

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2020  
VOLUME 50, EDITION 6  
ELON, NORTH CAROLINA

# THE PENDULUM

## KNOWING THE SIGNS:

### Understanding what human trafficking is

An in-depth look into trafficking in North Carolina and the world

**Kyra O'Connor** | Enterprise Story Coordinator | @koreports

**H**UMAN TRAFFICKING, A MULTI-BILLION dollar criminal industry that is the second-largest in the world, can take place anywhere — including, as economics professor Casey DiRienzo likes to remind her students in her class economics of human trafficking, in their own backyard.

In 2019, the Human Trafficking Hotline received 1,208 contacts through phone calls, texts, emails and online chats regarding human trafficking in North Carolina, and 266 cases of human trafficking were reported.

According to data from Polaris — a non-profit organization that runs the National Human Trafficking

Hotline — individual victims and survivors contacting the trafficking hotline increased from 2018 to 2019 by 19%. The organization worked with 11,500 situations of human trafficking in 2019, and the website states that while the number of trafficking situations is high, they are likely only part of the problem, as human trafficking is often underreported.

Joel Thomas, police Sgt. for Campus Safety and Police for Elon University, said while there have been concerns about human trafficking reported recently to campus safety, the reports did not indicate trafficking happening on campus, but rather concerns regarding neighboring jurisdictions.

See **TRAFFICKING** | pg. 5



CLARE GRANT | PHOTO EDITOR

## Deep breaths: Air ventilation on campus upgraded

Physical Plant made changes to every university building prior to the semester starting

**Emery Eisner**  
Elon News Network | @eisneremery

You can't see it. You can't smell it. But it's there. The air inside Elon University buildings is flowing at maximum capacity this year in order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 on campus, according to Assistant Vice President of Physical Plant Tom Flood.

Physical Plant assessed each building's unique heating, ventilation and air conditioning system over the summer, maximizing airflow while maintaining 40% to 60% humidity in each building, according to Flood. This level of humidity is ideal for limiting the spread of respiratory viruses, according to a recent study in the Annual Review of Virology.

In a statement to Elon News Network, Flood wrote that in the over 200 buildings

on campus, a variety of HVAC systems are employed, and each was assessed on an individual basis with systems ranging from "typical" residential systems to "very complicated computer and sensor controlled systems for more complicated spaces."

Buildings on campus are also now equipped with medical-grade air filters, Flood said. The new filters have a minimum efficiency reporting value of 13, compared to a residential-grade filter with an MERV rating of three to five. A higher rating correlates to finer filtration, meaning fewer particles remain in the air.

While air ventilation and filtration can be helpful, they are less necessary in fighting the spread of COVID-19 due to the nature of the virus, according to Dr. Jeffrey Hatcher of the Cone Health Regional Center for Infectious Disease. Air ventilation protects against aerosolized viruses, which Hatcher characterized as a virus that "hangs around the air."

See **VENTILATION** | pg. 6



GRACE TERRY | MANAGING EDITOR

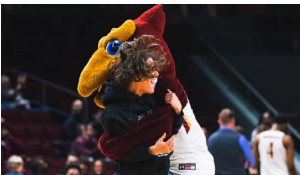
The air conditioning unit for Duke Building on Sept. 15. Each air conditioning unit was assessed over the summer by Elon Physical Plant to maximize airflow while maintaining 40% to 60% humidity in each building.



**NEWS • PAGE 7**  
The SGA Class of 2024 election results



**LIFESTYLE • PAGE 11**  
A look at how the student store has grown during the pandemic



**SPORTS • PAGE 13**  
What The Phoenix does with no sports



# THE PENDULUM

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## CORRECTIONS

In the last edition of The Pendulum, Xuan Huynh’s name was misspelled. Elon News Network regrets this error.

In the last edition of the Pendulum, Gabby Gutierrez was listed as running for SGA freshman president. She ran for senator. Elon

News Network regrets this error.

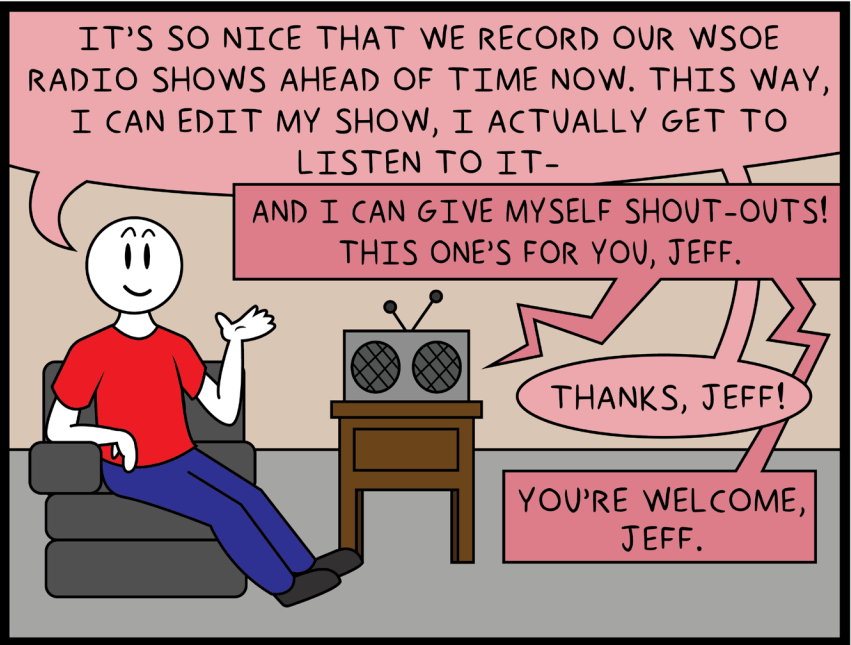
## GAMES

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

1. According to the International Labour Organization, in 2016, 40.3 million people were victims of modern-day \_\_\_\_\_. *See Page 5 for answer.*
2. Air ventilation protects against \_\_\_\_\_ viruses, or viruses that “hang around in the air”. *See Page 6 for answer.*
3. Professor Jodean \_\_\_\_\_ is the supervisor of the Elon Traditions council *See Page 7 for answer.*
4. Men’s Soccer has been practicing in groups of \_\_\_\_\_ for the past three weeks. *See Page 11 for answer.*

## COMIC

### THE RADIO STAR



COMIC SAMS - SAM POROZOK

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I	C	W	F	S	M	P	R	L	A	E	N	W	U	R
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C	A	H	I	O	E	H	K	O	A	X	H	T	V	E
F	M	G	P	S	K	I	M	U	T	O	U	S	X	A
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A protester and a supporter of President Donald Trump argue outside the president's rally in Winston-Salem on Tuesday, Sept. 8.

JON SARVER JR. | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Students practice yoga outside Schar Hall on Tuesday, Sept. 8.

THOMAS DENOME | CHIEF COPY EDITOR



American flags line the walkway of Young Commons for the 19th anniversary of 9/11.

CLARE GRANT | PHOTO EDITOR

Eric Trump speaks at a campaign event for President Donald Trump in High Point on Wednesday, Sept. 9.



GRACE TERRY | MANAGING EDITOR



# HUMAN TRAFFICKING:

## SPARKING CONVERSATION ON AND OFF CAMPUS

### TRAFFICKING | from cover

Thomas said that in his seven years at the police department, he and several of his colleagues have not heard of a human trafficking case on campus.

Thomas said campus police welcomes students to call about any trafficking concerns within the university jurisdiction or otherwise, as campus safety can connect students to departments or organizations who could help if the EUPD are unable to.

Burlington Special Victims Unit Detective Alex Shockley said calling the police in situations that make students uncomfortable, regardless of whether it is a potential trafficking situation, is something he recommends.

“We don’t mind at all coming out for something like that, if somebody feels threatened or if they don’t feel safe,” Shockley said. “That’s what our job is; we want to keep people safe. We want to be there for them.”

#### Defining Human Trafficking

Shockley — who has been with the Burlington Police Department Special Victims Unit for four and a half years — is one of two detectives who specializes in human trafficking. Shockley said he got into investigating human trafficking because of the lack of education and awareness.

“[Officers] saw ... a lot of pimps and how they would run their girls, and they knew that something was wrong, but all that was really being charged was prostitution,” Shockley said. “Nobody really thought about, ‘OK, well this is basically modern day slavery.’”

According to the United Nations Children’s Fund, human trafficking is a form of “modern-day slavery that subjects children, women and men to force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation or forced labor.”

Human trafficking can include prostitution, pornography and sex tourism, as well as labor for industries such as domestic service, factory and construction work, and migrant farming. The total market value of human trafficking is estimated to be \$32 billion, according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

DiRienzo said the supply of vulnerable people has increased, causing the average price of a victim of trafficking to plummet to just \$90. The economics behind human trafficking are similar to that of any other industry: as the supply, or number of victims of human trafficking, increased, the price plummeted.

In human trafficking, supply and demand is impacted by vulnerability. Vulnerability — which can be caused by globalization and factors such as a period of economic instability, homelessness or unemployment — increases the supply of trafficked individuals.

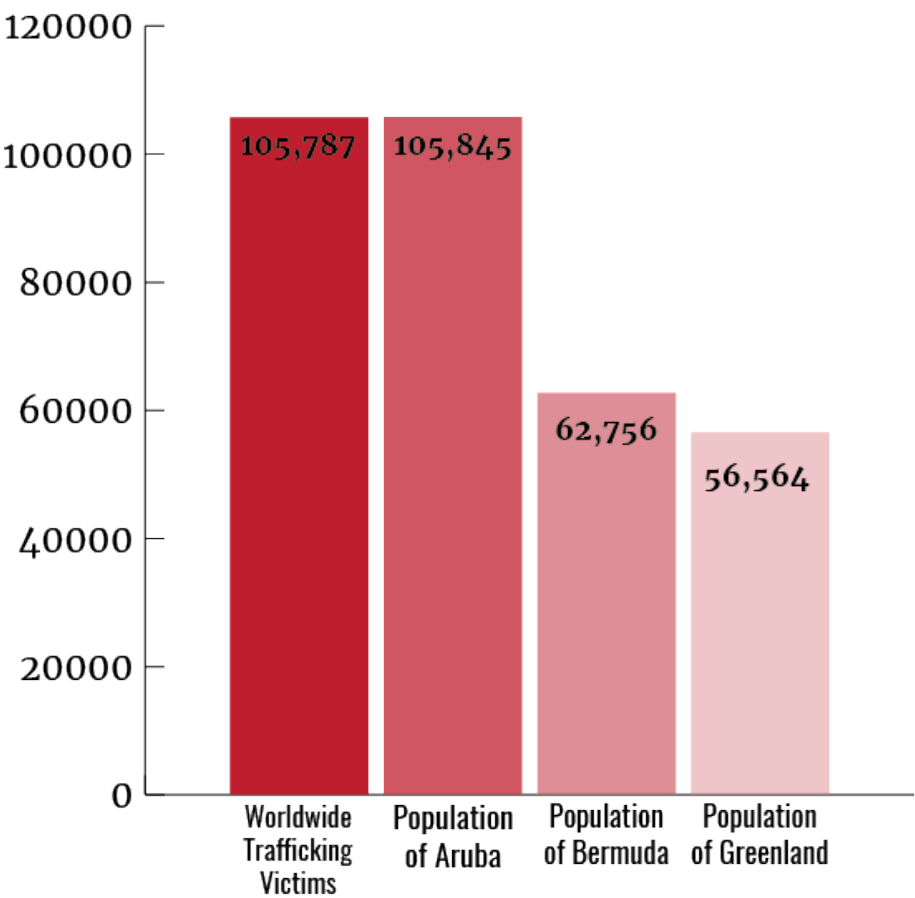
The demand for human trafficking victims comes from wealth, DiRienzo said. In the 2019 Federal Human Trafficking Report conducted by Trafficking Matters, the largest industry in labor trafficking cases in the U.S. is domestic work, followed by food industries and agriculture.

Human trafficking, is a crime under federal and international law, as well as a crime in every state in the U.S. According to the U.S. Department of State’s 2020 Trafficking in Persons report, worldwide trafficking numbers increased from 30,961 victims in 2008 to 105,787 victims in 2020.

“A lot of people, when they think of human trafficking, a lot of people think of the movie ‘Taken,’ they think of that movie where this girl literally gets just snatched up and kidnapped from, from her apartment, and then is thrown into a life of slavery,” Shockley said. “And that’s not to say that it doesn’t happen; that does happen. However, that’s pretty rare.”

While there are instances in which human

### WORLDWIDE TRAFFICKING VICTIMS VS WORLD POPULATIONS



SOURCE: 2019 revision of World Population Prospects

ANDREW ZAGARI | DESIGNER

traffickers will kidnap individuals, DiRienzo said that human traffickers want victims to come willingly.

“A hard kidnap is not the common way that traffickers get victims,” DiRienzo said. “If you think about someone screaming and yelling in a parking lot, that draws attention and that’s not something in general traffickers want to do.”

“

[THE] BIGGEST THING IS THAT [TRAFFICKERS] WANT CONTROL. THEY WANT TO BE IN CONTROL ALL THE TIME, AND THEY WANT TO CONTROL THIS PERSON BECAUSE THEY DON'T WANT THIS PERSON TO GET AWAY FROM THEM

ALEX SHOCKLEY  
BURLINGTON PD SPECIAL  
VICTIMS UNIT DETECTIVE

According to Polaris, recruitment tactics for both sex and labor trafficking are the offer of a job, falsely promising something to the victim, or posing as a benefactor to the victim.

With social media, traffickers may have more ways to meet and lure victims. With GPS tracking on social media, sharing personal information about location or

activities as well as details from personal situations, traffickers can find things to reach out to individuals about.

“This person has been reading along and knows you very well because you’re sharing this information. And then all of a sudden, there’s some form of a reach-out to that individual,” DiRienzo said. “It’s a process, the amount of time that traffickers dedicate to luring. This is not a real quick endeavor. This is time that they put into luring this person and building that trust, and it can take sometimes months.”

Trafficking, which has been reported in all 50 states according to UNICEF, has hotspots in big cities, but more rural areas like Alamance County may have issues with trafficking due to ease of movement on bigger highways, as well as income inequality.

In Burlington, Shockley said poorer communities and runaway youth are two at-risk populations for human trafficking.

Part of Shockley’s job is going on proactive missions where officers attempt to figure out where a trafficking victim is located and rescue them, in addition to attempting to arrest the trafficker. These missions happen once every three months.

Reducing buyer demand is another component of Shockley’s job. Lowering the demand for human trafficking by arresting those who would solicit human trafficking victims or prostitution, charging traffickers and putting traffickers’ names in the newspaper shows that trafficking is not tolerated in Alamance County, Shockley said.

Shockley said while people may think prostitution is a victimless crime, it can further the demand for human trafficking in an area.

“When somebody goes and purchases [the services of] a prostitute, they have no idea whether or not that’s a trafficking victim,” Shockley said.

Human trafficking is often hard to notice, but Shockley said a few ways officers spot victims is when they see one person answering all of the questions for another or if one person has another person’s identification. Officers may ask potential victims if they feel like they are free to leave their situation.

“[The] biggest thing is that [traffickers]

#### BY THE NUMBERS

266

human trafficking cases were reported in 2019 in North Carolina

\$90

is the average price of a victim, according to Elon economics professor Casey DiRienzo

\$32 billion

is the total estimated market value of human trafficking

want control. They want to be in control all the time, and they want to control this person because they don’t want this person to get away from them,” Shockley said.

Additionally, DiRienzo said trafficking victims may be afraid to report that they are being trafficked because of a lack of faith in the system. In the United States, a victim can be charged as well as the trafficker, something that could deter a victim from coming forward.

“I’ve listened to so many different narratives where the individual ... they didn’t want this life and they’re being exploited, and then they’re picked up and put in jail,” DiRienzo said. “The trafficker then comes and bails them out, and it’s the people who are getting exploited who are being charged, and then you hear stories of them... being beaten or abused for being caught.”

Shockley said some victims may not even know they are victims of human trafficking.

“They may not even realize what is happening to them is a crime,” Shockley said.





# Campus ventilation *now equipped for COVID-19*

Prior to students, faculty and staff arriving to campus, physical plant assessed each building's unique heating, ventilation and air conditioning system.

GRACE TERRY | MANAGING EDITOR

## VENTILATION | from cover

While air ventilation and filtration can be helpful, they are less necessary in fighting the spread of COVID-19 due to the nature of the virus, according to Dr. Jeffrey Hatcher of the Cone Health Regional Center for Infectious Disease. Air ventilation protects against aerosolized viruses, which Hatcher characterized as a virus that “hangs around the air.”

“Things that are aerosolized would be more likely to go through duct systems and air conditioning systems and things like that,” Hatcher said. “So that we think that aerosolized spread for this virus is unlikely makes that seem a little bit less important in terms of having these different kinds of filters.”

While there is more concrete evidence that COVID-19 is spread through droplets rather than aerosols, aerosol transmission “cannot be ruled out,” according to the World Health Organization.

These filters are secondary to social distancing and wearing a mask in terms of mitigating the spread of COVID-19, Hatcher said, especially in closed rooms.

“Being in classrooms, it’s really incumbent on the people who are in those

classrooms to do a good job of social distancing when they’re in those enclosed spaces,” Hatcher said. “So that’s certainly very difficult when you’re in college, social distancing isn’t probably the highest thing on your agenda.”

Hatcher added that focusing on classrooms doesn’t account for the majority of a student’s life.

“If you’re thinking about the risk just being in the classroom and that enclosed space, you’re really missing the opportunity to understand that other 23 hours of the day that is involved in student life,” Hatcher said, “whether it’s in the dorms or cafeteria or standing next to each other in the quad. So there’s lots of opportunities for us to intervene here.”

Freshman Meghan Malone said she feels comfortable in classrooms, especially with newly employed health maintenance measures.

“I think they are taking a lot of precautions,” Malone said, “so it doesn’t really bother me much.”

Flood said although staff with Physical Plant have taken measures to improve air flow and humidity in university buildings, much responsibility still lies with individuals to remain physically distant

## BY THE NUMBERS

# 40%-60%

humidity is maintained in each building as all the airflow is now maximized

# “

BEING IN CLASSROOMS, IT’S REALLY INCUMBENT ON THE PEOPLE WHO ARE IN THOSE CLASSROOMS TO DO A GOOD JOB OF SOCIAL DISTANCING WHEN THEY’RE IN THOSE ENCLOSED SPACES

**DR. JEFFREY HATCHER**  
CONE HEALTH REGIONAL CENTER FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASE

and wear their masks.

Other precautions against the virus include gathering outdoors instead of in the classroom. Tents are now stationed around campus for some classes.

“There are things that are going on outdoors that are protective for you,” Hatcher said, such as greater air circulation and UV light. “It’s not to say that you can’t spread the infection in people who are outdoors ... We just think about it as a little bit less common.”

Though increased air flow outside can mitigate the spread of the coronavirus, opening windows to increase air flow in classrooms or other campus buildings is not always a good idea, according to Flood.

“While that may provide a short-term improvement in ventilation to a specific space, it negatively impacts the building system’s ability to filter the air and maintain comfortable conditions,” Flood wrote. “Leaving windows open while running the air conditioning for a prolonged period of days can also stimulate mold growth during our warm humid fall days.”

Physical Plant asks that individuals shut windows after using a space and avoid leaving residential windows open continuously, according to Flood.

# 27 students have faced or are facing conduct charges for gatherings

Hosting mass gatherings results in suspension under the handbook and student conduct

**Mackenzie Wilkes**  
Executive Director | @macwilkes

27 students have faced or are in the process of facing conduct charges for hosting mass gatherings as of Sept. 12, according to Vice President for Student Life Jon Dooley, representing an increase of 20 students since Aug. 25.

Students who are charged with hosting gatherings larger than what is allowed by the university and town of Elon are suspended from campus.

While Gov. Roy Cooper announced that mass gatherings indoors can increase to 25 and outdoors to 50, the town of Elon amended its state of emergency order declaring that mass gathering limitations will remain at 10 indoors and 25 outdoors. Capacity for on-campus residence halls and apartments vary from the state and town gathering limits.

Additionally, 74 students have faced or are facing conduct charges for attending mass gatherings, which is 42 more students than on Aug. 25.

Disciplinary probation is a repercussion for

## BY THE NUMBERS

# 74

additional students have faced or are facing conduct charges for attending mass gatherings, which is 42 more students than on Aug. 25

students if they attend a large social gathering.

If a student is placed on disciplinary probation, they could lose study abroad privileges or student leadership positions until they show a “positive change in behavior” as outlined in the Student Handbook.

Dooley wrote in a Sept. 3 email to students stressing the importance of adhering to gathering restrictions in order to remain in-person.

“The limits on mass gatherings have helped us control a common source of transmission among college students – parties and large social gatherings,” Dooley wrote. “Our continued commitment to mask-wearing, physical distancing and adherence with mass gathering limitations will be among the important steps we can take to ensure that in-person learning continues this semester.”



CLARE GRANT | PHOTO EDITOR

An aerial view of Elon University's Global Neighborhood and Lake Mary Nell as seen on July 8.



# Elon SGA announces freshman class election results



Representatives for the class of 2024 were announced

Kieran Ungemach | Elon News Network | @kieranungemach

ELON UNIVERSITY’S STUDENT GOVERNMENT Association announced the election results for the class of 2024 race tonight in front of Moseley Center. 603 freshmen casted their ballots to elect their representatives.

Andrew Lymm won the position of class of 2024 president. Chloe Higgins

won the position for vice president. Genesis Tolbert won the position for secretary. Britt Mobley, Gabby Gutierrez and Xuan Huynh won the senator seats.

Candidates and the current SGA representatives were all in attendance to hear the results.

“It takes a lot of courage to put your name on a ballot,” said Robbie Miley, the

SGA executive president. “Win or lose, everyone has something to be proud of.”

Polls opened up on Sept. 14 and closed Sept. 15, with 18 freshman students running for various positions.

“It was great to see everyone’s campaigns,” Miley said. “Thanks so much to our election chairs. Congratulations everyone.”

## Students get involved through From the Flames Challenge

The interactive scavenger hunt involves unconventional challenges from lip syncing with a mask to online games

Cailey Cetani  
Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, colleges and universities are struggling to find ways for students to get involved on campus while being socially distant. A group of students came up with an idea that would solve those problems: a virtual scavenger hunt. The idea for the interactive scavenger hunt came from a University of Chicago tradition, but according to the supervisor of the Elon Traditions council, professor Jodean Schmiederer, the Elon Traditions Council of Judges customized this to be interactive with the Elon student community.

The From the Flames Challenge includes a semester-long scavenger hunt and other unconventional competitions. According to Schmiederer, it was created to help bring the community together and to encourage students to get to know Elon on a deeper level. The “quirky” scavenger hunt, found on their new Instagram page, encourages students to get to know Elon on a deeper level, while having fun solving clues for challenges.

Some of the past challenges have been going on Club Penguin to find one of the judge’s characters and their virtual pet, a “puffle” named Acorn, and lip-syncing to one of Beyonce’s songs for her birthday while still wearing a mask.

In a group of three to seven people, participants must complete a series of challenges in order to get a chance to win the weekly challenges. Clues and challenges are released on Wednesday at noon, and the teams have until the next Monday by 8 a.m. to complete the challenges.

One of the main features of the event is that

“

WE ARE SITTING AT OUR DESKS ON THESE ZOOM MEETINGS AND IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE YOU ARE INVOLVED WITH ELON. BUT WHEN YOU DO THESE THINGS WITH OTHER PEOPLE, ... IT FEELS LIKE YOU'RE WORKING TOWARDS A GOAL AND THAT GOAL ALSO HELPS YOU GET MORE INVOLVED WITH ELON AS A WHOLE

AOIFE JUDGE  
FRESHMAN

the prizes are always different. For week one, the council was giving away \$100 Phoenix Cash to the best performing group.

According to Schmiederer, the members of the council have made sure that this scavenger hunt is far from boring and is interactive with the participants to help them acclimate to Elon.

“I just think it’s fun, the whole challenge is intended to be lighthearted and playful during a time when things can feel heavy and lots of ‘we can’t do this’ and ‘we can’t do that’ ... We understand why we can’t do those things, but what can we do?” Schmiederer said.



AOIFE JUDGE and her friends work on a From the Flame challenge. A new tradition that is being started at Elon which is supposed to bring a sense of community during the new changes that have been brought to campus this fall semester.

According to Elon Traditions member and junior Liam O’Connor, the scavenger hunt has been uniquely designed to challenge participants’ competition skills. (O’Connor is a member of Elon News Network’s staff).

“There’s a maximum score that we have and we say that you can get 30 points from it, but if you go above and beyond, we’ll give you more points,” O’Connor said. “If we didn’t like that you guys were asynchronous, we are gonna give you guys negative points.”

Freshman Aoife Judge was part of the team that won the first week of the competition and said being a part of the challenges is a new and exciting way for her and her teammates to have fun while being socially distant.

“They posted this video about the judges, and me and my roommate were like, ‘the chaotic energy in that video is just out there and it matched what kind of vibes we were going for with activities we were looking to get involved in at Elon,’ Judge said. “It’s kinda nice seeing the new [generation] of different videos

and different challenges with the virus.”

The hunt has been made completely flexible. People can switch teams, participate as little or as much as they want and suggest new ways on how to make the challenges better. There are currently 17 teams participating in the challenge.

Judge said this innovative way to stimulate involvement on the campus rivals most of the other ways Elon has tried to involve new students on campus this year.

“We are sitting at our desks on these zoom meetings and it doesn’t feel like you are involved with Elon,” Judge said. “But when you do these things with other people, ... it feels like you’re working towards a goal and that goal also helps you get more involved with Elon as a whole.”

The Elon Traditions Council has made it easy to sign up. You can either do it through the university’s website by searching From the Flame Challenge or just following the Elon Traditions council on Instagram and click on the link in their bio to sign up.



# Possible May semester for study abroad proposed

Due to cancelled Winter 2021 study abroad programs, some students consider May Term to go abroad

**Raf Picó**  
Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

Elon University announced the creation of another term for the 2020-2021 academic year, where students who missed out on winter term experiences could take them at a later date.

In a weekly coronavirus update email from Jon Dooley, the creation of a new “May Term” was announced. The shorter semester will be similar to Winter Term, and will take place in May.

May Term will focus on students that lost opportunities to study abroad, participate in an internship or take additional classes. Students who had signed up for study abroad programs during Winter 2021 received an email from Provost Aswani Volety with additional details about the new term.

“Recognizing that the study abroad program is one of our premiere experiences here, we want to make sure that the students do get an

experience,” Volety said in an interview with Elon News Network.

All study abroad programs meant to take place in Winter 2021 were cancelled July 13 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Students who were registered to study abroad during Winter 2021 will have preference signing up for May Term programs.

Senior Clara Mueller hoped to study abroad in New Zealand during Winter Term. She said she received the email announcing the creation of May Term, but she is still unsure whether or not to take the opportunity.

“I think it could be a good idea. I mean, it depends on what’s going on during J-Term,” Mueller said. “I don’t really know what’s happening with J-Term, if it’s gonna be three days or if it’s just not gonna happen. But if May term is a substitute for a J-Term, I’m honestly for it.”

Volety said the pandemic is still a major factor in whether or not May Term will go off as planned.

“We recognize that this is not perfect,” Volety said. “Let’s say, some students may have lined up a job or internship right after graduation and they may not be able to go. Or some people might say, ‘Hey, no, [...] I want to go out and finish my experience.’”



PHOTO COURTESY OF ZACH OHMANN  
Students studying abroad during in 2020 winter term pose in front of Duomo di Firenze in Florence.

# HIV research by Elon alum calls for better education

A 2020 graduate is tackling a project to better understand the maturation of children born with HIV

**Madison Gilgo**  
Elon News Network | @ElonNewsNetwork

Imagine the only thing holding you back from immigrating to the United States is your positive HIV status. Unfortunately, this is the reality for HIV positive people wishing to immigrate to the United States or become adopted by American parents. Individuals with HIV were unable to immigrate to the United States due to the HIV Immigration Ban — which was enacted in 1987 — until it was lifted in 2010.

One Elon graduate — Amanda Bingaman ‘20 — decided to research families that adopted children with perinatally-acquired HIV. PHIV is a form of HIV that is transmitted from a mother with HIV to her child through pregnancy, during childbirth or while breastfeeding.

Bingaman said she noticed a lack of research in this area due to the fairly recent lifting of the HIV Immigration Ban.

Bingaman was joined in her research by Elon’s Chair of Public Health Studies, Cynthia Fair, healthcare professionals at the Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital and the Seattle Children’s Hospital, and other Elon graduates.

Families with adopted children that have PHIV may struggle to talk about it, Bingaman said.

“It is more difficult to address socially rather than medically because it is easily medically manageable with medication,” Bingaman said.

The stigma of HIV began during the HIV/AIDS pandemic in the 1980s. Clusters of the virus were found among sexually-active gay men, and the misinformation about the contraction of HIV that was rumored in the 1980s is still present today.

While researching the stories among families who internationally adopted children living with PHIV, Bingaman said she sought to discover the narratives behind several families and how or if the family shared their child’s HIV status with their friends, family and community.

Bingaman and her team conducted a semi-structured interview with participating families in 2018 and then again in 2019. She asked the family questions regarding if the parents had spoken about their child’s adoption, and their HIV status, as well as questions regarding their child’s overall understanding of their story and how the parents handled interactions with



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMANDA BINGAMAN  
Amanda Bingaman (left) and other Elon students present their research at McKinnon Hall.

“

ONE OF THE BIGGEST FINDINGS WE FOUND WAS DISCLOSURE [OF HIV] WAS ONE OF THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES FACED BY FAMILIES IS THE DISCLOSURE TO THE CHILD AND COMMUNITY

**AMANDA BINGAMAN**  
CLASS OF 2020

their community regarding their child’s HIV status.

Each family approaches the topic of their child’s adoption story differently. Bingaman said “disclosure is a process.”

The process of sharing their child’s HIV status with the world was varied in time and detail among the families researched. Families often first shared with their children that they were adopted. Then they explained that they had “a virus in their blood, so they needed to take medicine every day.”

Once the child understood they had a virus, then parents would introduce the term HIV. Bingaman’s research found that several children understood they had a virus in their blood that is controlled through medicine, but did not fully understand the entirety of HIV.

Disclosing to their friends, family and community that their child has HIV on top of detailing their adoption can be even more daunting due to the stigma surrounding the virus.

“One of the biggest findings we found was disclosure [of HIV] was one of the

biggest challenges faced by families is the disclosure to the child and community,” Bingaman said.

Due to inadequate education, people often believe that HIV can be transmitted through touch, coughs, sneezes and saliva. Bingaman said “[she] was surprised by the lack of knowledge and education of medical professionals.”

“Some medical professionals believed that they could HIV by treating the patient,” Bingaman said.

Many parents found it challenging to explain to their children that they should not be ashamed of their HIV status, Bingaman said. They also had to encourage their children to be careful with whom they shared their HIV status with because of the negative stigma attached to the virus.

Bingaman’s work was presented at the Virtual International AIDS Conference this past July through a narrated poster. After the conference, Bingaman and Fair started working on editing her thesis into an article to hopefully get published in a scientific journal.



# LIFESTYLE



Sophomore Mary Kate Douglas paints a custom jean jacket in her dorm room. After being commissioned to paint a jean jacket in high school, Douglas searched for an outlet to sell her art, which she found at Elon through the Student-Made Store.

KYRA O'CONNOR | ENTERPRISE STORY COORDINATOR

Elon's Student-Made Store has grown significantly over three years, even during the pandemic.

**Abby Goretsky**  
Elon News Network | @abbygoretsky

Ryan McElhinney '19 and Lindsay Reeth '19 were juniors at Elon University and knew of students with Etsy shops and a passion for art outside of classes. They became interested in the entrepreneurship side of art and wanted to give students the chance to "express their creative passion," according to McElhinney.

From there, they created the Student-Made Store. Being able to mix business with art while also showcasing students' hidden talents is what they said gave them the idea for the store.

"We kind of coined the phrase 'artrepreneur.' So we kind of combined those things: the artist and the entrepreneurial spirit," Reeth said.

The pair started the store in 2017, and it now features a variety of art made by Elon

students, including jewelry, pottery, wall art and clothing. The idea to help showcase students' passions has now grown into an online shop and a booth at both the Elon Farmer's Market and S'mores with Outdoors.

Even during a global pandemic, the Student-Made Store continues to expand. The store has grown its online presence by developing audiences on social media and building up their website. Artists for the store sell their art at on-campus events and now also come from schools beyond Elon. McElhinney said the website "actually started doing better" when students were sent home from Elon back in March.

"We kind of transformed the mission a little bit to keeping students connected when they're not at campus and when they're not on campus together," McElhinney said.

Even though they have graduated, McElhinney and Reeth make sure to stay involved in their business. McElhinney handles direct communication with the artists, such as pricing products and business strategies. Reeth handles the management side, which includes orders and on-campus events.

Once the store became more recognizable in the Elon community, artists began to approach McElhinney and Reeth to ask to join. The store, which is still run by McElhinney and Reeth, has become so successful at Elon that they are even expanding to other schools. They recently started selling art from students at the University of South Carolina and made one big Student-Made Carolina Store.

The original plan was to keep the Student-Made Store a local business in the Carolinas. However, when someone approached McElhinney and Reeth from the University of Washington about starting a store there, they decided to change their plan a little and go cross-country to a "whole different style of art," according to McElhinney.

Even with the expansion to other schools, McElhinney and Reeth want to make sure that the Elon store continues to grow. The alumni want Elon students to "be more involved in the store and its mission than ever before," according to McElhinney.

One of the best parts of the store for McElhinney and Reeth is learning about the student artists' stories.

Mary Kate Douglas, a sophomore cinema and television arts major who sells her art through the Student-Made Store, said she lacked a platform to sell her hand-painted jean jackets in high school. One of her favorite parts about the store is being able to see everyone's work.

"I love seeing all of the other work that the Elon kids create because there's some people that just do the wildest things," Douglas said.

From a young age, Douglas was very involved with art because her mother was an art teacher. Douglas remembers art coming naturally to her. In high school, a friend asked her about painting a version of a jean jacket she found on Pinterest, which sparked her interest in her craft.

In February of her first year at Elon,

Douglas went on a brief coffee date with a future sorority sister who happened to work for the Student-Made Store. By the time Douglas left, she was a Student-Made Store artist.

"I showed her the one single jacket that I'd done, she messaged her boss, and I got hired within our 30-minute coffee date," said Douglas.

Even though they love being online, Reeth also thinks that being in-person is vital to the experience. According to Reeth, the ability to actually be there creates an added benefit when interacting with customers, allowing a face-to-face meeting that isn't possible online.

When the artists sell their pieces at events, they can create connections with their customers that aren't possible online. Some of their in-person events include selling at the Elon Farmers' Market every other Thursday and S'mores with

Outdoors every Wednesday night.

In sophomore Faith Panciello's case, in-person selling connected her with one of her customers. According to Reeth, while Panciello was selling her pieces at the Farmers' Market, she ended up selling two pieces to an Elon staff member who works in her hall.

McElhinney and Reeth wanted to create a club open to everyone, a club that would bring people together and allow them to learn from each other. Not only did McElhinney and Reeth want to help artists with their businesses, but also with their confidence. They wanted to show the artists that they can take a passion and turn it into a "viable business," McElhinney said.

"We love the idea of people supporting other people," Reeth said. "Supporting other things that people do that are the most authentic them."

“

I LOVE SEEING ALL OF THE OTHER WORK THAT THE ELON KIDS CREATE BECAUSE THERE'S SOME PEOPLE THAT JUST DO THE WILDEST THINGS

MARY KATE DOUGLAS  
SOPHOMORE



John Campbell of Dinner Bell Farm shows off his selection of tomatoes to a customer during the farmer's market on Thursday, Sept. 10. The farmer's market now hosts a booth featuring items from the Student-Made Store.

FRANCES O'CONNOR | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER





While The Phoenix wishes it could be with fans and attending games, it is still keeping busy

**Katie Bennert**  
Elon News Network | @BennertKatie

At every game, tailgate and sporting event, you see it. The personality and face of Elon University doing cartwheels down the fields, cheering on fans and making every person around it go wild. Even now, The Phoenix is part of Elon University culture — although it may not be able to do cartwheels on a Zoom call.

Sports were canceled this year to protect players, coaches and fans from COVID-19. Elon Athletics determined it was not safe to play sports with close contact this semester. Thus, the Phoenix found itself without its normal schedule of events for the fall.

The Phoenix, whose identity remains a secret to the Elon community, serves as Elon University’s mascot. While The Phoenix wishes it could be in pictures with the community and attending sporting events alongside every Elon University student right now, it is still keeping busy, dropping in on Zoom classes and other places students might not suspect.

“I’m basically a giant hype man, so anything involving school spirit and promoting Elon in the community they will most likely send me to,” The Phoenix said.

Don Scott, director of marketing and fan engagement at Elon, works closely with The Phoenix and said it is important to keep its anonymity.

“As a mythical creature, The Phoenix is not just one person but embodies the entire Elon spirit,” Scott said.

The Phoenix’s main responsibility is

“

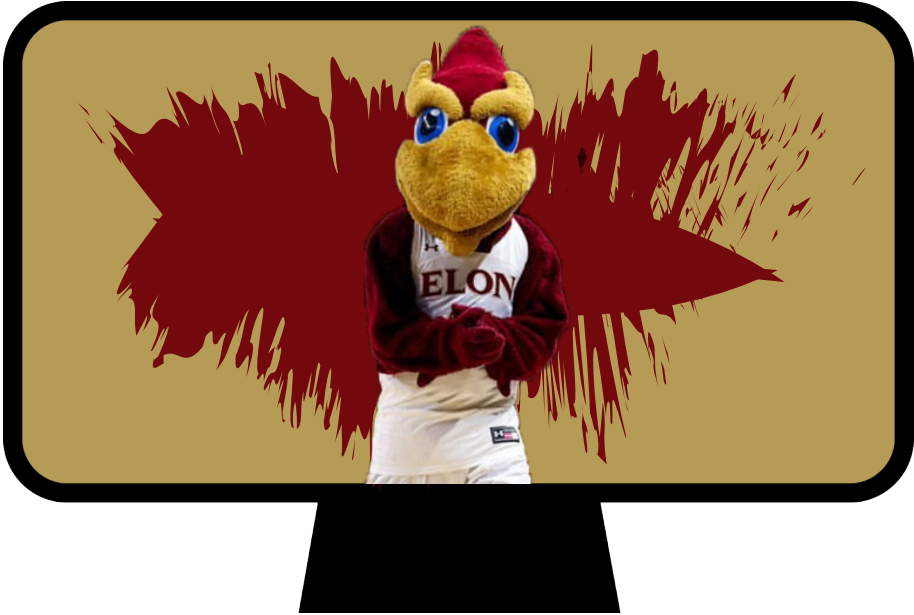
AS A MYTHICAL CREATURE, THE PHOENIX IS NOT JUST ONE PERSON BUT EMBODIES THE ENTIRE ELON SPIRIT

**DON SCOTT**  
DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND FAN ENGAGEMENT

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1. Open your phone camera
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The Phoenix has been dropping in on Zoom classes and joining virtual events.

NYAH PHENGSIITHY | DESIGN CHIEF

to bring Elon pride to every event. While COVID-19 changed many aspects of The Phoenix’s day, one thing that will remain the same is the mascot will always be around for Elon. Its goal is still to fill Elon students with joy, Scott said.

“The mascot belongs to everyone associated with Elon,” Scott said.

Normally, The Phoenix would be attending sports games, visiting elementary schools, going to alumni events and anything else that involves spirit at Elon. However, with physical distancing guidelines preventing The Phoenix from attending in-person events, it needed to find other ways to be seen by students.

The Phoenix has been dropping in on Zoom classes and attending virtual town halls so that the Elon community can still see their symbol of spirit. It can also be seen around campus on many signs and posters where it is demonstrating how to properly wear a mask and abiding by physical distancing guidelines.

The Phoenix is very disappointed that it can’t be around campus, taking pictures with students and making everyone laugh at a football game by teasing the referees.

“I definitely would be making more appearances on campus. Like, I would’ve been at orientation, or alumni [events] ... by now,” The Phoenix said.

However, The Phoenix said it understands why it can’t be around campus and has been taking COVID-19 guidelines seriously.

The Phoenix has been doing its part to reduce the spread of COVID-19, Scott said, by wearing a mask as seen in all posters and signs around campus, and has been physically distancing. The Phoenix’s suit is also washed and dry cleaned regularly, the inside and the helmet piece is constantly wiped down and washing hands is a must.

Look out for The Phoenix at Family Weeks and Homecoming.



# PREPARATION AMID POSTPONENT

Men’s soccer is currently practicing in small groups with hopes of expanding to larger groups in the future

**Henry Janosick**  
Elon News Network | @hawkjanosick

Elon men’s soccer was getting ready for their preseason when Elon Athletics postponed all fall sports. The announcement didn’t come as a total surprise, but junior midfielder and team captain Sam Bacon said the team was preparing for the season to begin on time.

“We didn’t know our season wasn’t going to happen until we had already come back and were raring to go for preseason. So most of the team has been back since middle to late July, maybe early August,” Bacon said.

When Elon Athletics postponed all fall sports on Aug. 10, there was profound disappointment in the Elon community. Freshman defender Ben Rosenblatt was looking forward to beginning his college soccer career up until the season was officially pushed back to spring.

“Obviously I was a little disappointed, but I didn’t want to get my hopes up too high in the summer coming into Elon,” Rosenblatt said. “I was a little disappointed, but I think it’s good for us because, you know, now we get a lot of time to really prepare for the spring season.”

Despite these setbacks, men’s soccer is keeping ready. Bacon said practices are smaller and in a more intimate setting. To adhere with physical distancing guidelines, they have been practicing in small groups of four people over the past three weeks.

“The idea is with all the teams is that you start in smaller groups, and that’s going well and cases aren’t spiking, then you progress. So, hopefully next week, we’re supposed to bump up to groups of 11. It keeps progressing from there,” Bacon said.

Rosenblatt’s first-year experience with the team looks a little different than usual. In an effort to get different people playing with each other, the small groups of players are rotated every week, so Rosenblatt has had a chance to play with multiple teammates.

“You move around each week a little bit with who you play with. One week I’ll be



THOMAS DENOME | CHIEF COPY EDITOR

Elon midfielder Sam Bacon plays against James Madison University on Sept. 14, 2019 at Rudd Field. The Elon men’s soccer team continues to practice in small groups despite the cancelation of fall sports.

with one group; I was with Sam [Bacon] like two weeks ago,” Rosenblatt said, “It’s a different group of guys every week, not every day ... That’s how that’s how I’ve gotten to know them.”

There are some added benefits to a postponed season. It’s an opportunity to get even more prepared for the delayed season, especially in terms of physical conditioning, Bacon said.

“We don’t feel as rushed, which I would say is a good thing. We have more time for the newer guys to get adjusted, to get into the weight room to get used to the physical side of things,” Bacon said.

A fall campaign would’ve been Rosenblatt’s first taste of Division 1 soccer. The postponement of fall sports has given him an adjustment period to get used to playing at the collegiate level.

“We get a lot of time to really prepare for the spring season. And as a freshman, it’s

## BY THE SCORE

7-9-1

the 2019 Elon’s men soccer team overall record

“

WE GET A LOT OF TIME TO REALLY PREPARE FOR THE SPRING SEASON, AND AS A FRESHMAN, IT’S GOOD FOR ME BECAUSE I GET A CHANCE TO ADJUST TO THE LEVEL OF PLAY, THE SPEED OF PLAY BEFORE WE START PLAYING GAMES

**BEN ROSENBLATT**  
FRESHMAN

good for me because I get a chance to adjust to the level of play, the speed of play, before we start playing games,” Rosenblatt said.

In the aforementioned small practice groups, younger players get more opportunities to show off their skills. They get more of a chance to display their abilities to coaches and upperclassmen than they would if they were in full team practices.

“Playing in smaller groups gives you an opportunity to get your foot on the ball a lot more than you would normally. It helps you just get sharp so that when you can’t get into a big group,” Rosenblatt said.

Even with the initial disappointment of not playing in the fall, Bacon said the team attitude has not faltered. They are still competing hard in practice and are ready to go whenever called upon.

“I would say the attitude of the team is

really good. Overall ... team spirit is very good. We were disappointed at first. I would say now the environment is really good. And our mission is getting ready to play whenever that is,” Bacon said.

Men’s soccer typically starts in late August and plays through late October. With Bacon being one of the team captains, the responsibility falls on him to check in on the players and communicate strategies. This ensures players are staying involved with the team and staying up to date with specific plans for practices.

“As one of the captains, [the pandemic] forced me and the other upperclassmen on the team to be creative with how we’re communicating with people because it’s easy here to stay focused on a common goal when you’re all together; helps a lot. That makes a big difference,” Bacon said. “Obviously, when we got sent home last spring, we had to get really creative with reaching out to certain players and having team meetings and small group stuff to try to make sure everyone stayed engaged.”

Rosenblatt said competition was at the top of the list of what he missed the most about soccer. It’s been a while since he has played in a game, so he was looking forward to competing and experiencing Elon soccer.

“Since COVID hit in March, I haven’t really played a game in a few months. So, for me, I just really miss getting on the field and experiencing the environment of competition,” Rosenblatt said.

Bacon is happy to be able to practice given the circumstances, considering what has happened with other schools in the area.

“It’s nice to know a lot of schools aren’t able to do anything at all,” Bacon said. “It’s nice to be able to get in the weight room a little bit, get out on the field and just do anything you can to get better with what you have.”

Trying to have an open mindset has also helped Bacon. Not overthinking things which are out of his control is critical to adapting to life during the pandemic.

“Control the things that I can control. And I feel like a lot of other people on the team have probably adopted that same mindset, because obviously, pretty much all the things that we’ve talked about are things that we have absolutely no control over,” Bacon said.



CLARE GRANT | PHOTO EDITOR  
Elon’s Mens soccer team celebrating their win 3-2 against the Duke Blue Devils at Rudd Field on Oct. 15.



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