignoring modern American anti-Semitism.

# Don't let anyone shame the way your tongue moves



**Leena Dahal**  
Columnist  
@leenadahal

When I was seven, I hated what came out of my mouth. It was too thick. Laced with difference and heavy with otherness. At the time, I believed so strongly in my displaced shame that I intentionally moved further away from my mother tongue.

My accent today is a product of a deliberate contortion of the lips. It is the twists and turns of a tired, embarrassed tongue. It's a 10-year-old girl who stood in front of a mirror, placing the EM-pha-sis on a new syllable until it sounded "right." It was the intense desire to rid myself of the pitying glances and giggles that accompanied every "mispronunciation."

It's a product of the belief that there is a "correct" way of speaking, and it involved not only knowing English but speaking it a "right" way. Most importantly, it's a product of a stupid, naive declaration I made as a child — succumbed by my own vulnerability and frailty — that my culture was inferior to that of my peers.

Gen-OOH-EN-lee Leena, OT-HEN-ti-CALLY me.

Almost everyday at Elon, people reaffirm this misplaced shame.

The unreasonably impressed eyes that tell me, "Wow, your English is so good" reaffirm a culture based on the idea that those who speak English a certain way are more intellectually capable than others.

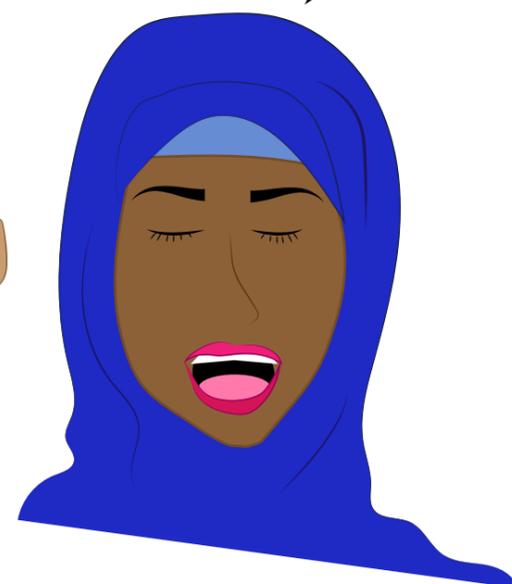
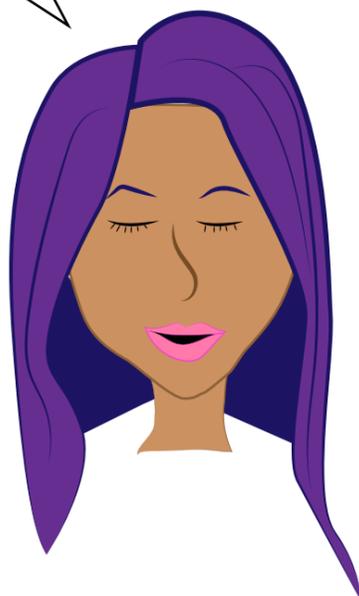
The peers who drop out of classes from professors who speak English as a second language — because, "OMG, I don't understand a thing she says" — reaffirm a culture where people who have to learn English must be the ones to accommodate and acculturate.

And the many students, faculty and staff I encounter who apologize for their accent

Em-PHAsis

EM-phasis

emp-HA-sis



CHRISTINA CASILLO | Designer

reaffirm the existence of the damaging insecurity that others can instill in people who learn English as a second language.

It was reaffirmed when I was told recently

that non-native English speakers still have to take "English literature-based classes" in order to meet the international studies foreign language requirement, despite receiving writing and reading-intensive academic instruction in English.

We boast about the benefits of

IF YOU'RE A NON-NATIVE ENGLISH SPEAKER, NEVER APOLOGIZE FOR YOUR ACCENT. THE TONGUE TWISTS AND TURNS IN MANY, EQUALLY BEAUTIFUL WAYS.

bilingualism in our classrooms and applaud native English speakers for their abilities to master foreign languages, but we still

perpetuate an unwritten culture that places the English language on a pedestal and expects others to adopt a certain "right" way of speaking it.

In John H. Esling's "Everyone Has an Accent Except Me," he reminds linguistic scholars that the idea that there is one dominant way of speaking English is a fallacy. He says that the fact

is everyone has an accent, and that those who believe absolutely that their speech is devoid of any distinguishing characteristics that set it apart are severely misguided.

If you're a non-native English speaker, never apologize for your accent. The tongue twists and turns in many equally beautiful ways. And when others tell you they don't understand you even though you know you're speaking English, let their ears strain instead of immediately demanding your tongue to.

I'm 21 and I absolutely hate what comes out of my mouth. It is thick, heavy with otherness. It is representative of an intentional descent away from myself and my language — and I will never forgive myself for it.

Want to share your opinion? Let us know. Submit a Letter to the Editor by emailing [enn@elon.edu](mailto:enn@elon.edu)

Letters must be 350 words or less and must be signed and submitted in a word document to [enn@elon.edu](mailto:enn@elon.edu). The Pendulum reserves the right to edit for length, clarity and grammar.

# Utilize the opportunities to gain new perspectives



**Jason Dingle**  
Freshman

Incoming college students pack their bedding, clothing and laptop — as well as many of the morals, values and opinions from their pre-college lives — before leaving for school.

Their baggage includes their experiences in their digital lives as well, such as their Facebook, Twitter and Instagram feeds, groups and friends. We all arrive, floating in our own bubbles, and it is up to us to pop them — or not — as we see fit.

These days, more often than not, we spend time living within our own bubbles.

In addition to our friends, we also take to our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram feeds when we feel strongly about a national or world event — especially if it's fiery or controversial.

We don't read all the news — we read the news that reflects our viewpoints.

We don't talk to all of our friends or join a variety of groups.

We stick with those who agree with us, or that we agree with. On social media, not only do we have the power to follow or be friends with like-minded people, but we also can unfriend and block people who think differently.

Social media and search engines even encourage our tendency to bubble. Yes, bubble was just used as a verb.

A study recently published by MIT Technology Review revealed the results of a simple Google search. Two individuals Googled "BP." One person's search results were focused on the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. The other person received search results primarily on British Petroleum's investment news.

Google has so much information on who we are and what we search for, read and participate in online that it can provide us with search results that are most applicable to each of us. Facebook, Instagram and Twitter do the same thing for advertising purposes.

We are all shown the news, products and ideas we are most comfortable seeing. The unintended consequence? A reinforcement of our bubbles.

If you spend your time with only those ideas and people who agree with you, how are you going to coexist with those who have polarizing views, let alone work together toward anything?

It seems to me that we will just become more and more entrenched in our own ideas, and less and less willing to listen to other.

This is a problem.

A quick Google of the word, "bigoted" reveals the following definition: "having or revealing an obstinate belief in the superiority of one's own opinions and a prejudiced intolerance of the opinions of others."

It is quite sobering to realize that, if we only accept what we want to, and not open our minds to other perspectives and opinions, we are in fact, not accepting people. We are, by definition, bigots.

There needs to be a bubble-popping movement.

There does not need to be a famous leader, experienced staff, pamphlets, signs or a megaphone. We need only ourselves, and maybe Mahatma Gandhi.

"Be the change you wish to see in the world" is a very famous quote, often attributed to Gandhi. But, no actual documentation proves that he ever said this. Gandhi did make a similar statement, however:

"If we could change ourselves, the tendencies in the world would also change. As a man changes his own nature, so does the attitude of the world change towards him... We need not wait to see what others do."

What if just a few of us open up a little bit, pop our bubbles and see what happens?

When faced with perspectives and opinions that are not in sync with our own, let's stop. Let's breathe. Let's lean on curiosity, not animosity. We are not listening if we're waiting to throw the latest article, factoid or statistic from our own comfort zones at folks who don't want to leave theirs.

Let's ask questions and avoid dismissing points of view so we can take the time to analyze and process and sit with the uncomfortable and see what happens.

Let's not approach someone who feels differently with the goal of convincing them that they are wrong, but with the goal of understanding that we might be. What can we learn?

We should look deep inside ourselves and realize that, no matter how right we each feel when confronted by someone with a polarizing opinion, we are but one variable of a human equation.

The reality is that we depend on each other in day-to-day life. Dismissing those who disagree with you usually does not lead to something good. Coexistence, as uncomfortable as this is for us sometimes, is not an option.

Understanding, consideration and acceptance of others' points of view, including political points of view, are concepts we need to get very cozy with, not just if we want to get through college, but if we want to move forward as a species.

## Political posts need open discussion



**Hannah Benson**  
Columnist  
@elonnewsnetwork

Another day, another scroll through your Facebook feed. It's not long before you stumble upon a controversial video, shared by your lab partner from sophomore year of high school, with more than 40 comments from fuming adversaries who evidently think their opinion is superior.

"What's new," you think to yourself, as this one features your lab partner defending a man who wore a "Build that Wall" T-shirt in public. Your former classmate became enraged when others spoke out against his shirt and what

it stood for, while at the same time getting upset when people commented angrily on the video he shared, defending free speech.

The worst part isn't that he shared a video that might make you cringe or that he's partaking in the fruitless comments below it,

but that he is surprised people came forth to challenge his view.

And here's where so many people are wrong. There's something very admirable about a person who willingly stands up to express what they believe in, as this isn't easy for just anyone.

But doing this alone isn't the crown jewel, the Holy Grail of achievement.

It's missing a crucial element — the ability to look upon the opinions of others that differ from your own and respect them, however little you agree with them.

This is the fatal flaw in the mind of an activist.

Though your side may have science, logic and reason backing you up, ostracizing the opposite side places you above them, meaning that you are foolish enough to write off anyone with an opposing view just because it's not your own.

But it is someone else's view. To attack someone and put down what they believe in because it's not what you believe in doesn't do anyone any good.

The noblest thing you can do is to look upon another's position with respect while waving your banner high. The best thing you can do is merely ask them why they feel that way, how they got to that system of beliefs and discuss how it differs from your own.

You don't get to shun someone's ideas because they are not your own. You get to interrogate, try to understand and push others to consider doing the same.

Maybe when we know all the facts we can start to get on the same page.

Maybe when we realize that posting a controversial video only invites discord, each side

too proud to go down without a fight or stay quiet, we will stop sharing them with the intention to shun others or prove them wrong.

Maybe when we figure out that your list of Facebook friends, the nation and the world is at a stalemate, with two ardently passionate sides pushing hard in opposition, we can

stop lashing out at people with the opposing view and target those who are undecided.

Or even better, not seek power in numbers but power within ourselves.

Sharing a Facebook post to spread awareness is more than OK, but attacking someone's opinions and shunning them for having a perspective we dislike will not create progression. This will only slow our advancements.

So stop sharing videos that make waves and being surprised when they do exactly that. Stop posting statuses to egg on the comments of your opponents.

Instead — should you find yourself with a unique and different point of view — get out there and fight for that view. Wave signs and march tall in the way that makes real change.

As grand as you may feel in your throne of individuality and style behind your social media profile, pressing the share button isn't going to change anyone's mind.

TO ATTACK SOMEONE AND PUT DOWN WHAT THEY BELIEVE IN BECAUSE IT'S NOT WHAT YOU BELIEVE IN DOESN'T HELP ANYONE.

## We all must honor Black History



**Stephanie Ntim**  
Columnist  
@elonnewsnetwork

In elementary and middle school we celebrated Black History Month with a large-scale performance exhibition. It was a time-consuming project, in which we sang old gospel songs such as "We Shall Overcome" and performed speeches from notable figures in Black History. I remember my friends and I were not always eager to wake up early on Saturday mornings for run-throughs and dress rehearsals.

As I reflect on that experience, I regret that I was not appreciative of my opportunity to narrate such crucial parts of American history. Now, I miss those lengthy days of rehearsals.

I miss our off-key renditions of hymns. I miss reciting powerful statements by heroes such as Harriet Tubman and acclaimed poet and civil rights activist, Maya Angelou. No other grade school I know would pay tribute to such intense yet relevant figures and events. As a child, it was rare to be given the chance to impart knowledge of Black History — a history that was quieted for centuries.

Luckily, the noise of protesters did not impede the resilient fight for freedom. The prevailing mood of hope conquered all fears.

We are fortunate to live in a country that recognizes the contributions of a historically disadvantaged population. There is no industry that has not been influenced by a person of color.

Academy Award-nominated films such as *Fences*, *Hidden Figures* and *Moonlight* are expanding conversations on being black in the United States. I remember watching *Hidden Figures* in a packed theater where black people and white people lauded in one accord the successes of revolutionary African-American mathematicians at NASA.

These exemplary women are included in a large grouping of pioneers who were

once unrecognized, but history has since praised. African-American stories like these should be hidden no more.

It is our moral obligation as a student body to denounce prejudice and wrongdoing even when such behavior becomes normalized in society. For too long the African-American story has been dominated by unfair stereotypes and economic disadvantages.

There is a perpetual struggle for African-Americans to be recognized as legitimate inheritors of cultural traditions founded on the land their ancestors tilled. And though many are thriving today, hardships continue to hinder progress. I challenge all of us to explore these histories to promote healthier relations among different races.

Black History is a living, breathing movement that our forbears started with hopes of cultivating a better environment for us. Their legacy is left to us. We, as in every human being, are capable of redirecting longstanding perceptions of race.

We march on each day motivated by a desire for improvement. Black History is not simply a month-long event. It is an integral part of United States history. Most importantly, it invigorates us in every season to crusade against bigotry and racism.

Thank you, champions of change, for your battle cries and teary eyes. I know you would smile at us for our accomplishments. We will continue to press onward, unmoved and unshaken by obstacles ahead.

As Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "Well, I don't know what will happen now. We've got some difficult days ahead. But it really doesn't matter with me now, because I've been to the mountaintop. And I've looked over. And I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the Promised Land!"

We honor the bravery of our heroes with perseverance and determination in mind. We shall overcome because the mountaintop is in sight, not far from reach.

**ONLINE:**

Alumna starts positive campaign to combat post-election negativity

# LIFESTYLE

## Elon alumna prepares for upcoming 50k



1.



3.



2.

**Lilly Blomquist**  
Contributor  
@LILLYS\_BLOOM

Upon crossing the finish line of her first marathon at age 17, Haley Ghelfi felt a mixture of exhilaration and disbelief. She gazed back at the trail, contemplating her long, 26.2-mile journey she had just completed and felt pure bliss.

"I couldn't even imagine going that far until I did it," Ghelfi said. "I had such happiness for finishing. At the end of the race, I just wanted to cry."

Now Ghelfi, a recent Elon University alumna who graduated in December 2016, has completed nine marathons and 20 half marathons.

Adding to her list of races, Ghelfi is training for her first 50K race, a distance of 31 miles. Taking place in July in Ashland, Oregon, the race will consist of countless inclines, steep hills and additional mileage. Ghelfi is preparing herself mentally and physically for this upcoming challenge and adventure.

### Preparing for the big race

In anticipation of this approaching race, Ghelfi will spend about four months training. Since she has already built up the endurance for long-distance running, Ghelfi will dedicate long runs to Sundays. She said she plans on starting at 12 miles and then building up to 25 miles throughout these months.

On the weekdays, Ghelfi will still incorporate running into her schedule but at a more moderate distance. In addition to training for speed, she will focus on yoga to stretch out her body and aid in recovery as well as strength training to increase her overall strength and fitness level.

Growing up in Redding, California, Ghelfi has always been a runner. At age 5, she completed her first 5K race, and since then has been training for races of all durations.

Since she was raised in a family that has a passion for running, Ghelfi inherited that profound de-

sire to run. Her mother, father and three siblings have always been runners, so she decided to follow in their footsteps.

### A family affair

Not only did Ghelfi's family introduce her to her favorite hobby, but they are also one of the main reasons why she has remained committed. Offering guidance and support, Ghelfi's family has contributed to her biggest accomplishments. By running for long periods of time with her family members, Ghelfi has deepened her relationships with them.

Ghelfi's older sister — Katie Ghelfi-Dunbar, who is currently pursuing her doctorate in clinical psychology — has run around 50 races with her. The sisters are currently training together for the upcoming 50K race, and spend their weekends running on the trails alongside one another.

Through this training process, Ghelfi-Dunbar expressed her confidence that Ghelfi will complete this race with effortless agility and optimism.

"Haley is so motivated," Ghelfi-Dunbar said. "She'll be happy the whole time during the race. She trains well enough. She will pretty much smile the whole way."

Ghelfi has also established a closer relationship to her brother Ryan

Ghelfi, who owns a running company called Trails and Tarmac. Since Ryan Ghelfi has completed multiple 50K races and ones that consist of up to 100 miles, he serves as a mentor to Ghelfi. She approaches her brother whenever she needs advice, support and assistance.

Ryan Ghelfi likewise explained how Ghelfi has demonstrated commitment to running in preparation for her race in July.

"Haley is one of the most positive people on the planet," he said. "She makes running such an integral part of her life and everyone around her. Her passion and enthusiasm are infectious."

Not only did Ghelfi express her gratitude that running has enabled her to develop stronger bonds with

people that share a passion for running and a common goal of finishing the race is rewarding. In addition to the social benefits, Ghelfi said she races for her own personal goal of growth and development.

The feelings of pride and accomplishment after finishing a run propel her onward and motivate her to continue succeeding.

"For long runs, there is a satisfaction for the distance I complete and an exhaustion I feel for the rest of the day. It's pretty cool to see how far my body can go," Ghelfi said.

### Making time to keep running

Though Ghelfi has committed herself to training for races, she explained that finding motivation is not always an easy task.

After graduating Elon with a degree in accounting and international business, Ghelfi began working as an auditor for Moss Adams in Portland, Oregon Jan. 10. She works up to 12 hours a day from Monday to Saturday.

With this busy schedule and little time for leisure, Ghelfi stated that finding time to run has been the biggest obstacle for her during her running career.

Long workdays and cold weather prevent Ghelfi from contributing as much effort and energy as she would like to her runs. Never-

theless, Ghelfi prioritizes exercise and incorporates running into her schedule regardless of the circumstances.

"Right now, Haley is working long days, and if she's going to run that day, she might run at 10 o'clock at night, but it's still going to happen. If she has a plan, she'll stick to it," Ghelfi-Dunbar said.

In order to motivate herself, Ghelfi reminds herself of the feelings of satisfaction and accomplishment she experiences after long runs.

"Running calms me," she said. "It helps me focus a lot more. If I run in the morning, I'm more productive for the rest of the day. I'm in a better mood and have more energy."

To continue experiencing these positive emotions, Ghelfi said her future consists of many more races. She remarked that she plans on running more half marathons and longer races, such as the 50K race. Her ultimate goal is to complete a marathon in every state in the United States.

With these goals in mind, Ghelfi said she views running as more of an experience that enables her to learn more about herself and other people who share the same passion as her.

"I just run for fun for the most part," she said. "I'm not a competitor in terms of speed. It's just about getting out there. Races are really good for that and really good for doing them with a bunch of people who are all trying to accomplish similar goals."

EVEN IF I DON'T KNOW THEM, I MEET PEOPLE ALONG THE WAY AND BUILD REALLY GOOD RELATIONSHIPS.

**HALEY GHELFI '16**  
ELON UNIVERSITY ALUMNA

her family, but she also said she loves the entire social experience of running races.

"Watching other people and watching them get through the race is probably one of the best times for me," Ghelfi said. "Even if I don't know them, I meet people along the way and build really good relationships."

For Ghelfi, meeting new

PHOTOS COURTESY OF HALEY GHELFI



# Elon Eats: Nostalgia with a side of fries

Blue Ribbon Diner serves classic diner favorites in '50s-inspired setting

**K McKay**  
Contributor  
@\_KMckay

It's the 1950s in the United States. Look out the window and embrace the endless rows of identical houses during this booming period of suburbia. Turn on the radio to catch the next episode of your favorite soap opera. Dean Martin, Elvis Presley and Pat Boone top the music charts.

Imagine S. Church Street is Route 66. Hamburgers and fries are the trendy food of the time and Blue Ribbon Diner is the model diner. Teenagers squeeze six to a booth on Friday night, dates hold hands while sharing a milkshake and friendly staff in uniforms greet every person that walks in.

Blue Ribbon Diner owner Wayne Bunting has spent the past 26 years recapturing his youth through the restaurant, one of three he owns in the area. He also owns the Village Grill and a second Blue Ribbon Diner in Mebane.

"When I was much younger, the drive-in, 50s theme was not a theme — it was the 50s," Bunting said. "I love the cars, I love the music of the 50s, and we said, 'Why not, let's do a hamburger restaurant that kind of recaptures some of that drive-in feeling.'"

To help capture the feeling, the interior of the restaurant is styled after a classic diner. Customers can choose to sit at the countertop or in the red vinyl booths. Photos of classic cars

## BLUE RIBBON DINER

**Where:** 2465 S. Church St.

**Hours:** 11 a.m.-10 p.m. every day

**Specials:** Applejack-grilled chicken, Chicken Pie, Country Fired Steak, hand dipped milkshakes.

line the walls and the floor is classic black-and-white checkered tile. The setting alone makes the dining experience memorable.

Outside the restaurant, the bright blue awning and neon blue lettering are hard to miss. Bunting's favorite part of the decor is the jukebox that sits at the front of the entrance.

"So many people are drawn to it because of the look of the 50s-style jukebox," Bunting said.

When first designing the menu, Bunting knew he wanted to approach hamburgers in a different way.

"At that time, the gourmet hamburger was not the gourmet hamburger," Bunting said. "It was a fast-service, quick-food type of hamburger. We were trying to do a little bit better-quality product."

Today, the menu has expanded to include a variety of burger styles, all priced around \$8 with fries included. The diner also offers gluten-free buns.

Surprisingly though, the hamburger is not the "must-order" item on the menu. At the Burlington location, chicken is king — Applejack-grilled chicken, to be specific. The sauce is a perfect balance of tangy and sweet and the grill marks on the breast make it Instagram-worthy. Customers can order the chicken a variety of ways: in a wrap, on a sandwich, in a



K. MCKAY | Contributor

Staff members speak behind the retro counter at Blue Ribbon Diner on S. Church Street in Burlington.

salad or in a basket.

For those looking for more homestyle classics, Blue Plate daily specials such as Monday Chicken Pie and Friday Country Fried Steak will only set you back \$6.99 and come with two vegetable sides.

Don't fill up on the entrees, though, or you might miss arguably one of the best dessert menus in town. Once you've had one of their classic hand-dipped milkshakes, you won't be able to look at the fast food soft-serve again. The peach cobbler sundae is also always a great decision, with layers of homemade cobbler and vanilla ice cream served in a tall, thick glass.

While the positives far outweigh the negatives, customers should be aware of a few things before making the trip. Vegetarian and vegan options on the menu are limited, breakfast isn't on the menu and there is

no "late-night dining." The diner is open 11 a.m.-10 p.m. seven days a week.

Yet these small negatives don't seem to deter customers, as the diner is still regularly packed after 26 years.

The '50s invokes memories of poodle skirts, suburbia and rock 'n roll, but the Blue Ribbon Diner serves as a reminder that food culture was just as defined and prominent as music and fashion during the time. The diner has established itself as a time capsule to the past, where great food is just one of its many attractive qualities.

Next time you're craving meatloaf, chicken tenders or the classic hamburger and fries, hop in the car and head over to Blue Ribbon Diner. If you're lucky enough to see Bunting while you're there, pull out a little '50s lingo and tell him he's got a hip, way-out place.

# Vagina Monologues highlights women's issues

**Alexandra Schonfeld**  
Assistant Lifestyle Editor  
@aschonfeld096

The Vagina Monologues has become an annual Valentine's Day tradition for the Elon University community. This year, while the topic of women's rights hangs in the air around the country, the performance aims to be even more poignant than in years past.

The Vagina Monologues is a play written by Eve Ensler that premiered in 1996 and is still performed all around the world today. The play consists of monologues that Ensler composed after conducting interviews with more than 200 women about their experiences.

No monologue represents one woman's experience, but rather the experiences of many.

The Vagina Monologues will run at 6:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. on Feb. 14 in Whitley Auditorium. Tickets are \$5. Elon's production is sponsored by EFFECT and all proceeds will benefit CrossRoads of Alamance County, a sexual assault response and resource center serving the area.

The show is one of the few opportunities on campus for non-majors to audition and perform for the community. Senior Emily Ciuffetelli is directing the show this year and said it is the largest turnout for auditions they've ever had — spanning various ages and majors.

Junior Viiu Loub decided to audition on a whim with one of her good friends, with no expectation of getting a role.

"Fun fact: She was the first person cast in the show," Ciuffetelli said.



PHOTO BY IRIS SULLIVAN

The Vagina Monologues' cast poses together for a promotional photo that incorporates warrior paint to symbolize empowerment.

After seeing the show her freshman year, Loub said it was, "oddly inspirational."

"And it's meant to be," she said. "But as a freshman in college — I'm already a pretty open and fairly comfortable person — I thought it would just be a cool performance to see. I think a part of the reason it's so cool is it catches people off guard on how meaningful it is."

The women have had individual rehearsals with Ciuffetelli since the beginning of Winter Term and have recently started rehearsing as a group.

To promote the event, Ciuffetelli tentatively suggested doing a "faux-nude" photo shoot using strategi-

cally placed sheets. And to her surprise, everyone was on board.

"The day that we actually did it, everyone was so body confident and body positive and it helped kind of form a bond," Ciuffetelli said.

Almost every year, Ensler adds a new monologue to the script or takes one out, but for the first time in a while, she kept the script from last year.

"She kept in the one she added last year which is a monologue with five women and is about the trans experience," Ciuffetelli said. "From being a young child, through the adversity [and] how they become who they really are. I'm really happy she kept that one in."

Aside from the words the actors speak during the show, Ciuffetelli hopes the audience will also find meaning in what the actors do when they're silent.

"They're all going to be sitting [on stage] the whole time — except the person performing — but the rotation of how they're sitting is going to change and where they're looking is going to change," Ciuffetelli said. "To me, that is representing the world and society's view of whatever [topic is being discussed]. Do they have their backs turned to it? Are they looking straight on? Are they looking past it?"

Ciuffetelli said preparing for the performance during our current po-

## WHEN & WHERE

**Date:** Tuesday, Feb. 14

**Time:** 6:30 p.m. and 9 p.m.

**Location:** Whitley Auditorium

**Tickets:** \$5

litical climate has also given the show a different feel from years past.

"I think it has been a very cathartic thing for me and other people in this time to be able to have this as a form of expression," she said.

While preparing for her role, Loub said she looked up videos of past productions from around the world and watched her specific monologue various times. Though the words were the same, Loub noticed that each performance was unique.

"Everyone was so different, even in the littlest ways," she said. "It can make the biggest difference in how that monologue is perceived and how it comes out."

Ciuffetelli is grateful she got to spend her fourth and final time working on the show as director and watching the actors' progress through rehearsals.

"No matter what end you participate in the Vagina Monologues, this is — I am willing to say — a life changing experience for anyone who participates," Ciuffetelli said. "The girls who came in the very first read-through came in uncomfortable about saying 'vagina' in front of a lot of people. And just through the individual rehearsals seeing people come into their own and just really accepting their womanhood has been so beautiful."

# CATS



“Cats” theater design takes a Broadway favorite to new creative heights

By Deirdre Kronschnabel | Contributor | @kronschnabel

## “CATS” from cover

cent student productions such as “Parade” and “Little Women.”

“There’s an allowance for freedom and creativity in dance, within the parameters presented in its lyrics and music,” she said.

The loose parameters of the lyrics and music also allow for freedom in the design.

In most productions, there are a certain amount of costume elements that can

be can pulled from costume stock, rented from someone else or purchased, but this show is completely built and created from scratch. There are a lot of steps in the process.

Graham graduated from Elon with double majors in acting and design and production, and since then has been attending graduate school in Austin, Texas, for costume design.

While at Elon, Graham starred in performances such as “Noise is Off” but eventually realized she was more drawn to de-

signing productions than acting in shows.

Last spring, Graham was asked to design when Karl Green, assistant professor of performing arts, who usually designs the show, was on sabbatical.

Graham, thrilled to come back to Elon and help with the show, has spent the past eight months flitting between Austin and Elon to oversee fittings, create maps for the shop to follow and demonstrate concepts such as fur placement so that costume elements could be implemented in her stead.

## “CATS”

**Dates:** Feb. 9-12

**Times:** 7:30 p.m. Friday - Saturday | 2 p.m. Sunday

**Location:** McCrory Theatre

**Admission:** \$13 or Elon ID

DIEGO PINEDA | Photo Editor  
Freshman Sam Pearson plays Victoria, an all-white cat.

## A PURR-FECT FACE



1.



2.



3.

1

DIEGO PINEDA | Photo Editor  
I started with my wig prep, which is pin curls that basically flatten all your hair. Once I got all of my hair out of my face, I started with the white base makeup. I wet a sponge and painted it all over.

2

DIEGO PINEDA | Photo Editor  
Then I have more detailed brushes for the black that I do. Then I did some pink on the lids and some polka dots.

3

DIEGO PINEDA | Photo Editor  
We blended some pink on my forehead and ears once I had on the wig to make sure all the lines were even. And then we did white on my eyebrows to make them look furry and blended.

The makeup also follows a more modern trend.

Graham’s early sketches were homage to the original show, but they didn’t seem to fit.

The new renderings are now made up of a clearly defined nose and mouth, with overtly enlarged eyes.

“Instead of trying to put tons of graphic stripes, or tons of graphic spots, we’re trying to keep the face as clean as possible so that the

emotion of the character can come through,” Graham said. “It’s not muddled up with different directions of makeup everywhere.”

Soft-blended color resonates throughout the “Cats” design in the dye, the fur and the intricate painting on top of the unitards.

The makeup is applied by a crew of eight artists, including senior Iris Sullivan, who is working on a theater production for the first time after gaining experience through

makeup for film.

“We really wanted to make the makeup our own and more original, with our own Elon flair,” Sullivan said, echoing Graham’s earlier sentiments.

But Sullivan most enjoys the transformation to the end result.

“My favorite part is getting to know the actors and talking to them,” she said. “When you start putting on all the costumes and the wigs, they get to really see their

characters. Seeing that excitement when everything is done and the final face is on, that’s my favorite part.”

While Sullivan looks toward the actors when the look is complete, Bishop focuses on the audience.

“I always love watching an audience because doing theater and helping people create emotions that they didn’t think they’d come into the theater having is really special,” Bishop said.

The renderings are made up of a clearly refined nose and mouth, with overtly enlarged eyes.

# CREATING THE LOOK

DIEGO PINEDA | Photo Editor  
COSTUME INFORMATION PROVIDED BY CAITLIN GRAHAM '11 AND SENIOR KELLEY NORMAN

## THE WIGS

Both long-haired and short-haired cats will grace the McCrary stage. Each wig is individually styled and colored, and at least one will be hiding a mic pack — about the size of an old Nokia cell phone — because the character is clad only in a unitard.

## THE UNITARDS

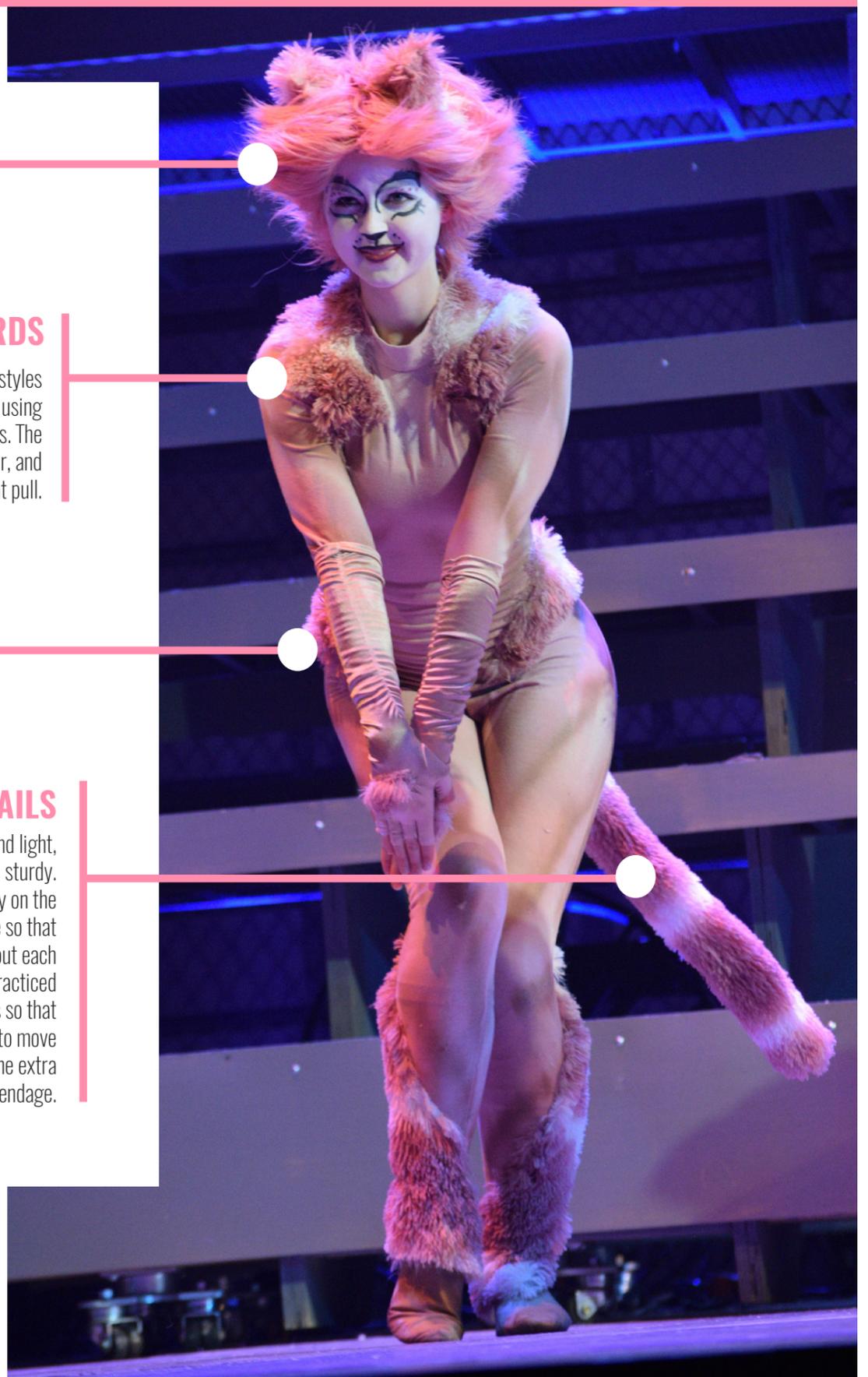
The unitards are dyed in various styles such as ombre and hand-painting using material available on campus. The unitards are then fit to the actor, and gussets are added to fix areas that pull.

## THE FUR

“Cats” designers used fur placement to create unique silhouettes on the legs, hips and shoulders. Fur trails up the backs of calves, and rows of fur that stand up off the hip — called “hipwings” — balance out fur that trims the shoulder. For other actors, large pieces of fur will cover the chest and drape over their shoulders and back.

## THE TAILS

Some cat tails are furry and light, while others are thin and sturdy. All are engineered to stay on the body with centripetal force so that they stay secure throughout each performance. The cast practiced using rehearsal tails so that they would be prepared to move without tumbling over the extra appendage.



Even with Graham’s careful eye for detail and meticulous planning, the extensive “Cats” costuming and makeup design would have been impossible to accomplish without her assistant designer, senior Claire Bishop.

While Graham was in Austin, Bishop was able to follow through on Graham’s vision with an ongoing thread of emails, texts and Skype calls. As a double major in theatre design production with focuses in costumes and arts administration, Bishop was a perfect candidate to accomplish what needed to be done with a designer that could not be physically present.

During Winter Term, Bishop spent nearly 300 hours working on costume design.

“It’s insane when you think about it,” Bishop said. “All the fur has to be hand-sewn, which takes so long. There’s all the dyeing and the painting. It takes so much more time than you’d think.”

Every costume took an immense amount of effort. Every unitard has to be hand-painted, and all the fur placement must be done while the unitard is on

the body to determine exactly how it will lay and stretch.

Each cat is uniquely designed to reflect its individual personality and style of dance. From the fur to the tail to the spots, every character has subtle differences that unify on the stage to create a cohesive picture of heightened theatricality.

But different characters pose different challenges. The cat tails have to stay attached to the body with centripetal force as the dancers turn, and depending on the moves the bodies make playing their character, the costume design must be able to adapt.

Originally the tails were made of polyfill tubing, but as they whipped with each twirl, the tails would break.

“We had to readjust and ended up getting upholstery cording, which is what makes the tail have all of the whip in them,” Graham said. “It’s interesting using different materials trying to achieve the effect you’re trying to get on stage, especially for dance.”

With all fear of tails flying off the stage soothed, Graham still had to worry about placement of necessary technical equipment.

“We’ve created these special-

# 300

hours spent by  
senior Claire Bishop  
on costume design.

ty mic packs that are sort of like a backpack and they wear them on the small of their back,” she said. “They have to be able to roll all over the floor and fall all over each other, and these are really expensive pieces of equipment. We try to pad them a little bit with the fur and put them in a place that they don’t roll on as much.”

The silhouette of each cat is as customized as its microphone placement. Unlike the original Broadway hit, Elon’s production of “Cats” is taking a softer, simplified and more streamlined take on both costume and makeup.

“In the Broadway version they all have leg warmers,” Graham said. “The show is very 80s, and it’s got that 80s pop-rock vibe to it. With our production, instead of having a typical leg warmer that goes up over the knee, we have pieces of fur that are sewn in sort

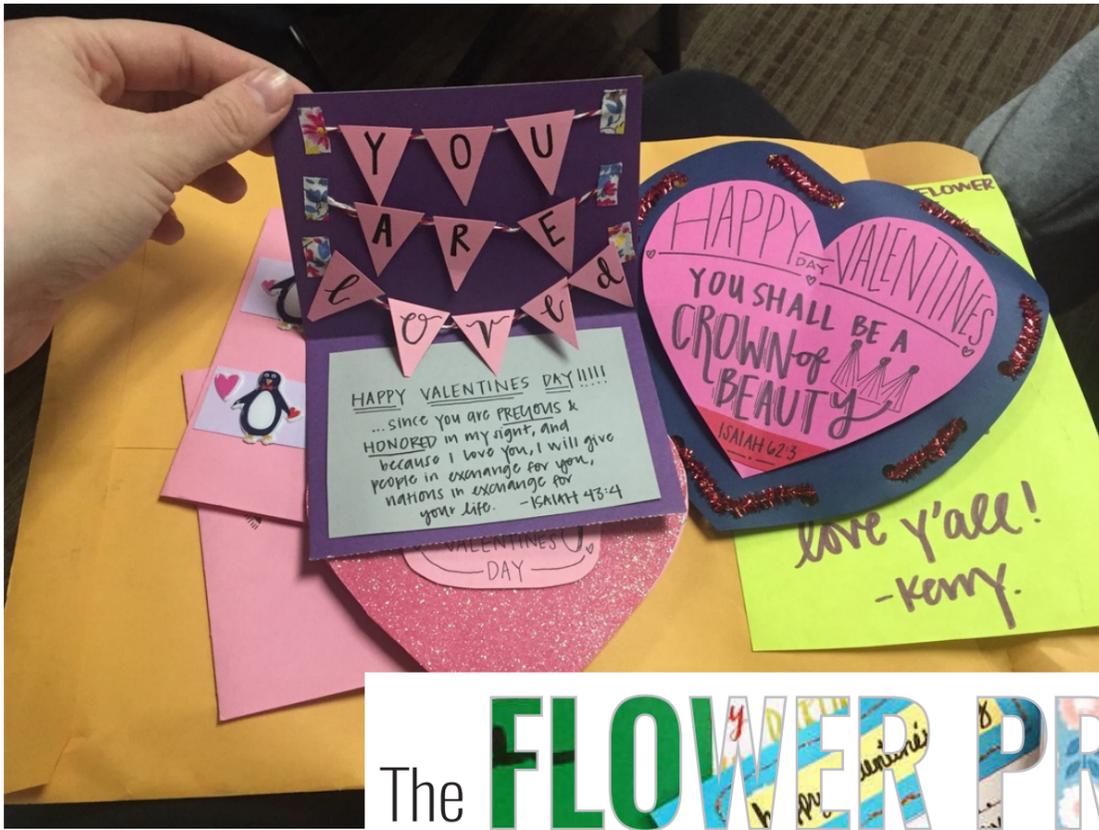
of an elegant way to change the silhouette of each person on stage. When you look at them from a distance, the body shapes look different on stage.”

The original “Cats” embraces the bold and graphic styling of the 80s, and Formato, Graham and Bishop’s creative vision will give the audience a visual experience that is more poetic and romantic in style, with no loss of color.

“We’ve opened the spectrum way up,” Graham said. “It’s gonna be wild.”

Senior Kelley Norman, who plays Jellylorum, is excited to wear the updated designs.

“This production is incorporating more colors, and we’re making it more modern,” Norman said. “I started out in a white unitard, with no fur, and now it’s perfectly fitted to my body, and it’s pink. They’re beautiful designs.”



# The FLOWER PROJECT

spreads unconventional love



## Volunteers donate cards to family service centers in Burlington

**Courtney Campbell**  
Lifestyle Editor  
@courtcamp

Throughout Winter Term and the beginning of February, about 40 volunteers gathered with colorful scrapbook paper and markers, creating personal, handmade cards with sayings such as “You are so loved” and “You are important.”

On Valentine’s Day, these cards — along with bouquets of flowers — will be delivered at the Family Justice Center in Burlington, Allied Churches and Crossroads Sexual Assault Resource Center. They will be given as part of The Flower Project.

The project was started by Elon University senior Chloe Allen her freshman year to promote positivity by reminding these women they are loved.

“We were talking about ways we could give back to the community, and we were thinking about Winter Term because usually it’s empty — there’s not that much to do,” Allen said. “We were thinking about prepping for Valentine’s Day, and I volunteer for Allied Churches, so I had the idea to

bring encouragement to them.”

Each person who comes to these sessions brings their own unique approach to the card-making.

“I’m not super creative with the card-making, but what’s really cool is you get to see everyone’s skills and talents pour into the cards,” Allen said. “Each card takes about 10 minutes. It’s whatever people want to do.”

Since it was initially started, The Flower Project has grown with more volunteers, more money donated through its website ([theflowerproject2017.weebly.com](http://theflowerproject2017.weebly.com)) and a promo-



I’M NOT SUPER CREATIVE WITH THE CARD-MAKING, BUT WHAT’S REALLY COOL IS YOU GET TO SEE EVERYONE’S SKILLS AND TALENTS POUR INTO THE CARDS.

**CHLOE ALLEN**  
SENIOR, THE FLOWER PROJECT FOUNDER

tional video. Volunteers can now bring about 250 bouquets to three locations.

Though Allen is the primary organizer, she wouldn’t be able to do it alone. Flowers are delivered to her two days before Valentine’s Day, and she needs all the help she can get to cut the roses, take off the thorns and wrap them in paper.

Last year, Allen and her team started at 6 p.m. and didn’t finish until 1

a.m., so she’s hoping to recruit more volunteers, such as senior Ben Charette.

“It’s a great cause and it’s a cool idea,” Charette said. “You’re spreading happiness. Chloe did a good job.”

While hand-delivering these cards and bouquets, Allen has seen the impact the project has made.

Allen stopped one woman who was about to leave the shelter without getting her bouquet or card. When she approached her, the woman said, “This made me feel so special.” And, by chance, Allen pulled out a card with

away,” Allen said. “You don’t really know the impact you’re making. You just got to have faith something will come from it.”

The first year, Allen purchased the flowers from BJ’s so she could buy them in bulk. But after learning that massive flower companies engage in exploitative practices towards their workers, she decided to switch to a fair trade company, despite higher prices.

This year, after seeing The Flower Project’s promotional video, the fair trade company decided to donate \$250 worth of roses, bringing The Flower Project to their goal almost immediately. Allen plans to donate the extra money to the places they deliver to.

As a senior, Allen will be passing down the project to someone who’s just as passionate about the mission.

“It’s a lot of work, a lot of planning, just a lot of responsibility, so I wouldn’t pass it down to someone who didn’t want it,” she said. “I haven’t had anyone approach me yet to say ‘I want to take this on.’”

But since Allen is going to be a teacher in Charlotte as part of Teach For America, she hopes to bring the project there and have high school students get involved and donate to local shelters.

Though it may prove difficult, she isn’t opposed to keeping the program going at Elon University.

“I’m thinking I might just take it with me but I don’t want to be selfish about it, if someone else wants to do it,” Allen said.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHLOE ALLEN  
Throughout Winter Term and the beginning of February, volunteers make cards and bouquets in various locations. Each card is handmade and takes about 10 minutes to create.

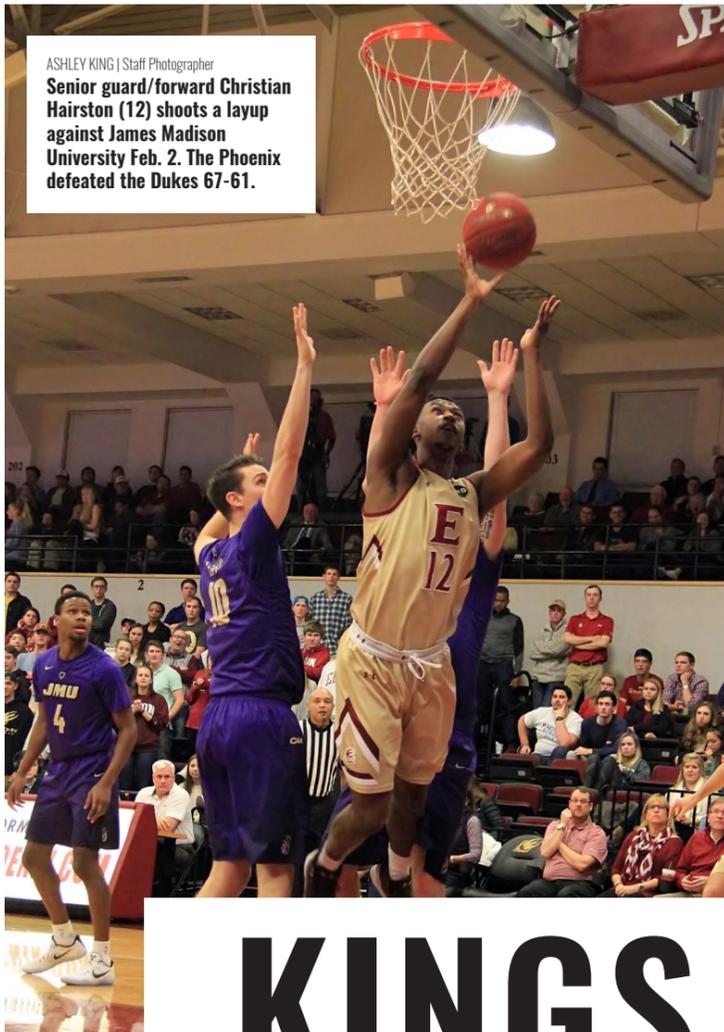
**ONLINE:**

Women's lacrosse cruises over Campbell in season opener

**ONLINE:**

Little resigns as Elon men's soccer coach

## SPORTS



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer  
Senior guard/forward Christian Hairston (12) shoots a layup against James Madison University Feb. 2. The Phoenix defeated the Dukes 67-61.



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer  
Senior guard Essence Bauco (2) is guarded by junior guard Shay Burnett (5) Oct. 21.

# KINGS OF THE COURT

Elon men, women finding success at the same time is a rarity

**Alex Simon**  
Sports Director  
@alexsimon99

It's always around this time of year that Elon University head men's basketball coach Matt Matheny feels the national spotlight turn toward college basketball. And each year, he loves it the same.

But this year — with his Elon team currently tied for third in the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA), only to have the Elon women's team sitting alone at the top of the CAA — may be the best year in school history to be an Elon fan, and Matheny can't hold his excitement in.

"February and March are awesome in college basketball," Matheny said. "I love the Super Bowl, but as soon as the Super Bowl's over, college basketball seems to heat up. To be an Elon fan right now, with the success that they're having and the way our young team is improving, makes for a very exciting — and potentially incredibly exciting — February and March."

The women are continuing a torrid tear through the conference, sitting at 18-5 overall and 10-1 in the CAA. The Phoenix would be undefeated had James Madison University redshirt senior guard and likely CAA player of the year, Precious Hall, not dropped 41 points on Elon, leading the Dukes to a 76-70 win Jan. 20.

Leading the charge for the Phoenix is junior guard Shay Burnett, who could very easily be considered the best player in the conference if not for Hall. Burnett is averaging 12.9 points, 7.9 rebounds, 3.5 assists and 1.3 steals per game, all team-highs.

In the past week alone, Burnett became the 22nd player in school history to score 1,000 points in her Elon career, and just the eighth player to do it before her senior year. Women's head coach Charlotte Smith said that Burnett could have more points if she was a little more selfish.

"We knew, when we were recruiting Shay, that she was a game-changer for this program," Smith said. "She's so super-talented, but not only is she talented and can do a lot of things for herself, she does a lot of things for all the players around her. She's a very selfless player — almost too selfless, at times. She probably could have amassed so many more points, but she's such a selfless player and does a really good job of making everybody around her better."

And for the Elon men, the team's play continues to get better and better after starting conference play 0-3. Since that, Elon's record is 7-2, with only a one-point loss at James Madison and a competitive loss at College of Charleston.

Matheny can see the team's improvement by comparing Elon's two games against the CAA-leading Cougars. Elon was down by as many as 24 in the second half Dec. 31, but Saturday, the Phoenix was trailing by just three with two minutes to go.

"The way we played Saturday gave me another example of our improvement," Matheny said. "We're a better team. We're better than when we played Charleston the first time, and we're better than we were a week ago. It sounds kind of boring to say the same thing over and over again, but

that's what we're trying to do."

With each Elon team going on a tear, the coaching staff have expressed support for each other, exchanging high-fives and words of encouragement frequently. It's clear how much Matheny and Smith appreciate each other.

"The more successful both teams are, the more exposure for the university and for Elon athletics," Smith said. "It's great to have a great relationship with the men's basketball staff. I'm just very excited about what's happening in Elon athletics for both the men's and women's basketball team."

Matheny concurred, saying, "I'm just ecstatic at how well her team is playing and the success they're having. I think it's really neat, as our program is starting to see glimmers of improvement and success, that they're going through a very similar phase,

TO BE AN ELON FAN RIGHT NOW, WITH THE SUCCESS THEY'RE HAVING AND THE WAY OUR YOUNG TEAM IS IMPROVING, MAKES FOR A VERY EXCITING — AND POTENTIALLY INCREDIBLY EXCITING — FEBRUARY AND MARCH.

**MATT MATHENY**  
HEAD MEN'S BASKETBALL COACH

and even taking it to another level."

There's only been one other season in which both the men's and women's basketball team finished with a winning record since Elon joined Division I: 2012-13. In Matheny's fourth season, Elon won the Southern Conference North Division by going 13-5 in conference and finished 21-12 overall, the most wins in a single season since 1973-1974.

Meanwhile, Smith's second year at the helm saw the Phoenix go 19-14 overall and 14-6 in the SoCon, good for third place and Elon's highest-ever finish in the SoCon. But both teams fell in the conference semifinals, the closest either team has been to the NCAA Tournament under the current coach.

Smith has been back to the conference semifinals two more times since then, but hasn't been able to cross that threshold and reach the conference final. Smith believes that the teams have been good enough to win it each time, but didn't execute.

"The teams in the past have been teams capable of winning a championship — it's not like we haven't had opportunities," Smith said. "The potential to be a championship team has always been there. We just have to be smarter out there, make better decisions and be able to close games out.

"When it comes to conference, it's one-and-done. You can't predict whether the ball is going to fall in the hole — no teams can predict that. You just go do the best that you can, and you try to win the game through defense and rebounding — and we've done a pretty good job of that throughout the whole entire year."

While Elon has never been to the NCAA Tournament, each team has been in a conference championship game once since joining Division I, with the women losing to Liberty University 52-47 in the 2001 Big South championship.

Matheny was involved with the men's lone appearance, but he was on the other side, an assistant for the

Davidson College team that beat Elon 65-49 in 2008 and went to the Elite Eight. He remembers it well, having coached many of the same Elon players two years later when he took the Elon job, but feels like the program Elon was in the SoCon is very different than what Elon is now.

"I view what we've done the past couple of years as a brand new start," Matheny said. "It's like getting a new job, and we really put ourselves in a league that has great basketball. I'm just excited about how these guys are elevating our program."

Matheny has reason to remain excited when looking at the team's prospects in this year and beyond, as his entire starting lineup has at least one year of eligibility remaining. The Elon men's team could easily be a threat for the next two or three years.

But there may never be a better chance for the women's team than this year, with five seniors and three juniors making up the majority of the rotation for the Phoenix. That experience has been a key for the success, in Smith's eyes.

"Experience definitely plays a huge part in our success," Smith said. "In the game on Friday during a free throw, I called Shay over to the sideline to talk about some offensive sets. She looked at me and she said, 'It's funny you said that because I just said that to the team.'"

"You're already on the same page, and it's like they can orchestrate things themselves because they know what my expectations are and they know what to look for out there on the floor."

And, should the Elon women use that experience and break through to the Big Dance, Matheny and the men's team will be right there with them.

"We're pulling for them," Matheny said. "I hope she wins it all."



# SWINGING INTO A NEW SEASON

ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer  
Senior catcher/infielder Emily Roper (23) swings at a low pitch in 2016. Roper is one of Elon's top five hitters from the 2016 season returning for 2017.

Elon hopes its strong offense will power way to CAA doorstep

**Ellie Whittington**  
Contributor  
@TheEllieTimes

When Elon University head softball coach Kathy Bocoock looks around the field, she finds a lot of familiar faces.

And as the Phoenix enters its third season in the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA), Bocoock feels confident in the

**Elon softball's top five hitters, who are all everyday starters, are returning this season along with most of its starting rotation. The team made it to the CAA tournament last year.**

team's familiarity with each other and the expectations needed. "I am very fortunate this year that I only have four newcomers," Bocoock said. "The upperclassmen have experience within themselves. They know it's a whole new season. They also know that other teams are preparing as well."

But with Elon returning its top five hitters — all everyday starters — as well as most of its starting rotation, there's reason for Elon to feel confident after reaching the CAA tournament last year. But senior outfielder Alaina Hall feels like Elon will improve on its quick exit from the tournament.

"Sometimes, it's just not your time.

Last year, it happened to be not our time," Hall said. "We got to the conference tournament, but we just weren't Elon softball."

"We know that, when we get there again, we're going to dominate. We learn from the past and learn from the mistakes we made last year and take it to them."

Hall's outfield mate, junior Kara Shutt, returns after a record-setting sophomore year. The Greensboro native broke a single-season school record by hitting 21 doubles and hit .399 on the season, good for second in the CAA and second in the school's Division I era. Hall was no slouch herself, batting .331 from the leadoff spot.

Elon also returns junior infielder Hannah Olson, who hit tied for the team-high with five home runs from the second spot, and senior catcher Emily Roper, who hit .308 and had a team-high 31 runs batted in the middle of the order.

Bocoock feels that the Phoenix can be a major threat offensively.

"We've had a lineup that's been pretty consistent and are used to each other," Bocoock said. "They know where their skills are at. We're very fortunate to have the offense that we have. If they're all on together, it could be scary."

With so many players returning from last year's roster, Bocoock says balancing playing time and rest will be key.

"I need to keep them healthy," Bocoock said. "Fifty-six games is a lot of games.

We have really worked with everybody. If we get the lead and feel comfortable, we can move them in and out. Even though I know the starters want to be out there, it'll give me an opportunity to give them a rest so they can stay healthier and stay more game-ready."

Elon's schedule for 2017 will see the Phoenix staying at Hunt Softball Park more often, with 30 home games currently on the schedule. Shutt appreciates the change, acknowledging that Elon went 17-7 in 2016 at home and 20-6 in 2015.

"I love playing at home," Shutt said.

"I'm a local resident, so I love when my family gets to come out and watch. Also, statistically, we play better at home."

Shutt said she hopes Elon could win 22 of its 30 home games in 2017, a number Bocoock seemed pleased with. But the coach was quick to point out the importance of trying to balance

its schedule.

"We have been pretty successful at home and we play well here, but something our girls talk about is that we need to do better on the road," Bocoock said. "We want road games so when it comes time for conference play, we can do well on the road as well."

Elon will take place in the University of Florida's Citrus Classic tournament in Orlando, Florida for the third-straight year, and the Phoenix played the No. 1 ranked Gators to a competitive 3-1 loss last year. In addition, the Phoenix

will face six different Atlantic Coast Conference schools throughout the season, playing a total of eight games against those schools.

But in the CAA stands perennial power James Madison University, a team that's been to the NCAA tournament four times in a row and finished 2016 as the No. 7-ranked team in the country, hosting a Super Regional. Leading the Dukes is junior pitcher Megan Good, who was named to the USA Softball Player of the Year watch list last week.

The Dukes lost only one game to a conference opponent last year, and Elon remembers it quite well. The Phoenix beat James Madison 5-4 in 15 innings, riding the arm of pitcher Kayla Caruso '16 all the way to victory in the marathon. Hall feels like Elon can find confidence in the fact they've defeated the Dukes before.

"JMU is an amazing team and we have beaten them. That technically qualifies us as amazing, too," Hall said. "I feel like we have the bats and the pitching. If we can keep our eye on the prize and not get overwhelmed by all the commotion about them and how good they are, we can beat them. We've shown it once and we can do it again."

Shutt added, "I don't think they will be the same team they were last year. If we play our best we have a good chance to beat them."

Elon's season will be long set by the time the Phoenix travels to Harrisonburg to face the Dukes in May.

But despite being picked fifth in the conference, Elon is planning on having to make a return trip to Harrisonburg, Virginia the next weekend for the CAA championship tournament.

WE LEARN FROM THE PAST AND LEARN FROM THE MISTAKES WE MADE LAST YEAR AND TAKE IT TO THEM.

**ALAINA HALL**  
SENIOR OUTFIELDER

THE  
**PHOENIX**  
FOCUS

**WOMEN'S TENNIS**

RESULTS & SCHEDULE

4-3



Feb. 4  
3-4



Home

Feb. 11  
1 p.m.



**WOMEN'S LAX**

RESULTS & SCHEDULE

1-0



Feb. 4  
15-5



Away

Feb. 11  
1 p.m.



**SOFTBALL**

SCHEDULE

0-0

Home

Feb. 10-11  
3 games



**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**

RESULTS & SCHEDULE

18-5 (10-1)



Feb. 3  
83-55



Feb. 5  
66-56



Home

Feb. 10  
7 p.m.



Away

Feb. 12  
3 p.m.



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

**MEN'S BASKETBALL**

RESULTS & SCHEDULE

15-10 (7-5)



Feb. 2  
67-61



Feb. 4  
58-71



Away

Feb. 9  
7 p.m.



Home

Feb. 11  
4 p.m.



**MEN'S TENNIS**

RESULTS & SCHEDULE

1-5



Feb. 4  
3-4



Feb. 5  
2-5



Home

Feb. 8  
2 p.m.



Home

Feb. 11  
1 p.m.



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

**SPORTS BRIEFS**

**Women's track and field competes at Camel City**

The Elon University women's track and field team continued its indoor season by competing at the Camel City Invitational in Winston Salem Feb. 3-4.

Elon competitors took eighth, ninth and 10th in the triple jump, led by senior Carrie Abraham's 11.13-meter leap.

Senior Kimberly Johansen finished eighth in the one-mile race, breaking her school record for the third time this year with a time of 4:45.34.

Junior Bryanna Hames set a personal record in the shot put, heaving the shot 14.49m. Hames finished second, while red-shirt junior Bre'anna Warren ended in third with a throw of 10.96 meters.

**Women's soccer signs 8 for 2017 season**

The Elon University women's soccer team announced its Class of 2017 high school signees Feb. 1, National Signing Day.

The Phoenix signed a total of eight players, with three coming from North Carolina. Forward Meredith Christopher joins the team from Fort Mill, South Carolina.

Elon added two midfielder/forwards in Carson Jones of Charlotte and Caylin Meikrantz of Allentown, Pennsylvania.

Elon also signed five midfielders: Avery Gardner of Raleigh; Kara Kimberl of Asburn, Virginia; Olivia Kraebal of Wyckoff, New Jersey; Ashley Rumley of Greensboro; and Hailey Tucker of Spokane, Washington.

**Burnett named CAA Co-Player of the Week**

Elon University women's basketball junior guard Shay Burnett was tabbed as the Colonial Athletic Association's Co-Player of the Week Feb. 6, her second time receiving the honor this season.

Burnett led Elon to two wins over the weekend, scoring 18 points in the Phoenix's 83-55 win over Towson University Friday, Feb. 3.

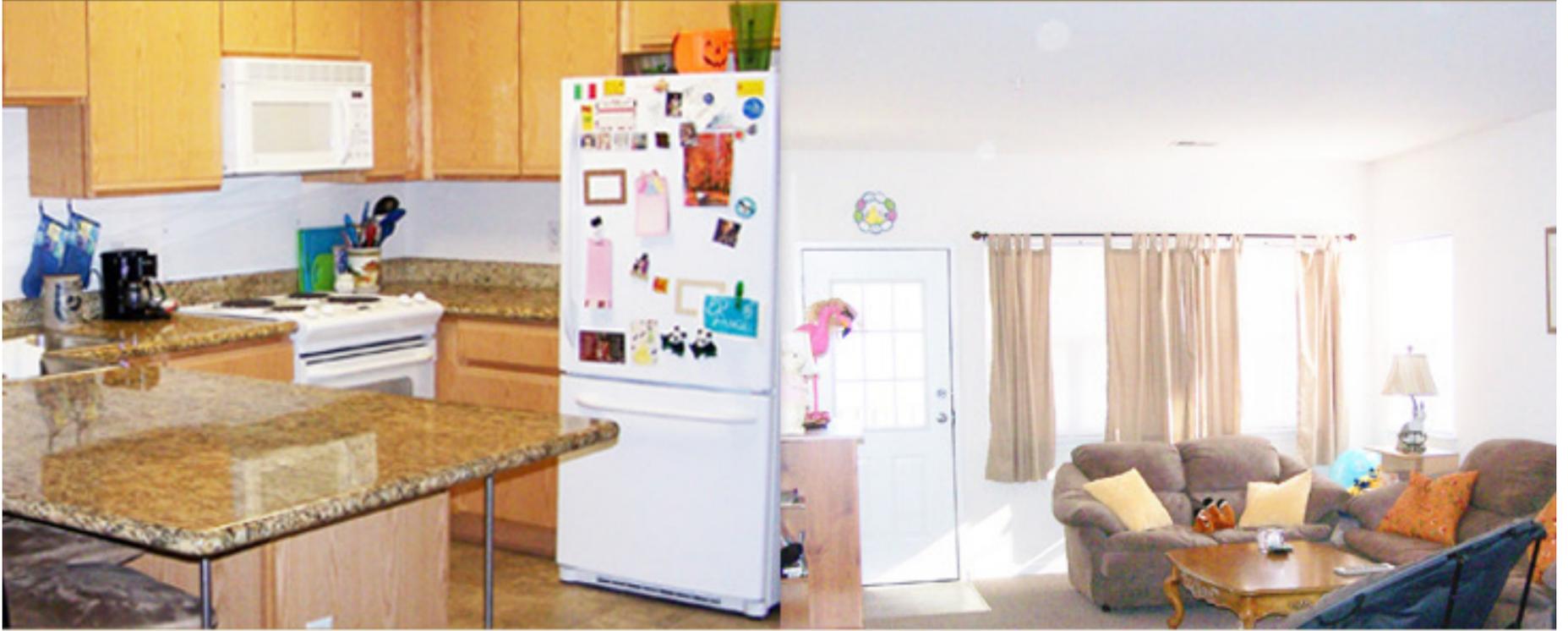
Then, on Sunday, Feb. 5, Burnett scored a season-high 23 points and grabbed 12 rebounds in Elon's 66-56 win at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. In the game, Burnett scored her 1,000th career point, becoming the 22nd player in school history to do so.

**HB2 could cost N.C. future NCAA Championships**

The North Carolina Sports Association sent a letter to the North Carolina General Assembly and House of Representatives stating that the NCAA will not allow the state to host its championship events for the next six years if House Bill 2 is not repealed.

The letter states that North Carolina cities, colleges and universities have submitted a total of 133 bids to host events from 2018-2019 to 2021-2022. In a statement, the NCAA said it is currently in the process of evaluating bids.

The NCAA removed the eight 2016-2017 championship events in North Carolina Sept. 12, 2016. No decision has been made on 2017-2018 championship events.



# PROVENCE & EVELLIEN

## TOWNHOMES & APARTMENTS

~~XXX~~ 3  
places left  
for next year  
& going  
fast!

The deadline for freshmen to  
apply for a housing exemption  
is February 10, 2017.



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

(336) 266-6666 | [www.evellien.com](http://www.evellien.com)